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INDIAN



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The INDIAN PANORAMA

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:- INSIDE :-

ON CRACKDOWN ON UNIVERSITIES AND STUDENTS: A BLOW TO AMERICA'S EDUCATIONAL AND DEMOCRATIC LEGACY PAGE 2

WILL AI EVER UNDERSTAND QUANTUM MECHANICS? PAGE 8

LOK RAJ WITHOUT LOK LAJ IS A HOLLOW DEMOCRACY PAGE 9

MODI SELLING RISING GDP AS A SIGN OF PROSPERITY TO THE DEPRIVED MASSES OF INDIA PAGE 10

Supreme Court lets Trump end humanitarian parole for 5,00,000 people from 4 countries



The justices lifted a lower-court order that kept humanitarian parole protections in place for more than 5,00,000 migrants from four countries: Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela

MAY 31, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Supreme Court on Friday (May 30, 2025) again cleared the way for the Trump administration to strip temporary legal protections from

CONTD ON PAGE 40

"We stopped India and Pakistan from fighting. I believe that could have turned out into a nuclear disaster", says Trump

MAY 30, 2025

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday, May 30, repeated his claim that he stopped India and Pakistan from fighting and told the two nations that his administration cannot trade with people who are shooting at each other.

"We stopped India and Pakistan from fighting. I believe that could have turned out into a nuclear disaster," Mr. Trump said during a press conference in the Oval Office with billionaire Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who is leaving the Trump administration after helming the Department of Government Efficiency.

Mr. Trump added that he wants to thank the "leaders of India, the leaders of Pakistan, and I want to thank my people also. We talked trade and we said, 'we can't trade with people that are shooting at each other and potentially using nuclear weapons'."

Mr. Trump said that leaders in India and Pakistan are "great leaders" and "they understood, and they agreed, and



Mr. Trump said that leaders in India and Pakistan are "great leaders" and "they understood, and they agreed, and that all stopped

that all stopped".

"We are stopping others from fighting also, because ultimately, we can fight better than anybody. We have the greatest military in the world. We have the greatest leaders in the world," Mr. Trump said.

About two weeks after the horrific April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 civilians were killed, India launched Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Indian Government sources in New Delhi have maintained that the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan reached an understanding to cease all firing and military actions on land, air, and sea, effective immediately. They said no third party was involved.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly claimed that he "helped settle" the tensions between India and Pakistan and that he told the nuclear-armed South Asian neighbours that America would do a "lot of trade" with them if they stopped the conflict.

(Source: PTI)

India, US pledge to boost tech, defense ties

INDIA'S FOREIGN SECRETARY VIKRAM MISRI ON US VISIT; TRADE DEAL LIKELY BY JUNE 25



MAY 29, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri began his US visit with high-level talks on critical and emerging technologies even as both countries edge closer to finalizing an interim trade pact by June 25. Misri met US Under Secretary Jeffrey Kessler to advance cooperation in semiconductors, quantum computing and clean energy, while also discussing the early convening of the India-US strategic trade dialogue to strengthen tech and trade collaboration.

CONTD ON PAGE 40

India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in a discussion with business leaders at a roundtable hosted by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum in Washington, D.C. on Friday, May 30.

Credit: ANI

UN seeks 20% cut in staff to deal with funding shortfall

MAY 31, 2025

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): More than 60 United Nations offices, agencies and operations have been ordered to submit proposals by mid-June to cut 20% of their staff, as part of a major reform effort to consolidate operations in the face of a critical funding crunch.

The cuts affect about 14,000 posts covered by the regular budget, or about 2,800 posts, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters on Friday (May 30, 2025).

These include staff in the UN's political and humanitarian offices, and its agencies helping refugees, promoting gender equality and dealing with international trade, the environment and cities. The UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, is also on the list.

CONTD ON PAGE 40



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MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal firmly rejected the claim, saying that at no point during Operation Sindoor was trade discussed between India and the US.

Trade didn't figure in talks: MEA rebuts Trump claim in NY court on truce bait

MAY 30, 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): After the Trump administration claimed in a New York court that India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire under a "tariff and trade threat", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) today firmly rejected the claim, saying that at no point during Operation Sindoor was trade discussed between India and the US.

CONTD ON PAGE 40



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COMMENT

On Crackdown on Universities and Students: A Blow to America's Educational and Democratic Legacy

By Indrajit Saluja



In a nation that has long held aloft the torch of academic freedom, intellectual pursuit, and free speech, recent developments under President Donald Trump's administration point to a dangerous departure from foundational values. In a series of moves that have alarmed educators, students, and civil rights advocates alike, the administration has taken aim at premier institutions like Harvard and at the student community as a whole - particularly foreign students. The implications are wide-ranging, and they reach deep into the heart of America's identity as a beacon of liberty and innovation.

President Trump's repeated rhetorical assaults on Harvard University - once lauded globally for its academic excellence - are not isolated incidents. He has accused elite universities of harboring "radical ideologies," of being "un-American," and has suggested that they are breeding grounds for "anti-national sentiment." This is not just political posturing. These statements are accompanied by real policy decisions: threatened revocation of federal funding, calls for investigations into campus activities, and a chilling climate in which even peaceful student protests are construed as acts of subversion.

By directly targeting educational institutions, the Trump administration is signaling a message that only conformity - not inquiry - will be tolerated. It is a dangerous erosion of the principle that universities must remain independent, critical spaces where ideas - even controversial or unpopular ones - can be debated and examined.

Perhaps even more troubling are the administration's immigration policies as they pertain to students. The suspension of visa interviews, tightening of F-1 student visa rules, and veiled (and sometimes overt) threats to deport foreign students participating in demonstrations seen as "anti-American" mark a stark deviation from the country's historical role as a destination for the world's best and brightest minds.

These moves are not merely bureaucratic adjustments. They are symbolic attacks on global academic mobility. Students from around the world have long brought diversity, intellectual rigor, and fresh perspectives to American campuses. Discouraging their arrival through a climate of suspicion and hostility not only isolates the U.S. academically but also deprives its campuses of the rich, intercultural dialogue that has propelled American innovation in science, medicine, business, and the arts.



By directly targeting educational institutions, the Trump administration is signaling a message that only conformity - not inquiry - will be tolerated. It is a dangerous erosion of the principle that universities must remain independent, critical spaces where ideas - even controversial or unpopular ones - can be debated and examined.

THE MESSAGE IS LOUD AND CLEAR: DISSENT IS DANGEROUS, AND ASSOCIATION WITH PERCEIVED DISSENT MAY COST YOU YOUR EDUCATION, YOUR VISA STATUS, AND YOUR FUTURE.

The effects of these policies are not limited to foreign students. American students are watching, and they are internalizing the growing authoritarian tone from the very top. The atmosphere of fear, censorship, and conditional expression has a detrimental impact on student morale, initiative, and emotional development.

Youth is the age of questioning, of forming opinions, and of charting one's own course. If students are taught - either directly through policy or indirectly through fear - that expressing disagreement with state policies is punishable or traitorous, they will either withdraw from public discourse altogether or adopt a dangerous conformity that is anathema to true learning and leadership.

We are already seeing signs of self-censorship in classrooms, reduced student participation in activism, and growing mental health concerns among university communities. The long-term consequences for civic engagement, creativity, and critical thinking are grim.

There is an overarching pattern that emerges when we examine this administration's posture toward education and the youth: disdain for intellectualism, suspicion of diversity, and contempt for dissent.

Whether it's attempts to revise school curriculums to align with a narrow nationalistic narrative, dismissing climate change as "liberal hysteria" despite scientific consensus, or branding student protests as "riots" and "rebellion," the message is unmistakable. The administration does not value the independence of mind and spirit that education cultivates.

Instead, it favors a docile, uncritical citizenry that is easier to manipulate and control.

This is not merely anti-progress. It is anti-American.

America has long prided itself on being the land of freedom - freedom of religion, speech, thought, and belief. The First Amendment enshrines these values as sacrosanct. Universities are perhaps the most vivid manifestation of this freedom - places where young people are encouraged to challenge assumptions, question authority, and shape a better world.

To stifle that spirit under the guise of national security or ideological purity is to betray the very ethos on which the country was founded. What the Trump administration is attempting to do is not a reform of higher education - it is a redefinition of it, through intimidation and suppression.

If these trends are allowed to continue unchecked, we risk cultivating a generation of youth who are more afraid than inspired, more obedient than original, and more disengaged than committed. We will lose not only our standing as a global educational leader but also the very soul of our democracy.

The attacks on Harvard and other universities, the clampdown on foreign students, and the broader climate of intolerance toward youth expression must be seen for what they are - part of a larger war on knowledge, diversity, and freedom. These are not mere policy missteps; they are existential threats to the future of American education and democracy.

The younger generation deserves a nation that believes in them, nurtures their intellect, respects their voices, and protects their right to question. For the sake of America's future - and its founding ideals - we must resist this regressive tide with resolve, compassion, and clarity of purpose.

Prem Bhandari, Founder of Overseas Friends of Ram Mandir Attends Welcome Celebration of Ayodhya Shri Ram Lalla in Trinidad & Tobago



Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit, Indian High Commissioner to Trinidad & Tobago, Prem Bhandari, Founder of Overseas Friends of Ram Mandir, New York & Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, Swami Brahmswaroopanand Ji, and Sieunarine Coosal, a prominent local leader and philanthropist, jointly unveiled the idol.

MAY 29, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): A grand welcome celebration for Ayodhya Shri Ram Lalla was organized by the Ayodhya Shri Ram Organisation of Trinidad & Tobago, in collaboration with Overseas Friends of Ram Mandir, New York, and supported by over 40 local organizations. The event coincided with the commemoration of 180 years since the arrival of East Indians to Trinidad & Tobago.

Thousands gathered to witness the unveiling of an exact replica of the Ram Lalla idol from Ayodhya, which had arrived from India especially for the occasion.



Over 10,000 Trinidadians gathered on the occasion

In a press release, Amit Alagh, Chairman of the Ayodhya Shri Ram Organisation, expressed pride in the massive turnout and the spiritual significance of the event.

The idol was jointly unveiled by Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit, Indian High Commissioner to Trinidad & Tobago, Prem Bhandari, Founder of Overseas Friends of Ram Mandir, New York & Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, Swami Brahmswaroopanand Ji, who specially blessed the event, and Sieunarine Coosal, a prominent local



Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit is honoring the philanthropist Sieunarine Coosal



Dr Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit Indian High Commissioner to Trinidad & Tobago addresses the gathering

leader and philanthropist.

Major Sponsors of the celebrations included Coosals Group of companies, Alagh Stores, Xtra Foods, Persad's The Food Kings, Little Store, and R Ramdass & Co.

Dr. Rajpurohit, who served as the Chief Guest, delivered a heartfelt address referencing numerous verses from the Ramcharitmanas and Ramayan, emphasizing the eternal relevance of Shri Ram. He also congratulated newly re-elected Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India was the first global leader to congratulate her on her second term earlier this month.

In a major announcement, Dr. Rajpurohit shared that an artificial limb fitment camp (Jaipur Foot) will soon be organized in Trinidad & Tobago under the "India for Humanity" initiative by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The camp, conducted by Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) - the parent body of Jaipur Foot USA - will benefit over 800 differently-abled (Divyang) individuals across the country.

Prem Bhandari, who traveled from New York to attend the ceremony, stated:

"It doesn't feel like I am in Trinidad - it feels like I am in Ayodhya. Even after 180 years, the faith of Indians in Trinidad in Sanatan Dharma is as deep and strong as that of Indians living in India or anywhere else in the world."

He also highlighted that Trinidad is perhaps the only country where Ramayan chanting takes place daily, and noted the presence of one of the world's tallest Hanuman Murtis, standing 85 feet tall, located right in Trinidad.

The celebrations included vibrant devotional singing by local groups as well as performers from India, creating an atmosphere of divine joy and unity.

The press release also recalled the massive turnout for previous spiritual events organized in collaboration with



Prem Bhandari is attending a meeting to discuss artificial limb fitment camp

Overseas Friends of Ram Mandir, New York, including the Ayodhya Pran Pratishtha celebrations in January and Hanuman Chalisa chanting in April, both of which drew thousands of devotees.

Speaking with The Indian Panorama, on his return from Trinidad, Bhandari stated that "Trinidad Truly Deserves the Title 'Ramayan Nagri'." "If Trinidad is called Ramayan Nagri, there should be no doubt about it. It is perhaps the only country outside India where daily Ramayan chanting takes place-either in temples or in private homes."

He further added, "Very soon, we will see a grand temple



Guest of Honor, Prem Bhandari, Founder of Overseas Friends of Ram Mandir, New York & Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, giving his remarks

dedicated to Ram Lalla in Trinidad. After witnessing the deep devotion of Trinidadians of Indian origin, I am confident that an Ayodhya Dham will emerge there. For devotees from the U.S. and Canada who are unable to travel to Ayodhya in India due to the long distance, Trinidad could become a spiritual destination for Ram Lalla's darshan."

Bhandari, who serves as Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, also told The Indian Panorama that a Jaipur Foot camp for the differently-abled (Divyang) will soon be organized in



Another meeting to discuss various issues, including the artificial limb fitment camp

Trinidad, as recently announced by India's High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit.

"Our founder, Padma Bhushan Shri D.R. Mehta, will be joining from India to support this noble initiative," Bhandari shared. He praised the High Commissioner's



Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit, Sieunarine Coosal, Prem Bhandari, Swami Brahmswaroopanand ji are seen among the guests at the celebrations

committed efforts in facilitating the upcoming camp. "Dr. Rajpurohit has already arranged my key meetings with Finance Minister Devendranath Tankoo, the Health Minister, Dr Lackram Bodoie, Mr Rishad Sricharan, Minister in the Ministry of Health and other senior government officials to ensure full logistical support for the camp," he added.

Asked when the camp is being organized, Bhandari said the dates have not yet been firmed up, but it is expected to be organized in the next 3 to 4 months.

British Indian entrepreneur and peer Karan Bilimoria awarded Scottish Royal College honorary fellowship



Karan Bilimoria has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in Scotland for his services to education and business.

MAY 24, 2025

LONDON (TIP): British Indian entrepreneur and peer Karan Bilimoria has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in Scotland for his services to education and business.

Lord Bilimoria, founder of Cobra Beer and Chair of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), UK, described it as a "dream come true" on receiving the honor at a ceremony earlier this week.

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow is a prestigious membership body of more than 15,000 medical professionals and represents Fellows and Members throughout the UK and internationally.

"It is such an ancient and highly respected institution in the medical world, not just in the UK but globally," said Bilimoria.

"I was brought up as a child in India and you would see doctors with the letters FRCS Glasgow after their names, and now here I am at the actual institution and it's like a dream come true for me," he said.

The Fellowship was presented by College President Hany Eteiba, who praised the House of Lords peer's "inspiring" commitment to improving education and support for students from across the world.

"He shares the value we place in learning, recognizing the importance of providing high quality education as a cornerstone for success. We look forward to collaborating with him to further expand this mission," said Professor Eteiba.

Bilimoria was joined by the Royal College's newest Fellows and Members during the ceremony, which celebrates the achievements of physicians, surgeons, dentists and podiatric medical professionals.

The 63-year-old business leader already has the distinction of being one of the first two visiting entrepreneurs at the University of Cambridge and a founding member of the Prime Minister of India's Global Advisory Council. In 2006, he became the first-ever Zoroastrian Parsi to sit in the UK's House of Lords.

Indo-British twins with high IQs join Mensa club for brainiacs

MAY 25, 2025

LONDON (TIP): A pair of Indo-British twins have been admitted to the elite Mensa membership club of children with a high intelligence quotient (IQ) after clearing a tough set of challenges to score in the top percentile.

Krish, 11, was the first to be accepted after scoring 162 - the highest score in a Mensa Supervised IQ Test session, placing him in the top 0.26 per cent of children with high IQ.

His sister Keira recently followed soon after with a score of 152 on the Cattell III B scale, placing her in the top 2 per cent.

"They are very competitive, and Keira was inspired to give the Mensa test due to Krish," said mother Mauli Arora, a Delhi-born senior IT manager who studied computer engineering in Pune.

"Our parenting style is very hands-on and we are actively involved with them on a day-to-day basis. Krish takes private piano lessons and also learns robotics on the weekends. Keira writes poetry and loves creative writing," she said.

The non-identical twins, who do "fight a lot" like any other siblings, share a strong bond and often gang up against their parents if they try to intervene in their quarrels.

Father Nischal, an electronics engineer from Mumbai, moved to the UK with his family around 25 years ago and the twins went on to enroll in the local public school in Hounslow, west London.

"Krish is very analytical and very



and his sister Keira (both 11) have been admitted to the elite Mensa membership club of children with a high intelligence quotient (IQ)

strong in math. While he will start Year 7 (class 7) in September, he has already completed Year 9 math on a platform called Mathletics. Keira, meanwhile, is very creative. She writes beautiful poetry, and her creative writing touches the strings of heart," said Mauli.

The proud mum said it was remarkable for her and her husband to have both their kids admitted to the world's most exclusive club of brainiacs.

They encourage Keira to attend workshops to hone her creative talents. She is also the lead vocalist in her school

rock band and will soon be starting private vocal lessons at her school in September.

Krish, meanwhile, is a talented Grade 8 pianist who participates in music festivals and has won several prizes across different categories in the last two years. He is also being exposed to basic economics, given his future career plans.

"While Krish would like to go to Cambridge to study math and eventually be an actuary, Keira would like to be a lawyer, specifically studying commercial law," said Mauli.

Iran to investigate disappearance of 3 Punjabi men; India says in touch with Tehran



The three men from Sangrur, Nawanshahr, and Hoshiarpur were allegedly duped by a travel agent who promised them work permits in Australia

MAY 29, 2025

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): India on Thursday, May 29, said it is working closely with Iranian authorities to locate three Indian nationals who went missing after travelling to Iran, with efforts underway to ensure their safe and early return.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed ongoing coordination, stating, "We are trying to locate them, for their safety, security, and eventual return home."

"We are in daily touch with the authorities there in Iran. We are receiving good cooperation from the Iranian side and are also in contact with the families," he added.

Earlier, Iran had said it is investigating the disappearance of the three Indian nationals. Tehran had also urged caution against falling prey to illegal travel agents.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Wall Street goes desi! 400-person Indian baraat takes over New York City, video goes viral



The baraat dances through Wall Street during a grand Indian wedding.

Photo: Instagram/djajmumbai

MAY 29, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): A slice of India landed in the heart of Manhattan as a 400-person baraat-the traditional Indian groom's wedding procession-took over Wall Street in a dazzling display of music, dance, and desi flair.

The now-viral video shows guests in vibrant traditional attire dancing joyously to dhol beats and DJ tracks, temporarily transforming the financial hub into a full-blown wedding celebration. The surreal contrast of desi festivities against the backdrop of towering skyscrapers and the iconic New York Stock Exchange left social media buzzing.

Passersby also stopped to film, and the video quickly spread across Instagram and TikTok. "We shut down Wall Street for a 400 person Baraat - who would've ever thought?!" wrote DJ AJ, who performed at the event. "Definitely a once-in-a-lifetime kind of magic."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Four Indian American Women in Fortune's 2025 Most Powerful Women List

MAY 29, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Four Indian American women have secured prominent spots on Fortune's 2025 Most Powerful Women in Business list, showcasing their exceptional leadership across biotechnology, media, finance, and manufacturing. Reshma Kewalramani, Bela Bajaria, Meena Flynn, and Revathi Advaiti exemplify the growing influence of Indian American women in shaping global industries.



RESHMA KEWALRAMANI - CEO, VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS (RANK: 18)

Reshma Kewalramani, the first woman of Indian origin to lead a major U.S. biotech firm, serves as the CEO of Vertex Pharmaceuticals.

Under her leadership, Vertex has achieved significant advancements in treating cystic fibrosis and is expanding into areas like gene editing and sickle cell disease. Kewalramani's medical background and commitment to patient-centered innovation have been

pivotal in the company's success.



BELA BAJARIA - CHIEF CONTENT OFFICER, NETFLIX (RANK: 31)

Bela Bajaria oversees global content at Netflix, managing a substantial annual content budget. Since joining Netflix in 2016, she has been instrumental in delivering global hits like *Bridgerton* and *Lupin*. Her ascent through the entertainment industry reflects her dedication to inclusive storytelling and global representation.



MEENA FLYNN - GLOBAL CO-HEAD OF PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT, GOLDMAN SACHS (RANK: 69)

Meena Flynn holds a pivotal role at Goldman Sachs, overseeing private wealth management. Her leadership is crucial in managing the firm's relationships with high-net-worth clients and

steering investment strategies. Flynn is recognized for her contributions to finance and her role in shaping wealth management services.



REVATHI ADVAITHI - CEO, FLEX (RANK: 62)

Revathi Advaiti leads Flex, a global manufacturing and supply chain solutions company. Since becoming CEO in 2019, she has focused on sustainability and digital transformation. Under her leadership, Flex committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. Advaiti also serves on the boards of Uber and Catalyst.org and is a member of the MIT Presidential CEO Advisory Board.

These leaders exemplify the impact of Indian American women on the global stage, driving innovation, championing inclusion, and redefining leadership across industries.

Two Indian American alumni elected as members to Harvard leadership boards



Anjali Sud and Sanjay Seth have joined the board of directors of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA).

MAY 28, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Anjali Sud, an Indian American alumnus has been elected as a member of Harvard University's Board of Overseers while another, Sanjay Seth has joined the board of directors of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA).

Sud will serve the remaining two years of the unexpired term of Mark Carney, while Seth will begin his three-year term on July 1 with five other newly elected directors.

The Board of Overseers is one of Harvard's two governing boards, along with the President and Fellows, also known as the Corporation. Formally established in 1642, the board plays an integral role in the governance of the University.

The HAA board, including its elected directors, is an advisory board that aims to foster a sense of community, engagement, and University citizenship among Harvard alumni around the world.

Sud is an influential technology and media executive who has served since 2023 as CEO of Tubi, a free TV and movie streaming service with nearly 100 million monthly active users.

Sud previously served as CEO of Vimeo, where she led a major expansion of the video-hosting platform to become the leading developer of tools for video creators worldwide.

Named among Fortune's "40 Under 40"

and Hollywood Reporter's "Most Powerful Women in Hollywood," she is a Henry Crown Fellow at the Aspen Institute and a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader.

Sud chairs the board of Change.org and serves on the board of Dolby Laboratories. She also sits on the executive committee of the development board at Phillips Academy Andover, where she is involved with financial aid initiatives. Earlier in her career, she held positions in e-commerce and media at Amazon and Time Warner.

Sud was born in Detroit and grew up in Flint, Michigan. She lives in New York City and is the proud mother of two young sons.

"My parents came to this country to give me a shot at the American Dream. I achieved that dream through the power of a transformative education, and I want to pay it forward for the next generation. Harvard has both the opportunity and imperative to define the future of higher education at a time of existential change. I would be honored to help Harvard navigate that change and enable creative transformation."

Seth is a climate and sustainability expert who has worked across public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors.

Originally from Bismarck, North Dakota, Seth was chief of staff and senior advisor for climate and equity for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in New England. Previously, he was climate resilience program manager for the City of Boston, developing and implementing plans to prepare Boston for climate change. Prior to that, he worked on a resilience plan for New York City.

