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Canada's Liberal Party, led by Mark Carney, wins federal election but falls short of a majority in Parliament

APRIL 30, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): Prime Minister Mark Carney won Canada's election on April 28, 2025, leading his Liberal Party to a new term in power after convincing voters his experience managing crises had prepared him to confront US President Donald Trump.

However, Liberals fell short of winning an outright majority in Parliament on Tuesday, a day after the party scored a stunning comeback victory in a vote widely seen as a rebuke of U.S. President Donald Trump.

The vote-counting agency Elections Canada finished processing nearly all ballots in an election that could leave the Liberals just three seats shy of a majority, which means they will have to seek help from another, smaller party to pass legislation.

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Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at his campaign headquarters on April 29, after his Liberal Party won the Canadian election.

Kamla Persad-Bissessar Returns as Trinidad & Tobago Prime Minister; Promises Fairness and Hope



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar is sworn in

I.S. SALUJA MAY 2, 2025 PORT OF SPAIN

(TIP): Kamla Persad-Bissessar, the head of Trinidad and Tobago's centrist United National Congress party, took over the reins of the nation as Prime Minister for a second time on Thursday, May 1, 2025, and vowed to create wealth that would benefit "seven generations" to come, as she was sworn in.

Persad-Bissessar's party won an overall majority in elections last month on the twin-island Caribbean nation that is battling an economic slump and a rise in gang violence.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Thousands of Sikhs Participate in the 37th Sikh Day Parade In New York City



One of the several groups in the parade on April 26

Photo: BJ Photographers

APRIL 26, 2025

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): Organized by the Sikh Cultural Society, Richmond Hill, New York, with the cooperation of the Sikh Gurudwaras and the Sikh organizations of the Tri-State area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, the 37th Sikh Day Parade on April 26 in Manhattan, New York, attracted, as usual, large crowds of Sikh men, women and children from far and near. Contingents of the Sikhs came from as far as Philadelphia and Maryland. Saturday's dreary weather didn't stop a full day of traditions, history, food and music at the Sikh Day Parade in Midtown.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

US stands strong with India against terrorism, PM Modi has our full support: State Department



State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce at a press briefing said that Washington is 'monitoring closely' the situation between India and Pakistan amid rising tensions

Photo: State Department

MAY 1, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The United States stands strong with India against terrorism and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "has our full support", the State Department said underlining that Secretary of State Marco Rubio has urged India and Pakistan to work towards a responsible resolution that maintains long-term peace and regional stability in South Asia.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

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**GUEST COMMENT**

## The UNSC Statement on Pahalgam attack appears watered down

The UN Security Council's statement on Friday (April 25, 2025) condemning "in the strongest terms" the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, was necessary, but inadequate. According to the statement, which expressed condolences to India, and to Nepal which lost one citizen, the members of the Security Council, that include Pakistan as an elected, non-permanent member this year, "reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security". The statement also spoke of the need to bring the perpetrators and their sponsors to justice. However, the UNSC did not name The Resistance Front (TRF) that initially claimed responsibility for the attack, and did not refer to the group's linkages to a UNSC-designated terror outfit, the LeT. Nor did it expressly speak of cooperation with the Government of India, as it had in the past. Finally, the statement made no mention of the terrorists' intent to target non-Muslims - an abhorrent act

aimed at instigating communal tensions. A comparison with previous such statements would make it clear that the language was "watered down" given that Pakistan is a member of the Council (2025-26), and had China's support. China has in the past sought to veto statements critical of Pakistan. It is also disappointing that the statement, which was negotiated by France's envoy, the current UNSC President, did not bring stronger inputs from others on the Council including the U.S., Russia and the U.K.

As the government and security forces discuss counter-terror operations within Jammu and Kashmir to apprehend the terrorists and possible military options across the border, India's next option may be to bring a more strongly worded statement to the UN General Assembly, as various countries have done in the Ukraine and Gaza conflicts. The government would no doubt be preparing to have those terrorists it has identified from the attack and the TRF itself, designated by the UNSC, much the

same way as it was able to bring the designation of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar as a terrorist after the Pulwama attack. In addition, India could build its case at the Financial Action Task Force, which put Pakistan on a "greylist" from 2012-15 and 2018-22, and revive its plans to pass a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the United Nations. On the bilateral front, expecting assistance from Pakistan has been a dead-end in the past, despite its promises after Mumbai (2008), Pathankot (2016), and Pulwama (2019). Given the state of bilateral relations and the lack of diplomatic engagement, this is even less likely. Only a multi-pronged effort on the global stage, and the patience it showed with the extradition of Tahawwur Rana from the U.S., will ensure that India is able to follow all the threads in bringing those responsible for this brutal attack to justice and establish a durable peace.

*(The Hindu)*

### Carney's Canada

The election of Mark Carney as Canada's Prime Minister offers a much-needed opportunity to reset the strained ties between Ottawa and New Delhi. Relations had hit a nadir under Justin Trudeau, particularly after his 2023 allegations linking Indian agents to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar - claims India strongly denied. The diplomatic fallout severely disrupted political, economic and people-to-people exchanges. Carney's rise may mark a course correction. Unlike his predecessor, he is pragmatic, globally respected and more measured in tone. His message of 'Canada Strong, Canada Free' suggests a desire to reinforce domestic stability while restoring international relationships. That could bode well for India, which is a key trade, strategic and people-link partner. Carney's experience as a central banker and investment leader with exposure to Indian markets positions him well to re-engage. His stated intent to "rebuild the relationship with India" must translate into action - especially in resuming CEPA trade talks, facilitating student visas and stabilizing immigration policies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's congratulatory message to Carney on his election, too, reflects hope for a strengthened partnership.

The uncertainty in recent years has affected thousands of Indian students and immigrants in Canada. Visa delays, post-study work anxieties and a perceived hostile environment have undermined Canada's image as a welcoming destination. Carney's administration must act quickly to reassure this vital constituency, which contributes billions to the Canadian economy and adds to its skilled workforce. India, for its part, must be prepared to move beyond recent hostilities. However, it will be watching how Ottawa handles sensitive issues like Khalistani extremism and diaspora-linked radicalism.

With the global order shifting and US politics growing unpredictable, deeper India-Canada engagement in climate action, education and digital innovation can offer stability. Carney's victory could be the diplomatic opening both nations need - provided neither lets it slip into a missed opportunity.

*(Tribune, India)*

### The state must not stifle democratic dissent in the name of national security

State surveillance must be subject to systemic checks and supervision and not mirror the nefarious activities of the dark underworld. As a Supreme Court of India Bench pointed out, the question is not whether the state can use spyware, but who could be its legitimate targets. The Bench, during a hearing on the alleged surveillance of politicians, judges, religious leaders, civil servants and journalists by some state entity, was evidently seeking to curtail arbitrary use of the powers and tools of surveillance. The government has neither confirmed nor denied that it uses Pegasus, an Israel-made military grade spyware that is sold only to state agencies, which was used to target a wide range of people. The matter reached the Court after global revelations about the existence and the use of this tool, and it appointed a technical committee whose investigation was constrained by a lack of cooperation from alleged targets and the government. Several high-profile users of the iPhone, the primary target of Pegasus, continued to get security alerts from the manufacturer that they were targets of suspected state surveillance, even as the matter was before the judiciary. States the world over have used extra-legal measures to snoop on targets that tried to firewall their communication using rapidly evolving technologies. Terrorists and other non-state actors, and criminals are using encryption and other advanced technologies to evade detection as they plot to harm the wider society. Without adequate legal and technological wherewithal, the state would be ineffective in dealing with emerging national security threats. In this context, and particularly against the backdrop of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, the Court has framed a relevant question.

The tendency of the government to arbitrarily invoke national security in defense of a brazen denial of due process and transparency in law enforcement has been called out by the Court in the past. There is also the disturbing trend of government actors routinely labelling political opponents as anti-nationals. If the state is to claim more surveillance powers, corresponding and robust guardrails must also be engineered. National security cannot be an excuse for executive arbitrariness and a violation of individual rights and dignity. Protocols that ensure that clearly defined standards and steps are followed in surveillance must be established. Once the security concerns are overcome, and within appropriate timelines, these processes should be subject to oversight by other branches of government and the public at large. At any rate, no state agency can have the authority to interfere in the democratic politics of the country, or stifle dissenting voices and activism. While trying to tackle an uncertain security environment, the compass of India's constitutional democracy must stay firm.

*(The Hindu)*

# Indo-American Community Unites in Candlelight Vigil to Honor Victims of Kashmir Terror Attack



Consul General of India, Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan speaking at the Candle Light Vigil organized to honor the victims of the Kashmir terror attack which took place on April 22, and claimed the lives of 27 Hindus and a local Muslim tourist guide

**LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK | APRIL 27, 2025** - In a powerful expression of solidarity and compassion, the Indo-American community gathered at Eisenhower Park for a solemn candlelight vigil honoring the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir. Organized by Indo American Community Voice.Org, in collaboration with over 40 prominent cultural, spiritual, and civic organizations, the vigil served as a moving tribute to the innocent lives lost and a call for global peace.



Ms Bina Sabapathy who coordinated the event addressing the gathering

The event brought together community leaders, elected officials, and hundreds of attendees under one banner of unity and resilience. Among the key supporting organizations were: AAPI (Dr. Kishan Kumar), AIA National (Gobind Munjal), AIA NY (Beena Kothari), Arya Samaj of Long Island (Dr. Yashpal Arya & Veer Mukhi), American Malayalee Association (Thomas Joy and Hon. Kevin Thomas), FIPA (Dr. Raj Bhayani), APS (Gary Sikka & Mohinder Singh Taneja), ASAMAI Hindu Temple (Gobind Bathija), Bollywood Insider (Varinder Bhalla), FBIMA (Koshy Thomas & Dincil George), Gujarathi Samaj (Harshad Bhai Patel), HOLI (Urmila Shivaram), HSS (Jaya Patil), Humanity First (Omkar Singh), IAAC (Deepak Bansal), IANA (Vimal Goyal), IDP (Vimal Goyal & Deepak Bansal), IAF (Indu Jaiswal), IALI (Jasbir Singh), Indo American Lions Club (Anju Sharma), Indian Panorama (Prof. Inderjit Saluja), Kashmiri Overseas Association (Dr. Virender Hak & Mohan



Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips speaking on the occasion



Mr. Bobby Kalotee, Chairman, Nassau County Human Rights Commission, speaking on the occasion



Mr. Kevin Thomas, a former NY State Senator, speaking on the occasion

Wanchoo), KKNY (Raghu Ranganath), LIDC (Paul Bindra), LILC (Pinky Jaggi), Lotus in the Mud (Parveen Chopra), MAHIMA (Dr.Purushtaman Paciker), NYTTA (Vani S. Anugu), RANA (Neelam Modi), SAAWA (Dr. Anila Midha), SAAWO (Suhag Mehta), South Asian Times (Kamlesh Mehta), Soul of Hindutva (Gobind Singh Negi), TANA (Deepika Sammeta), TLCA (Sumant Ram), Tri-State Events (Atul Sharma), TTA (Jaya Prakash Enjapuri), The World Voice (Mukesh Modi), Vaishnav Temple (Anil Shah), VHI (Nayan Kisnadwala), WVV (Rakesh Bhargav), and YICG (Rathi Raja)-demonstrating a united front in the face of tragedy.

The program began with a solemn prayer by Narinder Kapoor and an ardas led by Bhai Bhupinder Singh Ji, Head Granthi of Gurdwara Shaheedan, followed by heartfelt renditions of the American and Indian national anthems by Nipun Marwaha. Dr. Bobby Kalotee Chairman of Human Rights Commission - Nassau County, along with Bina Sabapathy, Founder President of Indo American Community Voice, welcomed the crowd with a message of peace and unity.



Mr. Mukesh Modi, another member of the organizing committee speaking on the occasion

Distinguished dignitaries in attendance included Hon. Binay Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips, North Hempstead Town Supervisor Jennifer DeSena, Former NY Senator Kevin Thomas, Town Clerk Ragini Srivastava, Councilman Edward Scott, and Wioleta Dusza Human rights commissioner - Nassau County each sharing messages of sympathy, support, and solidarity. Several officials sent representatives, including County Executive Bruce Blakeman (via Elaine Phillips), Chuck Schumer US.

Senate Minority Leader for United States Senate (Taranbir Kaur), Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino (Harry Malhotra), and Governor Kathy Hochul (Joey Ramirez).

Prominent community leaders such as Kamlesh Mehta, Mukesh Modi, Mohan Wanchoo, Dr. Urmila Shivaram, Indu Jaiswal, Prof. Inderjit Saluja, Sgt. Thomas, and Koshy Thomas, among many others, offered prayers and reflections, emphasizing the need for peace, compassion, and vigilance against violence.

Venus Bhasin, representing NY State Senator Steven Rhoads, coordinated along with Onkar Singh hospitality efforts including hot Tea sponsored by



The Indian Panorama Publisher - Editor Prof. Inderjit Saluja warned Pakistan to desist from the foolish acts of sending into the Indian territory terrorists to kill innocent people or risk annihilation

Punjabi Dhaba. A soulful musical tribute by Anil Dua echoed messages of peace and healing.

The highlight of the evening was the deeply moving candlelight vigil, joined by members of Glen Cove, Hicksville, and Plainview Gurudwaras, as well as representatives from surrounding temples. Thousands gathered in silent prayer, united in grief and hope, offering strength to the victims' families and



A view of the gathering at the Vigil

reaffirming the community's stand against terrorism.

The program concluded with peaceful prayers led by Acharya Shri Madan Jha and Swami Brajeshwaeand Ji, leaving the audience with a message of spiritual strength and resolve.

A special thank you was extended to media partners including TV Asia, ITV Gold, Preetnama, Hum Hindustani, The South Asian Times, The Indian Panorama, The World Voice, Newsday, and Nassau County for providing the Eisenhower Park, Kite Field and stage.

The evening was a testament to the Indo-American community's enduring values-resilience, compassion, and unity. Even in times of darkness, these values shine as beacons of hope and humanity.

# Record 22 Punjabis elected to House of Commons in Canada

APRIL 29, 2025

**OTTAWA (TIP):** In Canada's recent federal elections on April 28, 22 candidates of Punjab origin secured seats in the parliament, a slight increase from previous elections. These representatives, comprising members from both the Liberal and Conservative parties, contested from various regions across Canada.

The Punjabi-Canadian community, a key part of Canada's South Asian population, played a particularly prominent role in this election. In 2021, 18 Punjabis had won, while in the 2019 federal polls, 20 of Punjab-origin were elected. This time, 16 sitting Punjab-origin MPs were seeking re-election, with many ridings seeing a direct contest between Punjabi candidates.

In Brampton, Punjabis won five seats: Liberal Party's Ruby Sahota defeated Conservative Party's Amandeep Judge from Brampton North, while Liberal candidate Maninder Sidhu defeated Conservative Party's Bob Dosanjh from Brampton East and Amandeep Sohi of the Liberal Party defeated Conservative Taran Chahal from Brampton Centre. Sukhdeep Kang of the Conservative Party defeated Liberal candidate Sonia Sidhu from Brampton South and Amarjeet Gill of the Conservative Party defeated sitting minister Kamal Khara from Brampton West. Prominent Liberal Party winners of Punjab origin are: Anita Anand from Oakville East, Bardish Chagger from



The winners, comprising members from both the Liberal and Conservative parties, contested from various regions across Canada.

Waterloo, Anju Dhillon from Dorval Lachine, Sukh Dhaliwal from Surrey Newton, Iqwinder Singh Gaheer from Mississauga Malton, Randeep Sarai from Surrey Centre, Gurbax Saini from Fleetwood Port Kells, Param Bains from Richmond East Steveston.

Conservative Party winners of Punjab-origin include Jasraj Hallan from Calgary East, Dalwinder Gill from Calgary McKnight, Amanpreet Gill from Calgary Skyview, Arpan Khanna from Oxford, Tim Uppal from Edmonton Gateway, Parm Gill from Milton East, Sukhman Gill from Abbotsford South Langley, Jagsharan Singh Mahal from Edmonton

Southeast and Harb Gill from Windsor West.

Pro-Khalistan leader and New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate Jagmeet Singh, however, suffered a setback as he lost Burnaby Central in British Columbia, finishing third with less than 19% of the vote share, trailing both the Liberal Party's Wade Chang and the Conservative Party's James Yan. He also led the NDP to a devastating defeat, with the party on track to win just seven seats - losing 18 compared to the 2021 federal election. It means the party is set to lose its official party status in the House of Commons. The NDP's support

dropped by 12 percentage points, down to just 6% in this federal election.

Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party had been on track to win the vote but US President Donald Trump's attacks, combined with the departure of unpopular former prime minister Justin Trudeau, transformed the race. Carney, who replaced Trudeau as Canadian PM just last month, convinced voters that his experience in managing economic crises made him the ideal candidate to defy Trump.

Carney's Liberals secured control of Canada's parliament but may fall just short of a majority. That will require making deals with smaller parties but still marks an extraordinary comeback for the Liberals, who earlier this year looked headed for a wipeout.

Carney led the Bank of Canada through the 2008-09 financial crisis and headed the Bank of England through the turmoil surrounding the 2016 Brexit vote.

Trudeau's departure was crucial to the Liberal win, which capped one of the most dramatic turnarounds in Canadian political history.

On January 6, the day Trudeau announced he would resign, the Conservatives led the Liberals by more than 20 points in most polls, as public anger over soaring costs mounted after Trudeau's decade in power.

Carney distanced himself from Trudeau throughout the campaign.

(Source: PTI)

## Indian-origin Canada based student found dead at beach in Canada



Vanshika was found dead near a beach

APRIL 29, 2025

**OTTAWA (TIP):** A 21-year-old girl from Dera Bassi was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Ottawa, Canada, recently.

Vanshika, a student who was missing since April 22, was found dead near a beach.

Her father, Davinder Saini, a resident of Saini Mohalla, Dera Bassi, and local AAP leader, suspects foul play in his daughter's death. He said he had last talked with his daughter on April 22, after which her phone remained switched off.

A missing person report was lodged with the Ottawa police.

Vanshika had gone to Canada after completing her Class XII exam around two and a half years ago.

## TWO INDIAN-ORIGIN STUDENTS CHARGED IN ELDERLY SCAM CASE

APRIL 30, 2025  
NEW YORK

**(TIP):** Two Indian citizens on student visas in the US have been arrested for scamming an elderly individual and charged with theft, according to authorities.

Mahammadilham Vahora and Hajiali Vahora, both 24 years old, were booked into the El Paso County Jail this month, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office said in a statement on Monday. They are subjects of a continued investigation involving victims across the US, it said. The two have been charged with crimes against at-risk people including robbery and theft - as well as money laundering involving illegal investments.

Both attend the East-West University in Chicago, Illinois.

In October 2024, the Regional Communications Center of the sheriff's office received information from an elderly citizen who stated they had been a victim of a scamming phone call. The victim said the scammer claimed to be a "government agent" and made multiple threats to the victim. Consequently, the victim sent money via a cryptocurrency ATM and purchased gold, which was given to the suspects in person.

Authorities initiated an investigation



Mahammadilham Vahora and Hajiali Vahora, both 24 years old have been arrested for scamming an elderly individual and charged with theft

into the incident, and through cellphone tower record tracing, identified and located Hajiali and Mahammadilham Vahora.

"Shame on anyone who defrauds our elderly citizens," said El Paso County Sheriff Joseph Roybal. "Scammers are around every corner, and it is crucial for families and friends to be talking to their elderly loved ones about the signs of a scam phone call or email."

The office said phone scams have recently increased, and scammers often pose as government agents, bank fraud investigators, or IT specialists, claiming the victim must cooperate with an investigation or their assets must be protected.

Victims have been instructed to deposit money at crypto ATMs, withdraw large amounts of cash from their accounts, and convert their money to gold at local gold distributors

The victim is then tricked into giving their cash or gold to scammers posing as government agents who meet with them in person. The sheriff's office urged citizens to be aware of such ongoing schemes and to never give crypto, cash, or gold to someone claiming to be involved in a bank, IT, or government investigation.

## 3 Indian-origin people found dead after shooting at US home



Harshavardhana Kikkeri (44), Shwetha Panyam (41) and Dhruva Kikkeri (14) were found dead after a shooting at a home in the US state of Washington. Photo for representation only

MAY 1, 2025

**SEATTLE (TIP):** Three Indian-origin people were found dead after a shooting at a home in the US state of Washington, according to local media reports.

The incident took place on April 24 in Newcastle City.

The dead were identified as Harshavardhana Kikkeri (44), Shwetha Panyam (41) and Dhruva Kikkeri (14), The Seattle Times reported on Tuesday.

While the deaths of Shwetha and Dhruva were ruled as homicide by the police, Harshavardhana died by suicide, the report quoted the King County medical examiner's office as saying.

Neighbors told the KOMO News that a young family lived in the home where the shooting took place.

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

# Celebration of 50 Days to the International Day of Yoga 2025 in Guatemala City on May 2, 2025



Participants of all ages attended the event enthusiastically



MAY 2, 2025

**GUATEMALA CITY (TIP):** As part of the global countdown to the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025, the Embassy of India in Guatemala organized a vibrant yoga session on 2 May 2025 at Plaza Berlín, Guatemala City, to mark "50 days to IDY2025". The event saw the enthusiastic participation of around 75 yoga lovers, practitioners, and friends of India, who gathered to celebrate yoga as a symbol of unity, well-being, and harmony. This event follows the successful launch of the 75-day countdown held on 7 April 2025 in collaboration with the Municipality of San Juan Sacatepéquez, where over 200 young participants joined the celebration and practiced yoga in unison.

The countdown events leading up to IDY 2025 are being organized across Guatemala, as well as in other accredited countries like El Salvador and Honduras, marking an exciting global journey towards the International Day of Yoga (IDY) celebrations. These activities are designed to engage communities, encourage wellness, and further deepen the cultural exchanges between India and these countries. They underscore India's strong commitment to promoting holistic health, well-being, and unity through the practice of yoga, which has become a symbol of peace, balance, and interconnectedness on the global stage.



Participants were invited to join IDY 2025 at Coban on 13 June where approx 10,000 yoga enthusiasts are expected to join

In his opening remarks, Shri Ramesh Khulbey, Head of Chancery highlighted the universal appeal of yoga and its relevance in today's fast-paced world. He invited all Guatemalans to join the grand celebration of IDY 2025 in Cobán on 13 June 2025, which is expected to witness the participation of nearly 10,000 yoga enthusiasts, making it one of the largest yoga gatherings in the region. Mr. Rajiv Bhatt, representative of Khushi Enterprises, one of the sponsors of IDY 2025, expressed his enthusiasm for supporting the event, highlighting the importance of promoting wellness and unity through yoga. He emphasized that Khushi Enterprises is committed to fostering global harmony by aligning with such significant initiatives, and they are excited to contribute to making IDY 2025 a resounding success.



Participants joined the YogaForHumanity session to celebrate the 50-day countdown to IDY2025.

The Embassy of India is deeply appreciative of the continuous participation and support from local communities, diplomatic missions, and various partners, who have shown unwavering enthusiasm in making these events successful. The ongoing efforts reflect the growing recognition of the profound benefits of yoga, not only as a physical discipline but as a way to achieve mental clarity and emotional balance.

The Embassy looks forward to seeing even greater participation as we continue our preparations for the grand IDY 2025 celebrations, with plans to bring together thousands of yoga enthusiasts from around the world. This initiative will further strengthen the diplomatic ties between India and its global partners, fostering deeper cultural connections and promoting wellness as a shared goal for all.

*(Based on a press release issued by the Embassy of India in Guatemala City)*

# Embassy of India in Guatemala organizes Condolence Gathering to Honor Victims of Pahalgam Terror Attack

MAY 2, 2025

**GUATEMALA CITY (TIP):** The Embassy of India in Guatemala organized a solemn condolence gathering on 2 May 2025 to honor the victims of the heinous terrorist attack that occurred in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir on 22 April 2025. The attack, which claimed the lives of several innocent civilians and injured many others, has deeply shocked and saddened the Indian community and friends of India in Guatemala.

The event, held at the Embassy premises, began with a moment of silence observed in memory of the victims. A floral tribute was offered and candles were lit as a mark of respect and solidarity with the bereaved families. A short video on the Pahalgam attack and its victims was screened, reminding all of the human cost of terrorism and the importance of global unity in countering such threats.

Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra offering a floral tribute to the victims of the horrific terror attack in Pahalgam.

Mohapatra addressed the gathering and condemned the brutal act of terror in the strongest terms. He emphasized that such acts of violence can never weaken the resolve of 1.4 billion Indians to stand united against terrorism and continue working towards peace, harmony, and justice. Ambassador Dr. Mohapatra thanked the local community and friends of India for their presence and support during this time of grief.

Members of the Indian community in Guatemala expressed deep sorrow over the tragic loss of innocent lives in the Pahalgam terror attack. Speaking at the condolence gathering, several community members condemned the senseless act of violence and reaffirmed their solidarity with the families of the victims. All shared personal reflections and prayers for the departed souls, calling for continued vigilance and global cooperation to combat terrorism. The collective sentiment was one of grief, resilience, and an unwavering belief in justice.

Several prominent Guatemalan media outlets reported on the horrific Pahalgam terror attack, unequivocally condemning the heinous act of violence. The coverage reflected strong solidarity with the people of India, with reports highlighting the need for global unity against terrorism. Expressions of sympathy were extended to the victims' families, and the incident was widely described as a brutal assault on peace and humanity. The support from Guatemalan society underscores the shared values of compassion and justice that bind both nations.

The event was attended by members of the Indian community, officials, and local well-wishers, who expressed their condolences and solidarity. The Embassy reiterates its firm commitment to peace and condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

*(Based on a press release issued by the Embassy of India in Guatemala City)*



The condolence gathering in pictures

## GOPIO International Welcomes the election of Kamla Persad-Bissessar as the next Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

APRIL 30, 2025

**STAMFORD, CT (TIP):** GOPIO International welcomes the election of Kamla Susheila Persad-Bissessar, leader of the United National Congress (UNC) as the next Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. She had served as the Prime Minister from May 2010 to September 2015.

"GOPIO has a long-standing relationship with Prime Minister-Elect Kamla Persad-Bissessar from 1999 when GOPIO hosted her, when she was a minister in PM Basdeo Panday's cabinet and she was also the Chief Guest as PM in 2014 at the GOPIO Convention in Port of Spain in Trinidad" said Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman of GOPIO



Kamla Susheila Persad-Bissessar, leader of the United National Congress (UNC) is a second time Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago.

International. GOPIO also hosted her in Calcutta in 2011.

GOPIO International President Prakash Shah welcomed her reelection as Prime Minister. "GOPIO is looking forward to actively working with her for the Development in Trinidad and Tobago, especially on Hospitality and Health Care Sectors and further strengthening the GOPIO chapters throughout the Caribbean Region where the Diaspora People of Indian Origin have Deep Roots. GOPIO is planning two Major Events in 2026 in NYC in May and in Mumbai in December 2026 and we will welcome her esteemed Presence at Future GOPIO events'.

# Middlesex College Student Newspaper Earns 15 Statewide Awards

MAY 1, 2025

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ (TIP):

The Middlesex College Quo Vadis student newspaper staff earned 15 statewide awards, including five first place honors, in the 2024-2025 New Jersey Press Association (NJPA) College Newspapers contest.

The contest has 10 individual categories - three online and two newspaper. Each college news team may submit a total of up to 38 possible entries per newspaper.

Included in the list is first place for the prestigious general excellence award, first place in layout and design, and second place for the paper's website. Middlesex College graduating senior Trinity Dunn earned or shared nine different awards in a variety of subjects.

"We have a small program, so whenever we are able to get these many awards shows the hard work and dedication of some of our students," said Quo Vadis Faculty Advisor Melissa Edwards. "It also creates a legacy for our journalists. This is something that can help launch yourself when you go to a new school and you can show you have these awards."

## Full List of Awards:

### FIRST PLACE, GENERAL EXCELLENCE

"September 4 & September 18 editions" by Sean Huey Melido, Erin Hellhake, Trinity Dunn

### FIRST PLACE, LAYOUT & DESIGN

"May 1, 2024 and November 27, 2024 editions" by Trinity Dunn, Sean Huey Melido, Erin Hellhake, Nolan MacFadyen

### FIRST PLACE, NEWS WRITING

"Middlesex College Gets a \$1.2 Million Arts Grant; Wi-Fi Renovations Arrive on Campus" by Erin Hellhake

### FIRST PLACE, COLUMN/OPINION WRITING

"Social Media Impacts College Students Health" by Trinity Dunn

### FIRST PLACE, WEB PROJECT

Instagram by Trinity Dunn

### SECOND PLACE, OVERALL WEBSITE

Trinity Dunn, Nolan MacFayden, Marquis Pullins, Ridha Mirza

### SECOND PLACE, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT/CRITICAL WRITING

"Grab a Quick Bite to Eat in South Amboy; Taste of Latin Comfort Food in Sayreville" by Nolan MacFadyen

### SECOND PLACE, PHOTOGRAPHY

"College Community Engages in Student Fair; Harvest Takes Over College" by Trinity Dunn

### SECOND PLACE, SPORTS WRITING

"Life Lessons and Volleyball Drama Collide in 'Haikyuu!!'" by Sean Huey Melido

### THIRD PLACE, EDITORIAL WRITING

"ICE Raids and Deportations Cause a Disruption" by Ridha Mirza, Hina Naqvi, Sandra Milton-Rodriguez

### THIRD PLACE,



Quo Vadis is recognized by the New Jersey Press Association for outstanding writing, design, and social media. (l-r) Sean Huey Melido, Marquis R. Pullins Jr., Ridha Mirza, Marro Hawkins, Melissa Edwards, Quo Vadis Advisor, Nolan MacFayden, Trinity Dunn Middlesex College Student Newspaper Earns 15 Statewide Awards

### ENTERPRISE/INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

"Track and Field Track Coach's Contract Not Renewed Due to Track and Field Cut" by Marquis Pullins, Trinity Dunn, Erin Hellhake, Nolan MacFadyen

### THIRD PLACE, FEATURE WRITING

"College Partners with RWJ for Blood Drive" by Ellen Kwon

### THIRD PLACE, NEWS WRITING

"Get Bus Tickets; College Enters 2025 With Changes and Looks Ahead" by Trinity Dunn

### THIRD PLACE, PHOTOGRAPHY

"Women's Soccer Team Prepares for the Season//Woodbridge Celebrates Jazz Festival" by Nolan MacFadyen

### THIRD PLACE, WEB PROJECT

"With the role that women play in politics, do you think that America will ever be ready to elect a female president?" by Trinity Dunn

Learn more about the Quo Vadis news here:

<https://www.quovadisnewspaper.com/>

### MIDDLESEX COLLEGE, NJ

Middlesex College, established in 1964, is a public, two-year institution of higher education located in the heart of New Jersey. With a main campus in Edison and centers in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, Middlesex College offers over 85 degree and certificate programs encouraging its more than 10,000 students to explore, grow, and thrive. Middlesex College, through dedicated faculty, state-of-the-art educational facilities, and holistic student support, is committed to providing a high-quality, affordable college education that provides every student with an

opportunity for growth and achievement. Middlesex College is training. Learn more at Middlesex County's premier destination [middlesexcollege.edu](http://middlesexcollege.edu).

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# WE ARE WITNESSING SLOW CONSTITUTIONAL COLLAPSE IN THE US



By Moira Donegan

"Now, the Trump administration seems to have also usurped Congress's power of the purse for the executive, declaring that the president may refuse to appropriate congressionally allocated funds by personal fiat. This is a profound constitutional change, one that shifts a massive power into the hands of one man; and again, Congress does not seem to be interested in this assault on its own prerogatives, with even many Democratic leaders seemingly preferring to have less power - and, hence, less responsibility."

It's possible that later, when we know more about how the Trump regime reshapes the US and about how it ultimately comes to an end, we will look back at this moment in 2025 and conclude that we were already living under an autocracy. Checks on executive power seem to have all but vanished; the Trump administration is not acting like either the courts, the judiciary or the people have any prerogatives that they must respect.

Science is suffering: massive cuts to federal funding of research into medicine, climate change or anything that might include a word on a long list of banned ones - like "transition" - has decimated research, made the US a global laughingstock, and set the cause of human thriving back by years. The economy is in chaos, and the bribery is all but out in the open; it no longer seems to occur to many Americans that their politicians should not be on the take.

Immigrants appear to have lost the entitlement to due process, and the administration appears to be trying to deport as many of them as possible, paying smaller countries in the American sphere of influence to imprison them at forced labor camps from which they have no means of petitioning for their own release. Dissidents are being captured on the streets, kidnapped from their homes and arrested in the courtrooms they preside over as punishment for their speech. In light of all this, even without the benefit of hindsight, it is already becoming more difficult to speak of American "democracy" with a straight face.

Which is not to say that the developments of the past few months are unprecedented. In many ways, the first



The vestiges of the US's democracy are crumbling to the ground. We don't yet know what will be erected in its place

100 days of Trump's restoration are much like the first 100 of his initial term, in 2017: they are marked by a dizzying whirlwind of scandals, so numerous and preposterous as to be difficult to keep up with; by a cartoonish incompetence; and by public displays of aggression, cruelty, malice and dominance - be it over the federal workforce, his political rivals, foreign leaders, major institutions or the American people themselves.

But the second Trump term has also been more reckless, more focused and more frictionless in its work to consolidate power and cut off its political opposition. Long gone are the first-term administration staff members who sought to have some sort of moderating influence on Trump - the bureaucrats and institutionalists who thought they could slow him down with procedure, the more cynical Republican opportunists who thought they could bend his charisma to their own ends. What is left in Trumpworld are only the true believers, or those with the zeal of converts. They are no longer being slowed down from the inside.

Nor are they being opposed much from without. In 2017, when liberal Americans could still comfort themselves with the notion that Trump's election was an anomaly, and in the early months of Trump's first term, an uncharacteristic level of civic engagement and pride sprang up. The Women's Marches attracted millions, and crowds swarmed the airports to lend support to travelers from the countries that Trump had targeted with his Muslim ban. But while the early resistance movement had tremendous amounts of feeling, it ultimately lacked direction: all that outrage did not find a useful place to go, and eventually it ebbed. It is hard to find hopefulness, now, among American liberals, and the Democratic party is

showing few signs of life. On the Sunday talkshows last week, the Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer was asked about the administration's attacks on institutions of higher education, which have lost federal funding as the regime attempts to restructure their curricula and faculties. Schumer replied that he had sent a strongly worded letter.

The United States has long been in a state of constitutional erosion. The role of Congress, the most representative of the federal branches, has been dwindling for decades, as gerrymandering and malapportionment have made its two chambers less competitive and more partisan, leading to permanent gridlock and dysfunction. Congress was once endowed with both the power of the purse and the sole power to declare war; it has largely handed the latter off to the executive, endowing the president with broad powers to use the US military abroad even without congressional approval and has not seemed interested in taking that power back.

Now, the Trump administration seems to have also usurped Congress's power of the purse for the executive, declaring that the president may refuse to appropriate congressionally allocated funds by personal fiat. This is a profound constitutional change, one that shifts a massive power into the hands of one man; and again, Congress does not seem to be interested in this assault on its own prerogatives, with even many Democratic leaders seemingly preferring to have less power - and, hence, less responsibility.

For a long time, the decline of Congress meant the ascent of the federal judiciary, which appropriated large swaths of de facto policymaking authority to itself in light of congressional paralysis. This was already a degradation of democracy: the unelected judges came to have far too

much influence over federal policy. And the judges were not the neutral, non-ideological referees that they claimed to be: many interpreted the law to be maximally deferential to the whims of the powerful and only minimally respectful to the rights of the less powerful.

The US supreme court, in particular, seemed to change its doctrine almost as whim based on whatever outcome would best serve conservative priorities. Indeed, the judiciary itself seemed more than willing to share in democratically unaccountable power with the president, so long as that president was a Republican: it declared last year that the executive was immune from almost all criminal prosecution, thereby carving out a category of person - Donald Trump - to whom federal criminal law mostly does not apply. But even this wildly partisan federal judiciary does not seem to be good enough for the restored Trump regime, which wants to eliminate all possibility that its agenda might be checked by the courts: JD Vance, the vice-president, has taken to complaining in public when judges rule against the administration, claiming, falsely, that they do not have the authority to check the executive. But such petulant little demonstrations may not long be necessary: increasingly, the Trump regime is simply ignoring judicial orders that it does not like.

Critics of the Trump administration have called this state of affairs a constitutional crisis. I have come to think of it more like a constitutional collapse: long vacant, the vestiges of the US's democracy are crumbling to the ground, falling like an empty tent. We don't yet know what, exactly, will be erected in its place.

*(The author is a Guardian US columnist)*

# World Press Freedom Day 2025: A Global Call to Defend the Truth

By Prof. Indrajit Saluja



"REPRESSION OF THE PRESS HAS A LONG AND TRAGIC LINEAGE. IN ANCIENT ROME, HISTORIANS WHO DOCUMENTED THE EXCESSES OF EMPERORS WERE EXILED OR EXECUTED. DURING THE INQUISITION, DISSENTING VOICES WERE BURNED AT THE STAKE. THE RISE OF FASCISM IN THE 20TH CENTURY SAW THE STATE APPARATUS TURNED AGAINST THE FREE PRESS-FROM MUSSOLINI'S ITALY TO HITLER'S GERMANY, WHERE OVER 4,000 NEWSPAPERS WERE BANNED OR SEIZED. IN POST-COLONIAL COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA, BRITISH-ERA SEDITION LAWS WERE USED TO CURB NATIONALIST PUBLICATIONS. IRONICALLY, TODAY, MANY OF THOSE SAME LAWS ARE USED BY INDEPENDENT INDIA'S INSTITUTIONS TO SILENCE CRITICISM OF THE STATE. WHETHER UNDER KINGS OR ELECTED LEADERS, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS HAS ALWAYS COME UNDER ATTACK WHEN POWER BECOMES INTOLERANT OF SCRUTINY."

Each year on May 3, the world observes World Press Freedom Day—a date meant to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, to evaluate its state globally, to defend the media from attacks, and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty. But in 2025, this observance feels less like a celebration and more like a desperate cry for solidarity and survival.

Far from advancing, the cause of press freedom is in retreat across much of the world. In democracies and dictatorships alike, governments are becoming more intolerant, more repressive, and more brazen in their efforts to control, coerce, and silence journalists.



## A SHRINKING SPACE FOR FREE MEDIA

The disturbing trend of clamping down on independent journalism is no longer limited to authoritarian states. Even in countries with constitutional guarantees and democratic frameworks, we are witnessing an erosion of media freedoms. Critical media outlets are being demonized, raided, shut down, or bought out. Laws are being weaponized. Surveillance is rampant. Intimidation and arrests are on the rise.

According to Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the year 2023 saw the killing of 99 journalists and media workers, the highest death toll in nearly a decade. Over 550 journalists are currently imprisoned across the globe, many for simply doing their jobs. In India, dozens of journalists have been arrested, raided, or harassed under sedition, terror, or financial misconduct laws for reporting stories that challenge power.

In Russia, China, Iran, Turkey, and Myanmar, independent journalism is treated as a crime. In Palestine, journalists covering Gaza face a lethal environment. Over 100 media workers have been killed since late 2023, many under circumstances that demand international scrutiny. The chilling message in each of these cases is clear: Silence, or pay the price.

## THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF REPRESSION

Repression of the press has a long and tragic lineage. In ancient Rome, historians who documented the excesses of emperors were exiled or executed. During the Inquisition, dissenting voices were burned at the stake. The rise of fascism in the 20th century saw the state apparatus turned against the free press—from Mussolini's Italy to Hitler's Germany, where over 4,000 newspapers were banned or seized.

In post-colonial countries like India, British-era sedition laws were used to curb nationalist publications. Ironically, today, many of those same laws are used by independent India's institutions to silence criticism of the state.

Whether under kings or elected leaders, freedom of the press has always come under attack when power becomes intolerant of scrutiny.

## WHY POWER FEARS THE PRESS

At the heart of every assault on

journalism lies one simple truth: a free press questions power. It exposes corruption, injustice, abuse, and lies. It challenges dominant narratives and tells the stories that the powerful would rather remain hidden.

This is why both far-right and far-left ideologies often view the free press with suspicion. They demand loyalty, not inquiry. Propaganda, not questions. Compliance, not courage.

And yet, it is precisely this courage that defines journalism at its best. A journalist is not a soldier of ideology but a sentinel of democracy. Journalism is not activism, but accountability.

## THE PRICE OF TRUTH

Over the years, brave men and women have paid with their lives for the simple act of telling the truth.

- Anna Politkovskaya was assassinated in Moscow for reporting on Chechnya.
- Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American journalist, was shot while covering an Israeli military raid.
- Daphne Caruana Galizia in Malta was blown up in her car for investigating government corruption.
- Ján Kuciak, a young Slovak reporter, was murdered with his fiancée for following a trail of financial crime.

And there are thousands more—some whose names we know, most whose names we don't.

They did not die in vain. Their courage laid the foundation for a profession that continues to resist, report, and reveal.

**A Global Movement: Journalists Beyond Borders**

**In the face of growing repression, what must be our answer?**

Our response must be solidarity across borders—a global alliance of truth-tellers committed to defending one another, amplifying each other's work, and resisting together. This is the spirit behind a movement we must now build with urgency: Journalists Beyond Borders.

This envisioned alliance is not about nationalism or ideology. It is about creating a safe, united, and resilient global front of media workers, unshackled by geography, culture, or ethnicity. It is about pooling resources to offer legal aid, digital protection, safety training, and emergency evacuation for journalists in danger.

It is about creating a journalistic

commons where the story of a jailed reporter in Belarus is known in Brooklyn, and the assassination of a Mexican crime correspondent echoes in Manila.

A threat to one journalist anywhere must be seen as a threat to journalism everywhere.

## THE PRESS AND THE PEOPLE

It must be understood that Press freedom is not merely a media issue. It is a public issue. When journalism is silenced, it is the people's right to know that is extinguished. A silenced press leads to a blind citizenry—unable to judge, to act, or to vote with knowledge.

It is not the job of the press to please the public or praise the powerful. It is our job to inform the people, regardless of who it embarrasses or offends.

To those who say journalists should not criticize governments, we respond: That is our role. Democracy without dissent is dictatorship in disguise.

**We ask not for special privileges, but for the right to work without fear. We do not seek immunity—we demand protection.**

**A Pledge on World Press Freedom Day**

**On this day, let us renew our commitment—not just as journalists, but as global citizens.**

**Let us pledge to:**

- Defend the truth, even when it is inconvenient.
- Stand with journalists under attack, even when we disagree with them.
- Condemn censorship and propaganda, wherever they appear.
- Build international mechanisms for media safety and legal recourse.
- Celebrate and support independent journalism, through readership, funding, and public advocacy.

**Let us work toward a world that values truth over tyranny, transparency over propaganda, and dialogue over dogma.**

## FINAL WORD: A CALL TO HOPE

In a time when disinformation floods social media, when violence stalks the newsroom, and when fear threatens to override facts, the mission of journalism is more vital than ever.

And though the challenges are grave, we draw strength from one another. From the whisper of the local reporter in a village pressroom to the global network of digital watchdogs, journalism endures.

It endures because there are still people willing to speak. Still editors willing to publish. Still readers who seek the truth. And still, a world that—despite its darkness—has not extinguished the light of inquiry.

Let us build that world anew. Let us write its story—truthfully, together, and free.

*(The author is the Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama. He can be reached at salujaindra@gmail.com)*

# Drones are changing war and India must catch up



By Lt Gen DS Hooda ret'd

The Indian military will have to evolve a comprehensive doctrine around drone warfare. Fundamental changes would have to be made in how the Army fights

"Today, small quadcopters costing less than \$1,000 dominate the tactical battlefield, carrying out a variety of roles -intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and kinetic strikes. This omnipresence of drones has dramatically compressed the kill chain: spotting a target and directing fire on it is often done in just minutes or even seconds. A February 2025 study by the Royal United Services Institute estimates that tactical drones account for 60 to 70 per cent of the damaged and destroyed Russian systems."

In a seminar hosted by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies on March 10, General Anil Chauhan, India's Chief of Defense Staff, emphasized the transformative role of unmanned aerial systems, commonly known as drones, in modern warfare and called for doctrinal clarity on the employment of drones.

Drones have been around for decades in the military arsenal of countries. What is new is the extensive use of drones in the Russia-Ukraine war, from the tactical battlefield to achieving strategic effects. As the Indian military increasingly looks to induct drones into service, key insights from the Ukraine conflict should guide this effort.

The start of the Ukraine war saw the traditional employment of large, slow-flying drones, like Ukraine's Bayraktar TB2 and Russia's Orion, in surveillance and strike roles. However, these drones were vulnerable to air defense systems and soon disappeared from the skies, replaced by smaller military drones, like the Ukrainian Furia and the Russian Orlan-10.

The real transformation occurred when Ukraine turned to commercial off-the-shelf drones, repurposing thousands of them as combat tools. By the war's second year, drone operations had massively expanded in scale and sophistication. In 2023, the Ukrainian army raised over 60 special drone strike units embedded in combat brigades and independent drone groups, institutionalizing drone warfare.

With the increasing role of drones on the battlefield, their numbers expanded exponentially. Oleksandr Syrskiy, Ukraine's commander-in-chief, said over 1.3 million drones had been delivered to frontline soldiers in 2024. Russian

Reality: The CDS, Gen Anil Chauhan, has emphasized the role of drones in modern warfare. Photo: PTI



President Vladimir Putin has stated that Russia was ramping up its drone production to nearly 1.4 million in 2024, a tenfold increase from the previous year.

Today, small quadcopters costing less than \$1,000 dominate the tactical battlefield, carrying out a variety of roles -intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and kinetic strikes. This omnipresence of drones has dramatically compressed the kill chain: spotting a target and directing fire on it is often done in just minutes or even seconds. A February 2025 study by the Royal United Services Institute estimates that tactical drones account for 60 to 70 per cent of the damaged and destroyed Russian systems.

Russia's success in driving Ukrainian forces out of Kursk in March 2025 has been attributed to the mass employment of fiber-optic drones. These drones are tethered to their operator via a physical cable and are immune to electronic jamming. Ukraine troops described their retreat from Kursk as a "horror movie" as drones "hunted them day and night."

Drones have also had strategic impacts away from the frontlines. Ukrainian uncrewed surface drones (USVs) have sunk Russian warships, compelling Russia to relocate much of its Black Sea fleet to ports like Novorossiysk, effectively ceding control of large parts of the Black Sea. USVs carrying drones have attacked Russian gas platforms and other targets around the Black Sea.

As drones proliferate in the Indian military, they must not be treated as standalone assets but integrated into a combined arms operation. The control of thousands of drones in the sky will require a network-centric approach to manage the information overload. Ukraine has adopted the DELTA system,

which integrates data from multiple sources, including drone video feeds, open-source intelligence and satellite imagery, to present a real-time picture to commanders, enabling quick targeting.

A current deficit in India's military power is the limited inventory of conventional missiles for engaging targets deep in enemy territory. Long-range strike drones can fill this gap. According to a report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Russia carried out 8,484-long-range strikes against Ukraine between September and December 2024. More than 90 per cent of these strikes were carried out by attack drones, mostly Shahed drones imported from Iran. While relatively slow and often intercepted, the Shaheds are cheap (about \$35,000 each) and are being used in large numbers as expendable cruise missiles. As a comparison, Russian missiles like the ground-launched Iskander and air-launched

Technology sans doctrine is of little use. The Indian military will have to evolve a comprehensive doctrine around drone warfare. Constant surveillance over the battlefield and the ability to quickly hit individual targets is forcing troops to disperse and remain hidden, making mass surprise attacks difficult. The operational tempo and decision cycles have compressed, requiring greater delegation and initiative from local commanders. Fundamental changes would have to be made in how the Army fights.

In a highly contested airspace and a plethora of air defense systems, drones will play a key role in deep observation and targeting. The Air Force will have to develop doctrines for manned-unmanned teaming of fighter aircraft and drones.

The drones will carry out the role of surveillance, electronic warfare and other risky tasks while the manned aircraft deliver strategic strikes. Strategies will also have to be formulated for defending airspace from mass drone attacks. An effective defense will require a layered approach, combining detection, disruption and destruction, with electronic warfare as a critical component.

The Navy will have to integrate drones as strategic strike assets while reviewing the concept of coastal and harbor defense to protect from attacks by surface or underwater drones. Like the Air Force, the Navy must look at the concept of manned-unmanned teaming in fleets.

Organizational changes must accompany doctrinal development. Merely allocating drones to existing units will result in suboptimal employment. Specialized drone units will have to be created within all three services and there will be a requirement to raise additional electronic warfare and counter-drone units.

Such a proliferation of roles will require mass manufacturing of drones and production capacity will have to be ramped up quickly. This necessitates an extensive participation of the civil sector and changes in the defense procurement process to make it more agile.

The jury is still out on whether drones have completely transformed how future wars will be fought, but it is a reality that drone warfare has become a central feature of modern combat. The Indian military must put doctrines and organizational structures in place to exploit this new weapon of war.

*(The author is a former Northern Army Commander)*



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HEALTH IS WEALTH

# Gulal and Glamour: Hrithik Roshan's Vibrant Success at Rangotsav Chicago

APRIL 30, 2025

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** The Windy City was drenched in a kaleidoscope of colors and electrified by Bollywood charisma as Rangotsav 2025, America's biggest Holi bash, welcomed superstar Hrithik Roshan for an unforgettable meet-and-greet on April 12, 2025, at the National India Hub in Schaumburg, IL. The fifth stop of Hrithik's whirlwind USA tour, this vibrant celebration drew over 3,000+ attendees from diverse Asian and multicultural backgrounds, all adorned in colorful attire, to revel in the joyous spirit of Holi. The event also saw dignitaries like Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison and Council General Sanjiv Pal from the Consulate General of India grace the stage.

Rangotsav 2025's Chicago stop was a milestone in Hrithik Roshan's USA tour, which also included Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, New Jersey, and Bay Area San Jose. The event's seamless execution, vibrant performances, and Hrithik's genuine warmth left an indelible mark. Organized by 3 Sixty Shows and AP Square, with national sponsors including Four Square, Hyper Beverages, True Payment Solutions, and Amazing Energy Solutions, the event was a seamless blend of cultural festivity, fan interaction, and community recognition. Local promoters were Gaurav Tutaja from Rajshi Events and Bhavna Modi from Manpasand.

Rangotsav 2025 was more than just a Holi celebration; it was a cultural extravaganza that showcased the best of Indian heritage through music, dance, and community spirit. Attendees enjoyed traditional Holi activities like color throwing, indulged in Holi-themed culinary delights, and danced to Hrithik's iconic songs. The event's highlight was the talk show segment, where Hrithik shared insights into his illustrious career and upcoming projects.

The event, emceed by Rex D'Souza and Zak Khan, featured electrifying performances by dance academies like Shirlyzar Dance Company, Mayuri Entertainment Corp (Nache Mayuri), Aaja Nachale Dance Company, PJ Dance Academy, and Arya Dance Academy. Singers including Rex D'Souza, Swapnil, Sameer, Minahaj, Ramyaa, Vivek Agarwal, Sohail Khan, and Avni, along with models Gawari Sri, Mobin Ali, Reena, Rami Mital, Uzma, Sankriti, and Ajanta, added glamour and energy to the festivities. The sound and screen production, expertly handled by Dimple, ensured a flawless experience.

Hrithik Roshan Talk show was emceed by Saba Azad. The Chicago event, highlighted as a pinnacle of the tour, saw Hrithik Roshan, engaging with fans in a uniquely intimate talk show format. From heartfelt selfies to candid conversations, Hrithik's 42 minutes stage presence was a masterclass in humility and

connection. Reflecting on his journey, he said, "Thank you, Chicago, for making me feel so special today. I feel like a giant. I'm going behind the camera for my next film, Krrish 4, and I need all your blessings." He also teased his next release, War 2, set to hit theaters on August 14, 2025, praising co-star Junior NTR for his acting prowess and culinary skills. "War 2 is bigger, better, and I'm really proud of it," Hrithik declared, igniting excitement among fans.

Hrithik's connection with Chicago was palpable. "I love Chicago; it's amazing. My stomach is full of your pizzas, and the air here feels so good," he enthused, promising to return. His speech resonated deeply as he shared his vision for the next 25 years: "I

efforts, Gaurav Tuteja and Bhavna Modi for event organization, JD of JD Events, Payal Shah, Kanak Zala of the Indian Association of Los Angeles, Ami Patel for dynamic leadership, and Harish Patel. Special recognition went to Umima Fero of Rani's Nail and Spa for empowerment and Arya Dance Academy for their stellar performance. Signed HRX t-shirts from Hrithik were gifted to awardees, adding a personal touch.