Seth is co-founder and past co-president of Harvard Alumni for Climate and the Environment, an HAA Shared Interest Group with thousands of members.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Eminent Indian Americans, educators slam US freeze on student visa appointments

MAY 29, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Eminent Indian Americans and educational institutions on Tuesday, May 27, decried the move of the Trump Administration to pause the visa appointments of all categories of international students, as it plans to come out with a mechanism to monitor and study the social media postings of the applicants.

The move comes in the wake of growing anti-Israel and pro-Palestine movements at the university campuses, which US officials believe are mainly fueled by international students. Students' protests and unrest at the university campuses are a relatively new phenomenon.

"Effective immediately, in preparation for an expansion of required social media screening and vetting, consular sections should not add any additional student or exchange visitor (F, M, and J) visa appointment capacity until further guidance is issued sepTel, which we anticipate in the coming days," said a State Department cable signed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

SepTel means separate telegram.

The cable signed by Rubio says that the State Department "is conducting a review of existing operations and processes for screening and vetting of student and exchange visitor (F, M, J) visa applicants, and based on that review, plans to issue guidance on expanded social media vetting for all such applicants."

First reported by Politico, a senior State Department official confirmed the accuracy of the cable on the suspension of visa processing.

"The US State Department's decision to pause new student visa appointments to expand social media vetting is alarming, especially for Indian students aiming for Fall 2025 admissions. While I support rigorous vetting for security, this pause risks creating significant backlogs, threatening the academic



Eminent Indian Americans and educational institutions on Tuesday, May 27, decried the move of the Trump Administration to pause the visa appointments of all categories of international students

dreams of thousands of Indian students," said Ajay Bhutoria, a former member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

According to the Open Doors 2024 Report on International Educational Exchange, the total number of international students at US colleges and universities reached an all-time high of more than 1.1 million.

India sends the largest number of international students to the US and contributes significantly to the American economy and talent pool, a fact noted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump during their meeting here at the White House on February 13 this year.

"With over 300,000 Indian students contributing over USD 8 billion annually to the US economy in 2024, India is a cornerstone of our academic exchange. The 38% drop in F-1 visas issued to Indians from January to September 2024, coupled with visa slot shortages since mid-March 2025, already strains this partnership. Further delays could force students to defer admissions, face financial losses, and endure emotional hardship," Bhutoria said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

A musical ensemble at the Parker Jewish Institute brings harmony and wellness to residents and patients alike

MAY 29, 2025

NEW HYDE PARK, NY (TIP): The ensemble is known as Sur Sagar, which means "Ocean of Melody" in Hindi. It features five women from the Institute's long-term care residence at Parker's Indian Cultural Unit. The Indian Cultural Unit is the first of its kind in the region, accommodating the rehabilitation, health-care and cultural needs of older adults in New York's growing Indian population.

At Parker, members of Sur Sagar come together in song to create something special. Beyond their enchanting melodies, Sur Sagar represents the therapeutic power of music in elder care. Music therapy can help reduce anxiety, improve cognitive function and provide a powerful outlet for emotional expression for older adults. While Parker's residents and patients diligently participate in physical, occupational and speech therapies that nurture their bodies, these musical gatherings nourish their spirits, helping them to feel at ease so that they can heal.

The enthusiasm and unity of Sur Sagar members illuminate the profound



Parker Jewish Institute Showcases Healing Power of Music with Sur Sagar Ensemble

impact of culturally meaningful activities. As part of Parker's Indian Cultural Unit, these sessions incorporate familiar melodies and rhythms that resonate deeply with residents, awakening cherished memories and creating moments of pure joy.

Sur Sagar embodies the essence of Parker's Indian Cultural Unit. The unit fosters the understanding that healing

and care must address the physical being while also honoring cultural identity and nurturing the soul through art and expression.

ABOUT THE PARKER JEWISH INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH CARE AND REHABILITATION

The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation is

headquartered in New Hyde Park, New York. The facility is a leading provider of Short-Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care. At the forefront of innovation in patient-centered health care and technology, the Institute is a leader in teaching and geriatric research. Parker Jewish Institute features its own medical team, and is nationally renowned as a skilled nursing facility, as well as a provider of community-based health care, encompassing Home Health Care, Medical House Calls, Palliative Care and Hospice. Parker Jewish Institute is also home to Queens-Long Island Renal Institute (QLIRI) - providing patients with safe, comfortable Hemodialysis treatments in a relaxed setting - as well as PRINE Health - a Vascular Center offering advanced vascular services. The Center and QLIRI further Parker's ability to expand access to essential health-care services to adults in the greater New York metropolitan area.

For more information, please visit parkerinstitute.org or call 877-IND-UNIT.

(Based on a Press Release)

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Presented By



In Association With



On

Sunday, June 22

3:00 - 5:00 pm

at

Global Harmony House of the Brahma Kumaris
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Website: GlobalHarmonyHouse.org

Chief Guest



Binaya Srikanta Pradhan
Consul General
of India,
New York

Blessings



BK Mohini Didi
Chief
Administrative
Head of the
Brahma Kumaris

Guest of Honor

Eddie Stern

MSc, Yoga Instructor, Founder of Broome Street Ganesha Temple

Program Highlights

Raja Yoga Guided Meditation:

Sr. Gayatri Naraine - NGO Rep to UN: Brahma Kumaris

Spiritual Yoga Awareness

Sound Bath Meditation: Andonia Fthenakis

The Dance of Yoga: Anjali Grover, MD

Refreshments will be served after the program.

Join us to explore the Higher
Reaches of Yoga.

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<https://tiny.cc/spirit-of-yoga-2025>
Or scan the QR code



For more information:
Sr. Anjani: 516-234-4620

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EVER TRUTHFUL

BJANA Brings Bihar & Jharkhand to USA at its Golden Jubilee Celebrations & Bihar Conclave



Consul General of India Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (4th from the left), who inaugurated the celebrations, is seen with Ms Monalisa (3rd from the left), BJANA President Sanjeev Singh (2nd from the left), Alok Kumar (5th from the left), and other BJANA officials

MAY 26, 2025

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ (TIP): The Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA) hosted its Golden Jubilee Celebration and Bihar Conclave during the Memorial Day weekend at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The two-day event was a grand showcase of the rich culture, heritage, and global success stories of Bihar and Jharkhand, spotlighting the journey of the region and its dynamic diaspora.

The theme of the event, "Celebrating Legacy, Inspiring the Future," resonated throughout the conclave as it united participants from North America, India, Europe, Costa Rica, and beyond, making it one of the most significant diaspora gatherings for the region to date.



A Confluence of Icons, Innovators & Global Leaders

The inaugural ceremony on May 24th was graced by Hon. Binaya S. Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York (Chief Guest of BJANA 50th year of celebration), who commended BJANA's efforts in showcasing the accomplishments and potential of Bihar and Jharkhand's people across the globe.



AMONG THE STANDOUT GUESTS AND SPEAKERS:

- o Dr. Kris Singh - Founder & Chairman, Holtec International
- o Has Mukh Ranjan - Chief Information Officer, AMD
- o Anand Kumar - Padma Shri awardee, Founder, Super 30
- o Amit Choudhary - COO, Thoughtwork
- o Manoj Agarwal - Co-founder, DevRev
- o Priya Choudhary - Vice President, HR, Wipro
- o Rohit Prasad - SVP Amazon
- o Kumar Prashant - CEO, Mareana
- o Kailash Kher - Global music icon and Grand Finale performer
- o Sweta Singh - Managing Editor, AajTak
- o Akshara Singh - Popular Bhojpuri star and singer



The Tenth Master of the Sikhs and the founder of the Khalsa Guru Gobind Singh ji was born in Patna, Bihar. The organizers very thoughtfully, as a mark of respect to him, placed his cutout on the main stage.

- o Bishakh Jyoti - National Award-winning composer (The Kerala Story)
 - o RJ Anjali - Beloved media personality from Patna
 - o Saroj Jha - Global Director, World Bank Water Projects
 - o Prof. Niraj Jha - Princeton University
 - o Prof. Alok Chaturvedi - Purdue University
 - o Neeraj Agarwal - Founder, Nutanix & Co-founder, DevRev
 - o Prof. Udit Sanga - Tufts University
 - o Smita Ekka - CUNY
 - o Mr. Sudesh Mahto - Former Deputy CM, Jharkhand
- Inspiring Messages from Trailblazers
Anand Kumar, the visionary behind Super 30, emphasized the importance of community building and educational empowerment:

"BJANA's journey is symbolic of what we can achieve when we stay united and work toward uplifting others. Like Super 30, BJANA is about enabling potential."



Dr. Kris Singh, a pioneer in the field of nuclear energy, spoke passionately about giving back:

"Bihar gave me my roots-America gave me my wings. It is time for us, the diaspora, to become bridges of opportunity between both."

Has Mukh Ranjan, CIO of AMD and a rising global executive, inspired young attendees with his vision:

"This community represents limitless potential. Let's mentor, invest, and scale our collective impact across industries and continents."

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- o Diya Lighting & BJANA@50 Tribute Film
- o District Flag Parade representing every district of Bihar and Jharkhand
- o Women Empowerment Panel - featuring Sweta Singh, Akshara Singh, RJ Anjali
- o Youth Cultural Showcases - highlighting the dreams and talent of the next generation
- o Healthcare & AI Summits - led by diaspora professionals
- o Startup & Investment Conclave - with Shark Tank-style pitches and investor panels
- o Leadership Dialogues - from academic, tech, and development sectors
- o Grand Finale Performance - Kailash Kher and Kailasa Band brought down the house
- o Special musical segment by Vaishali Jyoti and late-night DJ & networking socials

CULTURAL & TOURISM PAVILION

Attendees were immersed in the traditional arts, heritage, and tourism potential of Bihar and Jharkhand:

- o Showcased Madhubani and Sohrai art, tribal jewelry, and local textiles



The Indian Panorama editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja who was born in Bihar (now a part of Jharkhand) was honored with "Patna Sahib Spirit and Legacy Award" for his "community service and excellence". Prof. Saluja congratulated the organizers and honored them with a replica of Golden Temple and a Shawl.

Seen in the picture, among others are : Alok Kumar (2nd from the left), Dr. Avinash Gupta (Immediate Past President of BJANA) Sanjeev Singh, President of BJANA, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, and Harvender Pal Singh (extreme right).



- o Promoted tourism to destinations like Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Netarhat, and Deoghar
- o Connected artisans with investors and entrepreneurs from the diaspora
- o Enabled dialogue around sustainable tourism and local economic revival

A TRULY GLOBAL GATHERING

With over 700 attendees, the conclave drew participation from California, Michigan, New England, Canada, London, Australia, and more. A special delegation from Bihar, led by Dr. Satyajit Singh, reflected strong support from the homeland and emphasized ongoing partnerships.



BJANA PRESIDENT SANJEEV SINGH'S REFLECTIONS

"This event marks not only 50 years of BJANA but 50 years of dedication, unity, and relentless spirit of our community. From our founders to our future leaders, every generation has contributed to this vibrant story."

"I thank our global diaspora and the Governments of Bihar and Jharkhand for their support. This is just the beginning-let's continue to rise together."

ABOUT BJANA

Founded in 1975, the Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to cultural preservation, youth empowerment, and philanthropic collaboration between India and its global diaspora. BJANA serves as a beacon of unity, progress, and pride for thousands of families across North America.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BJANA:

Website: www.bjana.org
Email: info@bjana.org

Will AI ever understand quantum mechanics?

In quantum physics, observation matters. AI processes data, but it doesn't "observe" in the same way as humans do.



By Nishant Sahdev

Artificial intelligence (AI) is doing things we once imagined only humans could do. It can do poetry, detect cancerous cells with high accuracy, solve equations that used to take teams of scientists weeks or months, design new materials, write complex software code, and even simulate the formation of stars in far galaxies. In just a few seconds, it does tasks that once required lifetimes.

For many, it's very positive to believe that AI could one day find the secrets of the universe. And naturally, one question stands out: Could AI someday really understand quantum mechanics - the most counterintuitive and mysterious theory in all of physics?

As a physicist, I admire the power of AI. It has already become a crucial tool in modern science. But when it comes to openly understanding quantum mechanics, I am doubtful.

AI does not lack computational strength or algorithmic intelligence, but it may be missing something far more fundamental - a feature not measured in processing speed or memory but in experience: consciousness. And without it, AI may never hold the full meaning of a universe where the observer plays a central role.

Quantum mechanics explains the behavior of particles at the tiniest or micro levels - atoms, electrons and photons. It shows us a world that works in ways our everyday logic can't handle.

In this world, particles can be in two places at once. They can behave like both waves and solid objects. But here's the strangest part: In quantum physics, observation matters, i.e., how do we observe it, and it matters a lot.

Until something is measured, it exists in many possible states at the same time - a state called superposition. But once it's observed or measured, it "collapses" into one state.

In simple words, what we see may depend on the act of seeing itself. Some interpretations suggest that reality, at the quantum level, does not even exist in a definite way until it is observed. That puts the observer - the conscious being - right in the middle of the picture.

This is where AI might hit a wall. AI processes data, yes. But it doesn't "observe" in the same way as humans do. It doesn't experience reality. And that might be exactly what's needed to understand the quantum world.

In the 1930s, a mathematician Kurt Gödel gave a theorem. He showed that in any logical system, there will always be some truths that cannot be proven using the system's own rules. This is known as Gödel's incompleteness theorem.

AI is built on such logical systems. It follows rules, even if they're complex. But if human minds can somehow see or understand truths beyond those rules, as Gödel himself believed, then that's a big deal. It means our brains might not just be fancy computers. They might be doing something deeper - something AI cannot do.

British physicist and Nobel Prize winner Sir Roger Penrose took this idea further. He argued that human consciousness might be ingrained in quantum processes inside the brain in 'microtubules' inside our neurons. Penrose proposed a theory called Orchestrated Objective Reduction (Orch-OR) which said that the brain may use quantum mechanics to produce consciousness.

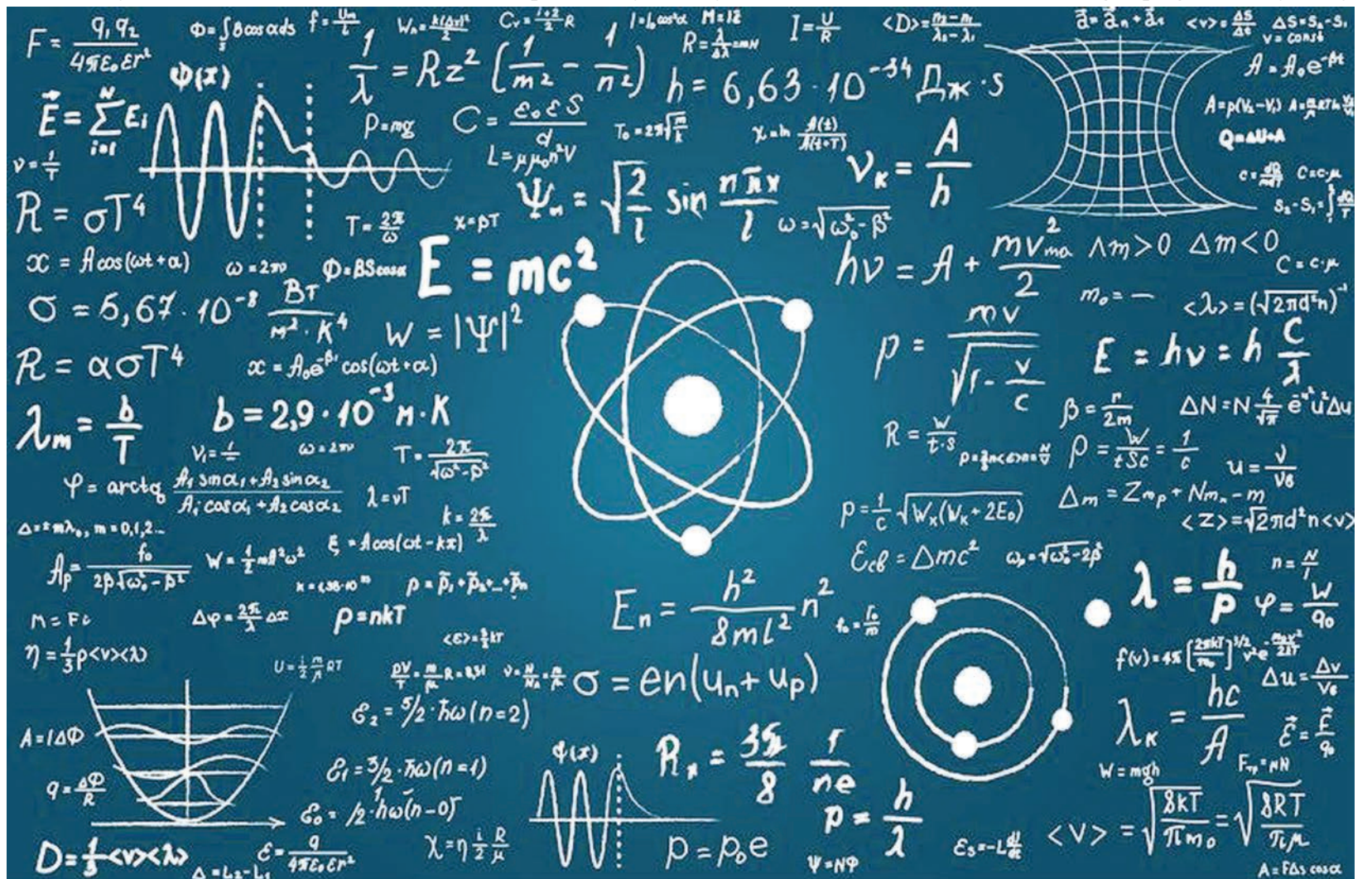
This is still a controversial idea, but it raises a powerful question: What if understanding quantum reality actually requires a quantum mind? If that's true, no matter how powerful AI becomes, it may never cross that line. It can simulate quantum systems, yes. But

being a part of the reality, not just calculating it.

There are also newer theories of physics which explain that reality exists only through relationships - through interactions. And AI, no matter how fast, remains outside that relationship. It's a bystander. A powerful one, but still on the outside.

All this brings us to a point. AI works through syntax - rules, patterns, logic. But real understanding also involves semantics - meaning, awareness and the intuition.

Just as reading the word "love" isn't the same as feeling it, calculating probabilities in quantum mechanics isn't the same as grasping what they really



Quantum mechanics explains the behavior of particles at the tiniest or micro levels.

Image: istock

simulation is not the same as understanding.

Let's be fair - AI is really very useful in quantum research. It can solve the Schrödinger equation faster than any physicist. It can help design quantum computers, discover new materials and improve experiments. These are big contributions. They don't require awareness or understanding.

AI works like a super-fast calculator. It moves symbols around, but it doesn't know what those symbols mean. Imagine a machine that reads Shakespeare and analyses every sentence perfectly-but never feels the beauty or sorrow in the words. That's what AI might be like when it deals with quantum physics.

Some researchers assert it's only a matter of time before AI becomes conscious. After all, the human brain is made of matter and follows physical laws. So why couldn't a machine eventually mimic it? Maybe. But even if a future AI becomes "aware", we still don't know if it would be capable of the kind of observation that quantum mechanics seems to require.

Consciousness, especially in the quantum sense, may involve something we haven't fully understood yet - something that comes from

represent. AI may soon predict quantum outcomes with great accuracy (high P value). But will it ever understand what it feels like to be a conscious observer entangled with the universe? That's far less certain.

Quantum mechanics may not be just a cold set of equations on a chalkboard. It might point to a universe where observation, awareness and relationship are not just side effects but central ingredients. In such a universe, consciousness isn't an add-on - it's part of the equation itself.

And that may be the final wall AI cannot cross. No matter how advanced it becomes, AI might always be a spectator, never a participant. It might map the territory with precision - but never walk the land.

Until we understand what consciousness truly is - and whether it arises from something more than computation - AI will remain a powerful tool but not a true knower of the quantum world. That mystery, it seems, may still belong to the human mind.

(Nishant Sahdev is a theoretical & quantum physicist, University of North Carolina)

Lok raj without lok laj is a hollow democracy

What can be more pathetic than the BJP MP accusing the unfortunate women who lost their husbands in Pahalgam, of lack of "courage" and "training" to fight terrorists?



By Ashok Lavasa

The popular but much-mocked Devi Lal, former Deputy Prime Minister of India, once said, "Lok raj lok laj se chalta hai." He was one of the tallest farmer leaders of the country, with an incomparable connect with the people, especially in rural areas. He both regaled and riled people with his rusticity. But this article is not about him; it is about what he famously said. For those in power in a democracy, it is an axiom summed up in the word 'laj', for which there is no exact equivalent in the English language.

WHAT IS LOK LAJ?

Lok raj is simple to understand, for it is the power that the people exercise in an elected democracy. It is the power, the right to elect people, that the Constitution provides and protects. Lok laj, on the other hand, doesn't emanate from the Constitution; it emanates from the character of a society that is reflected in individual behaviour and its normative response to individual conduct.

I recently wrote about the growing incidence of crime and no punishment (The Tribune, March 12), a disturbing trend witnessed in our system, which doesn't bode well for an orderly society. A crime is established on the basis of evidence; the ingenuity of legal arguments help courts determine an illegality or dismiss it. Societies, however, have long existed before the legal system came into being, or was codified. Laws change faster than social mores. Order in a society has been the outcome of compliance with the law as well as the observance of common ethics.

Take, for instance, the dictum Satyamev Jayate (truth always triumphs), an exhortation to speak the truth. Whether it triumphs or not in these days and times is a different matter. It is a human value propagated in every society and in most families. However, except for perjury, not speaking the truth is not illegal. While perjury could be punished by law, how do we deal with falsehood? How do we deal with those who publicly speak untruth?

We have seen many recent examples where the utterances of the BJP's elected representatives have offended common sensibility. A minister in Madhya Pradesh referred to a lady army officer briefing the media during Op Sindoor as a "sister" of those who killed innocent



Wise words: "Lok raj lok laj se chalta hai," said Devi Lal, former Deputy Prime Minister.

File photo

tourists. The government chose her as part of an impactful communication strategy, a woman army officer belonging to a minority community, the face of a system delivering justice to the victims of an inconceivably ghastly act. By inventing a fraternal bond between her and the terrorists based on a common religion, the minister displayed a perverse mind, the kind you need to carry forward a nefarious communal agenda.

The Supreme Court has set up an SIT to probe his conduct, but that was necessitated because he wasn't chastised by his own organisation. Nor was he genuinely chastened by his own conscience, his clever expression of regret notwithstanding. No leader of his political party reprimanded him publicly; nor did his organisation take him to task for the reprehensible comment.

Moreover, what can be a more heartbreaking and pathetic example of this crass insensitivity than the utterances of the Haryana BJP MP who accused the unfortunate women who suffered the loss of their husbands during the Pahalgam massacre, of lack

of "courage" and "training" to fight the terrorists? Is he suggesting that the state is vanishing and law enforcement should be an individual responsibility? The law cannot punish him for what he said because there has been no violation of the law; also, his party leadership might exhibit "broad shoulders" and "tolerance". But should he not be publicly castigated and made to pay by his party?

In both cases, a brazen abandoning of Lok Laj is clear, by both politicians and their party leadership. That amounts to a social approval of their conduct, allowing them to live without guilt even if the law were to punish them. Remember the garlanding of those convicted of rape in Gujarat? It did not amount to a pardon; it only meant an endorsement of their character, unmindful of the egregious crime they had been convicted for.

That is the power of social acceptance; it can also be the pressure of social disapproval. Society functions and relationships survive because of dar (fear), lihaaj (consideration or deference) and sharam (shame). An ordinary citizen fears the law; a normal human being

accommodates others not necessarily because they are right but out of deference to their age, relationship, status or circumstances; and most of us avoid doing something that will leave us shamefaced.

None of these is governed by any law and, yet, they are effective in influencing human behaviour. The absence of these could lead to a major breakdown in social relationships, behavioural norms and decorum.

In the aftermath of the revulsion and anger caused by the Pahalgam massacre and the frenzy of Op Sindoor, the following was more than once said with some emphasis:

'Vinay na maanat jaladhi jad, gaye teeni din beeti.'

'Bole Ram sakop tab, bhay binu hoyi na preeti.'

What was being conveyed by the author is that fear is a prerequisite for respect. It follows, therefore, that the politicians mentioned above have no fear of law and, hence, no respect for it either. Society is allowing them to continue with their utter disregard for lok laj by its studied silence.

The other face of this unabashed insensitivity is the manner in which another BJP representative said the Chief Justice of India was responsible for civil wars in the country. He was not just accusing the CJI, he was holding him responsible. I am not sure what message the SC conveyed by condoning his insolent statements by referring to its own "broad shoulders", but the political leadership certainly betrayed its complicity by its reticence.

As if this mockery of the rule of law wasn't enough, we saw the speed with which an eminent professor of Ashoka University was arrested for posting a tweet that was harmless in content and without insidious intent, except that it hurt those with open wounds and closed minds.

We seem to live in an environment where propaganda based on half-truths and a gross exaggeration of reality is encouraged. and malicious public statements made to incite animosity in society or cause hurt are overlooked.

Perhaps Lok Raj these days doesn't really need Lok Laj.

(Ashok Lavasa is former Election Commissioner of India)

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MODI SELLING RISING GDP AS A SIGN OF PROSPERITY TO THE DEPRIVED MASSES OF INDIA



By Dave Makkar

Since seizing real power in 2001 by ousting Keshubhai Patel within his own party, the BJP, Narendra Modi has governed through a calculated mix of deception-relying on fiction, half-truths, strategic omissions, and outright lies to manipulate public perception and evade accountability. This pattern of governance persisted during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat (2001-2014) and has continued unabated since he became Prime Minister in 2014. Modi consistently avoids addressing India's most pressing challenges-such as the Human Development Index, poverty, hunger and malnutrition, unemployment, rising inequality, corruption, governance failures, political conduct, and public accountability. For him, it is as if these issues simply do not exist. Modi rose to power by exploiting the aftermath of the 2002 Godhra riots, backed by his robber baron allies-most notably Adani-fueling his ambition to crown himself as the Hindu King of a



India is leading the global economy Hindu Rashtira. Since becoming Prime Minister, he has increasingly acted like a feudal monarch, working to reshape India into a Hindu-first nation where minorities are systematically denied equal rights. From 2015 to 2025, Modi has seized every terror attack-Udhampur, Bijbehara, Baramulla, Pulwama, Reasi, RS Pura, and most recently the April 2025 Pahalgam massacre, where 26 civilians were gunned

down-as a political opportunity. Each tragedy became a rallying cry for votes, with Modi portraying himself as the sole protector of India and turning national security crises into campaign slogans. Most troubling is that every military response by Indian armed forces against Pakistan for its role in sponsoring terrorism has been politicized and repackaged as Modi's personal triumph,

allowing him to claim credit for the sacrifices and successes of the armed forces. Steve Forbes, editor-in-chief of Forbes magazine, sharply criticized Modi's 2016 demonetization policy-calling it "immoral" and "a massive theft of people's property without due process," especially targeting the poor and middle class. He argued it caused immense harm to India's economy, particularly for the most vulnerable and for small businesses, while failing to curb corruption or black money. Now, Modi is selling the illusion of prosperity to India's deprived masses by touting rising GDP figures and selectively quoting institutions like the IMF. What he deliberately omits is that this so-called growth has done little to improve the lives of the millions still surviving on free rations. For them, the benefits of GDP expansion remain a distant mirage. Modi offers no roadmap to transform India into a nation like Japan-where economic growth is coupled with strong governance, universal healthcare, robust social safety nets, and respect for pluralism. Instead, he markets statistics while ignoring the real human costs of inequality, joblessness, and the erosion of democratic institutions.

HERE IS AN ANALYSIS OF INDIA VS JAPAN

India vs. Japan: A Comparative Socioeconomic & Governance Analysis

1. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)

- India: 0.633 (Rank: 134/193) - Medium human development
- Japan: 0.925 (Rank: 19/193) - Very high human development

Japan's HDI reflects better life expectancy, education, and income levels.

2. POVERTY

- India:
- ~12.9% live in multidimensional poverty (~180 million people)
 - ~3% live in extreme poverty (<\$2.15/day)
- Japan:
- ~15% live in relative poverty (low income by Japanese standards)
 - No extreme poverty by global measures

India battles absolute deprivation; Japan manages income disparity within a developed framework.

3. GOVERNMENT FOOD ASSISTANCE

- India:
- Over 800 million people (55% of the population) depend on rationed food under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and NFSA.
- Japan:
- Only ~2 million (~1.5% of population) receive public welfare or food assistance under the Seikatsu Hogo system

India's program addresses mass hunger; Japan's is a safety net for isolated individuals.

4. HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

- India:
- 224 million people undernourished (Global Hunger Index Rank: 111/125)
 - High child stunting and wasting rates
- Japan:
- Negligible hunger; among top 20 in Global Hunger Index

India faces systemic food insecurity; Japan ensures near-universal food sufficiency.

5. UNEMPLOYMENT

- India:
- ~33-35 million unemployed (~8%); youth unemployment >20%
 - Over 90% of workforce is informal
- Japan:
- ~1.8 million unemployed (~2.6%)
 - Formal employment, with labor shortages due to aging population

India's job market suffers from scale and informality; Japan has fewer workers than jobs.

6. POLITICAL BEHAVIOR & PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

- India:
- Politicians often act like feudal lords:

- Dynastic politics, VIP culture (red beacons, entourages)
- Abuse of law enforcement (Police, ED, Customs, Courts), weak ethics enforcement
- Low resignation rates even after serious allegations
- Public servants often act under political pressure

- Japan:
- Politicians and bureaucrats are seen as public servants:
 - Ministers resign quickly over even minor scandals
 - Transparent governance, low tolerance for misconduct
 - Public officials regularly use public transport

India's political culture mirrors colonial hierarchy; Japan's is rooted in civic duty.

7. HEALTHCARE SPENDING (% OF GDP)

- India: ~2.1% (public ~1.3%) - Low per capita availability
- Japan: ~10.9% - Universal healthcare access

India's system is overburdened; Japan's is among the world's best.

8. EDUCATION SPENDING (% OF GDP)

- India: ~3.0% - Access improving, quality uneven
- Japan: ~3.5% - High literacy and learning outcomes

Japan emphasizes quality and equity; India struggles with reach and standard.

9. CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT

- India:
- Public childcare (Anganwadis) often underfunded
 - High malnutrition and stunting
- Japan:
- Strong early childhood system
 - Generous parental leave and subsidies

India fights foundational gaps; Japan supports structured childhood development.

10. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- India:
- ~65% population rural, suffering from poor infrastructure and employment
- Japan:
- Rural depopulation, but high-quality infrastructure and support programs

India's rural areas are underdeveloped; Japan maintains service equity despite demographic decline.

11. CORRUPTION & GOVERNANCE

- India: CPI score: 39/100 (Rank: 93) - widespread bribery, political interference
- Japan: CPI score: 73/100 (Rank: 16) - low-level corruption, strong institutions

India grapples with systemic corruption; Japan maintains high administrative integrity.

CONTD FROM PAGE 10

MODI SELLING RISING GDP AS A SIGN OF PROSPERITY TO THE DEPRIVED MASSES OF INDIA

12. PER CAPITA INCOME & LIVING STANDARDS

- India: ~\$2,700 USD
- Japan: ~\$42,000 USD

Japan enjoys one of the highest standards of living; India has a growing but unequal economy.

SUMMARY TABLE

INDICATOR	INDIA	JAPAN
HDI	0.633 (Rank 134)	0.925 (Rank 19)
Poverty Rate	12.9% (multi), 3% (extreme)	15% (relative)
Food Assistance	800 million (55% of population)	~2 million (1.5% of population)
Hunger	224 million undernourished	Negligible
Unemployment	~8% (33-35 million)	~2.6% (1.8 million)
Healthcare Spending (% GDP)	~2.1%	~10.9%
Education Spending (% GDP)	~3.0%	~3.5%
Corruption Index (CPI)	39/100 (Rank 93)	73/100 (Rank 16)
Per Capita Income	~\$2,700 USD	~\$42,000 USD
Political Behavior	Feudal, dynastic, VIP culture	Humble, accountable, resign on scandal
Rural Development	Underdeveloped, poor infrastructure	Modernized, subsidized, aging
Child Care & Early Education	Underfunded, malnutrition persists	High-quality, well-funded, parental support

Before anyone questions the writer's integrity by arguing that comparing India to Japan is unfair due to population differences, here is a summary comparison between India and China-two nations with comparable populations (~1.4 billion each). This side-by-side comparison across key socioeconomic, governance, and human development indicators addresses and debunks the common excuse propagated by blind religious loyalists of India's current religious fanatic leadership-that Japan's success is solely due to its smaller population. India's lag is not about size, but about vision, leadership, and priorities.

INDIA VS CHINA: SUMMARY COMPARISON (2024 DATA)

Indicator	India	China
Population	~1.43 billion	~1.41 billion
Human Development Index (HDI)	0.633 (Rank 134)	0.788 (Rank 75)
Per Capita Income (USD)	~\$2,700	~\$13,000
Multidimensional Poverty Rate	~12.9%	<1%
Extreme Poverty (<\$2.15/day)	~3%	<0.1%
People on Govt Food Assistance	~800 million (NFSA)	Targeted rural support programs (~300 million benefited historically)
Hunger & Malnutrition	~224 million undernourished (GHI Rank: 111/125)	<5% child malnutrition; GHI rank significantly higher
Unemployment Rate	~8% overall; ~25% youth unemployment	~5.2% (official) lower youth unemployment
Healthcare Spending (% of GDP)	~2.1%	~5.4%
Education Spending (% of GDP)	~3.0%	~4.0%
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	~26	~5
Literacy Rate (15+ age)	~77%	~97%
Corruption Perception Index (CPI)	39/100 (Rank 93)	42/100 (Rank 76)
Infrastructure Quality	Patchy, rural-urban divide	High-quality nationwide infrastructure
Urbanization Rate	~36%	~65%
Childcare & Early Ed Services	Underfunded (Anganwadi model)	Universal pre-school heavily state-funded
Political System	Electoral democracy with weakening institutions	One-party authoritarian regime with strong state control
Governance Efficiency	Highly bureaucratic, slow service delivery	Highly centralized, efficient implementation capacity
State Capacity	Often captured by elites & feudal politicians	Strong, technocratic, outcome-driven

KEY INSIGHTS:

- **POVERTY & HUNGER:** China has virtually eliminated extreme poverty, while India still struggles with hundreds of millions in deprivation.
- **INCOME & DEVELOPMENT:** China's per capita income is nearly 5x India's, with significantly better human development outcomes.
- **GOVERNANCE:** While China's system lacks democratic freedoms, its state capacity and delivery mechanisms outperform India's politically feudal and fragmented administration.
- **POPULATION ARGUMENT:** China shows that population is not an excuse. With nearly the same population as India, it has lifted over 800 million people out of poverty in four decades, invested in massive infrastructure, and maintains basic service delivery at a far higher level.

BOTTOM LINE: TIME TO REACH JAPAN'S SUCCESS

Country	Time to Match Japan's Per Capita Income	Time to Match HDI (0.9+)	Time to Match Governance/Service Delivery
India	35-50 years (by 2060-2075)	30-40 years	40-50 years (or uncertain)
China delivery	15-20 years (by 2040-2045)	15-20 years	Already close in-service

SUMMARY TABLE: TIME TO CATCH UP (INDIA TO CHINA 2024)

Area	Projected Years Needed	Target Year
Per Capita Income	25-30 years	2049-2054
Human Development Index	15-20 years	2040-2045
Poverty Elimination	20-25 years	2045-2050
Infrastructure & Urbanization	25-30 years	2050-2055
Governance & Service Delivery	30-35 years	2055-2060

FINAL THOUGHT:

India is 25-35 years behind China in most core development indicators. Closing this gap is possible, but it demands:

- Sustained economic growth
- Investment in human capital
- Strong institutions
- A break from patronage politics and state capture

Otherwise, the gap may persist or widen, especially as China advances toward high-income status and India risks stagnating in lower-middle income.

CONCLUSION

Japan exemplifies a mature, service-oriented, accountable welfare state. India, by contrast, is a rising feudal democracy heading towards elected autocracy promoting majoritarian religious fanaticism, grappling with poverty, political feudalism, no accountability for those in power and state created robber barons and resource constraints. While India's sheer scale poses challenges, Japan's model offers lessons in integrity, governance, and inclusive public policy.

Japan stands as a model of a mature, service-oriented, and accountable welfare state-rooted in integrity, civic discipline, and inclusive public policy. In stark contrast, India today is a rising feudal democracy veering toward an elected autocracy, where majoritarian religious fanaticism is normalized, political feudalism is entrenched, and accountability for those in power is virtually nonexistent. The state has enabled the rise of robber barons while failing to address systemic poverty and resource inequity. While India's vast scale presents undeniable challenges, it is Japan's model that offers vital lessons in good governance, institutional ethics, and equitable development.

(Compiled by Dave Makkar from diverse sources on the Internet. Dave Makkar is a social activist and author.)



Gandhian Society Welcomes Smt. Rajashree Birla and Announces Launch of the Eternal Gandhi Peace Center in New Jersey



MAY 26, 2025

EDISON, NJ (TIP): The Gandhian Society (USA) proudly hosted a distinguished Meet and Greet event on Monday, May 26th, at Royal Albert's Palace in Edison, New Jersey, in honor of Smt. Rajashree Birla, Chairperson of the multi-conglomerate multi-national Aditya Birla Group. The evening also marked the formal announcement of the Aditya Birla Group and Gandhian Society's joint landmark initiative - the Eternal Gandhi Peace Center, to be established in Central New Jersey.

This milestone event brought together a diverse gathering of community members, civic leaders, and dignitaries, all united by a shared commitment to promoting the timeless values of Mahatma Gandhi. The Eternal Gandhi Peace Center is envisioned as a vibrant community hub dedicated to education, dialogue, and programs focused on non-violence, social justice, and harmony.

The evening featured a series of captivating cultural performances that showcased local artistic talent and reflected the spirit of unity and peace. Distinguished guests including Mayor Sam Joshi (Edison), Mayor John McCormac (Woodbridge), and Consul Ms. Pragnya Singh delivered inspiring remarks, underscoring the importance



of Gandhian principles in addressing the challenges of the modern world.

In her keynote address, Smt. Rajashree Birla shared insightful reflections on the power of peace, compassion, and service which were among the founding principles of Gandhiji's teachings and

values he lived by. She gave some rare glimpses of Gandhiji's journey from Shri Mohandas to Mahatma. She also elaborated upon the Aditya Birla Group's "Eternal Gandhi & Special Projects" headed by Shri Nitin Mathuria - President of the Birla Group, who was

also present at the event, and the various digital interactive multi-media Museums/Gandhi Peace Centres set up and run by this Project worldwide. She also commended the Gandhian Society's efforts to keep Mahatma Gandhi's legacy alive through meaningful community engagement.

During the event, the Society presented its vision for the Eternal Gandhi Peace Center, outlining future activities aimed at fostering youth engagement, cultural exchange, and civic responsibility.

The Gandhian Society extends its deepest gratitude to Smt. Rajashree Birla, Mr Nitin Mathuria, honored guests, volunteers, performers, and attendees for making the launch of the Eternal Gandhi Peace Center a resounding success. This event marks the beginning of an exciting journey toward nurturing peace and understanding in the heart of New Jersey.

ABOUT THE GANDHIAN SOCIETY

The Gandhian Society is a nonprofit organization committed to spreading Gandhian values through educational programs, cultural initiatives, and youth outreach. To learn more, visit www.gandhiansociety.org.

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Latino leaders endorse Indian-American Congressman Krishnamoorthi for US Senate in Illinois

LALIT K JHA
MAY 29, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi received a significant boost to his Senate bid on Wednesday, as top Latino leaders from Illinois endorsed him.

The five-term Democratic Congressman representing the eighth Congressional District of Illinois, Krishnamoorthi, 51, recently announced his bid for the US Senate Seat from his home State of Illinois.

If elected, he would be the second Indian American ever elected to the US Senate. The first one being the former Vice President, Kamala Harris.

Giving a big boost to his bid, a coalition of Latino elected officials, business owners, and community leaders from across Illinois gathered under the Little Village Arch to endorse Raja Krishnamoorthi for the US Senate on Wednesday.

His Latino supporters chanted "¡Raja no se raja!" or "Raja doesn't back down," citing his record of delivering for Illinois families and standing up to bullies, including Donald Trump.

The coalition would be led by former Congressman Luis Gutiérrez, according to a media release.



If elected, Krishnamoorthi would become the second Indian-American to serve in the US Senate, following Kamala Harris
Credit: Raja for Illinois Campaign

"Raja has spent his entire career fighting to better the lives of working families in Illinois. Raja's lived experience, unflinching advocacy for the underserved, and tireless work ethic are all reasons that I'm proud to support his candidacy for the US Senate," said Gutiérrez.

"Raja has proven time and again that he is the fighter that Illinois's Latino community needs and, once elected, I know that he will deliver results!" he said.

"These leaders represent the very best of our community: the dreamers and the doers who will do whatever it takes to

support themselves, their families, and their neighbours," Krishnamoorthi said.

"I was honoured to stand alongside them today under the iconic Little Village Arch, and once elected to the US Senate, I look forward to working with them to deliver for all Illinois communities. Together, we will ensure that every family has the opportunity to realize the American Dream," he said.

"Raja has the experience and the proven record to make a real difference for working families in Illinois," said Commissioner George Cardenas.

"In Congress, he has fought to hold corporate interests accountable and uplift those who need a helping hand, all the while remaining accessible to the community - I know he will do the same in the US Senate. I am proud to be on Team Raja!" he said.

"A fearless protector of the American Dream, I am proud to endorse Raja for the US Senate because I know that he will fight for every Illinois family just as he would his own. A longtime champion of working people, immigrants, and families just trying to get by, I know that Raja will be an excellent US Senator," said Schaumburg Assessor-Elect Victor Morales.

(Courtesy: www.5wh.com)

COMMUNITY DONATES GENEROUSLY TO SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY OF LONG ISLAND CARES



Volunteers, donors, and donations.

MAY 28, 2025

BETHPAGE, NY (TIP): Several organizations came together to make a large donation to the Bethpage Food Pantry of Long Island Cares.

The American Red Cross, Arya Samaj of Long Island and Indian American Forum made a large donation to the Bethpage Food Pantry of Long Island Cares. Food, toiletries and non-perishable items were collected by the Hindu community.

Arya Samaj of Long island, Stony Brook University students, Indian

American Forum, Brahashita Gupta were initially planning to send items to California in the wake of the wildfires. However, they were overwhelmed with donated food.

Then Dr Azad Anand, a member of Red Cross Board, retired professor at Stony Brook University and former Board member of Long Island Cares proposed giving to Long Island Cares.

The goal was to get it into the hands of Food - insecure people no matter where they live. The event was held at

Arya Samaj of Long Island on May 6, 2025.

Several distinguished members from various organizations joined in this noble cause. CEO of Long Island Cares Paule Pachter with his team; Peter Crescenti, Colleen Guirand, John McKeown, Robert LaBarbara, John Sears and Jessica

Rosati. Lenia Kiki Community Disaster Program Specialist of American Red Cross on Long Island, Drs Azad and Nutan Anand, Indu Jaiswal Chairperson Indian American

Forum, Veer Mukhi, Drs Urmilesh and Yashpal Arya, Sudesh Mukhi, trustees of Arya Samaj of Long Island and volunteers were present.

Paule Pachter and Lenia Kiki thanked the members for their efforts and collections for Donations.

Long Island Cares, a Non-for-profit organization, uses the donations to buy nutritious food and distributes among the food insecure people.

(Based on a Press Release issued by Indu Jaiswal)

Ceremonial touch enthuses Canadians to the throne speech by King Charles

MAY 27, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): Blending royalty with solemnity, King Charles endorsed Prime Minister Mark Carney's vow to protect Canadian sovereignty by reinforcing its defense line while redefining the relationship with its neighbor and big brother, the United States.

It was only for the third time since 1957 that the Monarch read out the throne speech at a ceremony marked by gaiety, rich military traditions and rare ceremonies attached to royal visits to the sovereign.

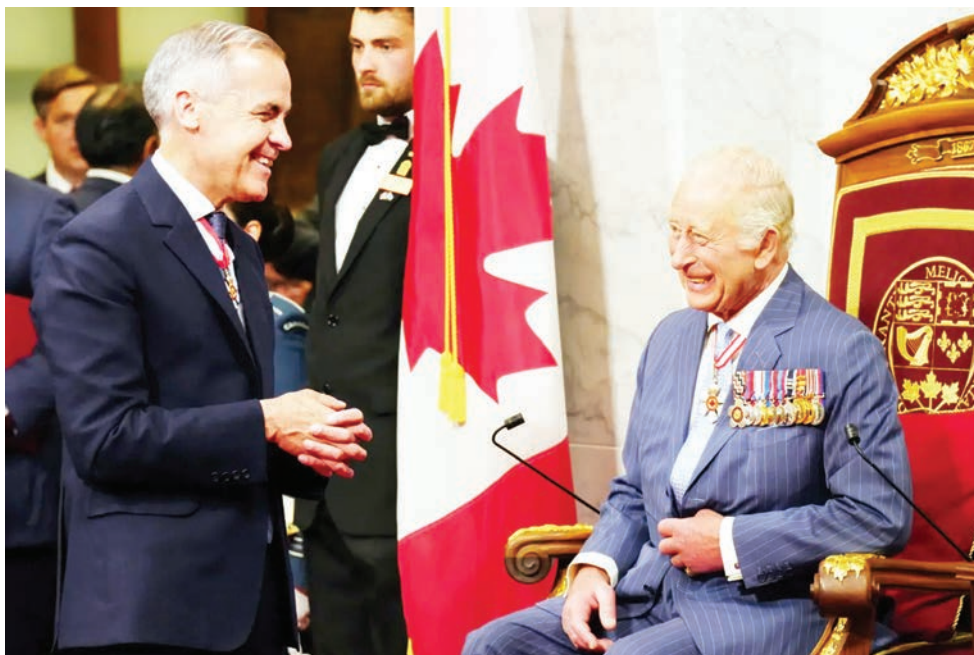
The speech from the throne not only laid out the government's priorities for the new Parliament, the King also used the occasion to give a personal message to Canadians about his connection to Canada.