Sponsors played a pivotal role, with National India Hub as the grand sponsor, Fusion Group Games as the elite national sponsor, and elite sponsors like Rana Reagan Pharmacy, Belly Delhi, Core Exteriors, North American College, LA Nima Tequila, Matari Coffee, NY Life Insurance,

performances some fans anticipated, was meticulously organized to ensure a smooth, rush-free experience.

- Hrithik's warm engagement with meet and greet attendees, he graciously interacted with each fan, shaking hands, signing autographs, and posing for photos with a friendly demeanor that particularly charmed youngsters and kids.
- Fans and dance groups had ample time to capture lifetime memories with Hrithik."

Syed Sabahat Jamal was the head of security for the movement & coordination of Bollywood's superstar "Hrithik Roshan". He and his team made sure that no mistakes were



Hrithik Charisma at Rangotsav in Chicago

want my next 25 years to be a journey of becoming, learning, failing, and rising again. I invite you all to be the best version of yourselves." Fans like Vidhan Davra and Zaki Khan, winners of a singing contest, performed for Hrithik, while birthday celebrants, including Shweta, were serenaded by the crowd.

The award ceremony honored community leaders for their outstanding contributions, with Hrithik personally felicitating luminaries such as Amit Amin and Dave Patel for their hospitality excellence, Deepthi Karlapudi for humanitarian service, Sai Ravi Suribhotla for leadership in real estate, Gulzar Singh for shaping Chicago's skyline, Dhitu Bhagvankar for entrepreneurial success, Ajeet Singh as president of the Indian-American Business Council, Zaki Khan for educational vision, Sunil Shah and Rita Shah for their work with New York Life Insurance, Chandini Duvvuri for humanitarian

Shimla Peppers, Honest, State Farm Insurances, Dynasty Home, Chicago Import, Tanishq, Vistal Tech, and Tech Insurance Agency. PN Entertainment and Hopscotch powered the event, ensuring a vibrant atmosphere.

The event's success was a testament to the tireless efforts of organizers Gaurav Tuteja, Bhavna Modi, Payal Shah, Aria Patel, and JD Events, with Manpasand hailed as a family-like force behind the scenes.

## FANS OF HRITHIK COMMENTED:

- National and local promoters did an excellent job for the over 1 hour meet and greet event, ensuring a seamless rush-free, no shouting and everyone treated with respect and dignity. The event maintained an organized flow, ensuring fans had meaningful interactions with Hrithik.
- The event's talk show format, a departure from the dance

made. Safety & security is the most important aspect of Syed Sabahat Jamal's job! Hrithik Roshan's security was executed successfully without any critical incidents.

"Rangotsav is America's largest Holi celebration, bringing together communities to revel in the festival of colors through music, dance, and cultural festivities. With a commitment to fostering unity and joy. Our experience in Chicago with Hrithik Roshan is that he graciously interacted with fans, shaking hands, signing autographs, and posing for selfie photos with a friendly demeanor that particularly charmed youngsters and kids, politeness, making every moment special for fans. The organizers crafted a truly memorable event, and we wish Hrithik all the best in his future endeavors" Suresh Bodiwala Asian Media USA.,

*(Photograph and Press release by Asian Media USA)*

# AAPI Members Elect New Leadership Team for 2026 and Beyond

APRIL 30, 2025

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** "We have successfully concluded our elections in a very transparent manner for the year 2025-26 for leadership positions at the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI)," Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI, and Dr. Lokesh Edara, AAPI's Chief Election Officer and Past Chair of AAPI BOT, jointly announced here today. "We thank the election officers and all the members of AAPI for participating in the Election."

After months-long elections season, where multiple candidates contested at the annual elections for various offices for AAPI for the year 2025-26 and beyond, preliminary election results were announced on April 12th, 2025, while the results became official after the deadline for possible recounts

Dr. Krishan Kumar has been elected Vice President of AAPI, Dr. Seema Arora has been elected as the Secretary, and the new Treasurer elected for 2025-26 is Dr. Soumya Neravetla, a first-ever second-generation Indian American physician elected to the position in the 43-year-old history of AAPI.

Dr. Anjali Gulati, Dr. Sunitha Polepalle, and Dr. Srinu Gokarakonda were elected as members of the Board of Trustees, and the Chair-Elect of the Board of Trustees of AAPI is Dr. Hetal Gor. Dr. Kathula will continue to guide AAPI as the Immediate Past President.

Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, who serves as the President-Elect of AAPI, and Dr. Meher Medavaram, the current Vice President of AAPI, did not contest the elections, as the current President-Elect will assume charge as the President of AAPI in July 2025, and the current Vice President will become the President-Elect for the year 2025-26.

Dr. Raj Bhayani, who was in a direct contest with Dr. Krishan Kumar for the office of the Vice President, conceded the election. AAPI Secretary-Elect Dr. Seema Arora won the contest against Dr. Malti Mehta and Dr. Shirish Kumar Patel, while Dr. Leena Gupta conceded the election to Dr. Soumya Neravetla as the Treasurer.

The following offices for Regional Directors are declared uncontested: NW Central: Dr. Annu Terkonda; SW Central: Dr. Sharma Prabhakar; NE Central I: Dr. Mohan Kesani; NE Central II: Dr. Dharmesh Gandhi; SE Central: Dr. Shashank Ponugoti; New England: Dr. Madhavi Gorusu; Mid-Atlantic I: Dr. Inderpal Chhabra; Mid-Atlantic II: Dr. Avinash C. Gupta; and, South-Atlantic: Dr. Uma Jonnalagadda. The Regional Director positions for the Pacific and Mountain Regions remain open for contests.

The deadline for filing the nominations was January 31st, 2025. Ballots were mailed/emailed by the AAPI Office by March 7th to all active members of AAPI. All the ballots from AAPI members were to reach the Election Agency by the Second Friday

of April 11th, 2025. The ballots were counted, and the election results were announced on April 12th, 2025.

While thanking the contestants and the thousands of Indian American physicians, who are actively holding membership at the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), and participated in the election process, Dr. Kathula said, "A heartfelt thank you to all the contestants in AAPI elections - your willingness to volunteer your time and energy speaks volumes about your commitment to our beloved organization, AAPI. Congratulations

collaboration of an excellent team of dedicated, hardworking, and loyal officers and executive committee members who are with me to take AAPI to newer heights," Dr. Chakrabarty added.

Dr. Hetal Gor, AAPI BOT Chair-Elect said, "I am looking forward to working with the new leadership and members of AAPI in strengthening the goals and mission of AAPI and to help make AAPI a healthcare leader in US and globally and work in the best interests of our Physicians and our community here in the US and serve our motherland, India."

hardworking, and loyal officers and executive committee members who are with me to take AAPI to newer heights."

Dr. Soumya Neravetla, the newly elected Treasurer of AAPI, said, "I am honored to be elected as the Treasurer of national AAPI. I appreciate and thank all of you for your trust in me. Your guidance, support, and vote made this possible. This win belongs to all our members for trusting our vision of growth & progress. I hope to receive your continued support and inspiration."

The growing influence of physicians



The recently elected AAPI leadership team

to all the winners! We're incredibly proud of your achievements and grateful for your dedication. I know firsthand how much it takes, having run in four elections and won them all. Your passion, effort, and courage are truly commendable, and they continue to inspire our members and future leaders."

Dr. Sunil Kaza, AAPI BOT Chair thanked all the candidates for their commitment to the vision and mission of AAPI. He said, "I want to congratulate all the winners of the election, and all the candidates for their passion and dedication to serving AAPI, and regardless of the outcome, we need you as a valuable team member of our beloved AAPI. I wish them the very best and my wholehearted support."

"As the incoming President of AAPI, I would like to congratulate my incoming new team for the year 2025-26," said Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, who will assume charge as the President of AAPI during the 43rd annual convention in Cincinnati, OH in July this year. "I'm very honored and consider myself fortunate to be bestowed with the responsibility of leading the four decades old strong organization with the cooperation and

Dr. Meher Medavaram, President-Elect of AAPI for 2025-26, said, "I want to express my sincere gratitude to all AAPI members for this honor and assure that I will sincerely work for the betterment of our beloved organization, AAPI. Once again, I thank everyone for the opportunity to serve." She expressed gratitude to the Election Committee, who "successfully organized this election, with great participation from AAPI members."

"I stand before you today filled with immense gratitude and humility. Winning this election is not just a personal achievement but a collective victory, and I am deeply honored to have your trust and support," said Dr. Krishan Kumar. "This victory belongs to all of us. It is a testament to the power of unity, collaboration, and the belief that together, we can achieve great things. Let's move forward together, with determination and hope, to build a brighter future for our community."

Dr. Seema Arora said, "I'm very honored, and consider myself fortunate to be bestowed with the responsibility for serving the four decades old strong organization with the cooperation and collaboration of an excellent team of dedicated,

of Indian heritage is evident, as increasingly physicians of Indian origin hold critical positions in healthcare, academic, research, and administrative positions across the nation. We the physicians of Indian origin are proud of our great achievements and contributions to our motherland, India, our adopted land, the US, and in a very significant way to the transformation of Indo-US relations.

Serving 1 in every 7 patients in the US, AAPI members care for millions of patients every day, while several of them have risen to hold high-flying jobs, shaping the policies and programs, and inventions that shape the landscape of healthcare in the US and around the world.

Since its inception in 1982, AAPI has been at the forefront, representing a conglomeration of more than 125,000 practicing physicians in the United States, seeking to be the united voice for the physicians of Indian origin. For more details about AAPI, please visit: [www.aapiusa.org](http://www.aapiusa.org)

*(Based on a press release issued by  
Ajay Ghosh, Media Coordinator  
AAPI)*

# We will hunt down every terrorist involved in Pahalgam attack: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today warned terrorists that India will "hunt each and every one of them" for killing 26 civilians in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

At an event in Delhi on May 1 Shah in his first public comment on the terror attack said the worst is yet to come for the terrorists.

"Whoever carried out the dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam will not be spared. We will hunt down each and every perpetrator of the Pahalgam terror attack. Don't think that you have won by killing 26 people. Every one of you will be made answerable," the Home Minister said at the event to unveil a statue of Upendra Nath Brahma, the leader of Assam's Bodo community, and name a road after him.

"Har vyakti ko chun chun ke jawab bhi milega, jawab bhi diya jayega... This is the Narendra Modi government; no one will be spared. It is our resolve to uproot terrorism from every inch of this country and it will be accomplished," he said.

The Home Minister, along with Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and other officials also observed a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the terror attack on April 22.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Bodoland Territorial Council chief executive member Promod Boro also attended the Delhi event.



Tension has been rising in India and Pakistan ties following the Pahalgam terror attack. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was told about cross-border linkages of the terrorists during the CCS' first meeting last week.

The last biggest escalation between the two neighbours was in February 2019 when India bombed a terror camp deep inside Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), in retaliation against the suicide bombing attack on a convoy of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama.

**'Don't demoralise troops': SC junks PIL for judge-led probe into Pahalgam attack**

The Supreme Court on Thursday, May 1, refused to entertain a PIL seeking an SIT probe headed by a former judge into the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in which 25 tourists and a local were killed.

"Be responsible before filing such a PIL. You have some duty towards the country also. This is the way you are trying to demoralise the forces in this hour of crisis and juncture? You are asking a retired Supreme Court judge to investigate. Since when retired high

court and Supreme Court judges have become experts in investigation? We only decide disputes. Don't ask us to pass an order," a Bench of Justice Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh said.

"This is not the time. This is the crucial hour when each and every citizen of this country has joined hands to fight this terrorism... Don't make any prayer which can demoralise our forces... it is not acceptable to us. Look at the sensitivity of the issue," Justice Kant told the lawyer who mentioned the matter for urgent hearing. The Bench pulled up the lawyer for filing the petition seeking a probe into the Pahalgam massacre. As the Bench was not inclined to entertain the PIL, the petitioners chose to withdraw the petition.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is already investigating the case.

Hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, Md Junaid and advocates Fatesh Kumar Shahu and Vicky Kumar had sought a direction to the Centre, Jammu and Kashmir, the Central Reserve Police Force and the NIA to prepare an action plan for ensuring the safety of citizens in tourist spots in the union territory.

They also wanted the top court to direct the Centre to form a special investigation team (SIT) to ensure accountability over the terror attack.

In an unusual move, the Supreme Court had on April 23 condemned the "cowardly terrorist attack on tourists". Terming it a "diabolical act of mindless violence".

## Army and Air Force versions of Dhruv helicopters cleared for operations

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The government has cleared the resumption of operations of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force versions of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv fleet, which was grounded for four months, officials said on Thursday.

The decision follows recommendations from a Defect Investigation (DI) Committee that reviewed technical issues after one of its choppers was involved in a crash in Gujarat in January.

However, the naval version of the chopper will remain grounded, officials said.

A time-bound plan for restarting operations has been agreed upon between the armed forces and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the helicopter's manufacturer.

The entire fleet of over 330 Dhruv helicopters operated by the Army, Navy, the Air Force and the Coast Guard was grounded after a Dhruv helicopter of the Coast Guard crashed at Gujarat's Porbandar airport runway on January 5.

Two pilots and an aircrew diver of the chopper were killed in the incident.

The indigenously designed and developed ALH Dhruv is a twin-engine, multi-role and multi-mission new-generation helicopter in the 5.5-ton weight class.



## Lashkar-Pak ISI nexus, 3D mapping of site: What Pahalgam probe report says

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The anti-terror body National Investigation Agency's (NIA) preliminary report on the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam's Baisaran Valley points to an operational nexus between Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), sources have said.

According to NIA sources, the conspiracy behind the terror attack that killed 26 people, primarily tourists, was developed within LeT, allegedly under directives issued by senior ISI operatives. The plan is believed to have been formalised at Lashkar's headquarters in Pakistan.

Two terrorists central to the attack, identified as Hashmi Musa (alias Suleman) and Ali Bhai (alias Talha Bhai), are confirmed Pakistani nationals. Interrogations of detained operatives indicate that both attackers maintained consistent communication with Pakistani-based handlers, receiving specific instructions on timing, logistics, and execution. The terrorists allegedly entered

Indian territory weeks before the attack and were aided by a network of Over Ground Workers (OGWs) who provided local logistical support, including shelter, navigation, and reconnaissance.

The NIA has conducted extensive forensic and electronic data gathering. Over 40 cartridges recovered from the crime scene have been sent for ballistic and chemical analysis. Investigators also performed 3D mapping of the attack site and extracted dump data from mobile towers around the valley.

Satellite phone activity in the region spiked in the days leading up to the attack. At least three satellite phones were operational in and around Baisaran, and signals from two have been traced and analysed. In total, over 2,800 individuals have been questioned by the NIA and security agencies. As of May 2, more than 150 persons remain in custody for further interrogation. These include both suspected OGWs and individuals with links to banned groups like Jamaat-e-Islami and various factions of the Hurriyat Conference.

## Portals of Himalayan temple Kedarnath open for devotees

The portals of Himalayan temple Kedarnath were opened on Friday, May 2, with more than 12,000 pilgrims attending the ceremony.

The gates of the temple located at a height of more than 11,000 ft were opened at 7 am, Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee officials said. The Himalayan temple was adorned with 108 quintals of flowers of 54 varieties, including rose and marigold, brought from different countries like Nepal, Thailand and Sri Lanka. Of the four Char Dham temples Kedarnath, which is also the 11th Jyotirlinga, attracts the largest number of devotees. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is the third temple in the Char Dham circuit to be opened after the winter break. Gangotri and Yamunotri temples were opened on April 30 and Badrinath will open on May 4. The process of opening the gates of Kedarnath began at 5 am, BKTC media in-charge Harish Gaur said.

CM Pushkar Singh Dhama attended the opening ceremony and was the first to perform a puja at the temple after the opening of its gates praying for the well-being and prosperity of all.

# Pak continues ceasefire violation along LoC for 8th consecutive night

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Pakistan Army violated ceasefire along the Line of Control for the eight consecutive night on Thursday, May 1, by initiating unprovoked firing.

Small arms firing was directed from posts opposite Kupwara, Baramulla, Poonch, Naushera and Akhnoor areas of Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian Army responded to the firing along the 740-kilometre-long de facto border.

The exchange of fire comes amid heightened tensions and a string of tit-for-tat measures by the neighbouring countries following the April 22 Pahalgam attack, which killed 26 civilians.

Since the night of April 24, just hours after India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, Pakistani troops have been resorting to unprovoked firing at various places along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Tuesday, April 29, Islamabad expanded the firing to the Pargwal sector along the International Border in Jammu district.

The same day, directors general of military operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan spoke over the hotline. The



Pakistan military has been warned against the unprovoked firings, people familiar with the DGMO talks told PTI.

Civilians living along the LoC and International Border started getting individual bunkers cleaned to be made them habitable in case of escalation to shelling. While harvesting of crops along R S Pura and Arnia sectors along the International Border has been completed, it is still going on in Kathua, Samba, Rajouri, and Poonch districts, per PTI.

A day after the Pahalgam attack, India

announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operation land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties in view of cross-border links to the attack.

In response, Pakistan shut its airspace to Indian airliners and suspended all trade with India, including through third countries. Pakistan rejected India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty and said any move to stop the flow of water will be seen as an "act of war".

India shares a total of 3,323 km of border with Pakistan, divided into three parts: the International Border (IB), approximately 2,400 km from Gujarat to the northern banks of the Chenab River in Akhnoor, Jammu; the Line of Control (LoC), 740 km long, running from parts of Jammu to parts of Leh; and the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL), 110 km long, dividing the Siachen region from NJ 9842 to Indira Col in the north.

In February 2021, the DGMOs of India and Pakistan had reiterated their commitment to the 2003 ceasefire agreement to ensure peace along the de-facto border.

## Delhi High Court slams Baba Ramdev for new video targeting Rooh Afza

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Delhi High Court on Thursday, May 1, came down heavily on yoga guru Baba Ramdev for allegedly releasing a fresh video targeting Hamdard, despite an earlier undertaking to refrain from making similar statements against the brand.

The court was hearing a plea filed by Hamdard National Foundation India against Ramdev and his Patanjali Foods Ltd. Last week, after the court slammed Ramdev over his remarks allegedly targeting Hamdard's popular drink Rooh Afza as "Sharbat Jihad", he agreed to immediately take down all related videos.

The court had then described Ramdev's video as "indefensible" and "shocking" to the conscience of the court.

However, on Thursday, Hamdard's counsel informed the court that Ramdev has posted yet another video containing objectionable content.

Senior advocate Sandeep Sethi, representing Hamdard, said, "Within a day, it has 8.9 lakh views and 8,500 likes and 2,200 comments and the video has gone viral. That is the reach of such a communal video which was far beyond what is permissible in law".

Senior advocates Rajiv Nayar and Jayant Mehta, appearing for Ramdev and Patanjali, informed the court that,



as per instructions, the offending portion of the latest video would be removed from all social media platforms within 24 hours. The counsel said there wasn't disparagement of products of any other company in the video and that contempt was not attracted.

After watching the new video put out by Ramdev, Justice Amit Bansal told Ramdev's counsel, "I think he (Ramdev) is beyond your control." The counsel cannot justify such a video, the judge added.

"This shows the falsity of his affidavit in which he stated that he was a law-abiding citizen and strictly upholds the law of the land," the court noted.

"He (Ramdev) is not in control of anyone. He lives in his own world," the court remarked.

## Pak Shuts Wagah border, leaves some nationals stranded in India

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Attari-Wagah border crossing between India and Pakistan shut, completely, Thursday, May 1.

The crossing was closed, from both sides, as Delhi and Islamabad face-off over the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, an attack in which 26 civilians, including a Nepali, tourists, and locals, were killed and an attack that India says was planned and executed by the deep state in Pakistan.

Border crossings were closed and visas revoked by both governments in the first round of diplomatic restrictions post the attack. Over the past days authorities have rounded up hundreds of Pak nationals - in the country on tourist, medical, or other visas - to eject them.

On Wednesday, April 30, 24 hours before the border was sealed, 125 Pak nationals crossed over, taking the total since Thursday last to over 1,000, including diplomats and support staff.

But on Thursday afternoon, shortly after it was sealed, there was drama; a small number of Pak nationals sent to the crossing by Indian immigration could not return home.

It appeared Pak authorities refused to open the gate for their citizens.

Why the gate remained shut is unclear.

In visuals from the crossing, the Pak nationals who should have left India are held up on the India side of the border



and arguing with officials. Sources told NDTV there was even minor pushing and shoving, resulting in some barricades being toppled, as they tried to leave.

Eventually, though, those who have should have left, including men and women who had overstayed their visas, were forced to return. It is unclear also what will happen to them.

Ejection of Pak nationals was the first step India took after the Pahalgam terror attack. The government ordered Pakistanis with (short-term) tourist and medical visas to leave. Those on long-term permits and Hindus of Pakistani origin were, however, allowed to stay.

The visa scrapping, however, led to heartbreaking stories of families being split - mothers being separated from their children and young couples forced to live apart. Many have lamented the fact their lives have been uprooted for something they did not do or have any control over.

# India in history this Week

## MAY 2 TO MAY 8

### 02 MAY

1907 There was a fire of riots in Rawalpindi which spread from West Bengal to Punjab.

1926 Hindu women had the right to take elected office.

1968 The Public Provident Fund Act was approved in the Lok Sabha.



1996 The famous Guru Chandraswami was sentenced to Tihar Jail on charges of cheating.

1998 10.5 kg of Charas was captured by the Indian Army from Bandipura market.

1921 Birth of filmmaker, director and writer Satyajit Ray, ornamented with Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Bharat Ratna, and Oscar Award.

1922 Birth of India's professional billiards player Wilson Jones.

1929 Birth of Indian politician and litterateur Vishnu Kant Shastri.

1949 Trial of Mahatma Gandhi murder case begins.

1985 Banarsidas Chaturvedi passed away. He was a famous journalist and litterateur.

2003 India announced to re-establish diplomatic relations with Pakistan. The relationship was severed following the December 2001 terrorist attack on Parliament.

### 03 MAY

1764 Nawab Mir Qasim of Bengal was defeated by the British.

1913 The first Indian feature film Raja Harishchandra was released.

1919 The invasion of British India by Amanullah Khan which led to the Anglo-Afghan War.

1930 Birth of famous woman politician Sumitra Singh of Rajasthan.

1969 Third President of India Zakir Hussain passed away.

1977 The birth of the first female mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani to receive the 'Fields Medal', a



prestigious world mathematics award.

1981 Indian cine actress Nargis died.

1989 Launch of country's first 50 kW solar power

plant in Haryana.

2008 Tata Steel Limited got its first coal mining license in the UK.

1939 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose established the All India Forward Block.

### 04 MAY

1980 Cole Mines Day was announced.

1799 Tipu Sultan died during a war.



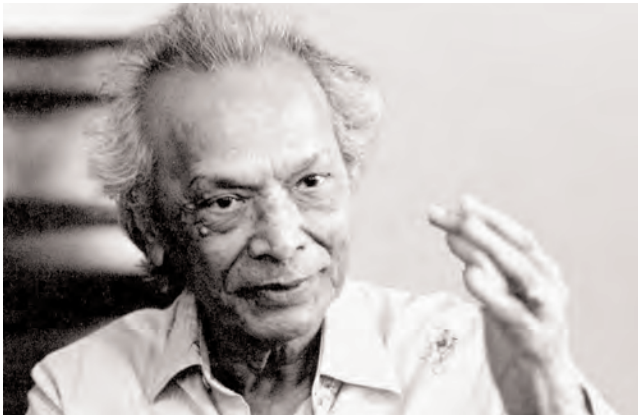
1854 The country's first postage stamp was released in Kolkata.

1923 Renowned filmmaker Mrinal Sen was born.

1959 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru refused the treaty between India and Pakistan.

1980 Mazdoor Day was observed for the laborers working in the coal mines.

### 05 MAY



2006 Music director Naushad Ali, who is said to be the right mix of music and success, said goodbye to the world on this day.

1883 Surendra Nath Banerjee became the first journalist to go to jail.

1479 The third Sikh Guru, Guru Amar Das was born.

1888 Birth of the great revolutionary Triloknath Chakravarty.

1916 Former President Gyani Zail Singh was born.

### 06 MAY

1944 Gandhiji released from Aga Khan Palace in Pune.

1967 Zakir Hussain became the first Muslim President of India.

2010 Ajmal Amir Kasab, convicted for the 26/11 attack in Mumbai, was sentenced to death.

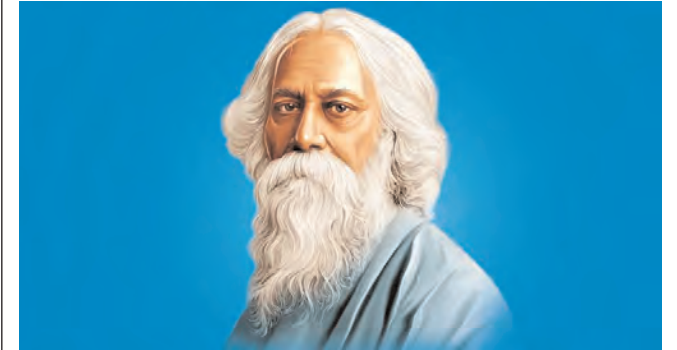
1861 Motilal Nehru, a freedom fighter and politician, was born.

1964 Khajan Singh, one of the famous swimmers of India, was born.

1589 The great musician Mian Tansen died.

1946 Eminent jurist, prominent parliamentary leader and trusted aide of Mahatma Gandhi, Bhulabhai Desai died.

### 07 MAY



1861 Rabindranath Tagore was born into a prosperous family in Calcutta. Tagore is the first person in Asia to receive the Nobel Prize.

1907 The first electric tram car operated in Bombay.

1973 The foundation stone of the new capital of Arunachal Pradesh was laid at Itanagar.

1989 Diplomatic contact between Britain and Iran broke in 1989 after an Iranian fatwa against Indian-origin writer Salman Rushdie.

2002 The International Religious Freedom Commission expressed serious concern over the violence in Gujarat.

1889 Renowned freedom fighter and founder of 'Hindustani Sevadal' N. s. Hardiker was born.

1880 The great Indian Sanskritist and scholar Pandit Pandurang Vaman Kane was born.

### 08 MAY

1933 Mahatma Gandhi kept 21 days fast against British rule.

1929 Birth of India's Thumri singer Girija Devi.

1963 The centenary celebrations of the Indian Red Cross Society were celebrated.

1954 The central government included Chandranagar in the state of West Bengal.

1980 The World Health Organization announced the elimination of smallpox.

2000 69-year-old Lord Swarajpal of Indian origin was appointed the vice-chancellor of Britain's fourth-largest university in Britain.