"Every time I come to Canada, a little more of Canada seeps into my bloodstream and from there, straight to my heart," he said.

The speech mentioned Canadian sovereignty several times, and the King finished his address by saying, "As the anthem reminds us, the true North is indeed strong and free."

The throne speech also ratified that Canada would join the Rearm Europe plan - a major defense procurement project to ramp up arms production in Europe, indicating a reduction in Canada's reliance on the U.S. as a source of military equipment. King Charles' speech has come at a time after months of U.S. President Donald Trump calling for Canada's annexation and deploying tariffs against U.S. allies.

The King said Canada faces "unprecedented challenges" as the world changes and as relationships with key allies come under pressure. "The world is now a more dangerous and uncertain place than at any point since the Second World War," he said, holding that while Canadians feel anxious about the future, the moment also brings an "opportunity for renewal."



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, left, speaks with King Charles ahead of the King delivering the speech from the throne in the Senate in Ottawa on Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

Photo credit: Chris Young/The Canadian Press

The King is the first reigning British monarch to read the speech from the throne since his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, delivered the speech in 1977.



Baljit Singh Chadha, President and Founder of Balcop Limited

Montreal-based Indian businessman Baljit Singh Chadha could not have asked for more. He was one of the select

leaders of the Indian community invited to attend the solemn ceremony. Sharing his experiences of attending the rarest of rare ceremony, Baljit Singh Chadha said: "Attending the Speech from the Throne delivered by His Majesty King Charles III in the Senate of Canada, marking the opening of the 45th Parliament, was one of the proudest and most meaningful moments of my life."

"The speech was a defining moment for the future of our country. I urge all Canadians to set aside our differences and come together to continue building a stronger, more united Canada - a nation founded by the English, the French, and the Indigenous peoples."

"It was a great honor for me when, as His Majesty exited the Senate and passed in front of me, I greeted him with 'Sat Sri Akal,' and he respectfully folded his hands in return."

"Prime Minister Carney, walking just behind the King, also acknowledged me with a similar

gesture," said Baljit Singh Chadha, who was the first one to organize a meeting of leading captains of Canadian industry and business of Indian origin when Mark Carney launched his leadership campaign before he was elected the new leader of the Liberal Party in April this year.

The Royalty started the second day of its Canadian visit on Tuesday by travelling in Canada's state landau past crowds of admirers in front of Parliament Hill. King Charles was attired in a dark blue striped suit with the Order of Canada around his neck, with his customary medal array. Sitting next to him, the Queen was wearing a navy blue dress and hat.

The Governor General, Mary Simon and her husband, Whit Fraser, joined the King and the Queen as the landau was escorted down Wellington Street in Ottawa by mounted RCMP officers.

The King and Queen arrived shortly after 10 a.m. at the Senate building, where the King received full military honors and a 100-person honor guard from the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Regiment.

The ceremony included an inspection of the guard and band and a 21-gun salute.

Once the ceremonies and the speech were over, the King shook hands in gathered crowds alongside the Queen.

The royal couple also visited the National War Memorial, where a trumpeter played the Last Post and a band played the national anthems of Canada and the United Kingdom.

The King laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, while the Queen placed flowers atop. They again shook hands with dignitaries before entering a motorcade and making their way to the airport to leave Canada following the two-day visit.

King Charles had earlier made 18 official visits to Canada as the Prince of Wales. This was his first trip to Canada since his coronation.



--->By Prabhjot Singh

Trump dangles Golden Dome for Canada: Join US, enter \$175B defense plan for free

MAY 28, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Donald Trump on Tuesday, May 27, invited Canada to join his proposed USD 175 billion 'Golden Dome' missile defense system for free -- on the condition that it becomes the 51st state of the United States.

"I told Canada, which very much wants to be part of our fabulous Golden Dome System, that it will cost \$61 Billion Dollars if they remain a separate, but unequal, Nation, but will cost ZERO DOLLARS if they become our cherished 51st State," Trump wrote on his Truth Social network.

"They are considering the offer!" the president claimed in his post.

Last week, President Donald Trump unveiled plans for the Golden Dome missile defense program -- a USD 175 billion, multilayered system that will put US weapons in space for the first time. Speaking from the Oval Office, Trump said he expects the system to be fully operational by 2029 and capable of intercepting missiles "even if they are launched from space."

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has acknowledged that his government is in talks with the



Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney met with the US President Donald Trump in the White House on May 6, 2025 when he turned down Trump's offer of US Statehood for Canada

US regarding participation in the Golden Dome program. "Is it a good idea for Canada? Yes, it is good to have protections in place for Canadians," Carney said during a press conference last week. "We cooperate if necessary but not necessarily cooperate,"

he added.

However, Canada has yet to officially respond to the statehood claim. Earlier this month, Carney has made it clear in Trump's presence that Canada's sovereignty is "not for sale."

On May 6, Carney met Trump for the first time since being elected as Canada's Prime Minister. Their meeting in the Oval Office quickly took an unexpected turn when Trump reiterated his proposal for Canada to join the US as its 51st state.

"It would really be a wonderful marriage," Trump said in the presence of reporters.

In response, Carney promptly turned down Trump's offer and said, "It's not for sale, it won't be for sale - ever." "Never say never, never say never," Trump responded.

The Golden Dome missile defense system is designed to integrate ground- and space-based capabilities to counter missile threats at all four critical stages of an attack: preemptively neutralizing missiles before launch, intercepting them in their early flight phase, disrupting them midcourse, and blocking them in the final moments before impact. (Source: India Today)

INDIAN EMBASSY IN GUATEMALA PLANS THE WORLD'S LARGEST YOGA EVENT

IN A COUNTDOWN YOGA EVENT ORGANIZED TO COMMEMORATE 25 DAYS TO THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA 2025



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra addresses the gathering at the Yoga event in San José Pinula, highlighting yoga as India's gift to the world and thanking the Municipality for its enthusiastic support

MAY 28, 2025

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): As part of the countdown to the International Day of Yoga 2025, the Embassy of India in Guatemala organized a vibrant yoga event on 27 May 2025 in collaboration with the Municipality of San José Pinula. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of over 500 students and residents, further amplifying the message of wellness, unity, and mindfulness. This marks the third successful event in the countdown series, following the earlier celebrations held in San Juan Sacatepéquez and Colegio Benito on 7 April (75 Days to IDY) and at Plaza Berlín, Guatemala City on 3 May (50 Days to IDY), both of which saw wide participation and were highly appreciated by the local communities.



Mr. Manikandan Krishnan of Lukah Medical S.A., a key sponsor of IDY2025, shares his thoughts on the importance of wellness and community engagement through yoga.

Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, in his address, thanked the Municipality and the participating students for their spirited support. He highlighted yoga as a timeless gift from India to the world—an invaluable tool for achieving inner peace, physical and mental balance, and global harmony. He emphasized the growing global relevance of yoga, especially in today's fast-paced world, where the need for holistic well-being has never been greater. Ambassador Mohapatra deeply appreciated the support received from the Municipality of San José Pinula and the leadership of its Mayor, Mr. Jhonny Frederyk Ayala Toledo, whose commitment and cooperation made the event a great success. The Municipality facilitated the arrangements at the venue and mobilized large student participation from local schools, underlining the increasing popularity of yoga at the grassroots level.

The Embassy also gratefully acknowledges the vital support of its dedicated sponsors, whose contributions have played a significant role in the successful organization of the yoga countdown events leading up to IDY 2025. Among them,



Energetic participation by students from various schools in San José Pinula, showcasing the growing enthusiasm for yoga among Guatemala's youth.

Lukah Medical S.A., represented by Mr. Manikandan Krishnan, has been a consistent and enthusiastic partner. Mr. Krishnan underscored the importance of supporting initiatives that promote wellness, mental health, and community engagement, stating that Lukah Medical was proud to contribute to an event rooted in the timeless Indian practice of yoga, which continues to resonate with diverse communities across Guatemala. For today's event, Lukah Medical generously provided specially branded yoga T-shirts to the participants, adding a vibrant and cohesive identity to the session. TVS Motors, another valued sponsor, ensured the comfort and hydration of participants by supplying bottled water and natural fruit juices. Their thoughtful contribution was well-received and helped ensure a smooth and health-conscious environment, particularly important given the participation of over 500 young students. These sponsors, among others, are not only supporting individual yoga sessions but are also integral partners in the planning and execution of the grand event scheduled for 13 June 2025 in San Pedro Carchá, Cobán, where an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 participants are expected to gather.



Participants perform synchronized yoga asanas at the vibrant session marking 25 Days to International Day of Yoga 2025.

Looking ahead, the Embassy is gearing up for a grand celebration of the International Day of Yoga 2025 at San Pedro Carchá, Cobán, on 13 June 2025. This mega event is expected to bring together approximately 10,000-12,000 participants, including students, teachers, yoga enthusiasts, and members of civil society. India's efforts in spreading the practice of yoga continue to receive overwhelming support in Guatemala, where municipalities are actively mobilizing local communities and schoolchildren. Yoga is especially gaining traction in educational institutions, where it is embraced as a means to foster discipline, focus, and well-being. The growing interest reaffirms the cultural bridge built through yoga diplomacy, bringing India and Guatemala closer in spirit and purpose.

(Based on a press release issued by Ramesh Khulbey)

"Didi Krishna's Path to Peaceful Prosperity" Packs New York's Marble Collegiate Church

KRISHNA DAS & DIDI KRISHNA KUMARI GATHER 1,000+ NEW YORKERS FOR A NIGHT OF CHANT, WISDOM, AND UPLIFTMENT THROUGH KIRTAN, STORYTELLING, AND MEDITATION.

MAY 29, 2025

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): More than 1,000 spiritual seekers from the tri-state region -and from as far as Los Angeles and London-filled Manhattan's landmark Marble Collegiate Church on May 28 for Path to Peaceful Prosperity, an evening of music, insight, and collective meditation hosted by the Sadhu Vaswani Center for World Peace (SVCWP).

The historic church held deep symbolic value, as Dada J.P. Vaswani was a fond admirer of the church's minister in the 1900's - Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. Dada would often write about him and drew great inspiration from his

teachings on the power of positive thinking. Although Dada never got the chance to visit the church, this gathering served as a heartfelt tribute to that wish, making the moment even more meaningful.

The program opened with television personalities Monica Vaswani and Brian Benni welcoming the audience and distinguished guests. Binaya S. Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, then offered opening remarks, praising SVCWP's forthcoming World Peace Center in New Jersey as "a monumental gift of meditation, study, and compassion for America."

Grammy-nominated kirtan artist Krishna Das lifted the candle-lit sanctuary with a thunderous "Om" and "Om Namah Shivaya," drawing the entire hall to its feet in joyous devotion. Returning the room to a hush, Grammy winner and philanthropist Chandrika Tandon shared how the writings of Rev. Dada J. P. Vaswani guided her through life's most difficult chapters, calling the evening "a beacon of light for New York."

Spiritual luminary Didi Krishna Kumari then stepped forward to reveal what she called "the secret pathway to prosperity." Redefining "PEACE as Prosperity Emanating As Conscious

Expansion", she gave a new definition to each alphabet in the letter peace and offered them as instrumental keys and practical "soul tools" to unlock prosperity, moving seamlessly into a ten-minute guided meditation to tap into the 'abundance mindset' that left faces and hearts across the nave quietly radiant. Attendees described the night as "a milestone for Indian spirituality in New York."

Among the many dignitaries were global representatives of Indiaspora including Shoba Viswanathan, Shiv Khemka, Sunil Wadhvani, Ramola Motwani, as well as community leaders Ranju and Ratan Batra, and Sunil and Sharmila Sani, filmmakers, authors, vegan ambassadors, physicians, artists, and faith leaders. The event was organized entirely by the youth wing of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission, Bridge Builders NYC. SVCWP's full 24-member committee attended with their families, underscoring the project's community-driven spirit.

NEXT PUBLIC PROGRAM - FREE ADMISSION

"Secrets to a Happy Home"

Wednesday, 4 June 2024 - 6:30 p.m.

Sri Venkateswara Temple, Bridgewater, NJ

The evening will feature a family-focused talk by Didi Krishna Kumari, cultural performances by children of the Sadhu Vaswani Gurukul and the temple community, and a complimentary VIP darshan of the temple. Registration: bit.ly/HappyHomeNJ

ABOUT DIDI KRISHNA KUMARI

Didi Krishna Kumari is the global spiritual head of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission. Her international tours, humanitarian outreach, and youth programs continue the legacy of Sadhu T. L. Vaswani and Rev. Dada J. P. Vaswani, offering actionable wisdom on tapping into the wellspring of happiness, forgiveness, gratitude, service, and universal compassion.

ABOUT THE SADHU VASWANI CENTER FOR WORLD PEACE

A registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit headquartered in New Jersey and aligned with the 90-year-old Sadhu Vaswani Mission (Pune, India), SVCWP is constructing the West's first memorial (samadhi) shrine for Sadhu Vaswani and Dada J. P. Vaswani, together with meditation halls, a values-based Gurukul, and an innovative sustainable first-of-its-kind Peace Park-"sowing the seeds of peace in the hearts of humankind."

Follow the journey: Instagram @SadhuVaswaniCenter

#PathwayToPeace #KrishnaDas #DidiKrishna #WorldPeaceCenter #DadaJPVaswani #Prosperity #NewYork

(Based on a Press Release)



All Photos by Rob Klein @photo.robnyc



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	2 BR	10	\$1449		\$45,700- \$66,000 \$45,700- \$74,250 \$45,700- \$82,450 \$45,700- \$89,050
60%	1 BR	8	\$1478		\$46,600- \$69,300 \$46,600- \$79,200 \$46,600- \$89,100
	2 BR	76	\$1776		\$56,000- \$79,200 \$56,000- \$89,100 \$56,000- \$98,940 \$56,000- \$106,860
	3 BR	38	\$2021		\$56,600- \$89,100 \$56,600- \$98,940 \$56,600- \$106,860 \$56,600- \$114,780 \$56,600- \$122,700
70%	2 BR	1	\$2103		\$63,800- \$92,400 \$63,800- \$103,950 \$63,800- \$115,430 \$63,800- \$124,670
80%	1BR	1	\$2024		\$63,900- \$92,400 \$63,900- \$105,600 \$63,900- \$118,800
	2BR	2	\$2431		\$76,700- \$105,600 \$76,700- \$118,800 \$76,700- \$131,920 \$76,700- \$142,480

* Occupancy Preferences May Apply

* Resident's are responsible for electricity, electric stove, electric heat, and electric hot water. Income guidelines & permitted household size are subject to change.

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Include your address & the name and address of the building where you want to apply.

Lottery Date & Location: June 24th, 2025 at 1pm at 100 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Hauppauge, NY 11788/ Recording available via

YouTube: D&F Development@dfdevelopment6768

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- Reasonable accommodation and modifications may be requested

State or non-state, will hit back at terror: PM

PATNA/KANPUR (TIP)

Operation Sindoor is not over and New Delhi will respond firmly to every act of terrorism without distinction between state and non-state actors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, May 30, adding that India-made weapons, including the Brahmos missile, entered enemy territory and wreaked havoc.

Speaking at two separate rallies in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, Modi lashed out at opposition parties, underlined his government's commitment to eradicate Maoist violence, and hailed his administration's record of infrastructure development and welfare. He also met the family of one of the victims of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which triggered Operation Sindoor.

"The homegrown systems, including the BrahMos missile, penetrated hundreds of miles deep in enemy territory and delivered precise strikes. The explosions occurred exactly as intended. This is the power of Make in India," he said. "The BrahMos missile that gave sleepless nights to the enemy during Operation Sindoor, its new address is also Uttar Pradesh," he declared in a rally in Kanpur.

Earlier in the day, speaking in Bihar, Modi said he had lived up to his pledge given on April 24 from Bihar's soil of punishing the perpetrators of terrorism "beyond their imagination".

"The people of Sasaram know the doctrine of Lord Ram. 'Praan jaaye par vachan na jaaye' (Rather die than break a promise)... After the dreadful terrorist attack in Pahalgam, I had promised the country from the land of Bihar that the hideouts of the perpetrators of terrorism would be razed to the ground, that they would get a punishment beyond



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar during a public meeting in Rohtas district, Bihar.

their imagination. Today, when I came to Bihar, I have fulfilled my promise," he said.

He was addressing a public meeting at Bikramganj, close to Sasaram, the administrative centre of Rohtas district, after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone of development projects worth ₹49,500 crore. Bihar governor Arif Mohammad Khan, chief minister Nitish Kumar, Union ministers Jitan Ram Manjhi, Chirag Paswan, Rajiv Ranjan 'Lalan' Singh, Giriraj Singh, Nityanand Rai and Bihar's two deputy CMs Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, and ministers were also present.

Kumar thanked him for including caste in the decennial census – a key demand raised by the Bihar chief minister in 2022. I must salute the Prime

Minister for agreeing to the caste census. We had been seeking it for so long...Some parties are talking nonsense about caste census. While in power, they had an opportunity which they squandered," he said.

In Kanpur, Modi made it clear that India's response to terrorism would be uncompromising and entirely dictated by its armed forces.

"If I may put it in Kanpuriya style — dushman kahin bhi ho, haunk diya jayega (the enemy, wherever they may be, will be struck)," he said at the Chandra Shekhar Azad University for Agriculture ground after inaugurating and laying the foundation stone for projects worth Rs 47,600 crore.

The PM stated that India would no longer be deterred by the threat of nuclear weapons.

"India will not be intimidated by hollow threats. Our decisions will not be based on such posturing. Those responsible for terrorism — whether within the state or beyond — will be held accountable," he said. "The drama of state and non-state actors will not work with us. We won't differentiate whenever we respond to terror attacks," he said.

He also invoked Atmanirbhar Bharat as a cornerstone of India's growing strategic and economic autonomy, and said Pakistan begged for the ceasefire. "The country that was pleading before India must know the Operation Sindoor was not over...It should not have a false sense of security," he said.

"We destroyed terror camps deep across the border. The courage of our armed forces forced the Pakistan army to plead for a ceasefire. Let there be no illusion — Operation Sindoor is ongoing."

Modi focused heavily on Kanpur's progress in his 37-minute-long speech. He said the kind of infrastructure, amenities, and resources once seen only in major metro cities are now becoming visible in Kanpur as well. "The Kanpur Metro stands as proof that with the right intentions, strong willpower and an honest government, genuine efforts can be made for the development of both the state and the nation," he said.

In Bihar, Modi said that the Indian forces demonstrated their prowess and the power of Sindoor to give the enemy as well as the world a glimpse of the strength of new India and its new doctrine. "Those who wiped out Sindoor of our sisters had their hideouts and safe havens reduced to rubble by our brave forces in one stroke and within minutes their airbases, military installations were also destroyed," he added. *Source: HT*

BSF destroyed 118 Pakistani posts during Op Sindoor: Amit Shah

JAMMU (TIP)

Union home minister Amit Shah on Friday, May 30, lauded the BSF for its resolute response to Pakistani aggression earlier this month and said 118 enemy posts were destroyed and damaged in retaliatory action along the Jammu frontier.

During his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after Operation Sindoor, Union home minister Amit Shah said the BSF had dismantled the enemy's surveillance network, dealing a significant blow that would take them years to repair. (X) During his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after Operation Sindoor, Union home minister Amit Shah said the BSF had dismantled the enemy's surveillance network, dealing a significant blow that would take them years to repair. (X)

During his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after Operation Sindoor, Shah said the BSF had dismantled the enemy's surveillance network, dealing a significant blow that would take them

years to repair.

Concluding his two-day tour of the Jammu region to review the security situation, Amarnath Yatra preparedness and to interact with victims of Pakistani shelling, the Union home minister commended the BSF personnel, saying damaging or destroying more than 118 posts in three days is a significant achievement.

"When Pakistan responded to our anti-terror operations by attacking our borders and civilian areas, it was the BSF jawans of the Jammu Frontier who retaliated by destroying and damaging over 118 posts," he said.

"They dismantled the enemy's entire surveillance system piece by piece – a system that will take them four to five years to rebuild," he said.

Shah said, according to information, Pakistan had suffered the biggest blow to its communication systems and surveillance equipment, rendering them "incapable of waging a full-fledged information-based war for quite some time".

Rajnath: If Navy had acted, Pak would have split into 4

PANAJI (TIP)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh aboard India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant, on Friday, May 30, warned Pakistan of the Indian Navy's unmatched strength, stating that had the Navy joined its sister forces in active combat during Operation Sindoor, Pakistan would have faced a worse outcome than in 1971, surmising that it could have been divided into four parts.

"1971 is a witness to this, that when the Indian Navy came into action, Pakistan was divided from one to two. If the Indian Navy had come into action in Operation Sindoor, then Pakistan would not only have been divided into two parts, but I think it would have been divided into four parts," Singh proclaimed. The Defence Minister was speaking during his visit to INS Vikrant, currently deployed in the Arabian Sea, where he reviewed operational readiness and praised the Navy's role in neutralising threats during the operation.

Singh commended the Indian Navy's silent but effective role in bottling up Pakistani naval assets, asserting that their aggressive deployment, maritime dominance, and high state of preparedness prevented Pakistan from challenging Indian interests at sea and kept its naval assets confined to their own shores.

"During 'Operation Sindoor', the Indian Navy has impressed every Indian with its silent service. Despite remaining silent, the Indian Navy succeeded in tying down the Pakistani Army," he said.

Covid cases cross 2,700, 7 deaths reported.

Kerala, Maharashtra, Delhi worst-hit

Active Covid-19 cases in India surged to 2,710, with Kerala accounting for most of the infections, according to the latest data by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Coronavirus cases have been rising in India after months of lull, with infections seeing a five-fold jump and crossing the 1,000-mark in the week ending May 25.

According to the data, Kerala has recorded 1,147 cases, followed by Maharashtra (424), Delhi (294), and Gujarat (223). Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have recorded 148 cases each, while West Bengal has registered 116 cases.

Seven deaths have also been recorded in the past 24 hours, taking the toll in the first five months of this year to 22. In the past 24 hours, Maharashtra has reported two deaths, while Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have registered one each.

However, most of the Covid cases have been reported to be mild, and there is no need to panic, the Health Ministry has said.

India's economic growth hits 4-year low of 6.5% in FY25

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's economy grew by 6.5% in the financial year 2024-25 (FY25), marking its slowest pace in four years, according to data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Friday, May 30. The figure is lower than the previous year's growth and shows a cooling down in the overall economic activity. In comparison, the Indian economy grew at a much faster pace during the pandemic recovery years.

According to the government's statement, "Real GDP has been estimated to grow by 6.5% in FY 2024-25. Nominal GDP has witnessed a growth rate of 9.8% in FY 2024-25." The government has also slightly lowered its earlier forecast for nominal GDP growth, which was 9.9%.

While the full-year GDP number has slowed, data for the last quarter of FY25 painted a better picture. The real GDP growth for the March quarter (Q4) stood at 7.4%, which is the fastest among all four quarters of the year.

Growth in the third quarter climbed to



6.2%, up from the previously estimated 5.6%. With these latest numbers, India remains among the world's fastest-growing economies. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) also projects that India will overtake Japan in economic size by the end of the year, reaching \$4.18 trillion.

Nominal GDP growth for the same quarter came in at 10.8%.

"The Q4 FY25 GDP numbers are marginally higher than our expectations but broadly track the government's earlier estimate. The GVA estimate, however, remains more tepid at 6.8%. Expectedly, the high net indirect tax growth has led to the wide gap between the two," said Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist, Kotak Mahindra Bank.

The high frequency data in the last few months continues to point towards a patchy recovery, with the sequential momentum suggesting moderation compared to the previous quarter. We expect the benign inflation and soft growth to continue to provide the MPC room for incremental monetary easing, with 25 bp cut in the upcoming June policy," she added.

Private consumption rose by 7.2% year-on-year, up from 5.6% in the previous fiscal. This increase was supported by stronger rural demand, helped by easing food prices and increased spending during the festive season compared to the previous year.

Agriculture witnessed a growth of 4.6% in FY25, a notable rise from 2.7% in the previous year. During the fourth quarter, the sector expanded by 5.4%, a sharp jump from just 0.9% in the same quarter a year earlier.

The construction industry recorded a year-on-year growth of 9.4%, slightly below the 10.4% growth in the preceding year. However, in the March 2025 quarter, the sector expanded by 10.8%, up from 8.7% in Q4 FY24.

In diplomatic win for India, Colombia withdraws statement sympathising with Pakistan

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a significant diplomatic win for India in its global outreach on Operation Sindoor—aimed at exposing Pakistan and reinforcing its zero-tolerance stance on terrorism—Colombia, which had earlier expressed sympathy over the loss of lives in Pakistan, has now withdrawn its statement.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, leading the all-party delegation to the Americas, expressed disappointment in Bogota over Colombia's condolences for the loss of lives in Pakistan following India's response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 innocent civilian lives.

He said India was disappointed with the Colombian government for expressing condolences over lives lost in Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, instead of sympathising with the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack.

On Friday, May 30, during the all-party delegation's visit to Tadeo Lozano University in Bogota, Tharoor stated that Colombia will issue a strong statement supporting India's position after withdrawing its condolence message for Pakistani casualties in the Indian strikes.

"We met with the Foreign Ministry -

the Senior Vice Minister received us. We had some good news: They have withdrawn their statement that disappointed us earlier and will issue a statement of strong support for our position and understanding of our position...," Tharoor said.

After meeting India's all-party delegation, Colombia Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Rosa Yolanda Villavicencio said, "We are very confident with the explanation that we received today and the detailed information that we now have regarding the real situation, the conflict, and what happened in Kashmir, we can also continue the dialogue..."

Appreciating Colombian position on the matter after explaining India's view and position, Tharoor said, "The Vice Minister very graciously mentioned that they have withdrawn the statement that we had expressed concern about and that they fully understand our position on the matter, which is something we really value."

Meanwhile, BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, a member of the Indian delegation to Colombia, said that Bogota has withdrawn its earlier condolence reference for lives lost in Pakistan following India's military response on May 7.

IAF chief raises concerns over delayed war tech

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The chief of the air staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh on Thursday, May 29, put the spotlight on the armed forces' agonising wait for new weapons and systems, saying he could not recall a single instance of a project being executed on time — a wake-up call for the country's defence production sector.

"Timelines are a big issue," Singh said, in his first public comments after the May 7-10 military confrontation with Pakistan under Operation Sindoor.

The armed forces have so far not called "the black sheep" out, but their "restraint" should not be stretched to a breaking point, Singh said, issuing a veiled warning to defence public sector units including plane maker Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

"There's not a single project that I can think of that has been completed on time. We must look within. Why promise something that cannot be achieved. While signing the contract itself, sometimes we are sure that it (weapon or system) is not going to come.

But we just sign the contract with the mindset that we will see later what needs to be done. Obviously, the process gets vitiated," he said at the CII Annual Business Summit 2025.

Prominent speakers at the conference included defence minister Rajnath Singh and navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.



Key projects beset by delays include the light combat aircraft (LCA Mk-1A), the advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA), airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft, basic trainer aircraft and intermediate jet trainers among others.

"The defence forces have shown restraint and not called a black sheep, a black sheep. We have been trying to encourage people, but someday the restraint will break down. Let's stretch the elastic only to the point it does not break," said Singh, who is known to be a plain-spoken and straightforward military leader.

He has often publicly flagged concerns about a worrying erosion of IAF's capabilities and called for urgent measures to fix it.

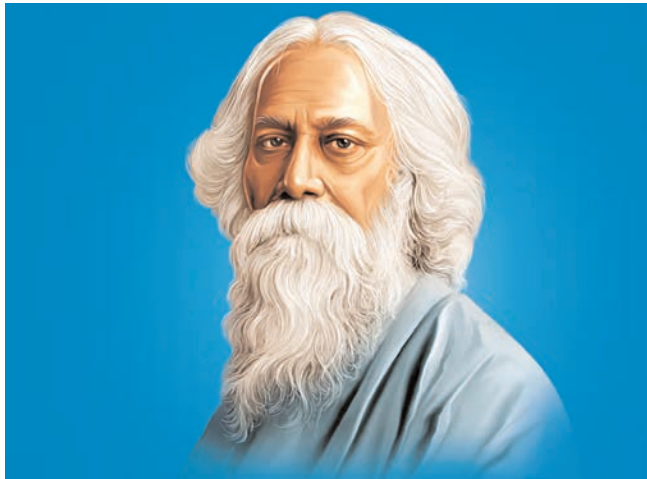
In February, the IAF chief questioned the ability of HAL to meet the air force's critical requirements in the backdrop of a lingering delay in the supply of new Mk-1A fighter jets, saying he had "no confidence" in the plane maker.

India in history this Week

MAY 30 TO JUNE 5

30 MAY

1867 Dar-ul-Uloom was established in 1867 in Deoband, Uttar Pradesh.



1919 Rabindranath Tagore returned the title 'Sir' in 1919 in protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

1987 Goa became the 25th full state in the country in 1987.

2012 Vishwanathan Anand became the World Chess Champion for the fifth time in 2012.



1909 Pandit Mukharam Sharma, the famous legend, screenplay and story writer of Indian Hindi films, was born in 1909.

1606 Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru, died in 1606.

1991 Umashankar Dixit, a pioneer of the Indian Independence Movement, a priest of humanity and a pioneer of nationalism, died in 1991.

1955 N. M. Joshi died in 1955. He was the father of the 'Trade Union Movement' in India.

31 MAY

1774 The first postal service office was opened in India in 1774.

1867 Praya Samaj was established in Bombay in 1867.

1921 The flag of the Indian National Congress was adopted in 1921.

1959 The Buddhist religious Dalai Lama was granted asylum in India in 1959 after his exile from Tibet.

1964 The electric tram last ran in Bombay in 1964.

2010 The law to reserve 25% seats for poor children in every private school recognized in India was enacted in 2010.

1577 Noor Jahan, the wife of the Mughal emperor Jahangir, was born.

1725 One of the heroines of India, Ahilyabai Holkar was born.

1931 Purn Singh, one of the distinguished essayists of India, died.

1988 India's famous politician, freedom fighter, journalist, litterateur and former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dwarka Prasad Mishra died in 1988.

1942 Vinod Mehta, founder of Outlook and famous journalist was born.

01 JUNE

1819 Establishment of Serampore College in Bengal.

1835 Calcutta Medical College commenced functioning.

1874 The East India Company was dissolved.



1929 Birth of Nargis Dutt, who played the most memorable mother of Hindi films in the film Mother India.

1930 India's first deluxe train Deccan Queen was introduced between Bombay VT and Pune.

1955 The Untouchability (Prevention) Act came into existence.

1964 By removing the new word from new money, it is now called money.

2001 The first World Milk Day was celebrated.

02 JUNE

1988 Bollywood's legendary actor, director, producer and showman Raj Kapoor died on this day.

2014 Telangana officially became the 29th state of India.

1908 Sir Aurobindo was arrested in the Maniktola bombings.

1956 Mani Ratnam was born in Tamil and Hindi cinema's finest filmmakers. Very few people know that his full name is Gopal Ratnam Subramaniam.

1756 British stronghold Fort William in Bengal was surrendered to Siraj-ud-Daulah

1900 The demise of Shri Ram Sharma Acharya, a freedom fighter, social reformer and leader.

03 JUNE

1867 Birth of India's famous educationist, politician, social reformer, jurist and writer Harvilas Sharda.

1901 Birth of first winner of Jnanpith Award Mahakavi Ji Shankar Krup.

1915 The British government conferred the title of knighthood on Rabindranath Tagore.

1918 'Hindi Sahitya Sammelan' was organized in Indore under the chairmanship of Mahatma Gandhi and based on a resolution passed in it, Hindi was considered as the official language.

1924 The birth of M Karunanidhi, five times Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

1930 The birth of George Fernandes, the historic railway strike organizer in India.

1947 Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India under the British Raj, announced the partition of India.

1972 The country's first modern warship, the Nilgiris, was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of the country, Indira Gandhi.

1974 Death of Bihar Chief Minister and freedom fighter Krishna Ballabh Sahay.

1985 The Government of India started a five-day working day week.

2014 Former Union Minister Gopinath Munde died in a road accident in New Delhi.

04 JUNE

1936 India's unmatched actress Nutan was born on 4 June.

1959 C. Rajagopalachari announced the formation of the Swatantra Party.

1997 Telecom satellite reached 2D chamber.

2008 In 2008, the Haryana government also announced the benefit of family pension to girls below 25 years of age.

1931 Hindi film actress Bina Rai was born in 1931.

1959 Anil Ambani, president and famous businessman of Reliance Group, was born in 1959.

1947 Hindi and Marathi film actor Ashok Saraf was born in 1947.

1962 Achanta Lakshmi pati, famous for the propagation of Ayurvedic medicines, died in 1962.

1984 Operation Bluestar was carried out by the Indian Army in the Golden Temple located in Amritsar, Punjab, the religious site of Sikhs.

05 JUNE

1659 Aurangzeb, the ruler of the Mughal Empire, officially ascended the throne of Delhi in 1659.

1882 In Bombay (now Mumbai), about one lakh people died in 1882 due to storms and floods.

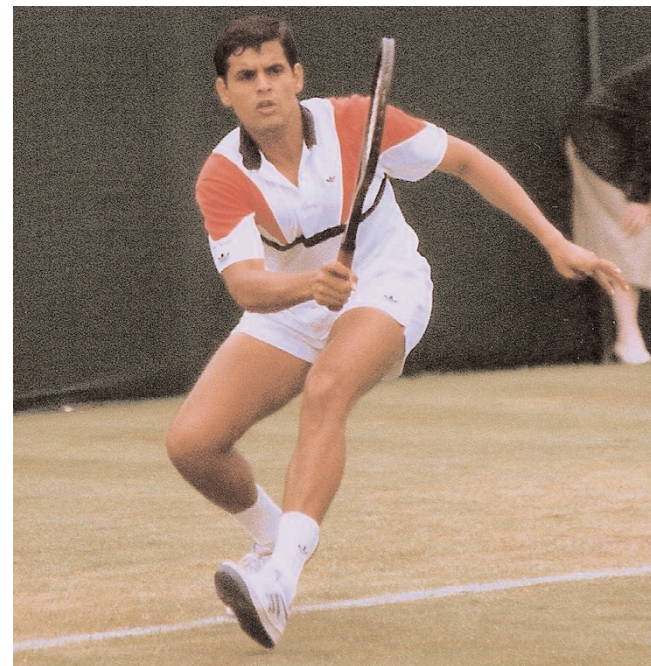
2001 In 2001 the work of investigating the royal family in Nepal was blocked by the resignation of Madhavan, a member of the royal assassination inquiry commission.

2002 In 2002 Pakistan rejected the proposal of a joint patrol along the Indian border.

2017 Successful launch of the heaviest rocket "GSLV Mark-3D-1" in 2017.

1972 Yogi Adityanath, the 21st Chief Minister of the state of Uttar Pradesh, was born in 1972.

1961 India's famous tennis coach and former tennis player Ramesh Krishnan was born.



1879 The originator of the 'Trade Union Movement' in India. M. Joshi was born.

FULBRIGHT INDIA AWARD GOES TO SETON HALL UNIVERSITY'S ASSISTANT PROVOST



(center) Mary Kate Naatus with administrators

BY MABEL PAIS

MARY KATE NAATUS, Ph.D., (shu.edu/profiles/naatusma), assistant provost and dean of Continuing Education and Professional Studies (shu.edu/continuing-education) at Seton Hall University was chosen as one of ten senior United States university administrators to participate in an immersive two-week program under the Fulbright-Nehru Education Administrators Seminar in India in March 2025.

This prestigious seminar, granted by the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, recognizes Naatus's commitment as a distinguished higher education administrator to advancing international education and fostering global partnerships.

The IEA (International Education Administrators) Fulbright-Nehru Seminar, designed and administered by the U.S.-India Educational Foundation, provided U.S. higher education leaders with immersive exposure to India's higher education system. Organizers explained, "This unique opportunity brought together higher education leaders from across the United States to explore India's academic landscape, fostering meaningful dialogue on potential collaborations." The cohort visited approximately 14 universities and colleges in Mumbai, Coimbatore and Delhi. The administrators engaged with Indian academic leaders, administrators and education experts, delving into the latest trends and developments in Indian higher education.

Katia Passerini, Ph.D. (shu.edu/provost/passerini-biography), Seton Hall provost and senior executive

vice president, said, "Mary Kate exemplifies Seton Hall's commitment to fostering a global mindset and creating opportunities for cross-border collaboration. Her participation in the Fulbright-Nehru Seminar strengthens our university ties with Indian institutions and furthers our mission of preparing students to be leaders in a globally interconnected world."

Naatus highlighted that the program connects senior U.S. higher education administrators with Indian universities, private-sector leaders and government agencies to explore India's higher education landscape and provide insight into academic structures, policy frameworks and cultural dynamics to foster global collaboration.

Through site visits and discussions in Mumbai, Coimbatore and Delhi, participants explored India's evolving higher education landscape and identified avenues for international collaboration. Key institutional visits included the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, Kumaraguru College of Technology (Coimbatore), Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Mumbai) and O.P. Jindal Global University (Sonapat, Haryana - Delhi National Capital Region). The U.S.-India Educational Foundation's meticulous planning ensured that participants gained deep insights into India's government policies, educational priorities and opportunities for partnership, ranging from virtual exchanges and student mobility to joint research and degree programs.

"The insights I gained from this prestigious Fulbright Seminar will directly inform Seton Hall University's ongoing efforts to expand academic collaborations with Indian institutions,



(back row - in b&w blouse) Mary Kate Naatus with administrators



Mary Kate Naatus at the Taj Mahal, India

attract top international students and foster a globally connected campus. These initiatives align with the university's broader strategy to develop joint academic programs, enhance faculty research partnerships and strengthen cross-cultural learning opportunities," Naatus noted. "Seton Hall University looks forward to building on the relationships forged through this Fulbright experience and deepening its commitment to internationalization, with India as a key partner in its global engagement strategy."

MARY KATE NAATUS, PH.D

Naatus is an accomplished professional with a diverse background in education, business and global service. Her faculty role at Seton Hall University is professor, Department of Marketing (shu.edu/marketing), Stillman School of Business (shu.edu/business). Her current research interests include socially responsible marketing, business education, social media and small business marketing. Prior to her arrival at the university in January 2023, she served as professor and dean of the Guarini School of Business at Saint Peter's University.

THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

Learn more about the Fulbright Program at fulbrightprogram.org.

THE U.S.-INDIA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Learn more about the Foundation, visit usief.org.in

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

One of the country's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall University has been developing students in mind, heart and spirit since 1856. Home to over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 rigorous majors, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and Bloomberg Businessweek.

Seton Hall's 58-acre main campus is located in the quaint town of South Orange, New Jersey, only 14 miles from Manhattan. The University's nationally ranked School of Law is located in nearby Newark, N.J. Our new Interprofessional Health Sciences (IHS) campus, situated in the towns of Clifton and Nutley, N.J., opened in July 2018. The IHS campus houses Seton Hall's College of Nursing and School of Health and Medical Sciences, as well as the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine.

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

‘PRUDENTIAL NORTH TO SHORE FESTIVAL’ BRACES FOR JUNE CELEBRATION

BY MABEL PAIS

THEME: LAUGHS AND JAMS

'PRUDENTIAL NORTH TO SHORE' June 2025



2025 North to Shore Festival Logo

The 'Prudential North to Shore Festival,' produced by NJPAC with Prudential Financial as title sponsor, is primed to return this June featuring 'Laughs and Jams': A star-studded lineup of musical superstars and world-class comics.

'Prudential North to Shore Festival' will return in June 2025, building on the momentum of two extraordinarily successful festivals in 2023 and 2024, with an expanded lineup that runs from June 14 through June 29.

Watch a NJEDA preview video of the Festival - youtu.be/f79GiHpcAQk

Conceived by Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy in 2023, this year's festival returns with a special focus on comedy and music - 'Laughs and Jams.'

In its first two years, the festival brought in more than \$25 million for ticketed events and has drawn a total audience of over 500,000 to more than 650 shows in 250 venues in Newark, Asbury Park and Atlantic City, making it New Jersey's largest summer arts festival.

Prudential Financial returns as the festival's title sponsor, as part of the Newark-based company's celebration of its 150th anniversary. There are additional NJ sponsors.

NORTH TO SHORE FULL LINE UP: CITY AND DATE

ASBURY PARK



Asbury Park's 'Grasser' Rock Band performs at 'Asbury Lanes.'

Credit: njpac.org

June 14: Eggy at Wonder Bar.
June 15: Los Angeles League of Musicians (LA LOM) at Wonder Bar.
June 16: “Happy Mondays” (lineup TBA) at Wonder Bar.
June 18: Motion City Soundtrack at Stone Pony.
June 19: Steel Pulse at Stone Pony.
June 19: Asbury Jams: Delicate Steve at Wonder Bar.
June 19: Locals Showcase (lineup TBA) at Asbury Lanes.
June 19: Locals Showcase (lineup TBA) at House of Independents.
June 20: Crumb, Kassie Krut at Stone Pony.
June 20: Emerson Woolf & the Wishbones at Asbury Lanes.
June 20: Cults, Zzzahara at House of Independents.
June 20: The Parlor Mob at Wonder Bar.
June 21: Lawrence, Allen Stone at Stone Pony.
June 21: Stars at Asbury Lanes.
June 21: Brenda K. Starr at House of Independents.
June 21: The Smithereens with Marshall Crenshaw at Wonder Bar.
June 21: “Asbury Underground” at various locations.
June 22: Slightly Stoopid at Stone Pony Summer Stage.
June 22: Larkin Poe, Zach Person at Asbury Lanes.
June 22: Locals Showcase: Penelope Road at Wonder Bar.
June 23: “Happy Mondays” (lineup TBA) at Wonder Bar.

June 25: Moon Hooch at Wonder Bar.
June 26: Jack’s Mannequin at Stone Pony Summer Stage.
June 26: Asbury James: Basic at Wonder Bar.
June 27: Streetlight Manifesto at Stone Pony Summer Stage.
June 27: Ripe at Asbury Lanes.
June 27: John Cafferty & the Beaver Brown Band at Wonder Bar.
June 28: Fantastic Cat, John Gallagher Jr. at Wonder Bar.
June 29: George Clinton & Parliament-Funkadelic, Living Colour at Stone Pony Summer Stage.

ASBURY PARK COMMUNITY EVENTS

June 19: Sense of Belonging at Asbury Park Carousel
June 19: Springwood Avenue Sounds at Blackbird Commons
June 19: She’s NorMale at House of Independents
June 20: Ryan Gregg at Asbury Lanes
June 20: The DTS at Asbury Lanes
June 20: Paint on Pine at Pine Street between 2nd and 3rd Ave
June 20: Memory Palace at The Asbury Carousel Building
June 20: Soul in the Park 3 at GotPicz Photography Studio
June 21: Juneteenth Family Arts Festival at Springwood Avenue Park
June 21: Print-a-Palooza at 808 Springwood Ave
June 21: Cazzeek Brothers at Springwood Park
June 21: SOULCASE Community Night at Konscious Community Center
June 21: Dance is Life at Asbury Park Boardwalk Carousel Building
June 22: Newark Pride, INC. at Wonder Bar
June 22: Georgies Community Cookout at Georgies Bar
June 22: Funk Fest at Rbar
June 22: Sound Bytes at Salvation Army Asbury Park
June 22: Heaven vs Hell at Good Hope Annex
June 22: Lens on Asbury Park at GotPicks Photography Studio

ATLANTIC CITY

June 14: Books on the Move: Alvin Ailey at Kennedy Plaza

ATLANTIC CITY COMMUNITY EVENTS

June 14: Bash at Back Sov at Sovereign Avenue Skatepark Back Sov
June 14: Orange Loop Block Party at Cardinal
June 15: Global Grooves at O'Donnell Memorial Park
June 21: FREE: Atlantic City Artists at Historic Gardner’s Basin
June 26: FREE: R&B Society at Historic Gardner’s Basin
August 23: John Brancy at the Celebrity Theater at the Claridge Hotel
September 6: Atlantic City Latino Festival at Showboat at the Boardwalk
October 4: Mary Cross’ Phyllis Hyman at RESORTS Casino Hotel
October: AC Pride TBA
November 1: Dia De Los Muertos at Noyes Arts Garage
November 7: ARTerriors TBA
1/17,2/14, 3/14, 4/11, and 5/15/2026: AC Jamming at Gin Rickey’s Bar

RED BANK

June 21: moe. at Count Basie Center for the Arts

NEWARK

June 17: String Cheese Incident at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.
June 18-20: Black Creative Economy Summit at Symphony Hall.
June 19: Natalia Lafourcade at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.
June 20: Hot 97’s Summer Jam at Prudential Center: Lineup TBA.
June 20: Third Eye Blind, Stars at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.
June 20: Two Funny Mamas featuring Sherri Shepherd and Kym Whitley at Victoria Theater at NJPAC.
June 21: Kumail Nanjiani at Victoria Theater at NJPAC.