1895 Famous revolutionary and Gandhian activist of Orissa Gopabandhu Chaudhary was born.



1916 Swami Chinmayananda, the famous spiritual thinker of India and world-renowned scholar of Vedanta philosophy was born.

1915 India's freedom fighter Amir Chand passed away.

1915 One of the revolutionaries who fought for India's independence, Bhai Balmukund, died on that day.

# Canada Freezes US Travel as Major Canadian Airlines Slash Routes to US Cities to Tap the European Market

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

**OTTAWA (TIP):** Canada is rapidly reshaping its aviation ties with the US as declining travel demand, rising diplomatic tensions, and shifting consumer preferences drive major airlines-Air Canada, WestJet, Porter, and Flair-to slash routes to key U.S. cities including San Francisco, Miami, New York, and Washington. With a significant drop in both leisure and business travel from Canada to the U.S., carriers are now reallocating capacity toward Europe, where demand remains strong and political conditions are more favorable.

## CROSS-BORDER TRAVEL IN DECLINE

In recent months, both business and leisure travel from Canada to the United States have seen a dramatic downturn. Data from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shows that entries from the northern border fell by 12.5% in February and a further 18% in March, indicating sustained contraction in cross-border movement. This retreat comes amid growing discomfort among Canadian travelers, fueled by strict U.S. border enforcement, electronic device inspections, and political rhetoric painting Canada as "the 51st state."

Further compounding this decline, Flight Centre Travel Group Canada reported that Canadian business travel to the United States plummeted by 40% in the early months of 2025. Tourism Economics forecasts a 15.2% decline in international visitors to the U.S. this year alone, a downturn echoed by decreased arrivals from key European markets like Germany and Spain-down 30% and 25%, respectively, in March.

## POLITICAL FALLOUT BEHIND THE TRAVEL FREEZE

The downturn in U.S.-bound travel from Canada coincides with an atmosphere of political friction. While President Donald Trump dismissed concerns in an April 27 media exchange-calling the tourism slowdown "not a big deal"-his rhetoric and policy decisions have sent ripples through bilateral travel flows. Two days after denying the downturn, Trump stated in an ABC interview that "tourism is way up," a claim that was fact-checked and corrected live on air.

Meanwhile, Canada has issued updated travel advisories cautioning citizens about "strict enforcement" at U.S. borders and warning of increased scrutiny of electronic devices. Similar advisories have been issued by France, Belgium, Finland, Portugal, and the United Kingdom, reinforcing the perception of heightened tension and risk when entering the United States.

## AIR CANADA LEADS PULLBACK FROM THE U.S.

Air Canada has taken the most prominent steps to scale back its U.S. operations. In 2024, the airline had ramped up transborder service, including frequent flights between Montréal-Trudeau International Airport (YUL) and San Francisco International Airport (SFO), with up to three daily

rotations during peak summer months. However, facing reduced demand, the airline will now revert to a single daily flight, cutting previously scheduled frequencies.

These cuts follow earlier reductions to routes linking Vancouver International Airport (YVR) with Miami, Houston, and Washington. Mark Galardo, Air Canada's Executive Vice President of Revenue and Network Planning, noted that the airline is proactively "moving capacity into other sectors where we see strength," referring specifically to the European market.

## WESTJET CANCELS MORE US ROUTES

WestJet, another major Canadian airline, has also made decisive cuts to its U.S. schedule. The airline recently canceled its planned Vancouver-Austin route, which was set to launch in May



Major airlines - Air Canada, WestJet, Porter, and Flair have slashed routes to key U.S. cities including San Francisco, Miami, New York, and Washington  
Photo: Air Canada

2025, citing a "downward shift in demand." This follows previous cancellations of routes from Calgary to New York-LaGuardia and from Edmonton to Orlando.

Rather than attempting to revive faltering U.S. services, WestJet is pivoting to Europe. The airline plans to increase its footprint across popular transatlantic destinations, anticipating stronger seasonal demand and more favorable geopolitical conditions.

## PORTER AIRLINES CUTS FREQUENCIES AND REFOCUSES ON CANADA

Porter Airlines, a growing player in Canada's mid-size market, has implemented "targeted frequency reductions" on select U.S. routes due to softening demand. At the same time, the airline is expanding its domestic Canadian network, increasing capacity from 75% to 80%. Interestingly, while still maintaining some Canada-U.S. service, Porter has paused marketing campaigns aimed at promoting U.S. travel, reflecting traveler hesitation and internal reassessment of brand priorities amid current conditions.

Despite the cuts, Porter's overall Canada-U.S. capacity remains 25% higher than last year, showing the airline's continued interest in maintaining strategic corridors even as

broader retrenchments occur.

## FLAIR AIRLINES RETREATS AND RESHUFFLES

Flair Airlines, Canada's low-cost carrier, has reduced more than a third of its U.S. flights in response to what executives describe as a significant drop in bookings. The airline is redirecting its operations toward more stable domestic and international markets. While the United States was once a key target for affordable getaway options, Flair now sees better opportunities in intra-Canada routes and possibly new destinations outside North America.

## EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS RISE IN PRIORITY

The strategic repositioning of Canadian carriers isn't just about pulling back from the U.S.-it's about chasing growth where it exists. Across

all four airlines, a clear trend is emerging: growing investment in European routes.

Air Canada has announced additional frequencies and new seasonal routes to major European destinations, including Paris, Rome, and Frankfurt. WestJet has expanded its transatlantic operations with new service to London Gatwick and Dublin. These routes have historically performed well in the summer months and are viewed as high-potential markets, especially as post-pandemic travel demand rebounds strongly across the continent.

The trend aligns with what many analysts now call a "transatlantic rebalancing," where airlines reallocate limited fleet resources to higher-yield, lower-friction travel corridors.

## ECONOMIC COSTS OF THE DECLINE

The U.S. Travel Association warns that even a 10% drop in Canadian tourism could cost the U.S. economy over \$2.1 billion and result in the loss of more than 140,000 jobs. Given the current trajectory, the actual decline may exceed that threshold. Cities like San Francisco, Miami, New York, Orlando, Houston, and Washington-which have traditionally benefited from steady Canadian visitor traffic-are already seeing fewer arrivals, empty hotel rooms, and reduced spending in restaurants, attractions, and retail.

The impact extends to airlines as well. U.S. carriers that once enjoyed strong demand from Canadian cities are now seeing softer load factors on incoming flights. Codeshare partnerships with Canadian airlines are also being re-evaluated, and some U.S. airlines have begun to reduce marketing campaigns targeting Canadian customers.

## TRAVELER SENTIMENT AND SAFETY CONCERNS

Beyond economics and schedules, the freeze in travel is also psychological. Canadian travelers increasingly cite discomfort with political instability and unpredictable border interactions as reasons for deferring U.S. trips. The Canadian government's advisory, which highlights increased scrutiny at ports of entry-including searches of electronic devices-has only amplified these concerns.

Europe, by contrast, is perceived as safer, more welcoming, and culturally enriching, particularly for leisure travel. The absence of political hostility, coupled with efficient entry policies and strong tourism recovery plans, makes Europe an attractive pivot point for Canadian travel planners and airlines alike.

Canada is freezing air travel links to the US as Air Canada, WestJet, Porter, and Flair slash routes to major cities like San Francisco, Miami, New York, and Washington in response to political tensions, falling demand, and strict US border scrutiny. Redirecting capacity to Europe, the airlines are capitalizing on rising transatlantic travel interest and more favorable market conditions.

## A RESTRUCTURED FUTURE FOR CANADA-US AIR TRAVEL?

The sharp reduction in flights from Canada to the U.S. by four major airlines-Air Canada, WestJet, Porter, and Flair-signals a significant shift in travel priorities for 2025. While the move reflects short-term market conditions and geopolitical tensions, it may also indicate long-term structural change. Airlines are proving more agile in capacity planning, ready to pivot to new markets in response to volatility.

Unless political relations improve and traveler confidence is restored, Canada-U.S. air travel may not return to previous highs anytime soon. In the meantime, Europe stands to benefit from the realignment as Canadian carriers tap into surging demand across the Atlantic.

Canadian airlines are not just adjusting routes-they are signaling a new era in international air strategy. Faced with declining demand and mounting political tensions, Air Canada, WestJet, Porter, and Flair have opted to freeze expansion into the U.S. and reroute their focus toward the robust, receptive skies of Europe. The ripple effects will be felt across both continents-changing the way Canadians travel, the cities they connect with, and the airlines that shape their global journeys.

(Source: *Travel & Tour World*)

# NJ CREATIVES WILL DAZZLE AT THE 2025 'PRUDENTIAL NORTH TO SHORE FESTIVAL'

BY MABEL PAIS



Newark MC Rah Digga, awardee.  
Credit: Courtesy njpac.org

At the 2025 'Prudential North to Shore Festival' performances and programs will be held June 14-29 in Asbury Park and Newark, while performances in Atlantic City will extend throughout the coming year.

These festival programs spotlighting the artists who live, work and perform in the festival's three host cities year-round are made possible by 'Prudential North to Shore's Community Arts Awards' initiative, through which the festival awards local

artists, arts organizations, nonprofits and small businesses up to \$10,000 each to produce free or low-cost performing and visual arts events.

Through this initiative, this year 'Prudential North to Shore' will support New Jersey's creative economy with close to \$400,000 in funding across Asbury Park, Newark, and Atlantic City. A full list of Community Arts Awards recipients can be found at [northtoshore.com/community-arts-grants](http://northtoshore.com/community-arts-grants).

"'Prudential North to Shore' isn't just about bringing global headliners to New Jersey-it's also about giving local artists a platform to shine," said John Schreiber, President and CEO of NJPAC. "Today and every day, we celebrate New Jersey's homegrown talent and the vibrant artistic community that helps define life in the Garden State. Their creativity and passion are an essential part of who we are as New Jerseyans."

## LINEUP OF AWARDEE PERFORMANCES

Events to be produced as part of the 2025 'Prudential North to Shore Community Arts' Awards' program this June include

### ASBURY PARK

#### AWARDEE: BLUE DOT: SOCIAL & COMMUNITY WELLNESS

Sense of Belonging: An Immersive Sensory Experience For All

6/19/2025 at 3:00 PM  
Asbury Park Carousel  
104-108 Asbury Ave

#### AWARDEE: ASBURY PARK AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC PROJECT INC.

AP-AMP Presents: Springwood Avenue Sounds - Past, Present and Future - A Legacy

6/19/2025 at 5:00 PM  
Blackbird Commons  
131 Atkins Ave.

#### AWARDEE: GEENETICA AKA DR. GEENA BUONO

She's NorMale - A Transgender Odyssey 2025  
6/19/2025 at 7:00 PM  
House of Independents  
527 Cookman Ave.

#### AWARDEE: SECOND LIFE BIKES

Paint on Pine  
6/20/2025 at 5:00 PM  
Pine Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues

#### AWARDEE: LUMINOUS ABSTRACT

Memory Palace  
6/20/2025 at 7:00 PM  
The Asbury Carousel Building  
104-108 Asbury Ave

#### AWARDEE: ALEXANDER SIMONE

Soul In The Park 3  
6/20/2025 at 7:00 PM  
GotPicz Photography Studio  
917 3rd Ave

#### AWARDEE: INSPIRE LIFE

Juneteenth Family Arts & Cultural Festival  
6/21/2025 at 12:00 PM  
Springwood Avenue Park  
Springwood Avenue

#### AWARDEE: OVER THE MOON ART STUDIOS

Print-a-Palooza  
6/21/2025 at 1:00 PM  
Over the Moon Art Studios  
808 Springwood Ave (Between Main Street and Springwood Park)

#### AWARDEE: RON LYONS AND CAZZEEK BROTHERS

Cazzeek Brothers Present Soul in the City Talent Expo  
6/21/2025 at 5:00 PM  
Springwood Park  
Springwood Avenue

#### AWARDEE: KONSCIOUS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & SERVICE (KYDS)

SOULCASE Community Night  
6/21/2025 at 5:00 PM  
Konscious Community Center  
631 Lake Ave



Asbury Park's local artists, awardee

Credit: Courtesy njpac.org

#### AWARDEE: ASBURY PARK DANCE FESTIVAL AND LUMINOUS ABSTRACT, WITH WOODEN WALLS PROJECT

Dance is Life - An Illuminated Hustle Dance Party  
6/21/2025 at 7:30 PM  
Asbury Park Boardwalk Carousel Building  
104-108 Asbury Ave

#### AWARDEE: GEORGIES BAR

Georgies Community Cookout  
6/22/2025 at 1:00 PM  
Georgies Bar  
812 5th Ave.

#### AWARDEE: RBAR

Funk Fest ft. Soul Project & The Ocean Avenue Stompers  
6/22/2025 at 2:00 PM  
Rbar  
1114 Main Street

#### AWARDEE: PROJECT WRITE NOW & CITY OF ASBURY PARK'S MAYOR'S WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Sound Bytes: Stories & Food for the Soul  
6/22/2025 at 2:00 PM  
Salvation Army Asbury Park

605 Asbury Ave.

#### AWARDEE: CARMEN DAVIS HALL, HEAD OF MY LIFE PRODUCTIONS

Heaven vs Hell  
6/22/2025 at 3:00 PM  
Good Hope Annex  
1306 Washington Avenue

#### AWARDEE: BIBI BENNETT, THE ASBURY PARK REPORTER AND LUMINOUS MULTI MEDIA

Lens on Asbury Park: A Photo Workshop with BiBi Bennett and Rodney Cross  
6/22/2025 at 3:00 PM  
GotPicz Photography Studio  
917 Avenue

#### AWARDEE: QUASONNA MOORE

Prudential North to Shore Asbury Park Photography by Quasonna Moore

Mainstage festival events that will feature Asbury Park performing artist awardees as opening acts include:

#### AWARDEE: JAMES DALTON

Opening for Emerson Woolf and the Wishbones  
6/20/2025 at 7:00 PM  
Asbury Lanes  
209 4th Ave

#### AWARDEE: RYAN GREGG

Opening for Emerson Woolf and the Wishbones  
6/20/2025 at 7:00 PM  
Asbury Lanes  
209 4th Ave

#### AWARDEE: THE DTS

Opening for Penelope Road  
6/22/2025 at 7:00 PM  
Wonder Bar  
1213 Ocean Ave N  
NEWARK

#### AWARDEE: NEWARK PRIDE, INC.

Love Out Loud: Open Mic Experience  
6/25/2025 at 5:00 PM  
Dutch's Lounge @ Tryp Hotel  
24 E Park St.

#### AWARDEE: DEW MINISTRIES, SHAQUANA JORDAN AND NAJIYYAH BAILEY

The Woman at the Well: Dance Experience  
6/25/2025 at 6:00 PM  
First Presbyterian Church of Newark  
820 Broad Street

#### AWARDEE: PROJECT FOR EMPTY SPACE, NEWARK CITY PARKS FOUNDATION, AND NEWARK GROUNDS

Newark Grounds Night Fest  
6/26/2025 at 4:00 PM  
Mulberry Commons Park  
Mulberry St. (Between Edison Pl. and Lafayette St.)

#### AWARDEE: NEWARK PRIDE, INC.

Love Out Loud: Open Mic Experience  
6/25/2025 at 5:00 PM  
Dutch's Lounge @ Tryp Hotel  
24 E Park St.

#### AWARDEE: TA-TANISHA HARRELL

Respect The Mic  
6/26/2025 at 6:00 PM  
Newark Stage (The Black Box), Newark Symphony Hall  
1020 Kenneth Gibson Blvd.

#### AWARDEE: DARYL STEWART PRODUCTIONS

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**CONTD FROM PAGE 22**

Broadway in the Bricks  
6/26/2025 at 6:00 PM  
Newark Public Library  
5 Washington Street

**AWARDEE: EQUALSPACE**

Drunk Black History  
6/26/2025 at 7:30 PM and 9:30 PM  
ES550  
550 Broad St, Floor 4

**AWARDEE: LYRICS MATTER FOUNDATION**

Lyrics Matter: The Salon Series hosted by Rah Digga  
6/27/2025 at 6:00 PM  
The Vault  
221 Washington Street

**AWARDEE: YENDOR THEATRE COMPANY**

Soul-O: A one-person play series (Matinee Show)  
6/28/2025 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM  
NJPAC Arts Education, Horizon Theater  
24 Rector Street

**AWARDEE: CARRIE JACKSON & HER JAZZIN' ALL STARS**

Carrie Jackson & Jazzin' All Stars Band  
6/28/2025 at 5:00 PM  
Clement's Place  
15 Washington Street

**AWARDEE: ROGER COSTA (BRAZILISH PRODUCTIONS)**

Tropical Noise Fest- A Brazilian Celebration  
6/28/2025 at 7:00 PM  
Lua Lounge  
90 Ferry Street

**AWARDEE: GREGORY BURRUS PRODUCTIONS**

Jazz and Joy - Mind Over Music featuring The Lynette Sheard Experience with Nat Adderley Jr and Friends

6/28/2025 at 7:00 PM

Jazz and Jamming - Improvising Life Featuring Charisa The Violin Diva with Koka Strings

6/28/2025 at 9:00 PM

Clement's Place  
15 Washington Street

**AWARDEE: REST FEST, MARCY DEPINA AND LAUREN LEBEAUX CRAIG**

Rest Fest  
6/29/2025 at 11:00 AM  
The Newark Museum of Art  
49 Washington Street

**AWARDEE: PLUSABLE, LLC**

Taste of the City, Sounds of the Ironbound Presented by Plusable in collaboration with Councilman Michael J. Silva

6/29/2025 at 2:00 PM  
Ferry Street (Five Corners)  
Corner of Ferry Street and Wilson Ave

**AWARDEE: FEMME CURATOR ARTS**

Down In The Ro' Open Mic, Earth Tones on the Roof  
6/29/2025 at 6:00 PM  
Adega Bar & Grill Rooftop  
130-132 Ferry Street

**AWARDEE: MAURICE CHESTNUT**

Horizon Sounds of the City: Maurice Chestnut: Beats, Rhymes, and Tap Shoes Opening for Big Daddy Kane

6/28/2025 at 5:00 PM  
NJPAC, Chambers Plaza  
1 Center Street

**AWARDEE: P.GENZ**

Horizon Sounds of the City: P.Genz Opening for Big Daddy Kane

6/28/2025 at 5:00 PM  
NJPAC, Chambers Plaza  
1 Center Street

**AWARDEE: GAIL CAMPBELL**

Horizon Sounds of the City: Gail Campbell Opening for Lettuce

6/29/2025 at 5:00 PM  
NJPAC, Chambers Plaza  
1 Center Street

**AWARDEE: SEGDRICK MARSH**

Horizon Sounds of the City: Segdrick Marsh Opening for Lettuce

6/29/2025 at 5:00 PM  
NJPAC, Chambers Plaza  
1 Center Street

**ATLANTIC CITY**

Community Arts Awards recipients in Atlantic City will produce events scheduled throughout the coming year, from June 2025 - May 2026. They include:

**AWARDEE: SKATEAC**

Bash at Back Sov 2025  
6/14/2025 at 1:00 PM  
Sovereign Avenue Skatepark Back Sov  
End of Sovereign Avenue

**AWARDEE: WEEKDAY UNDERGROUND AND DYLAN CACCAMESI**

Orange Loop Block Party  
6/14/2025 at 12:00 PM  
Cardinal  
201 S. New York Ave

**AWARDEE: CHELSEA EDC**

Global Grooves  
6/15/2025 at 1:00 PM  
O'Donnell Memorial Park  
3501 Atlantic Ave

**AWARDEE: THE NATIONAL R&B MUSIC SOCIETY INC.**

The National R&B Music Society Presents "The 2025 FREE Summer Concerts at Gardner's Basin" feat. Atlantic City Artists The Ty Turner Band, The Cason Express Show Band with SiSi Dash, and Judah Dorrington & Paradise

6/21/2025 at 1:00 PM  
The Historic Gardner's Basin  
800 N. New Hampshire Ave.

**AWARDEE: THE NATIONAL R&B MUSIC SOCIETY INC.**

The National R&B Music Society Presents "The 2025 FREE Summer Concerts at Gardner's Basin" feat. Atlantic City Artists Chris-N-Teeb, Village Bridge, Special Occasion, and Shawn Rock

6/26/2025 at 1:00 PM  
The Historic Gardner's Basin  
800 N. New Hampshire Ave.

**AWARDEE: JOHN BRANCY**

John Brancy and Peter Dugan Live at the 609 Club  
8/23/2025 at 8:30 PM  
The Celebrity Theater at The Claridge Hotel  
123 S Indiana Ave



Alain Johannes, awardee  
Credit: Courtesy njpac.org

**AWARDEE: HISPANIC ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC COUNTY**

Atlantic City Latino Festival  
9/6/2025 at 12:00 PM  
Showboat at the Boardwalk  
Boardwalk & New Jersey Ave

**AWARDEE: MARY CROSS**

Mary Cross' Phyllis Hyman Musical Tribute (special mini tribute to Angie Stone)

10/4/2025 at 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM  
RESORTS Casino Hotel - The Screening Room  
1133 Boardwalk

**AWARDEE: AC PRIDE**

2nd Annual Dancing Under The Rainbow Dance Competition to Benefit the LGBTQ+ Community  
10/2025

Location and Time To Be Announced

**AWARDEE: NOYES MUSEUM OF ART OF STOCKTON UNIVERSITY**

Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration  
11/1/2025 at 4:00 PM  
Noyes Arts Garage  
2200 Fairmount Ave

**AWARDEE: ATLANTIC CITY ARTS FOUNDATION**

ARTeriors 2025  
11/7/2025 at 6:00 PM  
Commercial Vacant Building To Be Announced

**AWARDEE: DEREK K. CASON AND THE CASON EXPRESS SHOW BAND**

AC Jamming  
1/17, 2/14, 3/14, 4/11, and 5/15/2026 at 6:00 PM  
Gin Rickey's Live Music Bar  
2831 Boardwalk

All events are subject to change.

**TICKETS :** For the latest listings, concert listings and tickets, visit northtoshore.com

**PRUDENTIAL NORTH TO SHORE FESTIVAL :** The 'Prudential North to Shore Festival,' launched in 2023, features all the talent, diversity and creativity that New Jersey has to offer, packed into two extraordinary weeks of performances, parties and conversations. Programs and events are held in three of the state's most iconic cities: Each June in Asbury Park and Newark, with extended year-long programming in Atlantic City. The 'Prudential North to Shore Festival' brings hundreds of thousands of arts lovers together every summer, for 650+ events at more than 250 venues, for an over-the-top showcase of Jersey excellence. Inspired by Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy's vision of a celebration worthy of the Garden State's legacy of innovation and excellence in the arts, 'Prudential North to Shore' is "the festival only Jersey can handle." In 2025, the Festival's title sponsor is Prudential Financial, and several other organizations. For the latest updates and new concert listings, visit northtoshore.com.

**NJPAC :** The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is among the largest performing arts centers in the United States. It is the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. As New Jersey's anchor cultural institution, NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted more than 12 million visitors (including more than two million children) since opening its doors in 1997 and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents. Visit njpac.org for more information.

**PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL :** Prudential Financial, Inc. (NYSE: PRU), a global financial services leader and premier active global investment manager with approximately \$1.5 trillion in assets under management as of December 31, 2024, has operations in the United States, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Prudential's diverse and talented employees help make lives better and create financial opportunity for more people by expanding access to investing, insurance, and retirement security. Prudential's iconic Rock symbol has stood for strength, stability, expertise, and innovation for 150 years. For more information, visit news.prudential.com.

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

## CELEBRATE AAPI HERITAGE MONTH WITH BCM

BY MABEL PAIS

**A**SIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER (AAPI) HERITAGE MONTH will be celebrated throughout the month of May at the Brooklyn Children's Museum ([brooklynkids.org](http://brooklynkids.org)) with a dynamic series of weekly cultural programs. These special events will take place every Thursday at 3:00 pm during the Museum's free Community Access Thursday hours, offering families an opportunity to explore the rich diversity of AAPI cultures through performances, storytelling, crafts, and culinary experiences.

Children, families, and caregivers of all backgrounds can come honor their Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage or learn about that of their neighbors through engaging performances, stories, arts and crafts, and cooking activities.

"For this year's AAPI Heritage Month, we're excited to bring together diverse cultural experiences -from bilingual storytelling to Indian dance and dumpling making," says Dylan House, Director of Public Programs at Brooklyn Children's Museum. "These programs celebrate the dynamic AAPI communities that are such an important part of Brooklyn today. We hope you'll join us in May!"

### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

#### THURSDAY, MAY 1 @ 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Storytime with Michele Wong McSween ([brooklynkids.org](http://brooklynkids.org))

Meet author Michele Wong McSween and join this interactive bilingual reading of *Gordon & Li Li: All About Me*, an adorable bilingual book where little ones discover their heads, shoulder, knees, toes, and more! The playful illustrations encourage little ones to point to or act out their body parts as they read and recite the words in English and Mandarin.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 8 @ 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Storytime with Ran Wei ([brooklynkids.org](http://brooklynkids.org))

Join author Ran Wei Baker of *Boba Bear Bilingual Books* ([bobabearbilingual.com](http://bobabearbilingual.com)) for a bilingual, English-Chinese storytime! Enjoy a reading of *123 NYC* with *Boba Bear* sing along to bilingual songs, and create a fun craft inspired by *Boba Bear's* own NYC adventure.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 15 @ 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Dance with Ajna Dance Company ([brooklynkids.org](http://brooklynkids.org))

Explore Indian classical dance and learn expressive hand gestures with Ajna Dance Company



Ajna Dance Company

Credit: [ajnadance.com](http://ajnadance.com).

([ajnadance.com](http://ajnadance.com)). Try out movements that tell stories without using words, play games that teach unity and kindness, and discover how dance can share powerful messages.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 22 @ 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Dumpling Making with Christine Wong ([brooklynkids.org](http://brooklynkids.org))

Join author and plant-based chef Christine Wong ([consciouscooking.studio](http://consciouscooking.studio)) for an East Asian-style dumpling making workshop. Participants will learn how to roll the dumpling wrappers and fold them in different ways using dough. Then, get a taste of Chef Wong's own delicious handmade veggie dumplings right after!

#### THURSDAY, MAY 29 @ 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Mulan with New York Chinese Cultural Center ([brooklynkids.org](http://brooklynkids.org))

Watch (and join!) performers from the New York Chinese Cultural Center ([nychineseculturalcenter.org](http://nychineseculturalcenter.org)) as they bring the story of *Mulan* to life. Enjoy exciting dance and kung fu demonstrations, then participate in

a hands-on movement lesson after the show.