June 22: Tina Fey and Amy Poehler at Prudential Center.
June 22: Bassem Youssef at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.
June 22: Bob Summer at NJPAC
June 23: Food Insecurity Panel at Chase Room at NJPAC.
June 26: Stone Temple Pilots, Parlor Mob at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.
June 26: Newark International Film Festival: Tate Brothers Panel Discussion
June 27: Jon Stewart, John Mulaney, Pete Davidson at Prudential Center.
June 27: Joey Diaz at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.
June 27: Nicole Byer at Victoria Theater at NJPAC.
June 27: New Jersey Symphony at Branch Brook Park. (free)

June 27: Sounds of the City: Felix Hernandez’s Rhythm Revue Dance Party at Chambers Plaza at NJPAC. (free)
June 27: Newark International Film Festival: Acting class with Tobias Truvillion.
June 27: Newark International Film Festival: “Hip Hop to Hollywood,” Dupré “DoItAll” Kelly & Friends.
June 28: L.L. Cool J’s Rock the Bell Festival at Prudential Center: Lineup TBA.
June 28: Josh Johnson at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.
June 28: Rosebud Baker at Victoria Theater at NJPAC.
June 28: Sounds of the City: Big Daddy Kane at Chambers Plaza at NJPAC. (free)
June 28: Yogi Fest by Tye Daye at Lincoln Park.
June 28: Newark International Film Festival: Acting class with Morocco Omari.
June 28: Newark International Film Festival: Acting Class with Wendy McKenzie.
June 29: Gregory Porter at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.
June 29: Martin Amini at Victoria Theater at NJPAC.
June 29: Sounds of the City: Lettuce at Chambers Plaza at NJPAC. (free)

NEWARK COMMUNITY EVENTS

June 25: Love Out Loud at Dutch’s Lounge @ Tryp Hotel
June 25: The Woman at the Well at First Presbyterian Church of Newark
June 26: Newark Grounds Night Fest at Mulberry Commons Park
June 26: Respect The Mic at Newark Stage
June 26: Broadway in the Bricks at Newark Public Library
June 26: Drunk Black History at ES550
June 27: Lyrics Matter at The Vault
June 28: Soul-O at NJPAC
June 28: Carrie Jackson at Clement’s Place
June 28: Tropical Noise Fest at Lua Lounge
June 28: Jazz and Joy at Clement’s Place
June 28: Jazz and Jamming at Clement’s Place
June 28: Maurice Chestnut for Big Daddy Kane at NJPAC
June 28: P.Genz for Big Daddy Kane at NJPAC
June 29: Gail Campbell for Lettuce at NJPAC
June 29: Segdrick Marsh for Lettuce at NJPAC
June 29: Rest Fest at Newark Museum of Art
June 29: Taste of the City at Ferry Street
June 29: Down in the Ro’ at Adega Bar and Grill Rooftop

MONTCLAIR

June 26-29: Montclair Film events at Clairidge Theater.
All events are subject to change.

TICKETS

For the latest updates, new concert listings, and tickets, visit northtoshore.com.

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Learn more at NJPAC.org.

PRUDENTIAL NORTH TO SHORE FESTIVAL

Learn more at northtoshore.com.

Earlier articles on the Festival can be read in issues dated March 14, April 25 and May 2.

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

SPEND AN UPLIFTING SUNDAY WITH GOSPEL SENSATION CARLA HARRIS

BY MABEL PAIS

Spend an uplifting Sunday afternoon with the nationally acclaimed Gospel sensation CARLA HARRIS (from Montclair) at the Victoria Theater - Lizzie & Jonathan Tisch Stage, New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Sunday, June 8th, at 3:00 p.m.

Carla will perform a selection of her favorite music genres—including jazz, country, and gospel—to benefit the YMCA of Newark & Vicinity and the Primary Care Scholars Program of Hackensack Meridian Health Medical School. She has previously sold out prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Apollo Theater with her stunning voice and inspiring message.

Carla's gospel albums include 'O This Is Christmas,' 'Unceasing Praise,' 'Joy Is Waiting,' and 'Carla's First Christmas.' Aside from her musical career, Carla Harris is a renowned international public speaker and a senior client



Carla Harris

Credit: njpac.org

advisor at Morgan Stanley. She recently served as Vice Chairman, where she focused on enhancing client connectivity and revenue generation for the firm.

With over 30 years of experience in investment banking, she has extensive knowledge in various industries,

including technology, media, retail, telecommunications, transportation, industrial, and healthcare. Carla is known for her motivating presence and leadership skills.

In August 2013, President Barack Obama appointed her to chair the

National Women's Business Council. Carla has been recognized in several prestigious lists, including Fortune Magazine's "50 Most Powerful Black Executives in Corporate America," Fortune's Most Influential List, U.S. Banker's "Top 25 Most Powerful Women in Finance," Black Enterprise's "Top 75 Most Powerful Women in Business," and "Top 75 African Americans on Wall Street." She is also featured in Essence Magazine's "50 Women Who are Shaping the World" and Ebony's "Power 100." Her work has been highlighted in notable publications such as the Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, Forbes, Fast Money, and Barron's.

Learn more at carlaspearls.com.

TICKETS

To purchase tickets to witness Carla Harris' soulful music, visit NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office or call 888.GO.NJPAC.

DODGE POETRY HOSTS UNDOCU POETS PAST & PRESENT

BY MABEL PAIS

WHAT: UNDOCUMENTED FUTURES
WHEN: June 2, 2025 @ 6 PM
WHERE: VIRTUAL (ON ZOOM)

The Dodge Poetry Foundation in collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) hosts 'Undocumented Futures,' a virtual event on June 2, 2025, at 6PM (EST).

The event features four past and current recipients of the 'Undocupoets Fellowship' — blu, Wo Chan, Claudia Rojas and Georgia Russell. This program celebrates the organization's decade of literary activism and the recent publication of 'Here to Stay: Poetry and Prose from the Undocumented Diaspora' and imagines what the future of the literary landscape entails for poets writing from the undocumented experience.

Fellows will read their poems with pauses between rounds for spontaneous and spirited conversations about topics their work inspires. The program will conclude with curated readings from other poets in the undocumented diaspora, hosted by Undocupoets co-organizers Marcelo Hernandez Castillo, Janine Joseph and Esther Lin.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

One Center Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102
888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)
NJPAC, located in downtown Newark, N.J., is America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic,



Undocu Poets

Credit: njpac.org

cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey – where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. 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 nearly 10 million individuals (including over 1.9 million students and families) since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents.

FOLLOW NJPAC ONLINE:

Website: njpac.org
Twitter: @NJPAC
Instagram: @NJPAC
Hashtag: #NJPAC

Facebook: facebook.com/NJPAC
YouTube: NJPACtvn

FOLLOW NJPAC'S STANDING IN SOLIDARITY SERIES ONLINE:

Website: njpac.org/takeastand
Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand
Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

THE DODGE POETRY FOUNDATION

The Dodge Foundation envisions a just and equitable New Jersey where people of all races and communities have equitable access to opportunities to thrive.

Through grants, capacity-building, and other critical investments, the Dodge Foundation resources changemakers to transform New Jersey into a just and equitable state.

The Foundation focuses its time, resources, and energy on the issues of

economic equity and justice. Its goal is for communities across New Jersey to have abundant resources and opportunities to thrive. It is particularly focused on:

- Housing equity
- Economic security and mobility
- Community infrastructure (safe, healthy, thriving neighborhoods)
- Policy and advocacy

While the Foundation does provide support to statewide organizations, it is particularly focused on five communities across New Jersey: Atlantic City, Camden, Newark, Paterson, and Trenton.

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



Salman Khan trains in low-oxygen condition for war-drama on Galwan valley clash

Actor Salman Khan is all set to portray the iconic role of Galwan Valley war hero Colonel Bikumalla Santosh Babu. While training for his upcoming epic war drama based on the 2020 Indo-China clash, he is leaving no stones unturned. Khan has been focusing on staying true to playing a decorated officer as it's about 'honouring a legacy.'

While speaking about the actor's ongoing intense prep work for the larger-than-life character, an independent industry source said, "Given the high-altitude challenges of shooting in Leh and the physical demands of portraying a decorated Army officer like Colonel Bikumalla Santosh Babu, Salman has committed to an intense training regimen. He's not just preparing to carry the weight of the uniform - he's carrying the weight of the story. The AK-47 he'll be seen with is symbolic, but the real test is enduring the thinner air, long shoots, and rugged terrain. This prep isn't just physical; it's about doing justice to a national hero."

The source further said, "Salman is approaching this role with the utmost sincerity. He understands the responsibility of portraying someone like Colonel Babu - it's not just about getting the physicality right; it's about honouring a legacy. He's training not just for the camera, but out of respect for every soldier who serves the nation."

The 2020 Galwan Valley clash was a violent skirmish between Indian and Chinese troops, escalating tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). It led to casualties on both sides, with reports indicating at least 20 Indian soldiers and 45 Chinese soldiers killed. Colonel Bikumalla Santosh Babu won the Maha Vir Chakra posthumously for his valour during the tensions with China in the Galwan valley.

According to an earlier Bollywood Hungama report, the movie is touted to be based on the novel 'India's Most Fearless 3' by Rahul Singh and Shiv Aroor. The epic film will be directed by Apoorva Lakhia. The war drama is expected to go on floors in the second-half of 2025.

Triptii Dimri bags biggest pay check amid Vanga-Deepika row

After actor Deepika Padukone's exit from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's 'Spirit', actor Triptii Dimri was roped in opposite Prabhas. India Today has exclusively learnt that the 'Animal' actor has secured her biggest pay cheque yet, a massive Rs 6 crore, for her role in the upcoming action entertainer.

Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, 'Spirit' marks a major career milestone for Triptii. The film is currently in the pre-production phase and is expected to go on floors in October. With Prabhas and Triptii in the lead roles and Vanga as the director, the film is already one of the most anticipated pan-India releases.

Meanwhile, Sandeep Reddy Vanga is furious after Deepika's rumoured exit from his film. He shared a cryptic post slamming the 'dirty PR work of an actor'. In a strongly-worded post, he accused the unnamed actor of putting down a younger co-star and 'ousting' his story.

It was earlier speculated that Deepika received the fattest pay cheque to play the female lead opposite in 'Spirit'.



Housefull 5 trailer: Fans call Akshay Kumar 'comedy ka asli king'

Actor Akshay Kumar's 'Housefull 5' trailer, released on May 27, 2025, once again sparked nostalgia among fans. Social media users praised Akshay for his comic timing as he takes on a pivotal role in the fifth instalment of the franchise. Fans on X even called him the 'king of comedy,' claiming he is unbeatable when it comes to humour.

While praising Akshay in 'Housefull 5,' a fan on X wrote, "No one can defeat Akshay Kumar in comedy." Another fan captioned, "Comedy ka asli king Akshay Kumar hi hai (Akshay Kumar is the real king of comedy)."

A fan also wrote, "A comedy film cannot be judged by just a 3-4-minute trailer. Some parts of the trailer are very good, while some parts are a bit average. Overall the trailer is awesome. One of the best in recent times (sic)."

A social media user pointed out, "Nostalgia Movement. Only Akshay Kumar can slap a monkey in 'Housefull 5' and make it iconic!"

'Housefull 5' is directed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala. Despite being a sequel, 'Housefull 5' has a fresh new plot. All films in the movie franchise have independent storylines which do not have any connection to the predecessors.

The film is a murder mystery set on a



ship where one of the three heirs will inherit 69 billion pounds worth of wealth. However, when their father gets murdered on the ship, the mysterious circumstances lead to a comedy-of-errors. The laugh-riot brings more characters on board with cops getting involved.

Apart from Akshay, Abhishek

Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Sonam Bajwa, Jacqueliene Fernandez and Nargis Fakhri, also play pivotal characters in the whodunnit. The supporting cast includes Johnny Lever, Chunky Pandey, Jacky Shroff, Sanjay Dutt and Nana Patekar, among others.

'Housefull 5' is slated for worldwide release on June 6, 2025.

Hugh Jackman's ex-wife Deborra-Lee Furness hints at 'betrayal' as she files for divorce after 2 years of separation

Following 2 years of separation, Hugh Jackman and Deborra-Lee Furness' official divorce proceedings are finally under way. In her first formal address of the situation, in an exclusive statement to Daily Mail, Deborra details her ebb and flow of healing, especially after having withstood "betrayal".

"My heart and compassion goes out to everyone who has traversed the traumatic journey of betrayal. However I believe in a higher power and that God/the universe, whatever you relate to as your guidance, is always working FOR us. This belief has helped me navigate the breakdown of an almost three-decade marriage", she reflects, having "gained much knowledge and wisdom" as she navigates this new phase of her life.

Calling the demise of her 27-year long marriage with Hugh, "a profound wound that cuts deep", she adds, "Even when we are presented with apparent adversity, it is leading us to our greatest good, our true purpose. It can hurt, but in the long run, returning to yourself and living within your own integrity, values and boundaries is liberation and freedom".

Her one big takeaway? — "...none of this is personal".

She elaborates, "We are all on our individual journeys and I believe that the relationships in our lives are not random. We are drawn to people, we invite them in, in order to learn our lessons and to recognize and heal the broken parts of ourselves...I remain



grateful". Hugh and Deborra tied the knot on April 11, 1996. After 27 years of marriage, the duo announced the news of their separation in September 2023. Their exclusive statement to PEOPLE read, "We have been blessed to share almost 3 decades together as husband and wife in a wonderful, loving marriage. Our journey now is shifting and we have decided to separate to

pursue our individual growth". Hugh and Deborra share children Oscar, 24, and Ava 19, the former having been adopted in 2000 and the latter in 2005.

As far as Hugh's healing goes, he was spotted hand-in-hand, in what appeared to be a lowkey Santa Monica dinner date with his Music Man co-star Sutton Foster, earlier this year in January.



Tom Cruise posts gratitude note after Mission Impossible 8's terrific weekend

Actor Tom Cruise, known for his larger-than-life cinematic spectacles, shared a gratitude note following the success of 'Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning.' Cruise thanked everyone associated with the film as well as the audiences for their love towards the final instalment of 'Mission Impossible' franchise.

The actor, in his thank-you note shared on social media wrote, "This weekend was one for the history books! Congratulations and thank you to every filmmaker, every artist, every crew member, and every single person who works at the studios. To every theatre and every employee who helps bring these stories to the audiences, thank you. To everyone that works at Paramount Pictures and Skydance, thank you for your many years of partnership and unwavering support."

He concluded, "And most of all, THANK YOU to the audiences everywhere – for whom we all serve and for whom we all LOVE to entertain. Sincerely, Tom."

While reacting to the post, a fan commented, "Thank you for making great movies!! Please come to Greece more often! We love you here!"



Brad Pitt says settlement with Angelina not a major thing after 8-year battle

Hollywood actor Brad Pitt talked about his divorce from Angelina Jolie for the first time.

In an interview with GQ, the actor, who is gearing up for the upcoming film 'F1', opened up about his eight-year-long divorce battle and reaching a settlement with Jolie for the first time. He also shared how his personal life has always been in the news.

When asked if he felt relief after reaching a settlement with Jolie in his long divorce battle, Pitt said, "No, I don't think it was that major of a thing. Just something coming to fruition. Legally."

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, popularly called Brangelina, got married in 2014 after dating for a long time. Their divorce proceedings prolonged for eight years. The duo reached a settlement in December 2024. The two share six children.

In the same interview, Pitt spoke about his

personal life always making headlines. "It's been in the news for 20 years. Or some version of my personal life, let's put it that way," he added.

Calling it an 'annoyance', the actor said, "It's been an annoyance I've had to always deal with in different degrees, large and small, as I do things I really want to do. So, it's always been this kind of nagging time suck or waste of time, if you let it be that. I don't know," he explained about the attention to his personal life.

Continuing further, he said, "Mostly I feel pretty...My life is fairly contained. It feels pretty warm and secure with my friends, with my loves, with my fam, with my knowledge of who I am, that you know, it's like this fly buzzing around a little bit."

On the professional front, Pitt is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film, 'F1 - The Movie', which will hit theatres on June 27 in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

CHINA SET TO RESUME IMPORTS OF JAPANESE SEAFOOD HALTED OVER FUKUSHIMA WATER DISCHARGE CONCERN

30 MAY 2025

TOKYO (TIP): China will resume Japanese seafood imports it banned in 2023 over worries about Japan's discharge of treated but slightly radioactive wastewater from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea, a Japanese minister said Friday.

Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said the agreement was reached after officials met in Beijing and the imports will resume once paperwork is complete.

China said talks this week made substantial progress, but did not confirm an agreement with Japan on the issue that has been a significant political and diplomatic point of tension.

Seafood is an important export item for Japan and a resumption of its export to China is a major milestone, Koizumi said.

Japan's Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya also welcomed the move, saying: It will be a big first step that would help Japan and China to tackle a number of remaining issues between the two countries.

But officials said China's ban on farm and fisheries products from 10 Japanese prefectures, including Fukushima, is still in place and that they will keep pushing toward their lifting.

China's General Administration of Customs said in a statement Friday that the two sides had on Wednesday held a new round of technical exchanges on the safety issues of Japanese aquatic products and achieved substantial progress, but did not mention an agreement.

Disagreement over seafood imports China blocked imports of Japanese seafood because it said the release of the treated and diluted but still slightly radioactive wastewater would endanger the fishing industry and coastal communities in eastern China.

Japanese officials have said the wastewater will be safer than international standards and its environmental impact will be negligible.

They say the wastewater must be released to make room for the nuclear plant's decommissioning and to prevent accidental leaks.

Tokyo and Beijing have held three rounds of talks since March on the issue before reaching the agreement this week on the technical requirements necessary for Japanese seafood exports to China to restart, Japan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

It did not say how long it may take before the actual resumption.

Mainland China used to be the biggest overseas market for Japanese seafood, accounting for more than one-fifth of its seafood exports, followed by Hong Kong. (AP)

HAMAS SAYS IT IS STILL REVIEWING A US PROPOSAL FOR A GAZA CEASEFIRE

30 MAY 2025

DEIR AL-BALAH (TIP): Hamas said Friday it was still reviewing a U.S. proposal for a temporary ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, where 27 people were killed in new Israeli airstrikes, according to hospital officials.

The ceasefire plan, which has been approved by Israeli officials, won a cool initial reaction Thursday from the militant group.

U.S. negotiators have not publicised the terms of the proposal. But a Hamas official and an Egyptian official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive talks, said Thursday that it called for a 60-day pause in fighting, guarantees of serious negotiations leading to a long-term truce and assurances that Israel will not resume hostilities after the release of hostages, as it did in March.

In a terse statement issued Friday, Hamas said it is holding consultations with Palestinian factions over the proposal it had received from U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff.

While changes may have been made to the proposal, the version confirmed earlier called for Israeli forces to pull back to the positions they held before it ended the last ceasefire. Hamas would release 10 living hostages and a number of bodies during the 60-day pause in exchange for more than 1,100 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, including 100 serving long sentences after being convicted of deadly attacks.

Each day, hundreds of trucks carrying food and humanitarian aid would be allowed to enter Gaza, where experts say a nearly three-month Israeli blockade — slightly eased in recent days — has pushed the population to the brink of famine.

"Negotiations are ongoing on the current proposal," Qatar's ambassador to



the United Nations, Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani said Friday, referring to talks between her country, the United States and Egypt.

On Thursday, a top Hamas official, Bassem Naim, said the U.S. proposal "does not respond to any of our people's demands, foremost among which is stopping the war and famine."

The uncertainty over the new proposal came as hospital officials said that 27 people had been killed Friday in separate airstrikes. A strike that hit a tent in the southern city of Khan Younis killed 13, including eight children, hospital officials said. The Israeli military did not immediately comment.

Meanwhile, the bodies of 12 people, including three women, were brought to Shifa Hospital on Friday from the nearby Jabaliya refugee camp. The Palestinian Red Crescent Society said the bodies of two others were brought to a hospital in

Gaza City.

Hospital officials also said Friday that at least 72 had been killed in Gaza during the previous day. That figure does not include some hospitals in the north, which are largely cut off due to the fighting.

Since the war began, more than 54,000 Gaza residents, mostly women and children, have been killed according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its tally. The war began with Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, which left around 1,200 dead.

Some Gaza residents said their hope for a ceasefire is tempered by repeated disappointment over negotiations that failed to deliver a lasting deal.

"This is the war of starvation, death, siege and long lines for food and toilets," Mohammed Abed told The Associated Press in the central Gaza city of Deir al-Balah. (AP)

Ukraine says it's ready to resume talks with Russia but needs clarity on Kremlin's terms

30 MAY 2025

KYIV (TIP): Ukraine is ready to resume direct peace talks with Russia in Istanbul on Monday, a top adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, following days of uncertainty over whether Kyiv would attend a further meeting proposed by Moscow.

But Ukrainian officials have insisted that the Kremlin provide a promised memorandum setting out its position on ending the more than three-year war, before the two delegations sit down to negotiate.

"Ukraine is ready to attend the next meeting, but we want to engage in a constructive discussion," Andrii Yermak said in a statement on the website of Ukraine's Presidential Office late Thursday.

"This means it is important to receive Russia's draft. There is enough time — four days are sufficient for preparing and sending the documents," Yermak said.

Ukraine and its European allies have

repeatedly accused the Kremlin of dragging its feet in peace efforts, while it tries to press its bigger army's battlefield initiative and capture more Ukrainian land.

Kyiv's Western partners, including the U.S., are urging Moscow to agree to an unconditional ceasefire, something Kyiv has embraced while the Kremlin has held out for terms more to its liking.

Ukraine's top diplomat, Andrii Sybiha, also told reporters on Friday that Kyiv is waiting for Russia to clarify its proposals ahead of a next round of talks.

"We want to end this war this year. We are interested in establishing a ceasefire, whether it is for 30 days, 50 days, or 100 days. Ukraine is open to discussing this directly with Russia," Sybiha said at a joint news conference in Kyiv with his Turkish counterpart, Hakan Fidan.

Sybiha and Fidan also held the door open to a future meeting between Presidents Zelenskyy and Vladimir Putin of Russia, possibly also including U.S. President Donald Trump. Fidan said

the ongoing peace push in Istanbul could be "crowned with" such a meeting.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Friday told reporters that a Russian delegation will head to Istanbul and stand ready to take part in the second round of talks on June 2.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Wednesday publicly invited Ukraine to hold direct negotiations with Moscow on that date. In a video statement, Lavrov said Russia would use Monday's meeting to deliver an outline of Moscow's position on "reliably overcoming" what it calls the root causes of the war. Russian officials have said for weeks that such a document is forthcoming.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov on Wednesday said that Ukraine isn't opposed to further direct talks with Russia, but that they would be "empty" if Moscow were to fail to clarify its terms. Umerov said he had personally handed a document setting out Ukraine's position to the Russian side. (AP)

China to resume Japanese seafood imports it halted over Fukushima water discharge

30 MAY 2025

TOKYO (TIP): China will resume Japanese seafood imports that it banned in 2023 over worries about Japan's discharge of wastewater from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea, a Japanese official said Friday.

The issue has been a significant political and diplomatic point of tension for the wary Asian powers.

Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said the two sides reached an agreement after Japanese and Chinese officials met in Beijing and the imports will resume once the necessary paperwork is done.

China did not immediately comment. China blocked imports of Japanese seafood because it said the release would endanger the fishing industry and coastal communities in eastern China.

Japanese officials have said the wastewater must be released to make room for the nuclear plant's decommissioning and to prevent accidental leaks. They say the treatment and dilution will make the wastewater safer than international standards and its environmental impact will be negligible.

Friday's announcement is based on an agreement between the two nations that Beijing would take steps toward ending the ban by joining water sampling missions by the United Nations'



International Atomic Energy Agency.

The March 2011 nuclear meltdowns followed an earthquake and tsunami. There were meltdowns in the plant's three reactors, causing large amounts of radioactive water to accumulate. The water release has been a milestone for the plant's battle with an ever-growing radioactive water stockpile that officials say has hampered the daunting task of removing fatally toxic melted debris from the reactors.

The wastewater was treated and heavily diluted to reduce the radioactivity as much as possible before Japan began discharging the wastewater in August 2023.

Last September, then-Prime Minister

Fumio Kishida said the two sides reached "a certain level of mutual understanding" that China would start working toward easing the import ban and join the IAEA expanded monitoring of wastewater discharges.

People inside and outside Japan protested the initial wastewater release. Japanese fishing groups said they feared it would further damage the reputation of their seafood. Groups in China and South Korea also raised concerns.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings has said the utility would compensate Japanese business owners appropriately for damages suffered by export bans. (AP)

ARGENTINE COURT DECLARES MISTRIAL IN THE CASE OVER DEATH OF DIEGO MARADONA

29 MAY 2025

BUENOS AIRES (TIP): An Argentine court on Thursday declared a mistrial in the case of seven health professionals accused of negligence in the death of soccer legend Diego Maradona, the latest dramatic twist in a trial that has captivated the nation and the soccer world for more than two months.

The whiplash decision comes after one of the three judges overseeing the trial stepped down over criticism surrounding her participation in a forthcoming documentary about the case.

Her controversial withdrawal compelled the court to either appoint a new judge in her place or to retry the entire case from scratch.

On Thursday, the judges decided the latter, effectively turning the clock back on all proceedings in the case that accuses Maradona's medical team of failing to provide adequate care for the soccer star in his final days.

The judges ruled there would be a new trial, without specifying when.

Julietta Makintach said that she had "no choice" but to resign from the case on Tuesday after the prosecutor showed a teaser-trailer for a documentary, Divine Justice, which traces the aftermath of Maradona's death at the age of 60 to the start of the trial, clearly featuring Makintach as a main protagonist.

Maradona, who led Argentina to the World Cup title in 1986, died on Nov. 25, 2020 on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, days after undergoing surgery for a hematoma that formed between his skull and brain. (AP)

SOUTH KOREAN NAVY PATROL PLANE CRASHES IN COUNTRY'S SOUTH, KILLING 4

29 MAY 2025

SEOUL (TIP): A South Korean navy plane crashed during a training flight on Thursday, killing all four crew members on board, the navy said.

The P-3 patrol plane took off from its base in the southeastern city of Pohang at 1:43 p.m. and crashed due to unknown reasons, the navy said in a statement. It said it had identified the bodies of the four crew members and was in the process of recovering them.

There were no immediate reports of civilian casualties on the ground. The navy set up a task force to investigate the crash and temporarily grounded its P-3s.

An emergency office in Pohang said that rescuers and fire trucks were dispatched to the site after receiving reports from residents that an aircraft crashed on a hill near an apartment complex and caused a fire. (AP)

Rockfall at Indonesian limestone quarry kills 13

30 MAY 2025

CIREBON (TIP): At least thirteen people were killed and a dozen injured Friday in a rockfall at a limestone quarry on Indonesia's Java island, disaster official said.

The company overseeing the mine was operating legally but safety standards were lacking, according to West Java governor Dedi Mulyadi, who said he had ordered its closure following the accident.

Workers and heavy equipment were buried when rocks suddenly crumbled at the mining site in the city of Cirebon in West Java province at around 09:30 am local time (0230 GMT).

"UNTIL NOW, 13 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FOUND DEAD. AROUND FIVE TO SIX PEOPLE MIGHT STILL BE BURIED, AND THE FIGURE MIGHT CHANGE," THE HEAD OF THE LOCAL DISASTER AGENCY, DENI NURCAHYA TOLD AFP.



evacuation and resume the operation Saturday morning for fear of another rockfall, he said.

Previously, the local police chief, Sumarni, who like many Indonesians has one name told AFP that at least 12 people were injured and have been taken to hospitals.

Friday's incident was the second time the quarry collapsed. Parts of the mine collapsed in February but there were no casualties reported.

"I decided to shut down the pit permanently, not just this pit but also

other pits nearby," Dedi told Metro TV.

Mining accidents are common across the mineral-rich Southeast Asian archipelago, especially in unlicensed sites where safety protocols are often ignored.

In 2023, eight workers died after being trapped in an illegal gold mine in Central Java.

In July last year at least 23 people died and 35 others were missing when a landslide hit a remote village near an illegal gold mine on the central island of Sulawesi. (AFP)

Rescuers decided to halt the

NOT THE NOBLE NOBEL LAUREATE ANYMORE: MUHAMMAD YUNUS AND THE WORSENING TUMULT IN BANGLADESH

29 MAY 2025

DHAKA / NEW DELHI (TIP) :

Imagine government employees at South and North Block in New Delhi suddenly going on strike, workers in all tax departments downing pens and primary teachers picketing schools across the country – and all this at the same time.

Imagine the Army telling the government that it doesn't like some of its policies. Imagine inflation soaring, Foreign Direct Investments vanishing, mobs roaming the street and the courts letting jailed criminals sentenced to death go scot-free.

Something close to this dystopia is now unfolding in Bangladesh. Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel laureate heading an interim government in Dhaka since the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina nine months ago, has been quoted describing the situation in the country as "war-like". He has been blaming much of the country's troubles on the Awami League, the Sheikh Hasina-led party banned on May 12, and on the foreign hand trope, in this case, a "hegemonistic" India.

Before Bangladesh shuts down for a 10-day holiday next week to mark Eid al-Adha, a mega rally on Wednesday in Dhaka called by the Awami League's rival Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and easily the biggest political party in that country today, pumped up the political temperatures to boiling point. On the same day, Yunus left for Japan on a four-day visit. Anything could happen.

Last week, what happened was an Army coup without a coup. The chief of Army Staff General Waqar ul Zaman was quoted in WhatsApp messages that went viral worldwide as having served an ultimatum to the Yunus-led dispensation that elections must be held this December so that Bangladesh has a brand-new democratically elected government on New Year's Day 2026.

The debate over when elections should be held is split between those who want reforms to the poll process first and then elections and those who want elections first and insist reforms can wait. The biggest political party BNP wants polls by December, but Yunus had promised polls only by June 2026. This is a position backed by the Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizens' Party (NCP) who want polls only after full electoral reforms, even if it takes a full five years.

The Army on Monday denied General Zaman had issued any ultimatum in his address to officers in Dhaka and the fact is there is no audio or video recording of his statement. But few doubt the veracity of a flood of WhatsApp messages that emerged after the General's meeting and went viral. (AFP)

Pakistan announces it will send ambassador to Afghanistan to upgrade diplomatic ties

30 MAY 2025

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan announced Friday that it is upgrading its diplomatic representation in neighboring Afghanistan from chargé d'affaires to the level of ambassador, a move aimed at improving bilateral relations between the two neighbors.

The announcement by the Foreign Minister, Ishaq Dar, comes a week after he met his Afghan counterpart, Amir Khan Muttaqi, alongside China's top diplomat during a trilateral meeting in Beijing.

Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban government have embassies in each other's capitals but they are led by chargés d'affaires. Like the international community, Pakistan has not recognized the Afghan Taliban government.

There was no immediate comment from Kabul. However, Pakistan had earlier signalled that the two sides were considering an upgrade in diplomatic ties.

In a statement, Dar said relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have taken a positive turn since his visit to Kabul in April. "To maintain this momentum, I am pleased to announce the decision of the Government of Pakistan to upgrade the level of its chargé d'affaires in Kabul to the level of ambassador," he said.



Dar expressed hope that the decision would strengthen economic cooperation, boost bilateral trade and enhance joint efforts to combat terrorism.

Tensions between the two countries have long been strained over Pakistan's accusations that Kabul provides safe haven to Pakistani Taliban, who are known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP and are allies of the Afghan Taliban.

TTP is a separate group and has been emboldened since the Afghan Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021. (AP)



SRI LANKA SEIZES LARGEST COCAINE HAUL AT MAIN AIRPORT

30 MAY 2025

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka's customs authorities arrested on Friday a woman and seized the largest haul of cocaine ever detected at the country's main international airport, an official said.

The unnamed 38-year-old Thai woman was carrying nearly 10 kilogrammes (22 pounds) of cocaine stuffed into three soft toys, Customs Additional Director-General Seevali Arukgoda said.

"This is the biggest attempt at cocaine smuggling stopped by Sri Lanka Customs at the airport," Arukgoda said in a statement.

Customs officials at Bandaranaike International Airport posed for photos with the cocaine, which had been neatly stuffed into just over 500 plastic capsules, with an estimated street value of \$1.72 million.

The seizure follows three other hauls this month totalling nearly 60 kilogrammes of synthetic cannabis.

Three foreign nationals — from Britain, India, and Thailand -- were arrested in separate cases.

The Briton, identified as Charlotte May Lee, 21, a former cabin crew member from London, was produced before a magistrate on Friday and further remanded until June 13, court officials said.

She was arrested on May 12 when officials discovered that her two suitcases were packed with 46 kilogrammes of kush, a synthetic drug.

All four suspects, including the Thai woman arrested on Friday, could face life imprisonment if convicted.

Sri Lankan authorities have previously seized large quantities of heroin off the country's shores, suggesting the island is being used as a transit hub for narcotics destined for other locations.

In October, a Sri Lankan court sentenced 10 Iranian men to life imprisonment after they pleaded guilty to smuggling more than 111 kilogrammes of heroin. In 2023, nine Iranians received life sentences in a separate drug smuggling case.

Sri Lanka's largest single seizure of narcotics occurred in December 2016, when Customs found 800 kilogramme (1,760 pounds) of cocaine in a transshipment container of timber addressed to a company in neighbouring India. (AP)

NEPAL ARRESTS FIVE INDIAN NATIONALS OVER KIDNAPPING OF BANGLADESHIS FOR RANSOM

28 MAY 2025

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal Police have busted a kidnapping racket and arrested five Indian nationals on Wednesday for allegedly holding Bangladeshi tourists hostage for ransom in the Himalayan nation.

Those arrested include Shiva Saurabh, 34, from Delhi, Ramesh Jadav, 64, from Kanpur; and Dipak Kumar, 32, Sandip Kumar, 36, and Jasprit Singh, 38, all from Punjab, according to Senior Superintendent of Police Apil Bohara, spokesperson for Kathmandu Metropolitan Police.

The gang had abducted seven Bangladeshi nationals visiting Nepal under the pretext of offering them cheap travel packages, Bohara told PTI.

The Bangladeshi nationals were held hostage in a rented house in Lalitpur Metropolitan City, within the Kathmandu Valley, and were subjected to both mental and physical torture, police said.

The criminals seized USD 2,000-3,500 from each person and their mobile phones, and forced them to request millions of dollars in ransom via WhatsApp.

The Bangladeshi nationals were reportedly beaten and threatened with death. The police, acting upon a tip-off, arrested the Indian nationals from different parts of Kathmandu.

The Kathmandu District Court has granted a six-day judicial remand for further investigation. (PTI)



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In today's fast-paced world, the idea of "less is more" is gaining traction—especially when it comes to clothing. Minimalist wardrobes and capsule closets are no longer just trends; they're lifestyle choices that help simplify fashion and make everyday dressing easier and more mindful.

Understanding the Minimalist Wardrobe

A minimalist wardrobe strips away the excess and focuses on core essentials. Rather than a closet packed with options, it contains a small number of items that are versatile and meaningful. These garments are typically neutral, timeless, and high in quality—allowing you to mix and match effortlessly.

What Does a Capsule Closet Mean?

A capsule closet takes minimalism to the next level by creating a planned set of 30 to 40 items, including clothing, shoes, and accessories. This curated collection changes seasonally and ensures every piece serves a purpose. It's about being intentional, not repetitive, and avoiding impulse buys.

Why It Works: The Benefits

Choosing to simplify your wardrobe can help reduce daily stress. With fewer decisions to make in the morning, you save time and mental energy. Focusing on essential, well-made clothing also means you invest in items that last longer, look better, and align with your personal style.

It's Also a Greener Choice

Minimalism in fashion isn't just about ease—it's also eco-conscious. When you buy less and choose quality over quantity, you're contributing to a reduction in textile waste. This shift challenges the throwaway culture of fast fashion and supports a more sustainable industry.

Getting Started with Minimalism

The first step is to declutter your current wardrobe—let go of items you never wear, that don't fit, or that no longer feel like 'you'. Then, rebuild thoughtfully with

Why minimalist wardrobes are the smartest way to dress



durable, classic pieces. Neutral tones and quality materials like cotton, wool, and linen are ideal choices for long-term use.

A Movement, Not a Moment

Minimalist wardrobes and capsule closets are part of a larger lifestyle movement that values simplicity, intentionality, and sustainability. As awareness grows

about the downsides of overconsumption, more people are adopting this approach not just in fashion but in life. Embracing a minimalist wardrobe can transform how you think about clothing. It's not about limiting your style—it's about refining it. With fewer distractions and a deeper focus on what truly matters, you can create a wardrobe that's not only functional but also aligned with your values.

Home remedies to cure oily skin

Oily skin is a common dermatological concern that affects people of all ages. Characterized by an overproduction of sebum (natural oil produced by sebaceous glands), oily skin can lead to enlarged pores, acne, blackheads, and a persistently shiny appearance. While various over-the-counter products and dermatological treatments are available, many individuals prefer natural remedies due to their affordability, accessibility, and fewer side effects. This article delves into effective home remedies to cure and manage oily skin, providing natural solutions rooted in both traditional wisdom and modern skincare science.

TOP HOME REMEDIES FOR OILY SKIN

Multani Mitti Face Pack

- Benefits: Absorbs excess oil, unclogs pores, and cools the skin.
- How to Use:
- Mix 2 tablespoons of Multani Mitti with rose water or plain water to form a smooth paste.
 - Apply to the face, avoiding the eye area.



- Leave it for 15-20 minutes and rinse with lukewarm water.
- Use twice a week.

Aloe Vera Gel

- Benefits: Soothes skin, controls oiliness, and provides hydration without greasiness.
- How to Use:
- Extract fresh aloe vera gel from a leaf.
 - Apply a thin layer on your face before bedtime.
 - Wash off in the morning with a gentle cleanser.
 - Daily use is recommended.

Lemon Juice and Honey Mask

- Benefits: Lemon's astringent properties tighten pores; honey moisturizes and has antibacterial

properties.

How to Use:

- Mix 1 tablespoon of lemon juice with 1 tablespoon of raw honey.
- Apply to the face and leave for 15 minutes.
- Rinse off with warm water.
- Use 2-3 times a week.

Cucumber Toner

- Benefits: Refreshes the skin, tightens pores, and controls oil.
- How to Use:
- Blend a cucumber and strain the juice.
 - Apply the juice with a cotton pad after cleansing.
 - Let it dry naturally.
 - Store in the fridge for up to 5 days.

Apple Cider Vinegar (ACV)

- Benefits: Balances skin pH and acts as a natural toner.
- How to Use:
- Mix 1 part ACV with 3 parts water.
 - Apply using a cotton ball after washing the face.
 - Rinse off after 10 minutes or leave overnight if tolerated.
 - Use 3 times a week.

FOOD CORNER

Champagne Trifle

Ingredients

Chocolate Cake - 200 gms (readymade)
Strawberries - 1/2 cup, chopped Champagne - 3/4 cup (or Sparkling water for a non-alcoholic version)
Water - 1/4 cup Eggs - 2 Sugar - 50 gms Corn Flour - 1 1/2 tsp Vanilla Extract - 1/2 tsp

Method

Cut the cake into small pieces, Combine the champagne, water, eggs, sugar, corn flour and vanilla extract in a bowl. Whisk well. Heat a pan of water over medium flame. Place the bowl over the water, but ensure the bowl does not touch the water. Whisk well until thick and remove from flame. Allow it to cool. Add some of the cake and stawberries to a champagne glass (or any serving bowl). Top up with the champagne custard and keep it in the fridge if required.



WHO flags 11% Covid-19 positivity rate with new variant NB.1.8.1 gaining ground

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has reported a fresh uptick in global Covid-19 activity, with the test positivity rate reaching 11%, a level not observed since July 2024.

According to the latest data collected from sentinel surveillance sites, the rise in infections has been most pronounced since mid-February 2025, affecting several regions, including the Eastern Mediterranean, South-East Asia, and the Western Pacific.

The increase is also coinciding with subtle shifts in the dominant SARS-CoV-2 variants.

While the circulation of the LP.8.1 variant has declined in recent months, the newer NB.1.8.1 strain, which is currently listed as a Variant Under Monitoring, is gaining ground, accounting for 10.7% of global sequences reported as of mid-May.

Despite the rise in activity, WHO said the trends remain broadly in line with patterns observed around the same time last year.

However, the organisation stressed that Covid-19 still does not exhibit a clear seasonal pattern, and global surveillance remains inconsistent.



"Continued monitoring of SARS-CoV-2 variants and transmission is essential, especially as surveillance capacities have been reduced in many regions," the WHO stated in its latest update.

The WHO has reiterated the importance of sustained efforts in Covid-19 management, calling on countries to adopt a "risk-based, integrated approach" as outlined in the Standing Recommendations issued by the WHO Director-General.

Vaccination remains central to this strategy. The WHO urged

nations to prioritise vaccine coverage, particularly among high-risk groups, to reduce hospitalisations and deaths.

Health experts have repeatedly voiced concern over declining Covid-19 testing and genome sequencing globally, trends that have made it more difficult to detect and respond to new variants in real-time.

With no defined seasonal cycle yet established by the health agency, the virus's evolution continues to challenge traditional outbreak forecasting.



How low vitamin D at birth could predict future mental illnesses like autism

A newborn with low levels of vitamin D could be more likely to develop mental health conditions like autism, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and schizophrenia later in life, according to a Lancet study involving the University of Queensland.

This is supposed to be the largest population-based study to date looking at vitamin D and mental disorders, published in Psychiatry.

Researchers assessed the vitamin D status of over 71,000 individuals, many of whom had been diagnosed with mental health disorders during childhood or early adulthood.

John McGrath from Queensland Brain Institute, who led the study in collaboration with Denmark's Aarhus University and the State Serum Institute, said that the team examined six mental disorders: major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, ADHD, autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and anorexia nervosa.

"We found evidence that people with lower vitamin D concentration as a baby had an increased risk of schizophrenia, ASD and ADHD," McGrath said.

He added that their findings support the idea that vitamin D supplementation during pregnancy and early life may help reduce the risk of developing certain mental disorders later on.

"Vitamin D is important for a baby's brain development, and low vitamin D levels are common in pregnant women across the globe," he said.

To understand the broader impact of this research, IndiaToday.in spoke to Dr Himani Narula Khanna, a developmental behavioural paediatrician and adolescent mental health expert, who confirmed that a growing number of studies have drawn similar conclusions.

She referred to earlier research, including a 2016 cohort study in Denmark and another in Finland, which found that babies born to mothers with low vitamin D levels had a higher risk of developing schizophrenia, ADHD, and autism symptoms in childhood or adulthood.

How much junk food did you eat? A new test may soon tell

Counting how much ultra-processed food someone eats has always relied on diet questionnaires and personal honesty. But researchers at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), the world's largest medical research body, may have found a more objective way: by reading it in your blood and urine.

In a new study published in PLOS Medicine, scientists have developed what they call a poly-metabolite score, a biomarker-based tool that can estimate how much of a person's energy comes from ultra-processed foods.

These include packaged snacks, soft drinks, ready-to-eat meals, and other industrially manufactured calorie-dense products and nutrient-poor products.

This could be a breakthrough for nutrition research, which has long struggled with the inaccuracies of self-reported diet data.

"The limitations of self-reported



diet are well known. With metabolomics, we can get closer to an objective measure of food intake and also understand how diet may be impacting health," said Dr Erikka Loftfield, lead investigator and researcher at the National Cancer Institute.

The NIH team looked at blood and urine samples for 12 months from two different groups: one observational study of 718 older US adults, and one clinical trial where 20 participants were fed two

different diets, one high (80%) and one completely free (0%) of ultra-processed foods, each for two weeks.

The researchers found hundreds of tiny substances in the blood and urine, called metabolites, that were linked to how much ultra-processed food a person ate.

Using machine learning, they created a special score called a poly-metabolite score that could tell how processed a person's diet was.

These scores clearly showed the difference between when someone was eating mostly processed food and when they weren't, the study authors noted.

The health risks of diets high in ultra-processed foods such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, and even some cancers are well documented.

But quantifying how much people actually eat is tricky, especially when relying on memory-based food logs or questionnaires. People could forget, under-report, or misjudge portion sizes.

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Earth to cross 1.5°C temperature rise threshold by 2029, warns UN

The world is on track to experience continued record-breaking temperatures over the next five years, sharply increasing climate-related risks for societies, economies, and sustainable development, according to a new report released by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).

The WMO's latest decadal forecast, compiled with input from the UK Met Office and other global climate centers, projects an 80% chance that at least one year between 2025 and 2029 will surpass 2024 as the warmest on record.

There is also an 86% probability that at least one of these years will see global temperatures more than 1.5C above pre-industrial levels (1850-1900 average).

The five-year average warming for 2025-2029 is now 70% likely to exceed the 1.5C threshold—a sharp increase from last year's prediction.

The report warns that every fraction of a degree in additional warming intensifies heatwaves, extreme rainfall, droughts, melting of ice sheets and glaciers, ocean warming, and rising sea levels.

The Arctic is expected to warm at more than three and a half times the global average, with winter temperatures projected to be 2.4C above the recent 30-year baseline. Sea ice reductions are anticipated in the Barents, Bering, and Okhotsk seas.

Rain patterns are also shifting, with wetter-than-average conditions forecast for the Sahel, northern Europe, Alaska, and northern Siberia, and drier conditions expected over the Amazon.

South Asia is likely to continue experiencing wetter years, although seasonal variations will persist.

"Unfortunately, this WMO report provides no sign of respite over the coming years," said Ko Barrett, WMO Deputy Secretary-General. "There will be a growing negative impact on our economies, our daily lives, our ecosystems and our planet."

The Paris Agreement aims to limit long-term warming to well below 2C, with efforts to keep it under 1.5C. However, the WMO stresses that temporary exceedances of these levels are becoming more frequent as global temperatures rise.

Isro performed 10 manoeuvres to save satellites on collision course

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) successfully performed 10 Collision Avoidance Manoeuvres (CAMs) in 2024 to protect its satellites from potential collisions with other objects in space, according to the newly released Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) for 2024.

The report highlights that the number of CAMs required in 2024 was lower than in the previous year.

This reduction is attributed to Isro's adoption of improved close approach analysis techniques, which included a larger conjunction screening volume and the use of more accurate ephemerides (precise orbital data). These advancements allowed Isro to address collision risks by making timely adjustments to routine orbit maintenance manoeuvres, thereby reducing the need for exclusive CAMs.

Isro's meticulous approach to satellite safety involved subjecting all manoeuvre plans—including CAMs—to thorough close approach risk analysis. This ensured that any potential post-manoeuve close approaches with neighboring space objects were identified and mitigated.

In 2024, 89 manoeuvre plans for Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites were revised to avoid such risks, while two



manoeuvre plans for Geostationary Earth Orbit (GEO) satellites were similarly adjusted.

The report also details Isro's approach for deep-space missions. For the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter (CH2O), 14 orbit maintenance manoeuvres were carried out, with plans adjusted on eight occasions to mitigate collision risks.

Notably, on one occasion, a scheduled orbit maintenance manoeuvre was advanced to avoid a close conjunction with Nasa's Lunar Reconnaissance

Orbiter (LRO), highlighting the complexity and international nature of space traffic management.

Isro's enhanced space situational awareness and collision risk mitigation strategies are increasingly vital as the number of satellites and space debris in Earth's orbit continues to rise.

These efforts not only safeguard India's valuable space assets but also contribute to the global effort to maintain the safety and sustainability of outer space operations.

WhatsApp may soon let you logout from the account without erasing data



WhatsApp may soon allow users to step away from the app without having to uninstall it or erase their chat history, according to details uncovered in a recent beta release. This long-requested feature could provide users with more control over how and when they use the messaging platform, particularly helpful for those looking to take a digital break or switch between multiple accounts. For now, if users want to logout from the account, they have to delete the account, but it looks like this may end soon.