### MUSEUM'S FREE HOURS

Free admission each week on Thursdays is offered 2-5 pm.

### BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Inspired by the energy and diversity of the borough, Brooklyn Children's Museum (BCM) creates experiences that ignite curiosity, celebrate identity and cultivate joyful learning. Founded in 1899 as the world's first children's museum, Brooklyn Children's Museum is New York City's largest cultural institution designed especially for families. Proudly based in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, BCM serves 300,000 children and caregivers annually with exhibits and programs grounded in visual arts, music and performance, natural science, and world cultures. For more information, visit [brooklynkids.org](http://brooklynkids.org).

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

## WAVES 2025 Is India's Moment to Shine, Says Emmy-Nominated Filmmaker Tirlok Malik

APRIL 25, 2025

**NEW YORK (TIP):** As Mumbai prepares to host the inaugural World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025, there's palpable excitement among global creative minds. Among them is Tirlok Malik, the New York-based Emmy-nominated Indian-American filmmaker, wellness advocate, and proud ambassador of India's cultural spirit. Malik, known for his soul-stirring films that bridge the Indian diaspora and the homeland, calls WAVES 2025 a "watershed moment" in India's journey toward becoming a global creative superpower.

"This summit is not just another event," says Malik with a characteristic warmth in his voice. "It is a visionary platform that reflects India's bold and beautiful leap into the future of media, storytelling, and soft power."

Malik sees WAVES as the "Davos for Creators," echoing Union Minister Shri

Ashwini Vaishnav's sentiments. "Just as Davos sets the tone for global economic policy, WAVES 2025 has the potential to shape creative policies, collaborations, and commerce across borders," he says.

With over 1 lakh registrations and 750 top creators set to showcase their work, Malik believes the world will see not only the depth of India's artistic talent, but also the strength of its new creative economy model—one where the next great filmmaker may emerge from a remote village, armed not with a giant studio but with a phone, vision, and internet access.

"This is India 2.0 in motion," Malik declares, "and I deeply appreciate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unwavering belief in our creators. He understands that true leadership today lies not just in politics or economics, but in culture, storytelling, and digital transformation. He's making space for creators in the global conversation."

A lifelong promoter of Indian culture

and values in the West, Malik sees WAVES 2025 as a cultural bridge—an ecosystem where filmmakers, artists, tech innovators, buyers, and audiences converge. "This summit is showing the world that India is not just consuming content anymore—we are creating it, selling it, exporting it, and setting global trends," he says.

Asked what he hopes to see come out of WAVES, Malik shares a hopeful vision: "I want Indian youth-filmmakers, animators, musicians—to know that their voices matter. This is their time. WAVES is giving them not just a platform, but a future."

Committed to his lifelong work blending wellness, storytelling, and India's cultural identity, Malik sees WAVES as the perfect launchpad. "We're not just telling stories," he says with a smile, "we're shaping the narrative of a new India-confident, creative, and globally respected."



"I want Indian youth-filmmakers, animators, musicians—to know that their voices matter. This is their time. WAVES is giving them not just a platform, but a future", says Emmy-Nominated Filmmaker Tirlok Malik

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## Bhootni: Sanjay Dutt, Mouni Roy's horror comedy is neither scary nor funny

Bollywood's obsession with following the same formula knows no bounds. When one period drama does well, there's a sudden influx in the genre. Whether it's churning out back-to-back biopics or giving action lovers an adrenaline rush, the industry is infamous for lacking original ideas. Currently, its latest fixation seems to be horror-comedies. After the success of Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, Stree 2, and more, many have hit theatres, and many more are still in the pipeline. The latest to arrive in cinema halls is The Bhootni — and it's everything but scary or funny!

At Saint Vincent College of Arts and Culture, which seems to be inspired a lot by colleges in Karan Johar's Student Of The Year films, stands a huge Virgin Tree (yep, that's what it's called). The story follows three friends — Shantanu (played by Sunny Singh of Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA fame), Sahil, and Naseer. While our hero is out there hunting for his "sachhi mohabbat," the other two are just happy looking for any girl who'll give them attention. Life's all sunshine and shooting stars until Shantanu gets dumped by his girlfriend. Heartbroken, he does what any sensible man wouldn't — begs a tree to help him find the girl of his dreams. And then enters Palak Tiwari's Ananya, who, plot twist, has already friend-zoned him. How this mess turns into a supernatural love triangle is basically the whole plot.

Sanjay Dutt as Baba Krishna Tripath takes matters into his own, very tired hands, when The Bhootni (Mouni Roy) starts strangling college students. What follows is 2 hours and 10 minutes of a full-on yawn-fest with a side of cringe.

Sunny, who once charmed us as Chauka and Sonu, seems to have mastered the art of being the dependable second lead. But here, he doesn't just fail to shine, he barely flickers. Whether it's the lazy writing or his own lack of effort, he spends most of the film looking like he's reading lines off a teleprompter. He's neither charming nor watchable. The only moments he shows a spark are when other characters accidentally drag some acting out of him. Honestly, he comes across like that guy in a group project — unprepared, hoping the rest of the team will carry him through.

# Deepika Padukone-SRK to reunite for fifth time in 'King'

Actor Deepika Padukone might just be back on-screen to reunite with Shah Rukh Khan in his upcoming film 'King'. Speculations have been rife for sometime about Padukone joining the big Bollywood debut of Suhana Khan, which is being directed by Siddharth Anand. However, it seems like she has finally given her dates for the shoot.

A report in Pinkvilla suggested that Padukone's dates matched the shooting schedule of the film. "Shah Rukh Khan was always clear to have Deepika Padukone on board 'King'. Initially, the dates did not match as Deepika was taking time off to be with the newborn kid, and also hitting the gym to get back in shape. Due to a delay in the schedule of 'King', the timelines are aligned, and she is back on board the film," the source said.

The report also mentioned that Deepika Padukone's role in the film is not just a blink-and-miss appearance. The actor is not making a cameo in 'King' as reported earlier, but has a 'full-length role'.

A source close to the production also said, "After all the discussions and setting the shoot timelines, everything has aligned well to have Deepika Padukone on board the film."

The actor is expected to begin



shooting for her performance in the second half of the year, while the film prepares for a grand release in the second half of 2026. "She will be shooting for her role in the second half of 2025. It's a full-length role, and a lot more than just a cameo as reported before," the source said.

This is the fifth time that Shah Rukh

and Deepika Padukone will be seen together on-screen. After her debut pairing in Bollywood with 'Om Shanti Om', the two have teamed up in films like 'Happy New Year', 'Pathaan' and 'Jawan'.

'King' also stars Abhishek Bachchan and Jaideep Ahlawat in important roles.

## Raid 2 Ajay Devgn's film crumbles under weight of his stardom

An intense drama like 'Raid' is a perfect recipe for an engaging film. Driven by Ajay Devgn, the franchise is both gripping and intriguing. You know that the hero is going to get the work done, and it's now his journey that you are excited about. In 'Raid 2', the new film in the franchise, Devgn reprises the role of a no-nonsense, honest income tax officer, Amay Patnaik. But this time, we don't see enough of Patnaik - we see a brooding Ajay Devgn.

'Raid 2' brings Riteish Deshmukh as Dadabhai, a powerful politician hailed as the people's messiah in a fictional state called Bhoj. Patnaik's entry into Dadabhai's state signals trouble - a clash between two towering figures, both well-known and respected in their fraternities, and almost equally sharp and witty.

Raj Kumar Gupta, who directed the first film in the franchise, returns to helm the sequel. And there's Saurabh Shukla reprising his iconic 'Tauji' who's still serving his jail sentence. Vani Kapoor replaces Iliana D'Souza as Patnaik's wife.

The film begins with a long shot of the convoy of Ambassador cars, led by Patnaik, arriving at a powerful politician's palace. Govind Namdev plays this royal, womanising power-broker who not only hoards black money but also uses goons and guns to threaten government officers.

Devgn wears his signature aviators - even in the dark - because, of course, stardom! Government officers flee in fear when the politician flexes his muscles. We see how the film makes a fool of the department in that scene. But, we move on.

Patnaik is accused of accepting a bribe, and is transferred for the 74th time. Enter Dadabhai - a devoted mama's boy who



washes his mother's feet with milk in a temple, someone who's morally flawed but holds his mother's blessings above all. Patnaik and Dadabhai's clash completes the rest of the story - a cat-and-mouse chase where the honest officer must expose and extract illegal assets from one of the nation's most adored political figures. It's not just about a job that needs to be done, but about a dream that people have seen for and with Dadabhai, that needs to be broken.

'Raid 2' has a lot going on. It has more than two songs inserted to make it look more 'filmy', and a plot that needs tightening. The first half of the film builds up to Amay Patnaik's smartness and his passion for duty. It also establishes him as a family man - a detail that doesn't have any relevance in the story. But, even if you overlook the songs, the irrelevant characters, and the meandering narrative, you can't help but notice how Devgn never truly lets Patnaik emerge as the hero of the film.

# Reese Witherspoon 'never liked' Blake Lively for her 'rude' behavior

Reese Witherspoon's alleged feud with Blake Lively surfaced amid her legal battle with Justin Baldoni. An insider told RadarOnline.com that the Legally Blonde actress "never liked" the Gossip Girl alum and even shaded her at one point.

Hollywood insider Rob Shuter, who writes on Substack, revealed that Witherspoon has never been a fan of A Simple Favor actress.

"Reese still doesn't like her. She never did. Blake's been cold, dismissive, and downright rude to people Reese respects — and Reese doesn't forget that kind of thing," Shuter added.

The Morning Show actress even shaded Lively in 2011 after the latter's alleged nude images were leaked online. The Big Little Lies actress attended the MTV Movie Awards that year and took to the stage to accept the Generation Award.

In the ceremony, held a few weeks after the nude photo scandal, Witherspoon didn't hesitate to take a dig at her industry mate. "When I came up in this business, if you made a sex tape, you were embarrassed and you hid it under your bed," she said.

"And if you took naked pictures of yourself on your cell phone, you hide your face, people," she added. We wonder if Witherspoon tried to make a light out of the situation, or was it simply out of spite?

When the explicit snaps surfaced on the internet, Lively's team responded by calling the pictures "100 percent fake." They also alleged at the time that the actress never took naked pictures of herself.

Shuter's source has claimed that



Witherspoon "meant" what she said in her MTV Movie Award speech. "She didn't like the way Blake handled herself, and she's not the only one in town who feels that way," he added.

Nonetheless, Lively seems to be shrouded in controversies with old feuds resurfacing as she awaits her trial with It Ends With Us co-star, Justin Baldoni, set to commence on March 9, 2026.



## Nicole Kidman to receive Women in Motion Award at 2025 Cannes Film Festival

The Cannes Film Festival and Kering have announced that actor Nicole Kidman will be the 10th recipient of the Women in Motion Award. This prestigious honour recognises female artists who advance the place of women in cinema and society. The award ceremony will take place on May 18 during a glamorous gala at the festival, confirmed The Hollywood Reporter. Kidman's commitment to working with female directors has been cited as a reason for her selection.

In 2017, she pledged to work with a female director every 18 months, but has since exceeded that goal, collaborating with nearly 20 female directors.

This commitment to promoting female representation in cinema has made her a powerful example of what Women in Motion has been advocating for over the past decade, as per The Hollywood Reporter. Kering chairman and CEO Francois-Henri Pinault praised Kidman. They said, "Through her artistic standards, her committed choices and her concrete action to change representations in cinema, she is a powerful illustration of what Women In Motion has been defending for a decade," as quoted by The Hollywood Reporter.



# Confirmed! Tom Cruise and Ana de Armas are a thing now

Tom Cruise and Ana de Armas seem to confirm what fans have long suspected: they are a thing now, per the Daily Mail. The pair were spotted arriving together in London earlier this week, just days before de Armas' 37th birthday.

Daily Mail lensed some exclusive photos that show the 62-year-old Mission: Impossible star piloting the couple into the UK capital via helicopter, with de Armas seated beside him, looking relaxed. The actress donned casual shorts, sneakers, and sunglasses, carried her dog Elvis while a friend handled her second pup, Salsa. Cruise wore a fitted T-shirt and jeans. Daily Mail cited some insiders who claimed their relationship has been gaining traction over the past few weeks, with one of Cruise's exes even giving the budding romance her blessing.

Who is that ex? That ex is none other than Penélope Cruz, the Spanish actress who dated Cruise from 2001 to 2004. "Ana has said that Penelope is happy for her, she approves," a source

told the Daily Mail.

"They know each other from the movie and also they have friends in common in Madrid from when Ana lived there for a while."

Cruise is reportedly planning to bring de Armas to the 78th Cannes Film Festival, where his latest film, Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning, will premiere on May 14.

"Tom makes Ana feel safe and that is very important to her," said one insider. "She was flipped out by the fans and stalkers when living in Venice Beach [Los Angeles] so she moved to a remote part of Vermont." In 2022, she purchased a six-bedroom home in the state for over \$7 million.

"She loves being away from the crazy," the source continued. "She has been traveling with Tom to busy cities like London, but he always makes her feel safe because he is thoughtful and he has a ton of security. He never puts her at risk, she is completely taken care of when she is in his company."



## IRAN SLAMS NEW US SANCTIONS AHEAD OF NUCLEAR TALKS

01 MAY 2025

**TEHRAN (TIP):** Iran on Thursday condemned as "economic terrorism" a US decision to slap new sanctions on the Islamic republic just days before another round of nuclear talks between the longtime foes.

The United States said on Wednesday it was imposing sanctions on seven companies involved in selling Iranian oil - four based in the United Arab Emirates and one in Turkey.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said: "So long as Iran attempts to generate oil and petrochemical revenues to fund its destabilising activities, and support its terrorist activities and proxies, the United States will take steps to hold both Iran and all its partners engaged in sanctions evasion accountable."

The move came ahead of a fourth round of Iran-US talks on Saturday in Rome, where Tehran is seeking relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

In a statement, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said the sanctions were part of US efforts "to disrupt friendly and legal relations between developing countries through economic terrorism".

He said they were "clear evidence of the contradictory approach of American decision-makers and their lack of goodwill and seriousness in advancing the path of diplomacy".

Since returning to office in January, US President Donald Trump has reinstated a campaign of "maximum pressure" on Iran, mirroring his approach during his first term, while also calling for dialogue.

In March, he sent a letter to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say in major state policies, urging talks and warning of possible military action if Iran refused.

During his first term, Trump withdrew the United States from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and reimposed biting sanctions, prompting the Islamic republic to roll back its commitments. (AFP)

## Israeli military strikes near Syria's presidential palace after warning over sectarian attacks

02 MAY 2025

**DAMASCUS (TIP):** Israel's air force struck near Syria's presidential palace early Friday hours after warning Syrian authorities not to march toward villages inhabited by members of a minority sect in southern Syria.

The strike came after days of clashes between pro-Syrian government gunmen and fighters who belong to the Druze minority sect near the capital, Damascus. The clashes left dozens of people dead or wounded.

Friday's strike was Israel's second on Syria this week, and attacking an area close to the presidential palace appears to send a strong warning to Syria's new leadership that is mostly made up of Islamist groups led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.

On Thursday, Syria's Druze spiritual leader Sheikh Hikmat Al-Hijri harshly criticized Syria's government for what he called an "unjustified genocidal attack" on the minority community.

The Israeli army said that fighter jets struck adjacent to the area of the Palace of President Hussein al-Sharaa in Damascus. Its statement gave no further details. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz said the strike was a message to Syrian leaders. "This is a clear message to the Syrian regime. We will not allow a withdrawal of forces from south of Damascus and any danger to the Druze community," their joint statement said.



Pro-government Syrian media outlets said the strike hit close to the People's Palace on a hill overlooking the city.

The clashes broke out around midnight Monday after an audio clip circulated on social media of a man criticizing Islam's Prophet Muhammad. The audio was attributed to a Druze cleric. But cleric Marwan Kiwan said in a video posted on social media that he was not responsible for the audio, which angered many Sunni Muslims.

Syria's Information Ministry said 11 members of the country's security forces were killed in two separate attacks, while Britain-based war monitor The

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 56 people in Sahnaya and the Druze-majority Damascus suburb of Jaramana were killed in clashes, among them local gunmen and security forces.

The Druze religious sect is a minority group that began as a 10th-century offshoot of Ismailism, a branch of Shiite Islam. More than half of the roughly 1 million Druze worldwide live in Syria, largely in the southern Sweida province and some suburbs of Damascus.

Most of the other Druze live in Lebanon and Israel, including in the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast War and annexed in 1981. (AP)

## At least 542 killed in North Darfur in past three weeks

01 MAY 2025

**DARFUR, SUDAN (TIP):** At least 542 civilians have been confirmed killed in Sudan's North Darfur region in the past three weeks, the United Nations said Thursday, warning the actual death toll was likely "much higher".

"The horror unfolding in Sudan knows no bounds," UN rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement, referring to the country's ongoing civil war.

Darfur in particular has become a key battleground in the war that erupted on April 15, 2023 between the regular army, led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), headed by his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

The war has left tens of thousands dead and triggered what aid agencies describe as the world's largest displacement and hunger crises.

The battle for El-Fasher, the last major city in Darfur to elude RSF control, has intensified in recent weeks as the paramilitaries have sought to compensate for their loss of the capital Khartoum last month.

Turk pointed to an attack three days ago by the RSF on El-Fasher and the Abu Shouk camp that killed at least 40 civilians.

"This brings the confirmed number of civilians killed in North Darfur to at least 542 in just the last three weeks," he said.



"The actual death toll is likely much higher." He also cited "the ominous warning by the RSF of 'bloodshed' ahead of imminent battles with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and their associated armed movements."

"Everything must be done to protect civilians trapped amid dire conditions in and around El-Fasher."

Turk also highlighted "reports of extrajudicial executions in Khartoum state", which he described as "extremely disturbing".

"Horrible videos circulating on social media show at least 30 men in civilian clothing being rounded up and executed by armed men in RSF uniforms in Al-Salha in southern Omdurman," he said, adding that in a subsequent video, "an RSF field commander acknowledged the

killings."

Those videos came after "shocking reports in recent weeks of the extrajudicial execution of dozens of people accused of collaborating with the RSF in southern Khartoum, allegedly committed by the Al-Baraa Brigade", a pro-SAF militia, Turk said.

"Deliberately taking the life of a civilian or anyone no longer directly taking part in hostilities is a war crime," he insisted.

The UN rights chief said he had "personally alerted both leaders of the RSF and SAF to the catastrophic human rights consequences of this war".

"These harrowing consequences are a daily, lived reality for millions of Sudanese. It is well past time for this conflict to stop." (AFP)

## China says assessing US proposals for talks to reduce tariffs

02 MAY 2025

**BEIJING (TIP):** China on Friday said it is assessing whether to start trade talks with the US on tariff reductions following recent approaches by Washington, a move that would possibly ease the tit-for-tit tariff war between the world's two largest economies.

"China is making assessments as the United States has recently reached out to convey messages to China through relevant parties many times, expressing hope to engage in talks with Beijing over tariff issues," the Chinese Commerce Ministry said in a statement here.

"The tariff and trade wars were unilaterally initiated by the United States. If the US wants to negotiate, it must demonstrate sincerity, and make preparations and take concrete actions on issues such as correcting its erroneous practices and lifting the unilateral tariffs," the statement by its spokesperson said.

US President Donald Trump slapped 145 per cent tariffs on Chinese exports.

Later the White House said tariffs on Chinese goods amounted to 245 per cent.

Beijing retaliated by imposing 125 per cent levies on US exports.

China has been denying any talks with the US on tariffs while Trump said talks were on and Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke to him.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry denied



any such talks between the two Presidents.

Both the US and China have been steadily increasing tariffs on each other's goods since the US raised tariffs on dozens of countries.

China now faces 245 per cent taxes on exports to the US, while other countries were given a 90-day reprieve for most duties.

On April 16, China appointed a new top international negotiator after Trump said the ball is in Beijing's court to work out a deal to end the tariff deadlock.

According to a fact sheet issued on April 16, the White House said, more

than 75 countries have already reached out to discuss new trade deals.

As a result, the individualised higher tariffs are currently paused amid these discussions, except for China, which retaliated.

China is the only country to have retaliated with tit-for-tat levies.

For China, the US is the third largest export market.

Despite China putting a brave front, there is considerable concern here about the impact of Trump's tariffs on China's economy, which is struggling with slowdown due to falling exports, low domestic consumption and collapse of the housing market. (PTI)

## THREE ASTRONAUTS RETURN TO EARTH AFTER SIX MONTHS ON CHINA'S SPACE STATION

30 APR 2025

**BEIJING (TIP):** Three Chinese astronauts landed back on Earth on Wednesday after six months on China's space station.

The crew's landing module came down slowly after separating from the return vehicle, descending on a red-and-white parachute, in Dongfeng, in China's northern Inner Mongolia region on the edge of the Gobi Desert. Their return had been delayed by a day due to strong winds and low visibility. The area is prone to sandstorms this time of year.

The astronauts, Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong and Wang Haoze, were launched to the Tiangong space station in October, and they turned over control of the station Tuesday to the new crew that recently arrived to replace them. The Shenzhou 20 that brought the new crew also carried equipment for space life sciences, microgravity physics and new technology for the space station.

The Tiangong, or "Heavenly Palace," space station has made China a major player in a new era of space exploration and the use of permanent stations to conduct experiments in space, especially since it was entirely Chinese-built after the country was excluded from the International Space Station over U.S. national security concerns. (AP)

## Vietnam celebrates 50 years since war's end with focus on peace and unity

30 APR 2025

**HO CHI MINH CITY (TIP):** Chinese, Laotian and Cambodian troops marched behind Vietnamese army formations, including some wearing uniforms similar to what was worn by northern Vietnamese troops during the war.

Helicopters carrying the national flag and jets flew over the parade near Independence Palace, where a North Vietnamese tank smashed through the gates on the final day of the war.

Sitting next to Vietnam's leader were Cambodia's former leader Hun Sen and Laotian Communist Party General Secretary Thongloun Sisoulith.

To Lam said beyond a victory over the U.S. and South Vietnam, the fall of Saigon was a "glorious landmark" that ended a 30-year fight for independence that began with the fight to oust French colonial troops.

He said Vietnam owes its position in the world today to support from the Soviet Union, China and solidarity from Laos and Cambodia, as well as "progressive" people all over the world including the U.S., he said.

Vietnam's changing global approach

The emphasis on reconciliation and not, like previous years, on military victory reflected how Vietnam was approaching the changing tides of the global economy and geopolitics today, said Nguyen Khac Giang, an analyst at Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. He added



that the Vietnam War remains central to how the Communist Party framed its legitimacy, not just as a military triumph but also as a symbol of national unity. But To Lam's comments underlined that the reconciliation remains unfinished.

"The war still defines Vietnam's unity, and its unresolved divides," Giang said.

For Pham Ngoc Son, a veteran who fought for the communists, today there is "only space for peace and friendship" between the U.S. and Vietnam.

"The war is over a long time ago," said the 69-year-old who, during the war, served as an army truck driver bringing troops and supplies from the north to the south along the Ho Chi Minh trail — the secret supply route used by North Vietnam.

Passage of time has led to improved relations with U.S.

This year also marks the 30-year anniversary of diplomatic ties between Vietnam and the U.S.

In 2023, Vietnam upgraded its relations with the U.S. to that of a comprehensive strategic partner, the highest diplomatic status it gives to any country and the same level of relations as China and Russia.

There are new signs of strain in the relationship with Washington, however, with President Donald Trump's imposition of heavy tariffs and the cancellation of much foreign aid, which has affected war remediation efforts in Vietnam.

Vietnamese officials say the relationship with the U.S. is anchored in American efforts to address war legacies such as Agent Orange contamination and unexploded ordnance in the countryside that still threaten lives.

The future of those projects is now at risk because of the Trump administration's broad cuts to USAID.

Moreover, the export-dependent country is vulnerable in a global economy made fragile amid Trump's tariff plans.

Vietnam was slammed with reciprocal tariffs of 46%, one of the highest. This puts a "big question mark" on what the U.S. wants to achieve in Asia, said Huong Le-Thu of the International Crisis Group think tank.

Previously, close ties with Washington have helped Vietnam balance its relations with its much larger and more powerful neighbor China, she said.

Vietnam is one of the countries, along with the Philippines, that has been involved in direct confrontations with China over conflicting maritime claims in the South China Sea.

Focus on economic and not strategic competition may mean that Vietnam and other countries in Southeast Asia become less important for the U.S.

"It really will be shaping up (on) how the new administration sees the strategic picture in the Indo-Pacific and where countries like Vietnam would fit in," she said. (AP)

## SECURITY CONCERNS: PAKISTAN CLAMPS RESTRICTIONS ON KARACHI, LAHORE AIRSPACE

01 MAY 2025

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Citing security concerns, Pakistan has announced the closure of specific portions of Karachi and Lahore airspace for four hours each day during May and put all airports across the country on high alert, a media report said Thursday.

The development comes amid heightened tension between Pakistan and India post the Pahalgam terror attack and Islamabad's apprehension of retaliatory action by New Delhi.

"The restricted airspace will be closed daily from 4:00 am to 8:00 am local time between May 1 and May 31," Express Tribune said, quoting an official notice.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said the closure will not significantly disrupt commercial flight operations, as aircraft will be rerouted via alternative flight paths during the restricted hours, it said.

The decision about airspace comes a day after Pakistan's national carrier cancelled all flights to and from Gilgit, Skardu and other northern areas in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir due to security reasons.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after terrorists killed 26 people, mostly tourists, in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday told the top defence brass that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the Pahalgam attack.

Pakistan on Wednesday said it has nothing to do with the Pahalgam terror attack and threatened a strong response if it is "provoked."

Addressing a press conference alongside Army spokesman Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry and Foreign Office spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar demanded an independent and transparent probe by neutral investigators in the Pahalgam attack.

The press conference came hours after Information Minister Attaullah Tarar warned of a possible military action by India in 24-36 hours. Quoting officials, Express Tribune said the decision affects selected corridors within the Flight Information Regions (FIRs) rather than a complete shutdown, and is being implemented as a precautionary security measure.

Authorities confirmed that air traffic in and out of major airports such as Jinnah International in Karachi and Allama Iqbal International in Lahore will continue with minimal adjustments.

The Air Traffic Control authorities on Wednesday issued new directives to all flight movements, including foreign airlines transiting through Pakistani airspace. (PTI)

# Any 'military misadventure' by India will be met with 'swift, resolute, and notch-up response': Pak Army chief

01 MAY 2025

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan Army chief Gen Asim Munir on Thursday warned that any "military misadventure" by India will be met with a "swift, resolute, and notch-up response" as he visited a firing range to witness a high-intensity field training exercise conducted by the armed forces.

His remark comes amid heightened tension between India and Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack and Islamabad's apprehension of retaliatory action by New Delhi.

"Let there be no ambiguity: any military misadventure by India will be met with a swift, resolute, and notch-up response," the army chief was quoted as saying by the state-run news agency Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

"While Pakistan remains committed to regional peace, our preparedness and resolve to safeguard national interests is absolute," he said while addressing troops



at the Tilla Filed Firing Ranges (TFFR).

Gen Munir visited the TFFR to witness Exercise Hammer Strike - a high-

intensity, field training exercise conducted by Pakistan Army's Mangla Strike Corps, the news agency reported, citing a press release issued by the army's media wing.

The exercise was designed to validate combat readiness, battlefield synergy, and the operational integration of cutting-edge weapon systems under near-battlefield conditions, it said.

A diverse array of advanced capabilities, including multirole fighter aircraft, combat aviation assets, long-range precision artillery, and next-generation field engineering techniques, were employed to simulate conventional battlefield scenarios, it added.

Pakistan warned on Wednesday that the next 36 hours would be critical due to the threat of Indian action.

However, the US secretary of state called leaders of both countries and urged them to cooperate to defuse the tension while following restraint. (PTI)

## Bangladesh court grants bail to former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Das in case related to defaming national flag

30 APR 2025

**DHAKA (TIP):** A bench of Bangladesh High Court on Wednesday ordered release of former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das on bail, five months after he was arrested on a charge of defaming the country's national flag, court officials said.

"The two-judge bench declared absolute its earlier rule asking authorities why he should not be granted bail," an official of the High Court said.

The bench comprising Justice Atoar Rahman and Justice Ali Reza granted the bail after the final hearing on their previous rule.

On October 31, a case with Kotwali police station in Chattogram was filed accusing Das and 18 others of disrespecting the Bangladesh national flag. Das was arrested at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on November 25 last year.

A spokesperson for the Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote, a Hindu organisation, Das was taken to the court at the southeastern port city of Chattogram, which sent him to jail rejecting his bail petition the next day.

Das' arrest sparked widespread protests with his followers demonstrating in Dhaka and other places.

In the port city, the protest turned violent when assistant government prosecutor Saiful Islam Alif was hacked to death, hours after Das was sent to jail.

The development -less than three months after a mass student-led protest ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina on August 5 -also emerged as an issue



between Bangladesh and India with New Delhi expressing its concern over his detention.

After Hasina fled to India, Muhammad Yunus took over as Chief Adviser of the Interim government on August 8.

"This incident follows the multiple attacks on Hindus and other minorities by extremist elements in Bangladesh. There are several documented cases of arson and looting of minorities' homes and business establishments, as well as theft and vandalism and desecration of deities and temples," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in New Delhi on November 26.

"It is unfortunate that while the perpetrators of these incidents remain at large, charges should be pressed against a religious leader presenting legitimate demands through peaceful gatherings," MEA said and urged Bangladesh authorities to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities.

Earlier, the lawyers of the Hindu community leader had failed to secure bail for him as the lower court in Chattogram denied their petitions.

"The allegation of disrespecting the national flag is baseless, as it was not a national flag. We informed the court that this case cannot proceed," top defence counsel Apurba Kumar Bhattacharya told journalists emerging from the court room last time in January.

Bhattacharya, a former deputy attorney general, was leading a team of 11 Supreme Court lawyers to represent Das. Earlier on December 11, the court rejected a plea seeking advanced hearing of his bail petition by lawyer Rabindra Ghose ruling that it would be heard on the previously fixed date on January 2, 2025.

An associate of Das in his Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote, Sawtantra Gauranga Das, earlier said no lawyer stood for the Hindu leader fearing threats and pressure from a "politically motivated lawyers' group".

The government prosecutor's death sparked a counter campaign demanding a ban of ISKCON, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, which distanced itself from Das saying he was expelled from the organisation more than six months ago. (PTI)



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Contact for Stall Booking and More information

**S. Balwinder Singh Bajwa : 516-852-2222**

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# Techniques to revive tired skin naturally

Tired, dull, or stressed skin is a common concern, especially in today's fast-paced lifestyle where pollution, lack of sleep, poor diet, and screen exposure take a toll on our appearance. While beauty products can offer temporary solutions, long-term skin vitality often lies in embracing natural methods. Here's a guide to effective techniques that can help revive tired skin naturally and restore its healthy glow.

## Hydration: The Foundation of Radiance

Water is the most fundamental element for skin health. Dehydration can make the skin look dry, flaky, and tired. Drinking at least 8 glasses of water a day helps flush out toxins and keep skin cells plump and vibrant. Incorporating hydrating foods like cucumbers, watermelon, and oranges further enhances internal moisture.

Tip: Start your day with a glass of warm water infused with lemon and honey to kickstart hydration and detoxification.

## Adequate Sleep and Rest

Sleep is the body's natural repair mechanism. During deep sleep, blood flow to the skin increases, and the body produces collagen, which repairs damage from UV exposure and stress. Skimping on rest can lead to dark circles, puffiness, and a dull complexion.

Tip: Aim for 7-9 hours of quality sleep. Sleep on your back with an elevated pillow to reduce puffiness.

## Nourishing Skin Through Diet

A balanced diet rich in antioxidants, healthy fats, and vitamins significantly contributes to skin health. Vitamin C (found in citrus fruits, bell peppers), Vitamin E (nuts, seeds), and Omega-3 fatty acids (flaxseeds, walnuts) help fight oxidative stress and promote cell regeneration.

Tip: Avoid processed foods and excessive sugar, which can inflame the skin and lead to breakouts.

## Facial Massage and Lymphatic Drainage

Gentle facial massage stimulates blood circulation, promoting oxygen flow and reducing puffiness.



Massaging in upward, circular motions can also boost collagen production and improve skin tone.

Tip: Use natural oils like almond, coconut, or jojoba oil to massage your face for 5-10 minutes a few times a week.

## DIY Natural Face Masks

Homemade masks made from kitchen ingredients can revitalize the skin without harsh chemicals. Some popular options include:

- Honey and Yogurt Mask - Soothes and brightens tired skin.
- Turmeric and Aloe Vera Gel - Reduces inflammation and gives a natural glow.
- Papaya and Banana Mash - Gently exfoliates and nourishes.

Tip: Apply a mask 1-2 times a week to refresh your skin naturally.

## Cold Water Splash or Ice Therapy

Applying cold water or ice cubes constricts blood vessels, reducing inflammation and tightening the skin. This method is especially effective in the morning to reduce puffiness and awaken tired skin.

Tip: Wrap ice cubes in a soft cloth and gently rub on your face for 1-2 minutes.

# Morning habits to promote natural hair growth

## Scalp Massage for Blood Circulation

A 3-5 minute scalp massage every morning can dramatically improve blood flow to hair follicles. This stimulates hair growth by ensuring the follicles receive the oxygen and nutrients they need.

## Gentle Brushing with

Brushing your hair in the morning helps distribute natural scalp oils along the hair shaft, keeping it nourished and reducing breakage. It also promotes blood flow to the scalp.

## Eat a Nutrient-Rich Breakfast

A protein-packed breakfast fuels your body and supports keratin production—a key structural component of hair. Nutrients like iron, zinc, Vitamin A, and biotin are essential for healthy growth.

Best morning foods for hair growth:

- Eggs (rich in protein and biotin)
- Greek yogurt (contains B5 and protein)
- Berries (high in antioxidants and Vitamin C)



- Nuts and seeds (loaded with omega-3s and zinc)
- Whole grains (provide iron and B vitamins)

## Apply Natural Hair Tonic or Oil

Before stepping out, a lightweight herbal tonic or oil (like rosemary water or aloe vera juice) can stimulate the scalp and strengthen roots. These natural remedies help awaken hair follicles and prevent thinning over time.

## Avoid Heat Styling in the Morning

Heat tools like straighteners or blow dryers can weaken the hair shaft and stunt growth over time. Embrace your natural texture or opt for no-heat styling techniques.

## Use a Silk or Satin Pillowcase

Though technically a nighttime tip, your morning hair health can benefit from how you sleep. Silk pillowcases reduce friction, leading to less hair breakage and frizz in the morning.

## FOOD CORNER



## Chicken with sweet potatoes and cauliflower

Chicken with sweet potatoes and cauliflower is a simple and nutritious dish that combines:

- Chicken (usually boneless, skinless breast or thigh) - for lean protein
- Sweet potatoes - for natural sweetness, fiber, and complex carbohydrates
- Cauliflower - a low-carb vegetable rich in vitamins and antioxidants

These ingredients are typically roasted, baked, or sautéed together with seasonings like garlic, paprika, cumin, or herbs. The result is a one-pan meal that's hearty, balanced, and full of flavor.

It's popular in healthy eating plans because it's:

- High in nutrients
- Naturally gluten-free
- Easy to prepare in under an hour

## Ingredients

- 3/4 cup nonfat plain yogurt, 1 teaspoon Madras-style curry powder
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander, 1 teaspoon ground ginger, 1 clove garlic, minced-
- 3/4 teaspoon salt, divided, 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 8 boneless, skinless chicken thighs, (about 1 1/2 pounds), trimmed, 1 sweet potato, (about 1 pound), peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 3 cups cauliflower florets, (1 small head) or broccoli florets, 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil, Freshly ground pepper, to taste, 1/4 cup chopped unsalted dry-roasted peanuts, or cashews, 1/4 cup loosely packed cilantro leaves

## Method

- Combine yogurt, curry powder, coriander, ginger, garlic, 1/2 teaspoon salt and cayenne in a shallow glass dish; mix to blend. Reserve 1/4 cup of this mixture; cover and refrigerate. Add chicken to the remaining yogurt mixture and turn to coat. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours or overnight.
- Preheat oven to 230°C. Lightly coat a large rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray.
- Remove the chicken from the marinade and place on the prepared baking sheet. Toss sweet potato with the reserved yogurt mixture in a medium bowl and place on the baking sheet.
- Toss cauliflower with oil in a medium bowl and add to the baking sheet. Season vegetables with the remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt and pepper. Roast chicken and vegetables, uncovered, for 15 minutes.
- Carefully turn the chicken over and stir the vegetables. Roast until the vegetables are tender and chicken is cooked through, 10 to 15 minutes more.

# Know the right way to eat fruits

**L**oaded with nutrients and fibre, fruits protect us against many health conditions. But how to include these fresh fruits in our daily diet is often misunderstood. There is no right or wrong way to eat fruits but consuming them in an effective way can definitely provide a number of health benefits.

## The best time to eat fruits

The first thing you should do in the morning is eating one fruit before anything else. As our stomach is empty, this practice helps in absorbing its nutrients in the body. Our body can easily digest the fruit eaten empty stomach and allows the stomach to easily process it.

## THE RULE

There applies a rule of eating a fruit empty stomach early in the morning. People who have stomach ulcers or acid reflux should not adapt this practice. Also, people with weak stomach functions like toddlers and elderly people should not consume fruits empty stomach. It is because some fruits like citrus fruits, pineapples, cranberries, grapefruits etc. contain acetic acid. This increases the production of gastric acid and can worsen the condition.

## Can you eat fruits between the meals?

Definitely yes. Fruits are a great



snack when eaten between two meals. This increases the metabolism rate and maintains blood sugar levels. When you consume healthy snack between meals, your body doesn't store fat or starve.

## Wrong time to consume fruits

It is never recommended to consume fruits right after a meal. It is a wrong belief that eating fruits right after a meal helps in digesting food and breaking down calories. This is not true. Fruits contain natural sweeteners and calories too. So instead of breaking the calories, they only add up to the number.

## Eat these fruits in moderation

Fruits that contain a high amount of natural sweetness like pomegranate, mangoes, grapes, fig, lychee and watermelon should

be consumed in a moderate amount, especially for those who have high blood sugar levels.

## Fruits for people with high sugar levels

Eat papaya, passion fruit, pineapple, plums, raspberry, pears, strawberries, peach and apples.

## Before you go off to sleep

Choose the right type of fruits if you feel hungry and want to eat a snack before sleeping. The good choices of food before you go to sleep are apple, bananas, kiwis and cherries. They contain natural serotonin, melatonin and tryptophan that calms us down and help in a good night sleep. Avoid fruits like mangoes, grapes as they might keep brain active and disturb your sleep.



## Too much phone use causing 'text neck'? It's stressing your heart too

**A** new study has found that constantly bending your head to look at your phone - a condition popularly known as "text neck", could do more harm than just causing neck and shoulder pain. It could also disrupt your heart's ability to manage stress and relaxation, leading to deeper health concerns.

The research, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Cureus*, which included 84 participants between the ages of 19 and 45, examined how forward head posture (FHP), the typical tilted-head position while using phones, affects heart function, mental health, and smartphone dependence. The condition, also called "text neck syndrome," is increasingly seen in young adults and has become a public health issue because of prolonged mobile phone use.

## What is "Text Neck"?

Text neck refers to the unnatural posture where the head leans forward from the neck while using mobile devices. Over time, this posture can lead to chronic neck and shoulder pain, backaches, headaches, and even problems with eye strain and dizziness. The study explained that there are two main ways this happens: either the neck bends forward while looking down at a phone or the lower part of the neck bends while the upper part extends to keep looking ahead, especially during computer use. Apart from causing physical discomfort, this poor posture can pressurise the spine and disrupt the nervous system's ability to regulate key functions like blood pressure and heart rate.

## Heart and Stress Link

Researchers from Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry, measured heart rate variability (HRV), a marker of how well the heart responds to stress, to understand how posture affects the body's automatic functions. People with a more severe forward head posture showed signs of increased stress response, known as sympathetic dominance, and reduced ability of the body to relax, which is controlled by the parasympathetic nervous system.

# Is orange good for weight loss

**A** recent study by the University of Western Ontario emphasized on an important benefit reaped from eating oranges: weight loss.

The researchers were able to conclude, after experimenting on rats, that a certain molecule compound called nobiletin, specifically found in sweet oranges and tangerines, was able to bring down obesity significantly.

The study published in the *Journal of Lipid Research* found that a comparison between two types of rats was able to demonstrate how exactly this happened. Strangely enough, the scientists could not figure out the pathway of this underlying mechanism. But they were delighted to find a potential therapy for obesity.

The first group of rats given high-fat and high-cholesterol diets were also given nobiletin, while the other group was only fed the high-fat diet. The former bunch of rats had changed and become leaner, and the levels of insulin resistance had dropped. The second bunch of rats who were not given nobiletin did not improve their health.

"We went on to show that we can also intervene with nobiletin. We've shown that in mice that already have all the negative symptoms of obesity, we can use nobiletin to reverse those symptoms, and even start to regress plaque build-up in the arteries, known as atherosclerosis." Murray Huff, professor at Western's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, said, as quoted in the news release.

Huff and his colleagues speculated that AMP



Kinase, a pathway within the body that enables the body to burn fat and stop the production of more fat, is positively affected by the consumption of nobiletin. To ensure this was the case, researchers genetically modified the mice and removed AMP Kinase. However, the effect of nobiletin still remained, thus broadening the mystery of how this happens, with or without activating AMP Kinase.

"This result told us that nobiletin is not acting on AMP Kinase, and is bypassing this major regulator of how fat is used in the body. What it still leaves us with is the question -- how is nobiletin doing this?" Huff said. The researchers plan to conduct human trials in order to determine how nobiletin works.

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## Hubble Telescope clicks a cosmic squid glittering in darkness

The Hubble Space Telescope, which recently completed 35 years in the vacuum of space, has sent a mesmerising new image of Messier 77, a spiral galaxy also known as the “Squid Galaxy,” glittering against the darkness 45 million light-years away in the constellation Cetus, or “The Whale”.

The aquatic-themed portrait highlights the galaxy’s swirling arms and bright core, which, thanks to Hubble’s advanced imaging, now appear more intricate and vibrant than ever before. Messier 77’s story begins in 1780, when French astronomer Pierre Mechain first spotted the object and, alongside Charles Messier, catalogued it as a potential comet.

Early astronomers, limited by the telescopes of their era, mistook the galaxy for a nebula or even a star cluster—a misconception that persisted for over a century until the true nature of spiral nebulae as distant galaxies was uncovered.

The galaxy’s recent nickname, the “Squid Galaxy,” stems from its extended, filamentary structures that curl around its disk, resembling the tentacles of a squid.

# Amazon unveils its most powerful AI model: All you need to know about Nova Premier

After teasing it in December 2024, Amazon has finally released its “most capable” AI model -- Nova Premium. During its annual AWS Invent conference, the company showcased the Nova family, including the Micro, Pro and Lite models. Now, in recent months, the company has broadened its portfolio by introducing models capable of generating images and videos, along with releases focused on audio comprehension and agent-based task execution. Adding to the Nova family, the company introduced the Nova Premium as its “most capable model for complex tasks and teacher for model distillation.”

According to Amazon, Nova Premier is particularly well-suited to handling complex tasks that demand deep contextual understanding, multistep reasoning, and accurate execution across a range of tools and data sources. The new model is now available through Amazon Bedrock — the company’s platform for developing AI models.

But what is it, and how does it actually work? Here is everything we know about the Amazon Nova Premium.

- First things first, let's take a look at how Amazon describes the Nova Premium AI model. According to Amazon, “Premier excels at complex tasks that require deep understanding of context, multi-step planning, and precise execution across multiple tools and data sources.” Amazon is also positioning Nova Premier as “a teacher model distillation” — effectively passing on its advanced capabilities to smaller models tailored for specific tasks, resulting in a more streamlined and efficient solution.
- Like its counterparts, Nova Lite and Nova Pro, the Premier model is designed to handle input in the form of text, images, and video—though it does not support audio. What sets Nova Premier apart is its ability to tackle highly complex tasks, thanks to its advanced contextual comprehension, sophisticated multistep reasoning, and accurate coordination across various tools and data sources. It is capable of processing exceptionally lengthy documents or extensive codebases with ease.
- Nova Premier boasts of a context length of 1 million tokens—equivalent to processing approximately 7,50,000 words in a single instance. According to Amazon’s



internal benchmarks, this AI model has shown strong results in knowledge retrieval and visual comprehension tasks, particularly on the SimpleQA and MMMU tests. In a technical report by Amazon, it found that, “Nova Premier is also comparable to the best non-reasoning models in the industry and is equal or better on approximately half of these benchmarks when compared to other models in the same intelligence tier.”

- On Amazon Bedrock, Nova Premier is priced at \$2.50 (approx Rs 211) for every one million input tokens and \$12.50 (approx Rs 1,057) for every one million output tokens.
- As of 1 May, Nova Premier is now accessible on Amazon Bedrock through cross-Region inference in the AWS Regions of US East (N. Virginia), US East (Ohio), and US West (Oregon). With Amazon Bedrock’s usage-based pricing model, the company claims that customers are only charged for the resources they actually consume.

## Google is working on a big UI overhaul for Android

When Google released the fourth beta of Android 16 this month, many users were disappointed by the lack of major UI changes. As Beta 4 is the final beta, it’s likely the stable Android 16 release won’t look much different than last year’s release. However, that might not hold true for subsequent updates. Google recently confirmed it will unveil a new version of its Material Design theme at its upcoming developer conference, and we’ve already caught glimpses of these design changes in Android—including a notable increase in background blur effects. Ahead of I/O next month, here’s an early look at Google’s upcoming Android redesign.

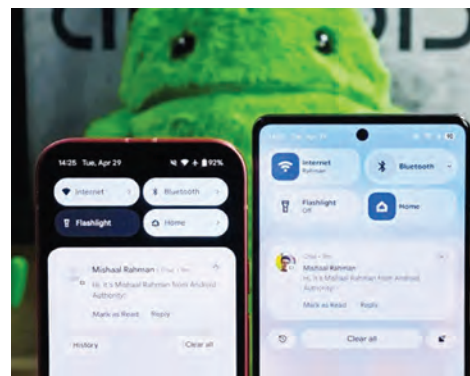
Before we begin, a word of caution: What we’re about to show you are hidden design changes found in Android 16 Beta 4. None of these are enabled by default in Beta 4, and we don’t know for certain when Google will activate them. While

it’s highly likely we won’t see this full redesign in the stable release of Android 16, parts or all of it could appear in a future quarterly update. We’ll hopefully get more clarity next month during The Android Show or Google I/O 2025, where the company plans to unveil its new, more “expressive” version of Material Design, dubbed Material 3 Expressive.

A more subtle change involves the font used for the text clock. It’s now slightly larger and bolder than before, making it marginally easier to read at a glance.

Last year, we reported that Google was preparing a major overhaul of the notifications and Quick Settings area. As part of this redesign, Google planned to split the notifications and Quick Settings panels into separate pages. This split design aimed to create more space for both notifications and tiles but represented a dramatic departure from the current combined layout.

While Google is still refining this split



design and might offer it as an option later, the company currently seems to be moving forward with a different approach for the main interface. This newer design keeps the Quick Settings and notifications panel combined but retains many quality-of-life improvements developed alongside the split concept. These include resizable Quick Settings tiles, new one-click toggles for Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, a more

organized tile editor, and one-click shortcuts for adding or removing tiles. It also introduces a redesigned brightness slider, downward-facing arrows (instead of rightward) for expandable tiles, and the new segmented Wi-Fi icon mentioned earlier, but the overall layout remains familiar.

Although the basic layout is similar, the look and feel change dramatically. Instead of a solid black background, the panel now displays a blurred version of the content underneath. The blur effect is less intense beneath the Quick Settings tiles compared to the notification area; this helps ensure notifications remain readable even with some transparency applied. When light mode is enabled, the background takes on a frosted glass appearance. In dark mode, the background and toggles shift to a darker gray, with transparency applied to both.

Source: androidauthority

# Apple expects \$900m hit from US tariffs, shifts majority of iPhone production to India

Apple reported better-than-expected first-quarter profits but cautioned investors about the growing impact of US tariffs on its operations. CEO Tim Cook announced that tariffs could cost the company approximately \$900 million in the current quarter.

According to Cook, while the impact was initially "limited" at the start of the year, the situation has grown more complex.

"We are not able to precisely estimate the impact of tariffs, as we are uncertain of potential future actions prior to the end of the quarter," news agency Reuters quoted Tim Cook as saying.

"Assuming the current global tariff rates, policies and applications do not change for the balance of the quarter and no new tariffs are added, we estimate the impact to add \$900 million to our costs," he added.

To navigate these challenges, Apple is significantly shifting its production geography. "We expect a majority of iPhones sold in the US will have India as their country of origin," Cook revealed, noting that Apple products currently enjoy exemption from Trump's most severe reciprocal tariffs.

The ongoing trade tensions between the US and China have resulted in substantial tariffs from both sides, though high-end tech goods like smartphones have received temporary relief. Apple's strategic response includes diversifying its manufacturing base. While China remains the primary production hub for products sold outside the US, Cook announced that Vietnam would become the primary source for almost all iPads, Macs, Apple Watches, and AirPods destined for the US market.

"What we learned some time ago was that having everything in one location had too much risk with it and so we have, over time with certain parts of the supply chain, opened up new sources of supply," Cook told analysts, suggesting



this diversification strategy would continue.

Despite these challenges, Apple posted strong financial results with revenue of \$95.4 billion and profits of \$24.8 billion, driven by iPhone sales. However, regional performance varied, with China showing a 3% decline despite local stimulus measures.

Apple CEO Tim Cook on Thursday said that most US iPhones would be "sourced" in India amid rising tariff tensions between the States and China.

Replying to a question on the mix of India sourced iPhones to the US, Apple CEO Tim Cook said, "For the June quarter, we do expect the majority of iPhones sold in the U.S. will have India as their country of origin, and Vietnam to be the country of origin for almost all iPad, Mac, Apple Watch, and AirPods products also sold in the U.S. China would continue to be the country of origin for the vast majority of total product sales outside the U.S."

He noted that trade tariffs targeting imports from China—where Apple manufactures many of its iPhones—

could cost the company as much as \$900 million. He, however, said that the exact impact of the tariffs remains difficult to predict.

Despite trade pressures, Apple posted stronger-than-expected earnings for the first three months of the year, with Cook noting that tariffs had only a limited impact on the company's fiscal second-quarter results.

It reported solid earnings for the first three months of the year, posting a 4.8% increase in profit to \$24.78 billion, or \$1.65 per share, up from \$23.64 billion, or \$1.53 per share, a year ago.

Trump's announcement of a 145% tariff on Chinese-made goods, including iPhones, triggered a rush among US consumers to buy devices ahead of expected price hikes. However, the surge in sales won't be reflected in Apple's earnings until the April-June quarter. The renewed trade war has intensified pressure on Cook to replicate the diplomatic maneuvering that previously helped shield the iPhone from tariffs during Trump's first term.

Source: TOI

## Exports surge to record \$825 bn in FY25 as services shipments rise

India's exports of goods and services hit an all-time high of USD 825 billion in 2024-25, driven by a record surge in the shipments of services that reached USD 386.5 billion in the last fiscal despite global trade headwinds, according to the Commerce Ministry data.

Following the release of March services exports data by the RBI, the country's overall exports for 2024-25 have been revised to USD 824.9 billion from the earlier estimate of USD 820.93 billion, announced on April 15. Total exports were worth USD 778.13 billion in 2023-24.

The data showed that services exports jumped to a record high of USD 387.5 billion in 2024-25, registering a robust 13.6 per cent growth over USD 341.1 billion in 2023-24.

In March, services shipments rose by 18.6 per cent to USD 35.6 billion compared to USD 30 billion in March 2024.

The main sectors which contributed to the growth in exports included telecommunication, computer and information services; transport; travel; and financial services.

"According to the latest release, India's total exports touched a historic USD 824.9 billion in 2024-25, growing by 6.01 per cent over the previous year's USD 778.1 billion," an official release stated.

Commenting on the data, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) SC Ralhan the data shows the resilience of exporters.

However, he said that "as of today, the inflow of orders is not goods from the US and Europe. The US importers are waiting for the trade agreement and this can affect our exports, he said adding the government should immediately announce an interest subvention scheme for exporters.

## Rupee at strongest since October 2024 as it breaks 84/dollar mark

The Indian rupee surged to its strongest level this year on Friday, breaching the 84-per-dollar mark for the first time since October 2024. The currency rose as much as 0.7% to hit 83.83 against the US dollar in early trade, buoyed by a mix of strong foreign inflows and broader regional currency strength.

This marks a nearly 2% weekly gain for the rupee, powered by a sustained rally in Indian equities and growing optimism over an early US-India trade deal under the Trump administration. Traders also cited heavy dollar selling by foreign banks—likely acting on behalf of overseas clients—and the unwinding of bearish bets against the rupee.

Foreign institutional investors have been net buyers of Indian equities for 11 consecutive sessions, marking the longest such streak in two years and lending strong support to the local currency.

Dilip Parmar – Senior Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said, "The Indian rupee witnessed its most



significant single-day appreciation since November 2022. This surge can be attributed to month-end

adjustments and a technical sell-off in the US dollar leading up to the holiday."

"Despite prevailing geopolitical tensions, trader caution was somewhat offset by the Reserve Bank of India's apparent absence from the market and the strengthening of other Asian currencies, providing support to the rupee," he added.

The rupee's recent run has prompted several analysts to revise their forecasts. Japanese bank MUFG now expects the rupee to end 2025 at 84, up from its earlier projection of 87.

"We now forecast INR to outperform other Asian currencies on the back of expected US dollar weakness and more favourable tariff outcomes for India in Trump 2.0," the bank said in a note.

While bids for the greenback remained thin through the session, consistent dollar supply from foreign banks helped the rupee push decisively past the psychological 84 mark.

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 5, 2025 TO MAY 11, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

## ARIES



Ganesha says you may be a little worried this week. You may face uncertainty at work, but maintain patience. You will try to spend more time with your loved ones, which will help boost your morale. If you are considering a new project, this is the right time. Express your plans clearly and listen carefully. Be cautious in financial matters; avoid unnecessary expenses. In terms of health, focus on regular exercise and a balanced diet. This week is great for self-care. Social relationships will strengthen, and there may be opportunities for new friendships. Focus on partnerships, as success will be achieved only through cooperation. Maintain positivity and face challenges with confidence.

## TAURUS



Ganesha says some positive changes are likely to come for you this week. This time is great for self-confidence and stability. You may be more successful at work, and the fruits of your efforts will be sweet. You will get support from your partner and family, which will increase your energy. From a financial point of view, investment opportunities may come this week. Focus on plans that can strengthen your financial future. Share your plans with friends, this can give you new perspectives and ideas. In terms of health, you may need to bring some balance to your routine. Doing yoga or exercise will not only keep your body healthy, but will also give you mental peace. In social life, your popularity will increase. Making contact with new people and participating in social activities will give you new experiences of happiness. Maintain positivity within yourself this week and keep moving towards your goals.

## GEMINI



Ganesha says this week, many new possibilities are going to open up for Gemini people. Your communication skills will prove to be the biggest asset for you at this time. Try to express your thoughts with clarity. New collaborative projects will come to you in the workplace, which will give you a chance to move forward. There will be sweetness in personal relationships. Spending time with your loved ones will be important for your peace of mind. Communication is necessary to solve family problems. Try to stay emotionally

strong and share your feelings openly. In terms of health, focus on light exercise and a balanced diet. This week will also help you feel better mentally. This is a good time to catch up on a new interest or hobby. In summary, this week will open doors to new possibilities for you, adopting which will bring positivity to your life.

## CANCER



Ganesha says this week, positive changes are likely in your life. At this time, you will be able to understand your feelings and express them. You will have deep conversations in your close relationships, which will make your relationship stronger. This week, you are also likely to face some new opportunities at your workplace. Your efforts may get recognition, which will increase your self-esteem. Be careful in communicating with your partner and colleagues, so that there is no misunderstanding. In terms of health, energy levels will remain high, but take care of your mental health as well. Meditation and yoga can provide you with peace and balance. This week, pay attention to your emotional aspects and give priority to things that give you happiness. A time full of positivity will bring new possibilities for you.

## LEO



Ganesha says this week, the doors of new possibilities are going to open for the Leo natives. You will be more active in your work, and your confidence will be at its peak during this time. Collaboration with colleagues in the workplace will increase, which will help you with your projects. This is the time for you to make new contacts and expand your network. Social life will also be active, where you can experience new friendships and relationships. There will be harmony and a loving atmosphere in the family. You will get opportunities to spend quality time with your loved ones. It is important to be health-conscious, especially since mental health needs attention. Meditation and yoga, or calming activities, will give you energy and freshness. In general, this week indicates positivity and progress for you. Keep moving towards your goal and take advantage of every opportunity.

## VIRGO



Ganesha says this week, many opportunities are coming for the Virgo natives. Your analytical ability and practicality will become your strength this week. Your efforts and hard work in the field of work will be appreciated, which can increase your confidence. Spending time with family and friends will give you happiness and satisfaction. This is the time to strengthen your

relationships. You may also get an opportunity to meet an old friend or plan a trip with family. In terms of health, you need to take care of your diet this week. Regular exercise and yoga will keep your mental and physical health in good shape. It will be important to make wise decisions in financial matters. Try to avoid unnecessary expenses and focus on your financial goals. Try to express your creativity this week. Expressing your ideas in areas like art, music, or writing will bring peace and satisfaction to your mind. Overall, this week is going to open up positivity and new paths for you. Stay focused on your goal and welcome opportunities.

## LIBRA



Ganesha says this week, the time is very important for Libra natives. You will try to create a balance in your personal and professional life. This is the right time to focus on your close relationships. Time spent with family will give you mental peace. You may face some new opportunities in the workplace. Express your ideas clearly so that your colleagues can understand your thinking and plans. Pay attention to some sensitive issues, especially if you have to work with someone who may have a different point of view than you. In terms of health, take care of yourself. Regular exercise and a balanced diet will make you feel full of energy. Also, give priority to mental health. Yoga or meditation can give you relief from stress. Overall, this week is going to bring harmony and restraint for you. Listen to your inner feelings and try to balance them. This time can open the door to new experiences for you.

## SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week, many new possibilities are going to open up for Scorpio natives. There will be new warmth in your relationships, which will bring positive changes in your life. Time spent with family will fill your mind with happiness and satisfaction. In work life, your hard work and efforts will be appreciated. You will get support from your colleagues, which will improve your work. However, do not forget to consider all aspects before moving forward in any project. Some difficulties may arise, but with your patience and perseverance, everything is possible. In terms of health, it will be important to pay attention to mental health. Doing some yoga or meditation will bring peace to your mind. It will also increase your energy level. This week, take time to self-analyze. Your inner strengths and abilities will guide you in the right direction. Do not run away from the easy path; you will become even stronger when you face challenges. Keep an eye on your financial matters, control expenses, and make informed decisions before making additional investments. This

week will bring you opportunities for growth, creativity, and self-discovery. Move forward with a positive attitude!

## SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week, new possibilities and opportunities will come into your life. This is the time to introspect, where you can focus on your goals and aspirations. Your efforts are likely to be recognized in the professional field. You will see some significant signs of success due to your hard work and positive attitude. Mutual communication and understanding will be important in personal relationships. Time spent with family will make your mindset stronger. If you are thinking about someone special, then this is the time to speak your mind. It is important to focus on your mental and physical health. Yoga and meditation can provide you with energy and balance. Follow your passions and interests this week, which will make you feel self-satisfied. Waves of positivity will be all around you, so it is time for you to move forward to make your dreams come true. Maintain perseverance and optimism, and your efforts will be justified and inspired.

## CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this week, Capricorn natives will be called upon for a new opportunity. Collective efforts are likely to be successful, creating an atmosphere of cooperation and honesty in your workplace. Try to express your thoughts clearly, as your clarity can encourage others. This week, personal relationships will also see improvement. Time spent with your loved ones will make you happy and strengthen your relationships. Keep the dialogue open and express your feelings honestly to avoid any kind of misunderstanding. In terms of health, this week is to be conscious of exercise and healthy eating. Practice meditation and yoga to reduce stress. You should take some time for yourself to maintain mental balance. Be clear about your goal at this time and maintain a positive attitude. This is the right time to move from small efforts to big achievements. Making this week special for you, move forward with focus and determination in your tasks.

## AQUARIUS



Ganesha says this week, there can be positive changes in your life. You will feel inspired to further promote your creativity, which will infuse new energy into your work and personal life. During this time, you will get an opportunity to spend time with your friends and family. Meeting an old friend or going on a trip with family will further strengthen your mental state. In terms of financial condition,

## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 5 TO MAY 11 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

### MAY 5

Ganesha says although you are very talented, you need to learn to control your occasionally domineering and haughty behavior. This time, businessmen would diversify their operations into new, lucrative directions. Dealing in real estate might be quite profitable for you, but you should anticipate some partner resistance. Make the most of it since for some people, this is a new romance. Yoga and meditation should be practiced for both physical and spiritual benefits. Your children will likely have some exciting news to share.

### MAY 6

Ganesha says the upcoming season is favorable for launching new businesses. Projects that have been lagging up until now would pick up steam. If there are any disputes, they will be resolved and you will feel relieved. Coworker romances might start to grow, but they would be quite fleeting. You would keep ahead of others thanks to your competitive spirit, which would also make you well-liked by your peers. Friends will be supportive but also demanding.

### MAY 7

Ganesha says your ability to sway a sizable population is very strong. You are in the spotlight because of your modern, revolutionary beliefs, but you need to curb your occasionally stubborn and envious behavior. You will have a lot of energy this year, and if you use it well, you will achieve great success. Financially, it appears to be a good time to purchase property and equities, but all purchases should be done with the long term in mind. Later in the year, a far-off trip looks likely, probably to attend a fortunate event.

### MAY 8

Ganesha says you are a person who is ambitious, competent, organized, sober, and straightforward. Slow projects would pick up steam. If there are any disagreements, they will be resolved and you will feel relieved. Coworker romances could blossom, but they would be very fleeting. You would keep ahead of others thanks to your competitive spirit, which would also make you well-liked by your fellow students. Friends will be supportive yet obstinate.

### MAY 9

Ganesha says today might be a good day to create new contacts that will benefit your career. Additionally, you would experience unexpected career advancements. If you go out and participate in clubs and other social activities, you will be quite successful socially. Compared to the previous several years, your income would be significantly higher. Even if they can be possessive at times, your loved one would be supportive and helpful. Minor health issues like backaches, stiff necks, or body aches will cause much trouble.

### MAY 10

Ganesha says many people's financial situations improve, and some even inherit property. Your confidence will increase as the business prospers and you make money. The legal issues that have been weighing on your mind will be resolved to your satisfaction. For some, promotions and pay raises are likely. However, romance won't be enjoyable because you'll constantly be thinking about your regular conflicts and disagreements. Both academically and athletically, students will do incredibly well.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

### MAY 11

Ganesha says the highlight today will be starting new employment and assignments. Transfers and promotions for select staff. Long-term returns on property investments will be favorable. You will travel frequently and successfully, earning money along the way, and you will develop enduring relationships. Your relationships with people of the opposite sex will get stronger, giving your life a new and exciting direction.

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

### CONTD FROM PAGE 32

this week you may get some new opportunities, which will help you get financial benefits. However, think carefully before making any big investment. Your health condition will be good, but do not forget to rest due to a little busyness. Yoga and light exercise will be beneficial for your mental and physical health. This week, you should trust your insight in your decisions. Your intuitive understanding will help you choose the right path. Stay away from negative thoughts and give way to positivity in your life. Keep moving towards your goals this week; the time to reap the fruits of your hard work is near.

### PISCES



Ganesha says the week is going to be a very positive one for Pisces people. You will feel bold to express your feelings, which will help improve your relationships. This time of communication is especially beneficial for you. This week offers a great opportunity to make some new plans. Unleash your creativity and work on ideas

### AUTHOR BIO

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

that are close to your heart. Some new opportunities may knock at your door in the field of career as well, so take full advantage of any opportunity instead of missing it. In terms of health, light yoga or

exercise will make you feel fresh. Try meditation to keep your mental state balanced. Spending time with your friends and family will increase your energy. Talk to them and share your experiences. This is

a day when you can make deep connections with the people around you. Remember, today is the day when new possibilities open up for you. Believe in your dreams and keep moving forward.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



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Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

# Sikh History This Week

## MAY 2 TO MAY 8

### 2nd May

1940 Sardar Baldev Singh Pact was signed. Singh negotiated an agreement with Sir Sikandar Hyat Khan, the leader of the Unionist Party to form a government in Punjab, and became the provincial Development Minister for a brief time in the summer of 1942.

### 3rd May

1705 Siege of Anadpur was initiated. It lasted seven months and ended on Dec. 4, 1705.

1718 Sardar Jassa Singh Ahluwalia was born. Sardar JASSA SINGH AHLUWALIA was born in 1718. He was son of Ahluwalia resident Bader Singh. His close association with Nawab Kapur Singh influenced him in service of GurPanth. Raja Amir Singh of Patiala was introduced to amrit by him. He was a great General of the Khalsa forces during the 18th century and was called Sultan-ul-Quom, king of the nation, his heroic deeds and qualities of leadership. He killed Hakim SalabatKhan of Amritsar, in 1748, and captured the surrounding region. In 1789, he helped Diwan KodhaMal in removing ShahanWadh from Multan. In 1753, he defeated Hakim Adinabaegh and conquered Fataibad. He won the successful release of enslaved Hindu men and women from Ahmad Shah Durani. As a result he came to be popularly known as BandiShoadh (liberator). He bravely fought in Wada Ghulughara (the big holocaust). Even after receiving 22 grave bounds, he kept fighting. He was head as well as the life of the Ahluwalia Misl. In 1774, he captured Kapurthala state, established his capital there, and issues coins under our Gurus name. He was extremely popular among our Panth. He dies in 1783 in Amritsar. A monument in his memory was erected near Baba Atal, in Amritsar.

1914 Morcha launched for Rakab Ganj Gurudwara.

### 4th May



1479 PRAKASH UTSAV, Patshahi Third, Guru Amardas Ji.

The Third Patshah, Guru Amardas Ji, came to this planet. He was born in Baserke, district Amritsar, 13 kilometers from the city of Amritsar, in the house of Baba Tej Bahan and Matta Lakho. He was ten years younger than Guru Nanak. Today is the actual date of prakash, though Guru Khalsa Panth observes it on a different date (See description below for details on Guru Amar Das Ji).

1686 Janam Utsav of Sahibjada Baba Ajit Singh Ji, the eldest son of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, was born to Mata Sundari at Paonta Sahib on Magh 23 sunmat 1743. He fought valiantly and accepted martyrdom in the battle field at Chamkaur on Poh 8th sunmat 1761 (Dec.

22, 1704).

### 5th May



1723 Jassa Singh Ramgarhia was born. Ramgarhia, son of Giani Bhagwan Singh of Saedbaegh village, Lahore. He was an accomplished scholar of weaponry and an effortfull individual. He together with Nand Singh Sanghani constructed the "Ram Rahuni" from scratch. When the Adinabaeg general blew up the Ram Rahuni, Jassa Singh re-erected it and named it "Ram Gadh". Henceforth, he came to be known as Jassa Singh Ramgarihia. And his group also was popularly known as Ramgarihias. Just like other Sikh misls, the Ramgarihia misl established its rule and served the GurSikh Panth.

1739 Sikhs attacked Nadar on his return trip to Persia and rescued a large booty and thousands of captive Hindu women.

1834 Peshawar conquered and Khalsa raj extended Raj upto Jamraud, Afghanistan. Kanwar Naunihal Singh and Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa conquered Peshawar and extended the territory of Khalsa Raj upto Jamraud (Afghanistan). Further this territory was named Sumaergadh.

1948 Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) was formed. EAST PUNJAB STATES: Patiala, Nabha, Jind, Faridkot, and Malerkotla were the Sikh states in the East Punjab before the integration of Indian States in 1948. The first four were the Sikh states under the sovereignty of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and were brought under British protection by the 1809 treaty of Amritsar. Patiala, Nabha, and Jind, also known as Phulkian states, share a common ancestor Phul, who was descendent of Baryam. The Emperor, in 1526, had granted Baryam, the office of revenue collection for the waste country south-west of Delhi. Emperor Shah Jahan continued Phul in this office. From his eldest son descended the families of Nabha and Jind while from his second son the Patiala family. The Faridkot family, founded in the middle 16th century sprang from the same stock as the Phulkians chiefs.

### 6th May



1897 First year classes of Khalsa College were held in Amritsar. The first year classes of Khalsa College were held in the newly and partly built building in Amritsar, near the present Guru Nanak Dev University campus.



1930 Firing at the Sees Ganj, Delhi.

The police fired on Gurudwara Sees Ganj, Delhi. Congress workers had entered the Gurdwara premises and were throwing brickbats on police. In retaliation, the police fired, when the bullets hit Guru Granth Sahib. This caused widespread resentment among the Sikhs. The SGPC launched a campaign for boycott and picketing of foreign cloth shops in protest against this firing. Though Kharak Singh sought to maintain a distinct identity of the Sees Ganj agitation, it certainly gave strength to the Civil Disobedience Movement. Sikhs contributions to this movement was disproportionately large.

### 7th May



1665 Guru Tegh Bahadur visited Kiratpur.

1845 Baba Bir Singh of Naurangabad was assassinated at the hands of the treacherous dogra Raja Hira Singh. He was a great Sikh saint of Khalsa Raj period. BHAIR SINGH was born on Saun Sudhi 3 Sunmat 1825, in village Gugobuha (near Amritsar) to father Sewa Singh and mother Matta Dharam Kaur. During his youth, he served in the forces of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

1923 Maharaja Ripudaman Singh of Nabha deposed by the British.

### 8th May

1705: Battle of Muktsar and Martyrdom of Chaali Muktey.

1839: Khalsa forces captured Kandhar and established Shah Sujaul Mulak as the ruler.

# Janki or Sita Navami

Sita Navami is an important day of Hindu religion. This day is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Goddess Sita. Married women observe a fast on the day of Sita Navami and pray for the long life of their husbands. Sita Navami is also known as Sita Jayanti and Janaki Navami. Sita Jayanti is celebrated on the ninth day of Shukla Paksha of Vaishakh month.

It is believed that Mother Sita was born on Tuesday in Pushya Nakshatra. Goddess Sita was married to Lord Rama. Lord Rama was also born on Navami Tithi during Shukla Paksha of Chaitra month. In the Hindu calendar, Sita Jayanti comes one month after Ram Navami.

Goddess Sita was the adopted daughter of King Janak of Mithila. Hence this day is also known as Janaki Navami. According to Hindu mythology, when King Janaka was plowing the land to perform a yajna, he found a baby girl in a gold coffin. A plowed land was called 'Sita' so King Janak named the girl Sita.

On the day of Sita Navami, special worship and rituals are performed in Lord Rama and Janaki temples across the country. Temples are decorated with flowers and lights. Bhajan programs are also organized at various places after the recitation of Ramayana. Some take out Ram Rath Yatra through the temple and chant 'Jai Siya Ram' and sing devotional songs all the way.

## Sita Navami Worship

Goddess Sita is worshipped on the day of Sita Navami. Married women observe a fast on this day and pray for the long life of their husbands. It is believed that observing Sita Navami fast brings virtues like modesty, motherhood, sacrifice and dedication in a person. Worshiping Sita and Lord Rama together brings happiness and peace in married life.

## Mythological Significance

According to Hindu mythology, Goddess Sita was found in a furrow in a ploughed field by King Janaka of Mithila, hence she is also called Janaki (daughter of Janaka). King Janaka and Queen Sunaina raised her as their own daughter. The divine origin of Sita signifies her purity and connection to the Earth (Prithvi), and she is also known as Bhoomija, meaning 'daughter of the Earth'.

Her life, chronicled in the Ramayana, reflects virtues like dedication to dharma, loyalty to her husband, and resilience in the face of adversity. Her marriage to Lord Rama is seen as the ideal union and is reenacted during various Ramayana-related festivals.

## Rituals and Observances

### Fasting (Vrat)

Devotees, especially women, observe a strict fast on this day, praying for the well-being and longevity of their husbands and families. Some keep a nirjala vrat (fast without water), while others may take fruits and milk.

### Puja and Worship

- Idols or images of Goddess Sita along with Lord Rama are



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Janki or Sita Navami 2025

Tuesday, 06 May 2025

Navami Tithi Begins - 05 May 2025 at

07:35 AM

Navami Tithi Ends - 06 May 2025 at

08:38 AM

worshipped with flowers, incense, sandalwood paste, and traditional offerings.

- Recitation of the Ramayana or Sundar Kand is common in temples and homes.
- Devotees also chant Ramcharitmanas and other hymns dedicated to Sita Mata.

### Processions and Cultural Programs

- In places like Sitamarhi and Janakpur, grand processions, Ramayan plays, and Sita-Ram marriage ceremonies are organized.
- Temples are decorated, and special kirtans (devotional singing) are held.

### Pilgrimages

- Janakpur (Nepal): Believed to be Sita's birthplace, this city sees thousands of pilgrims offering prayers at the Janaki Mandir.
- Sitamarhi (Bihar): A significant pilgrimage site associated with Sita's birth.
- Ayodhya and other Ramayana-related places also hold special celebrations.

### Spiritual Significance

Janki Navami is not just about

celebrating the birth of a mythological figure—it is a reminder of the strength and virtue of womanhood. Goddess Sita is portrayed as the embodiment of ideal womanhood, self-respect, and righteousness. Observing this day encourages devotees to cultivate values such as:

- Patience and resilience in times of hardship.
- Loyalty and faithfulness in relationships.
- Commitment to righteousness (dharma).

## Legends and Folklore

### Sita's Trial by Fire (Agni Pariksha)

One of the most discussed episodes in the Ramayana is Sita's Agni Pariksha, where she proves her purity after returning from Ravana's captivity. While controversial to modern readers, this episode emphasizes her unshakable virtue and strength of character in traditional interpretations.

### Sita's Abandonment and Return to Earth

Later in life, when doubted again by society, Sita chose to return to her mother, the Earth, highlighting her dignity and refusal to compromise on self-respect.

These stories have contributed to her status as a symbol of feminine integrity

and endurance.

### Divine Birth of Sita

According to the Valmiki Ramayana, King Janaka found Sita while ploughing the fields during a yajna (sacrifice). She emerged from the Earth in a golden casket, symbolizing her divine origins. The king and queen adopted her and raised her as their own daughter. Hence, she is called:

- Janaki: Daughter of Janaka
- Bhoomija: Daughter of the Earth
- Maithili: Princess of Mithila
- Vaidehi: Princess of Videha kingdom

### Swayamvara of Sita

Sita's marriage to Lord Rama is another celebrated event. Her swayamvara required suitors to string the mighty bow of Lord Shiva (Pinaka)—a task that only Rama accomplished, proving his worth.

### Religious and Cultural Significance

Sita Navami holds immense spiritual and ethical importance:

- She is Lakshmi incarnate, and her life exemplifies the dharma of a wife, queen, and mother.
- Her sacrifice and endurance during exile and abduction by Ravana are seen as symbols of divine strength and moral uprightness.
- The festival is also seen as a parallel to Rama Navami, which celebrates the birth of Lord Rama, and both festivals often mirror each other in customs.

# Driverless Ubers are headed to North Texas

Arlington will be the first to get autonomous rideshare as part of a new partnership between Uber and May Mobility.

MAY 1, 2025

**DALLAS (TIP):** Arlington will be the first city to launch driverless rideshare vehicles as part of a partnership between Uber and May Mobility AVs.

May Mobility plans to deploy thousands of autonomous vehicles on the Uber platform over the next few years, with an initial launch planned for Arlington by the end of 2025. Customers will have the option of a May Mobility AV for qualifying trips on the platform.

The first deployment will launch with onboard safety operators before transitioning to driverless.

Texas has become a hotspot for autonomous vehicle testing. Lyft announced in February that it would bring autonomous ridesharing to Dallas, and companies like Kodiak Robotics and Aurora are testing their self-driving technology for 18-wheelers on state roadways.

General Motors was also poised to launch its now-defunct Cruise robotaxi in Dallas before it shut down the endeavor amid cost concerns.

May Mobility will provide a fleet of hybrid-electric Toyota Sienna minivans equipped with May technology, which the company says "applies real-time, human-like reasoning," for the trips.

The company has operated on a smaller scale in



Uber customers will soon be able to hail a driverless taxi in Arlington as part of a new partnership. Photo: Courtesy of Uber

Arlington via the city's RAPID program since 2021. The program incorporated five AVs into Via's existing on-demand public transit service in the city in March of 2021, serving downtown Arlington and the University of Texas at Arlington campus.

The company's initial experience in Arlington will allow the new Uber partnership to rapidly deploy and expand beyond the existing service area, May said in a statement.

May Mobility is one AV company in an increasingly crowded market as major automakers bet on driverless

technology for everything from robotaxis to freight hauling. Backed by Toyota and BMW, May has raised over \$383 million and has plans to deploy its technology on other platforms, including in Atlanta later this year via a partnership with Lyft.

Uber also has partnerships with other autonomous tech companies including Waymo, WeRide and Volkswagen.

The U.S. Department of Transportation last week released new rules aimed at accelerating the commercialization of autonomous technology, including exempting some vehicles with advanced driver assistance systems from reporting certain crashes. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it would also expand safety requirement exemptions for some self-driving vehicles.

American drivers haven't expressed much enthusiasm about self-driving cars, though. Six in 10 drivers in a AAA survey say they would be afraid to ride in an autonomous vehicle.

May Mobility and Uber said they plan to expand to more US cities in 2026 and expect to release more details on the planned launch in the coming months.

(Source: Dallas News)

## CONTD FROM PAGE 1

### CONTD FROM PAGE 1

## Canada's Liberal Party, led by Mark Carney, wins federal election but falls short of a majority in Parliament

The Liberal party seemed likely to find the extra votes necessary, but it was not clear whether they would come from the progressive party, which backed the Liberals under former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, or from a separatist party from French-speaking Quebec.

Carney's rival, populist Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, was in the lead until Trump took aim at Canada with a trade war and threats to annex the country as the 51st state. Poilievre not only lost his bid for prime minister Monday but was voted out of the Parliament seat that he held for 20 years.

Since he returned to office, however, Trump has enraged Canadians with his behavior toward one of his country's closest allies. His policies and rhetoric - including imposing steep tariffs on Canadian imports and the "51st state" comments - became the central issue in the Canadian election and helped the Liberals make a remarkable turnaround, closing an almost 20-point gap with the Conservatives in a matter of weeks. The Liberals were also boosted by a candidate, Carney, who may be uniquely positioned to respond to Trump and the global economic uncertainty his tariffs have created.

Like Trump, Carney had never held elected office before becoming his country's leader and spent much of his life in the private sector. He became prime minister last month after he was elected leader of the Liberal Party, then quickly called a snap election in the hope of securing a full term.

Carney, 60, is also a former central banker used to dealing with economic crises, having run the Bank of Canada after the 2008 global financial crisis and the Bank of England during the Brexit process.

"Mark offers the proven leadership and real plan we need to deliver change for our party and our country, and to build the strongest economy in the G7," his campaign said, referring to the Group of Seven industrialized nations.

Poilievre had been on a rising trajectory until earlier this year, with his "Trump light" style embraced by the populist wing of his party. As anger in Canada grew, however, his similarities with Trump began to work

against him.

Poilievre ran on job opportunities and on promises that Gen Z voters would be able to afford housing, leveraging public fatigue with the Liberal government. At a rally Sunday, the CBC quoted him as calling the Trudeau government "the lost Liberal decade of rising crime, chaos, drugs and disorder."

Trump continued goading Canada on Monday as voters went to the polls, saying again that it should become the "cherished" 51st U.S. state.

"ALL POSITIVES WITH NO NEGATIVES. IT WAS MEANT TO BE!" he said on his Truth Social platform. Both Carney and Poilievre rebuked Trump over such comments and others he has made about the Canadian election.

"They can become divided and weak," Carney said in a video on social media Monday, speaking of the U.S. "But this is Canada. And we decide what happens here."

Poilievre wrote Monday on X: "President Trump, stay out of our election."

"The only people who will decide the future of Canada are Canadians at the ballot box," he wrote. "Canada will always be proud, sovereign and independent and we will NEVER be the 51st state."

Trump did not appear to have publicly commented on the election result as of late Monday, but his predecessor congratulated Carney and the Liberals.

"I'm confident Mark will be a strong leader for the fundamental values and interests Canadians and Americans share," former President Joe Biden said in a post on X. (Agencies)

## Thousands of Sikhs Participate in the 37th Sikh Day Parade In New York City

Colorful displays of the Sikh faith made their way down Madison Avenue, ending with free meals for thousands. As the floats made their way down the wet pavement, the sounds of Sikh traditions were heard loud and clear.

For the 37th Annual Sikh Day Parade, many in their colorful turbans and cultural clothing -- most of them wearing rain ponchos -- lined up to celebrate Vaisakhi. The day which originally is the celebration of harvest, is also the day when the Tenth Master of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, created a sect called Khalsa, and gave it a distinct form and appearance. Thus, the day is both a socio-cultural festival and a celebration of the birthday of Khalsa (more popularly known as the Sikhs)

"Today is a celebration of Vaisakhi, and also a celebration of the creation of our faith, and we are here celebrating," parade goer Baldev Singh Grewal who is founder -publisher of a leading Punjabi newspaper Sher-e-Punjab, said.

The parade concluded with a meeting at Madison Square Park, where community leaders made speeches and free food, called langar in Sikhism, was served.

## US stands strong with India against terrorism, PM Modi has our full support: State Department

State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce said at a press briefing on Thursday that Washington is "monitoring closely" the situation between India and Pakistan amid rising tensions.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke separately with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, April 30.

"As the President articulated to Prime Minister Modi last week, the United States stands strong with India against terrorism, and Prime Minister Modi has our full support," Bruce said.

Rubio "encouraged both countries to work towards a responsible resolution that maintains long-term peace and regional stability in South Asia. We continue to be in touch with the governments of both countries, as I mentioned, at multiple levels," Bruce added.

"This government is in constant communication. We are asking for a responsible resolution from both parties. And beyond that, there's nothing I can give you, any other details," she said.

(Source: PTI)

## Kamla Persad-Bissessar Returns as Trinidad & Tobago Prime Minister; Promises Fairness and Hope

At a ceremony at the President's House, she promised to put the country "on the right pathway, where we cease to govern simply to win the next election, and instead govern to create wealth and opportunities for seven generations into the future."

"You've had prime ministers before me, you will have prime ministers after me. But guess what? You will never have a prime minister who loves you as much as I do," she said, beginning a five-year term.

"God bless you," she added.

(With inputs from Agencies)

# The Wildlife Kingdom

Exploring the rare wildlife in Indian woods has its own glee. From the regal beasts to the sweet chirping avifauna, the verdant beauty of this glorious country embraces everything that can rejuvenate and galvanise the senses of a nature aficionado. The national parks in India are certainly wonderful for wildlife buffs to scout the engrossing exquisiteness of nature.

All the protected regions in the country have beautiful vistas to offer. However, some of these protected areas are bejewelled with a number of inimitable features that make them unique. Here are some unique national parks of India that are popular among wildlife enthusiasts and nature buffs.

## HEMIS NATIONAL PARK

This high altitude national park is located in eastern Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir. The north of this protected area is enclosed by the banks of the Indus River. The area is an abode to an immense population of snow leopards. It does not receive heavy amount of precipitation; therefore, the flora present in the park comprises arid woods of juniper, birch, fir, and Populus-Salix. Apart from snow leopards, the flora includes bharal, argali, Asiatic ibex, Eurasian brown bear, Tibetan wolf, red fox, etc. The Hemis National Park is the second largest contiguous protected region of the country after the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve. The park incorporates a trekking route that is one of the prime attractions for tourists. The factor that draws wildlife lovers the most is the sight of snow leopards. There are around 200 snow leopards in the region and witnessing them amid the fascinating snowy panorama gives great pleasure.

## SUNDARBANS NATIONAL PARK

The Sundarbans National Park is a national park, biosphere reserve and tiger reserve located in West Bengal. The park is a part of Sundarban woods, extended on the Ganges Delta. The mangrove woods cover the delta and make it look verdant. The main attraction of this park is the dense population of tigers. Apart from tigers that can be witnessed here, the park is also home to fishing cat, macaque, leopard, Indian grey mongoose, wild boar, jungle cat, fox, pangolin, chital, flying fox, etc.

Sundarban is one of the largest reserves for tigers, boasting around 400 tigers. In 2012, the camera traps in the park snapped the picture of an unknown animal. It was a never-seen-before cat in Sundarbans. This cat was smaller than a leopard and bigger than a wild cat.

## KEIBUL LAMJAO

Located in the beautiful state of Manipur, the Keibul Lamjao National Park stretches over 40 sq km of floating vegetation. Other than the rich topography and foliage, a major attraction that entices nature lovers to the park is Loktak Lake. It is the largest freshwater lake in the country. The park also embraces an immense assortment of exotic fauna species. The area is the



preferred abode of the brow-antlered deer. The Keibul Lamjao National Park is considered unique as it is the only floating sanctuary in the world. The park has a 1.5-metre deep vegetation, which keeps floating, and this floating foliage is known as phumdi.

## MARINE NATIONAL PARK

The Marine National Park is located seawards from the southern coastline of the Gulf of Kutch. It spreads over an area of 458 sq km, and comprises a group of 42 islands. Few of the popular islands among them are Poshitra, Pirotan, Karubhar and Narara. The exotic wildlife of the national park attracts every nature admirer. The fauna that can be witnessed in the park includes coral lichen, sea slug, painted storks, shelled molluscs, etc. This national park is the first marine wildlife sanctuary and the first marine national park in India. The impressive sea creatures such as jellyfish, octopus and sea cucumber make the trip to the park unique and gratifying.

## Jim Corbett National Park

Jim Corbett National Park is the oldest national park in India and was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger. It is located in Nainital district of Uttarakhand and was named after Jim Corbett who played a key role in its establishment. The park was the first to come under the Project Tiger initiative.

The park has sub-Himalayan belt geographical and ecological characteristics. An ecotourism destination, it contains 488 different species of plants and a diverse variety of fauna. The increase in tourist activities, among other problems, continues to



present a serious challenge to the park's ecological balance.

Corbett has been a haunt for tourists and wildlife lovers for a long time. Tourism activity is only allowed in selected areas of Corbett Tiger Reserve so

that people get an opportunity to see its splendid landscape and the diverse wildlife. In recent years the number of people coming here has increased dramatically. Presently, every season more than 70,000 visitors come to the park.

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## History This Week MAY 02 - 08

**MAY 2**



May 2, 2011 - U.S. Special Operations Forces killed Osama bin Laden during a raid on his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The raid marked the culmination of a decade-long manhunt for the elusive leader of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization based in the Middle East. Bin Laden had ordered the coordinated aerial attacks of September 11th, 2001, in which four American passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons. Two jets had struck and subsequently collapsed the 110-story Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York, while another struck the Pentagon building in Washington, D.C. A fourth jet also headed toward Washington had crashed into a field in Pennsylvania as passengers attempted to overpower the hijackers on board.

Birthdays - Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903) was born in Carpino, Italy (as Gioacchino Pecci). He was elected Pope in 1878 at age 67 and lived to govern the church another 25 years, laying the foundation for modernization of Church attitudes toward a rapidly industrializing and changing world.

**MAY 3**



Birthdays - Italian writer and statesman Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527) was born in Florence, Italy. He offered a blunt, realistic view of human nature and power in his works *The Prince* and *Discourses on Livy*.

Birthdays - Golda Meir (1898-1978) was born in Kiev, Russia. She was one of the founders of the modern state of Israel and served as prime minister from 1969 to 1974.

**MAY 4**

May 4, 1494 - During his second journey of exploration in the New World, Christopher Columbus discovered Jamaica.

May 4, 1886 - The Haymarket Square Riot occurred in Chicago after 180 police officers advanced on 1,300 persons gathered in the square listening to speeches of labor activists and anarchists. A bomb was thrown. Seven policemen were killed and over 50 wounded. Four anarchists were then charged with conspiracy to kill, convicted and hanged while another committed suicide in jail. Three others were given lengthy jail terms.

May 4, 1970 - At Kent State University, four students - Allison Krause, 19; Sandra Lee Scheuer, 20; Jeffrey Glenn Miller, 20; and William K. Schroeder, 19 -



were killed by National Guardsmen who opened fire on a crowd of 1,000 students protesting President Richard Nixon's decision to invade Cambodia. Eleven others were wounded. The shootings set off tumultuous campus demonstrations across America resulting in the temporary closing of over 450 colleges and universities.

**MAY 5**

May 5th - Celebrated in Mexico as Cinco de Mayo, a national holiday in remembrance of the Battle of Puebla in 1862, in which Mexican troops under General Ignacio Zaragoza, outnumbered three to one, defeated the invading French forces of Napoleon III.

May 5, 1865 - Decoration Day was first observed in the U.S., with the tradition of decorating soldiers' graves from the Civil War with flowers. The observance date was later moved to May 30th and included American graves from World War I and World War II, and became better known as Memorial Day. In 1971, Congress moved Memorial Day to the last Monday in May, thus creating a three-day holiday weekend.

May 5, 1893 - The Wall Street Crash of 1893 began as stock prices fell dramatically. By the end of the year, 600 banks closed and several big railroads were in receivership. Another 15,000 businesses went bankrupt amid 20 percent unemployment. It was the worst economic crisis in U.S. history up to that time.



May 5, 1961 - Alan Shepard became the first American in space. He piloted the spacecraft Freedom 7 during a 15-minute 28-second suborbital flight that reached an altitude of 116 miles (186 kilometers) above the earth. Shepard's success occurred 23 days after the Russians had launched the first-ever human in space, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, during an era of intense technological competition between the Russians and Americans called the Space Race.

Birthdays - Communism founder Karl Marx (1818-1883) was born in Treves, Germany. He co-authored *Das Kapital* and *The Communist Manifesto*, advocating the abolition of all private property and a system in which workers own all the means of production, land, factories and machinery.

Birthdays - Pioneering American journalist Nellie Bly (1867-1922) was born in Cochran's Mills, Pennsylvania (as

Elizabeth Cochran). She was a social reformer and human rights advocate who once posed as an inmate in an insane asylum to expose inhumane conditions. She is best known for her 1889-90 tour around the world in 72 days, beating by eight days the time of Phileas Fogg, fictional hero of Jules Verne's novel *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

**MAY 6**

May 6, 1527 - The Renaissance ended with the Sack of Rome by German troops as part of an ongoing conflict between the Hapsburg Empire and the French Monarchy. German troops killed over 4,000 Romans, imprisoned the Pope, and looted works of art and libraries. An entire year passed before order could be restored in Rome.

May 6, 1937 - The German airship Hindenburg burst into flames at 7:20 p.m. as it neared the mooring mast at Lakehurst, New Jersey, following a trans-Atlantic voyage. Thirty six of the 97 passengers and crew were killed. The inferno was caught on film and also witnessed by a commentator who broke down amid the emotional impact and exclaimed, "Oh, the humanity!" The accident effectively ended commercial airship traffic.

Birthdays - Psychoanalysis founder Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) was born in Freiberg, Moravia. His theories became the foundation for treating psychiatric disorders by psychoanalysis and offered some of the first workable cures for mental disorders.



Birthdays - Explorer Robert E. Peary (1856-1920) was born in Cresson, Pennsylvania. He organized and led eight Arctic expeditions and reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909. In another expedition, he proved Greenland is an island. He also proved the polar ice cap extends beyond 82° north latitude, and discovered the Melville meteorite.

**MAY 7**

May 7, 1945 - In a small red brick schoolhouse in Reims, Germany, General Alfred Jodl signed the unconditional surrender of all German fighting forces thus ending World War II in Europe. Russian, American, British and French ranking officers observed the signing of the document which became effective at one minute past midnight on May 9th. Jodl was then ushered in to see Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who curtly asked Jodl if he fully understood the document. Eisenhower then informed Jodl that he would be held personally responsible for any deviation from the terms of the surrender. Jodl was then ushered away.

May 7, 1954 - The French Indochina War ended with the fall of Dien Bien Phu, in a stunning victory by the Vietnamese over French colonial forces

in northern Vietnam. The country was then in divided in half at the 17th parallel, with South Vietnam created in 1955.

May 7, 1992 - The 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, prohibiting Congress from giving itself pay raises.



Birthdays - Composer Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) was born in Hamburg, Germany. He composed over 300 songs and numerous orchestral, choral, piano, and chamber works, including his German Requiem commemorating the death of his mother.

Birthdays - American poet Archibald MacLeish (1892-1982) was born in Glencoe, Illinois. He was awarded three Pulitzer Prizes, and was also a playwright, editor, lawyer, professor, farmer, and served as Librarian of Congress from 1939 to 1944.

**MAY 8**

May 8, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Battle of the Coral Sea began in which Japan would suffer its first defeat of the war. The battle, fought off New Guinea, marked the first time in history that two opposing naval forces fought by only using aircraft without the opposing ships ever sighting each other.

May 8, 1945 - A second German surrender ceremony was held in Berlin. Soviet Russia's leader Josef Stalin had refused to recognize the German surrender document signed a day earlier at Reims. This time, German Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel signed the surrender document which declared, as did the first, that hostilities would end as of 12:01 a.m. on May 9th.



Birthdays - Harry S. Truman (1884-1972) the 33rd U.S. President was born in Lamar, Missouri. He became president upon the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt in April 1945. Two weeks after becoming president he was informed of the top secret Atomic bomb project. In the war against Japan, an Allied invasion of Japan was being planned which would cost a minimum of 250,000 American lives. Truman then authorized the dropping of the bomb. On August 6, 1945, the first bomb exploded over Hiroshima, followed by a second bomb dropped on Nagasaki on August 9th. The next day, Japan sued for peace. Truman served as President until January of 1953. He was the last of only nine U.S. Presidents who did not attend college. His straightforward, honest, no-nonsense style earned him the nickname, "Give 'em hell, Harry."

# President Trump's Gift on the Eve of the World Press Freedom Day: An Executive Order

Trump's executive order aims to stop what he called "biased and partisan news coverage."

MAY 2, 2025

**LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP):** National Public Radio and PBS television stations on Long Island will no longer receive federal funding under an executive order signed late Thursday, May 1, by President Donald Trump to stop what he called "biased and partisan news coverage."

On Long Island, that includes WLIW21 for PBS and WLIW-FM for NPR. A message on the WLIW website directed viewers and listeners to make their voices heard at the "Protect My Public Media" site.

"Public media is facing multiple serious threats," Protect My Public Media said. "The White House proposed eliminating federal funding in its annual budget request, issued an executive order to block support for PBS and NPR, and plans to claw back funding approved by Congress."

The executive order instructs the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and other federal agencies "to cease Federal funding for NPR and PBS" and further requires that they work to root out indirect sources of public financing for the news organizations.

"Government funding of news media in this environment is not only outdated and unnecessary but corrosive to the appearance of journalistic independence," the executive order says.

The White House, in a social media posting announcing the signing, said the outlets "receive millions from taxpayers to spread radical, woke



Trump holding an Executive Order

File photo

propaganda disguised as 'news.'"

The broadcasters get roughly half a billion dollars in public money through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and have been preparing for the possibility of stiff cuts since Trump's election, as Republicans have long complained about them.

Paula Kerger, PBS' CEO and president, said in a statement last month that the Trump administration's effort to rescind funding for public media would "disrupt the essential service PBS and local member stations provide to the American people."

"There's nothing more American than PBS, and our

work is only possible because of the bipartisan support we have always received from Congress," she said. "This public-private partnership allows us to help prepare millions of children for success in school and in life and also supports enriching and inspiring programs of the highest quality."

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting sued Trump earlier this week over his move to fire three members of its five-person board, contending that the president was exceeding his authority and that the move would deprive the board of a quorum needed to conduct business.

Just two weeks ago, the White House said it would be asking Congress to rescind funding for the CPB as part of a \$9.1 billion package of cuts. That package, however, which budget director Russell Vought said would likely be the first of several, has not yet been sent to Capitol Hill.

The move against PBS and NPR comes as his administration has been working to dismantle the U.S. Agency for Global Media, including Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, which were designed to model independent news gathering globally in societies that restrict the press.

Those efforts have faced pushback from federal courts, who have ruled in some cases that the Trump administration may have overstepped its authority in holding back funds appropriated to the outlets by Congress. *(With inputs from the Associated Press)*

## Nominations for Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Awards Due May 4

Award ceremony to recognize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and their contributions to thriving communities and economy



Maryland Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman will host an awards ceremony May 28, 2025, recognizing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) business owners and community leaders for their contributions to Maryland and their community

MAY 1, 2025

**ANNAPOLIS, MD. (TIP):** Maryland Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman will host an awards ceremony May 28, 2025, recognizing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) business owners and community leaders for their contributions to Maryland and their community. Marylanders can nominate individuals and business through May 4, 2025 at 11:59 p.m.

The inaugural AAPI Heritage Awards, Honoring Legacy, Inspiring Tomorrow, ceremony will be held on May 28, 2025, at 3 p.m. in the Louis L. Goldstein Treasury Building in Annapolis during AAPI Heritage Month. The event's goal is to recognize AAPI community members and business leaders who have demonstrated a positive influence on their communities for sustained change, engaged in community service and mentorship, shown themselves to be good stewards toward the community, and inspired

others to work together to reach shared goals.

Marylanders are invited to nominate Maryland businesses and individuals who provide impactful service to the AAPI community, demonstrating change and positive influence within the community for which they serve.

The inaugural AAPI Heritage Awards will include the Community Champion Awards for Maryland business leaders who have made a sizeable impact on the AAPI community and worked with diverse organizations and stakeholders for stewardship and community service. The Public Service Award will recognize organizations or individuals that have created or advocated for sustainable advancement in the AAPI community.

For more information, visit [marylandcomptroller.gov](http://marylandcomptroller.gov)

## Legislator Solages Applauds Deployment of Speed Indicator Near Valley Stream Schools, Continues Advocacy to Curb Speeding

MAY 1, 2025

**VALLEY STREAM, N.Y. (TIP):** Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages (D - Valley Stream) applauded the Nassau County Police Department's deployment of a speed indicator at the intersection of Corona Avenue and Rockaway Parkway in Valley Stream.

Legislator Solages is continuing to meet with school and community leaders and conduct extensive outreach to NCPD officials seeking remedies for excessive speeding near the James A. Dever and Wheeler Avenue Schools. Citing speeding, double parking and unsafe U-turns that create a hazardous



Legislator Solages Applauds Deployment of Speed Indicator Near Valley Stream Schools

Photo credit: Office of Legislator Carrié Solages



environment for children and community members, Legislator Solages in January wrote to the Department of Public Works, urging them to pursue a traffic safety assessment of Rockaway Parkway near Wheeler Avenue Elementary.

"We must have a focused effort, like New York City's Vision Zero program, to address speeding in western Nassau County - especially in District 3, which has some of Nassau's most dangerous and heavily traveled roadways," Legislator Solages said. "I am thankful that the County heeded my advocacy to protect pedestrians and motorists by placing this speed indicator, and I encourage everyone to do their part to bring about long-term solutions that keep us all safe."

IPL 2025

# Marauding Mumbai make it six wins in a row, Royals out of playoffs race

JAIPUR (TIP)

Mumbai Indians extended their remarkable winning streak to six matches with a 100-run rout of Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League here on Thursday, May 1, pushing the home team out of the race for the playoffs.

Openers Rohit Sharma (53 off 36 balls) and Ryan Rickelton (61 off 38) struck sublime half-centuries before Suryakumar Yadav (48 not out off 23) and Hardik Pandya (48 not out off 23) went on the offensive to power Mumbai Indians to 217/2.

The Royals, who chased down 210 against Gujarat Titans here three nights ago with more than four overs to spare, never got going in the run chase and folded up for 117 in 16.1 overs.

It was RR's eighth defeat in 11 games while Mumbai Indians have seven wins from 11 matches. Another victory should be enough to secure a playoffs berth for the five-time champions.

The 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi (0 off 2), who took the cricketing world by storm with his 35-ball hundred on Monday, was caught at mid-on off Deepak Chahar in the first over of the RR innings.

His opening partner Yashasvi Jaiswal struck two towering sixes off Trent Boult in the following over before being castled by the New Zealander. It was a procession from thereon.

Jasprit Bumrah, who was brought into the attack in the fifth over, sent back Shimron Hetmyer and Riyan Parag with short balls to reduce Royals to 51/5 inside the powerplay.

Earlier, Rohit and Rickelton put the home team under pressure with a sizzling display of clean hitting. In their 116-run stand, Rickelton targeted the quick bowlers



while Rohit went after spinners, especially Maheesh Theekshana, who was introduced as early as the third over. Mumbai Indians cruised to 58 for no loss in the powerplay.

Both the openers were dismissed in quick succession but it was not an issue for Mumbai Indians with plenty of batting to come. Suryakumar and Hardik capitalised on the openers' good work to take the team past 200. The last five overs fetched 71 runs for Mumbai Indians.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Mumbai Indians: 217/2 in 20 overs (Rickleton 61, Rohit 53, Suryakumar 48\*, Hardik 48\*); Rajasthan Royals: 117 all out in 16.1 overs (Archer 30; Karn 3/23, Boult 3/28, Bumrah 2/15).

## Bumrah becomes seventh-highest wicket-taker in league's history

Mumbai Indians (MI) pacer Jasprit Bumrah surpassed veteran spinner Amit Mishra, becoming the seventh-highest

wicket-taker in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Thursday.

Bumrah achieved this upward movement in the charts after his side's IPL game against the Rajasthan Royals (RR) at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium.

During the game, Bumrah delivered an impactful spell of 2/15 in four overs. In the powerplay, he gave a much-needed breather to Trent Boult and Deepak Chahar, two other pacers, by getting two crucial wickets of RR skipper Riyan Parag and Shimron Hetmyer in his over. While this was the only over he bowled during the powerplay phase, he managed to crush RR under its weight as they lost half their side.

Now, Bumrah, MI's top wicket-taker, sits at seventh spot in all-time IPL charts with 176 scalps in 140 matches at an average of 22.21, with an economy rate of 7.28 and best figures of 5/10. He has taken two five-wicket hauls. He is now above Amit Mishra, who took 174 scalps in 162 matches at an average of 23.82.



## Madrid open: Coco thrashes Swiatek

Coco Gauff produced a stunning display to thrash four-time French Open champion Iga Swiatek 6-1 6-1 and reach the final of the Madrid Open.

Gauff, 21, had never beaten her Polish opponent on clay before but took just 64 minutes to dispatch the world number two.

American Gauff will play world number one Aryna Sabalenka in the final.

Belarusian Sabalenka beat Ukraine's Elina Svitolina 6-3 7-5 in their semi-final.

Reigning champion Swiatek had won nine consecutive matches in Madrid - and 15 of 16 going back to her loss to Sabalenka in the 2023 final - but had no answer to Gauff.

Gauff, who won the US Open in 2023, hit seven aces and won 19 of 21 points on her first serve in a dominant performance.

"I was aggressive and played with margin. Maybe it wasn't her best level," Gauff said in her on-court interview.

The American, who edged past Dayana Yastremska in three sets in her opening match last week, added: "I felt great out here on the court today, much different to my first match here in the first round.

"I think the previous times we played on clay I don't think I had a win against her yet.

"Obviously on clay she's a different player, but clay is one of my better surfaces too, and I thought if I can beat her on hard I can beat her on clay."

# Champions league: Barcelona, Inter play out thrilling draw

BARCELONA, (TIP)

Barcelona and Inter Milan shared a compelling 3-3 draw in a high-octane Champions League semifinal first leg clash. The Italian side raced to a two-goal lead on Wednesday, April 30, with superb strikes from Marcus Thuram and Denzel Dumfries, before the unstoppable Lamine Yamal pulled Barca back into it with a sublime solo effort.

Ferran Torres levelled for the five-time champions and, although Inter nosed ahead through Dumfries again, a Yann Sommer own goal left the tie on a knife-edge at the halfway stage.

Inter were desperately hoping Thuram would be fit to play after a thigh injury, and he showed precisely why, scoring the fastest-ever Champions League semifinal goal after 30 seconds.



Barcelona's Copa del Rey final-winning goalscorer Jules Kounde hacked a poor

clearance to the edge of the box, and Inter capitalised.

Dutch wideman Dumfries aimed a low cross towards Thuram and Inigo Martinez slipped at just the wrong time, allowing the France striker room to finish with an impudent back-heel flick.

Quadruple-chasing Barcelona seized control and pushed forward, roared on by a nervous 50,000-strong Olympic stadium crowd.

Yamal, on his 100th Barcelona appearance, appealed for a penalty after he was shoved by Alessandro Bastoni and then set up Torres, who fired wide.

The Spaniard, standing in for Barca's injured top goalscorer Robert Lewandowski, lashed a volley narrowly off target. Against the run of play Inter, whose treble hopes crumbled after three consecutive domestic defeats prior, scored their second, with another fine finish.



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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.