A new report by the Android Authority, in collaboration with tech tipster AssembleDebug, reveals that the latest beta version of WhatsApp for Android (v2.25.17.37) contains early signs of a logout function — a first for the platform. Currently under development or internal testing, the feature was discovered within the app's Settings > Account menu and is not yet visible to the general public.

The upcoming logout feature on WhatsApp is expected to offer users three distinct options. The first, "Erase all Data & Preferences," will completely remove all chat history and user settings from the device. The second, "Keep all Data & Preferences," allows users to log out of their account while preserving all chats, media files, and personal settings,

making it easier to resume use later without data loss. Lastly, the "Cancel" option simply exits the logout process without making any changes.

If users opt to keep their data, they can return to their account and instantly access their stored messages and files upon logging back in. This functionality stands in contrast to the current state of affairs, where users who wish to temporarily stop using WhatsApp must either uninstall the app or deactivate their account entirely, often at the cost of losing local data.

The addition of a logout button would

bring WhatsApp more in line with other messaging platforms that already support temporary sign-outs, such as Telegram or Signal. It could also prove especially useful for individuals managing multiple accounts or business users who need to toggle between personal and work profiles.

For now, there is no official word from Meta, WhatsApp's parent company, on when this feature will be rolled out. However, it is expected to debut to beta testers before becoming part of the stable release.

The development is being widely welcomed by the tech community, particularly those who have criticised WhatsApp's all-or-nothing approach to account management. By giving users the option to log out without erasing data, the app is poised to offer a more convenient and user-friendly experience.

Whether you're aiming for a social media detox or simply want to switch accounts without losing your chats, the upcoming logout feature could soon be the solution WhatsApp users have long been waiting for.

Apple to rebrand its device operating systems

Apple Inc. is planning the most sweeping change yet to its operating system names, part of a software overhaul that extends to all its devices.

The next Apple operating systems will be identified by year, rather than with a version number, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

That means that the current iOS 18 will give way to “iOS 26,” said the people, who asked not to be identified because the plan is still private.

Other updates will be known as iPadOS 26, macOS 26, watchOS 26, tvOS 26 and visionOS 26.

Apple is making the change to bring consistency to its branding and move away from an approach that can be confusing to customers and developers.

Today’s operating systems — including iOS 18, watchOS 12, macOS 15 and visionOS 2 — use different numbers because their initial versions didn’t debut at the same time.

A spokesperson for Cupertino, California-based Apple declined to comment. The company will announce the shift at its Worldwide Developers Conference on June 9.

The branding will accompany fresh user interfaces across the operating systems — an attempt to ensure a more cohesive experience when people move between devices. The new look, dubbed Solarium internally, will include tvOS, watchOS and parts of visionOS, Bloomberg News reported this week.

The latest naming strategy is reminiscent of approaches taken by both



Samsung Electronics Co. and Microsoft Corp.

In 2020, Samsung renamed its flagship Galaxy S phone line after its launch year, moving to the Galaxy S20.

That device’s predecessor, which debuted in 2019, was the Galaxy S10, representing the 10th generation. In 1995, Microsoft shifted to naming major operating systems after the year they launched, rolling out Windows 95 and then Windows 98 and Windows 2000.

The big difference is Apple will use the upcoming year rather than the current one. Though its next operating systems will launch around September 2025, they’ll be named for 2026 — not unlike how car companies market their vehicles.

If Apple keeps the strategy, the following set of releases will carry the 27 moniker.

Apple previously attempted something similar with its software bundles for office work and creativity apps.

In August 2007, it rolled out iWork ’08 and iLife ’08.

That was eventually followed by iLife ’11, which went on sale in October 2010.

As part of the changes, Apple plans to give the iPad a more Mac-like experience, potentially making it more useful for office work.

And the company is opening up its AI models to third-party developers, letting them tap into the underlying technology used by the Apple Intelligence platform.

Other new features coming this year include a live-translation mode for AirPods and the Siri voice assistant, as well as an eye-scrolling option on the Vision Pro headset. In the artificial intelligence realm, Apple is planning health features and an AI-enabled battery management mode.

There also will be a new bidirectional Arabic and English keyboard, a digital calligraphy pen for Apple Pencil users and a new app for gaming on Apple devices.

Global threats a risk to economic growth: RBI

A rise in input cost pressures in manufacturing, global protectionism in trade policies, geopolitical tensions and subdued demand pose risks to India’s economic growth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a report Thursday.

RBI’s annual report for FY25 said India’s economic activity picked up pace in the second half of the last financial year on the back of an uptick in domestic demand, increase in exports of goods and services, and a buoyant agriculture sector.

The global environment has been tough, with tariffs creating a great deal of uncertainty, it said. US President Donald Trump came to power on 20 January, promising stiff tariffs on friends and foes, industrial jobs revival and a loose fiscal policy. In April, he announced reciprocal tariffs on a host of nations, only to announce a three-month pause soon after.

The central bank said in FY26, markets will closely track the implications of tariff policies of the US and reciprocal measures by others, as an uncertain policy environment may instil volatility in global financial markets. “Following a correction in the second half of 2024, Indian equity markets are expected to remain resilient amidst stable macroeconomic conditions and moderation in equity market valuations, although geopolitical uncertainty poses downside risk.”

The US Court of International Trade on 28 May ruled that President Donald Trump’s baseline tariffs and country-specific duties were illegal, as they were not justified under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. Experts say the blocking of Trump’s tariffs is positive news for the markets.

According to the RBI, the domestic economy showed resilience in 2024-25, supported by robust “macroeconomic fundamentals and proactive policy measures, amidst persisting geopolitical tensions and geoeconomic fragmentation.”

It said that headline inflation moderated, although the pace of disinflation was hurt by elevated and volatile food inflation.

“Deposit and credit exhibited double-digit growth. Fiscal consolidation continued both at centre and state levels. The continued strength of the external sector, as reflected in adequate forex reserves and modest current account deficit, supported macroeconomic and financial stability,” it said. The Indian economy is poised to sustain its position as the fastest-growing major economy during FY26, supported by a pickup in private consumption, healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates, easing financial conditions, and the government’s continued thrust on capital expenditure, according to the Reserve Bank of India.

Bank frauds triple to \$4.2 billion in FY25 as credit scams rise

Bank frauds in India have jumped threefold last year, with loans contributing to the bulk of such cases, while discrepancies in digital payments had declined.

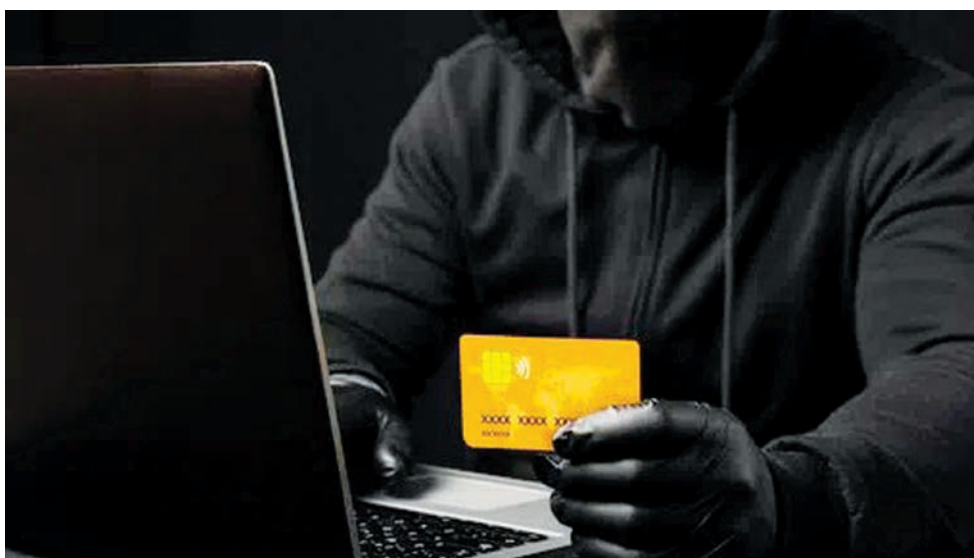
The amount of frauds climbed to Rs 36,000 crore (\$4.2 billion) at the end of March this year, compared with Rs 12,230 crore a year ago, according to the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI’s) latest annual report, which looked at cases above Rs 1 lakh.

The jump was exacerbated by an addition of 122 cases amounting to a fraud of Rs 18,674 crore.

These cases were removed from classification as fraud in previous years, but added back in the latest year after a court ruling.

The rise in cases underscores the challenges being faced by the banking regulator in the world’s fastest growing major economy even as credit growth slows.

This comes in the wake of a suspected fraud reported by IndusInd Bank Ltd earlier this month, which led to an upheaval at the lender, including



top-level exits to rating cuts.

Frauds in private banks rose 270%, while their state-owned peers, which accounted for bulk of the discrepancies, showed a 177% growth in such cases.

Digital payment frauds fell to Rs 520 crore last fiscal year from Rs 1,460 crore during the previous year even as transactions through mobile

applications and cards gain popularity.

The central bank also mentioned that it is planning a Digital Payments Intelligence Platform to curb payment-related frauds.

Transactions made using Unified Payments Interface (UPI)—that allows users to transfer money instantly using their mobile phones — rose 30% from a year ago to Rs 260 lakh crore.

Sikh History This Week

MAY 30 TO JUNE 5

30th May

1710 Bahadur Shah called for volunteers for Jihad against the Sikhs. Bahadur Shah was appraised of the news of Banad Singh's exploits. Taking this into view the poignancy of the situation, he made up with the Rajputs and called for volunteers for "Jihad", holy war, against the Sikhs. He ordered the mobilisation of all available forces, rallied Bundhela Rajputs against the Sikhs and himself personally proceeded in person to the Punjab.

31st May



1981 Sikh procession to seek Holy City status for Amritsar. The Sikhs brought out a procession to demand Holy City status for Amritsar. More than 25,000 Sikhs joined the procession. To quote a Hindu newspaper, the Tribune: Until 29 May it seemed that only 500 to 1,000 Sikhs would join the Sikh procession on Sunday when all the shops are closed in the city. Following yesterday's massive Hindu procession the number will be very high. This procession was a direct result of unfilled promises for the declaration of Amritsar as a Holy City. The SGPC chief, G. S. Tohra, had met with the Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, on September 24, 1980.

1986 In 1986 the International Sikh Organization (ISO) was established to educate the public and the U.S. Congress about the Sikh religion, the violations of human rights by the Indian government, India's genocide against the Sikhs, and the Sikh struggle for an independence. The Council of Khalistan was established on October 7, 1987, when Khalistan declared its independence.

1st June

1748 Small Holocaust that saw 10,000 Sikhs massacred in a single day. At least 10,000 Sikhs were massacred by Yahiya Khan and Lakhpat Rai, who had taken vow to avenge the death of his brother by annihilating the Sikhs. Diwan Lakhpat Rai, a katri of Kalanoar, was the Chief Minister to the Governor of Lahore, YayahKhan. When his troublemaker brother, Jaspat, was killed by Sikhs near Badoki Gusayia village, he unleashed a campaign of terror against the Sikhs to avenge the death of his brother. Jaspat Rai was actually killed in a skirmish with a Sikh outfit. However, Lakhpat Rai issued orders to shoot the Sikhs at sight. For some period, Lakhpat Rai even assumed completed control of Lahore, under orders of Ahmad Shah Abdali. Lakhpat Rai attacked Sikhs at Kahnoawal jungles and ordered to set the whole jungle on fire. Baba Deep Singh was among the Sikhs who escaped and subsequently fought back at the Beas River bank, and finally reaching Malwa. This incident culminated in what is common known as the "Chotta Ghalughara" (small genocide) in Sikh history.

1813 Maharaja Ranjit Singh obtained Kohinoor from Shahsaja Amir of Kabul.

2nd June

1818 Maharaja Ranjit Singh's forces annexed the province of Multan into the Sikh State, after several years of fierce battles. The nawab of Multan, Muzaffar Khan had agreed to pay tribute to the Khalsa army. He had also made a resolution and had agreed that he will not conspire against the Khalsa Darbar. Later, however he gave asylum to Raes Ahmad Khan of Jhang and plotted against the Khalsa army with Kutubdin. He broke his word and never paid tribute on time. As a result the forces of Maharaja Ranjit Singh attacked Muzaffar Khan who was ready to defend himself with an army of 20,000 and a large number of holy warriors (mujahuddins). The Khalsa army, under the command of several Sikh generals attacked the fort of Multan and broke the wall at two places, but they were repaired quickly. The enemy had put up a stiff resistance. The stand-off continued for three months.

1839 Maharaja Ranjit Singh had partially recovered from his stroke of 1838 yet was very feeble, when he suffered another stroke accompanied by dropsy and fever. Dr. Steel was sent by British to treat the Maharaja.



1984 Indian Armed forces replaced the Central Reserve Police force (CRPF) as a readiness step towards the Operation Bluestar.

3rd June

1947 Mountbatten announced the division of the Punjab.

1984 All communications including phone lines to and from Punjab are cut. Road blocks prevent anyone from entering or leaving Punjab and all journalists are expelled from Punjab. A total curfew is imposed and as many as 10,000 pilgrims are trapped inside the temple complex. Milk vendors from the villages who supply milk to the city of Amritsar are shot dead for violating the curfew orders. Operation Bluestar: Sikh homeland occupied by Indian Army. Curfew declared and undeclared Martial law promulgated.

4th June

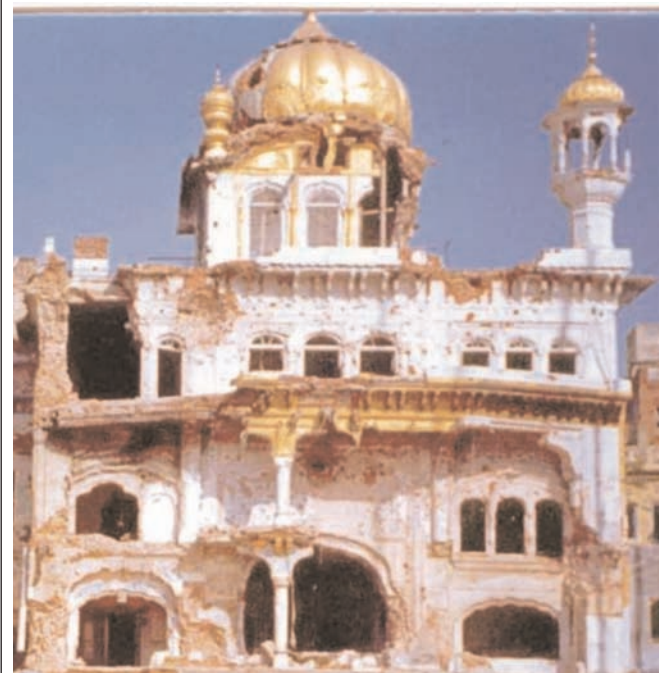
1398 Bhagat Kabir was born. Kabir was the most celebrated revolutionary saint of the Bhakti movement. He condemned social and religious abuses and emphasized the fundamental equality and fraternity of all mankind. Kabir was born to a widowed Brahmin on Jaeth Sudi 15 sunmat 1455. However, his mother left the new born baby next to a water pool near Banaras. Ali (Niru), a local weaver found the baby. Ali and his wife Nima together brought up this child as their own son. Child was named Kabir in accordance with the Muslim traditions of the time. Further, Kabir was educated in Islam studies. Kabir married Lohi and a son, Kamaal, was born.



1606 Guru Hargobind arrived in Daroli village near Moga, Ferozepur.

1987 US Congress discusses atrocities against Sikhs.

5th June



1984 Operation Bluestar: Fierce battle in Golden Temple Complex, Sri Akal Takhat is attacked with heavy artillery and tanks. And June 6 nights saw fierce battle between the Indian Army and GurSikhs inside the Golden Temple Complex. The onslaught began around 7pm. 15,000 hand-picked and well-trained solidiers supported by tanks and armoured personnel carriers were involved in the assault. While another 35,000 solidiers tried to put down any internal rebellion. It was rumored that Jarnail Singh Bhindranwalae has gone towards the Golden Temple. In response, the army sent their divers into the sacred tank, but they all were killed at the hands of the GurSikh freedom fighters. Subsequently, 60 commandos were sent to Sri Akal Takhat. 59 were killed in the first attack by the GurSikhs. Army's disappointment led to the deployment of heavy artillery and tanks started firing upon Sri Akal Takhat. By 9:30 AM, the army took control of the Golden Temple complex. Jarnail Singh Bhindranwalae and Amrik Singh received martyrdom in this attack along with many of their companions.

1996 Baldev Singh Chahal passed away suddenly from a heart attack. He successfully campaigned to change the British law that exempted GurSikhs from wearing helmets on motorcycles.



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WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 2, 2025 TO JUNE 8, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES

Ganesha says this week will give you new energy and inspiration. This week, there may be changes in your social life, which will enhance your personality even more. At work, try to establish better coordination with colleagues. Teamwork will prove beneficial for you. Your financial condition will improve if you manage your expenses in a planned manner. This is a good time for those who are thinking of investing. In personal relationships, try to spend time with your loved ones. Misunderstandings are likely to be cleared by mutual communication. This week is the time to focus on yourself and set new goals. In terms of health, try to stay active and exercise regularly. Overall, this week will bring new possibilities and opportunities for growth for you. Maintain your positivity and face challenges with confidence.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week will be a positive time for Taurus natives. Your focus will mostly be on personal development and financial matters. This week, you will find the right time to implement your plans. Your hard work will pay off this time, and you will feel moving to your goals. Communicating with colleagues at the workplace is a must; with their help, you will be able to complete some important projects. Spending time with family will give you mental peace. Communicate with your loved ones and try to understand their feelings. This is a good time to strengthen relationships. Health-wise, take some rest this week and balance your routine. Yoga and meditation will help improve your mental health. You may also feel inclined towards spirituality, so try some sadhana or meditation. Remember, the key to happiness lies in your thoughts. Keep your positive attitude this week, and success will kiss your feet.



GEMINI

Ganesha says this week will be full of opportunities for Gemini natives. You may have many important conversations due to your communication abilities. New possibilities and friendships are likely to develop in social life. Your creativity will be at its peak this week, which will inspire you to work on new projects. To achieve success at work, working together with team members will be beneficial. In personal life, spending

time with family members will strengthen your relationships. There is a possibility of an old problem getting resolved, which will give you mental peace. In terms of health, pay attention to your routine. A little exercise and a balanced diet will help increase your energy levels. There will also be an opportunity to learn new things and expand your perspective this week. Overall, this week will be full of progress, connections, and new beginnings for you.



CANCER

Ganesha says this week will be an important time for you from an emotional and spiritual point of view. Staying in touch with family and close friends will give you happiness and satisfaction. Your sensitivity will play a very important role in your existence this week. In work life, some new opportunities will come your way. They will need to be looked at carefully. Your ideas and suggestions can prove to be inspiring for others, so share your thoughts without hesitation. In terms of health, early awakening and meditation can prove beneficial for you to stay stress-free. This is also a good time to adopt a new exercise system. Mutual understanding and cooperation in relationships will increase this week. Spending time with your loved ones will strengthen your relationships. Overall, this week is favorable for introspection and personal growth. Listen to your intuition and move forward.



LEO

Ganesha says many exciting opportunities may come your way this week. Your confidence and plans will be renewed, which will help you move faster towards your goals. In professional life, it is time to establish better coordination with colleagues. If you are working on a new project, your ideas will be appreciated. In personal life, time spent with family will give you satisfaction. Try to increase communication with your partner; this will strengthen the relationship. In terms of health, a little hygiene and exercise will fill you with energy. This week is a great time to make new social contacts. By sharing your ideas, you will not only expand your thinking but will also make new friends. Keep in mind that it is important to have confidence in yourself and maintain positivity. Every moment of this week can teach you something new.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week, your hard work and dedication will be appreciated, and there is a strong possibility of achieving success in the tasks you are doing. Your organizational skills will prove to be very important for you this week. In personal life, a new warmth will be seen in relationships. Spending time

with family and increasing mutual communication will be beneficial for you. Thoughtful conversations will increase mutual dedication. In terms of health, you need to be a little careful. Emphasis on regular exercise and meditation to avoid stress and fatigue. Your mental state will be better, which will also help you in other tasks. In financial matters, be cautious and avoid spending without thinking. Consider all aspects before making any new investment. This week will bring challenges as well as opportunities for you, so face every situation with patience and understanding. This is the time to focus on yourself, so that you can achieve your goals.



LIBRA

Ganesha says this week, you will experience a new sense of harmony and connection. Your relationships will be strengthened in both personal and professional spheres. Meeting an old friend or connecting with a new colleague can give you new possibilities. In terms of health, this is the right time to focus on self-care. Spending some time in yoga or meditation will make you mentally calm and energized. Pay attention to your feelings this week and do not hesitate to share your thoughts to reduce stress. Be cautious in financial matters. Try to control expenses and avoid unnecessary expenses. This week is not favorable for investments; therefore, think well before making important decisions. During this time, you may focus on your personal goals. Making new plans will be beneficial, and you will feel inspired. Spending time with loved ones will boost morale, and sweetness will also remain in relationships. Try to maintain positivity and balance this week. Take advantage of opportunities to embrace your creativity and make your surroundings happy.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week, many new possibilities are being presented to you. You will be able to express your thoughts with clarity, so that people around you will understand your thinking better. You may see positive changes in your professional life, especially if you are working on a new project. Your creativity will be at its peak at this time, so this is the right time to start art or a new project. Be honest with yourself this week and express your feelings openly. This will also strengthen your relationships. In terms of health, you must maintain some balance in your routine. Along with work, rest is also important. Take the help of meditation or yoga to take care of your mental health. Finally, the most important thing for you this week will be to go deep within yourself and know and understand yourself. Your energy and stability in this phase of life will help you move forward.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week is a time of enthusiasm and new challenges. Your confidence will lead you to new opportunities, which you should take seriously. Your efforts will be appreciated in the work sphere, and establishing good relations with colleagues will help in achieving your goals. In personal life, a golden opportunity to spend time with family will come your way. Interact with people close to you, and share your feelings. This will strengthen the relationship. From a health point of view, focus on exercise and healthy eating this week. Take time to meditate and do yoga to relieve mental stress. This will give you energy and freshness. This week, try to embrace new experiences and engage in a new activity. Your preparation and positive attitude will bring success to you. Remember, every challenge can be overcome with positive thinking.



Sagittarius



Capricorn

CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week is going to be a shower of opportunities for Capricorn. Your hard work and determination can get you better results during this time. At the workplace, your commitment and discharge of responsibilities will impress everyone, which can make your seniors respond positively to you. This is the time to test your abilities. Personal relationships will also improve. Spending time with family members will be beneficial for your mental health. Some old differences may also get resolved, which will make the home environment even more pleasant. It is important to be health-conscious. This week will give you a good opportunity to achieve mental peace through yoga and meditation. Follow a proper diet and keep yourself away from too much stress. You will also be active in social relationships. Meeting new people and spending time with old friends will be enjoyable for you. Do not hesitate to share your ideas this week. Positivity will surround you this week, and you will start getting the fruits of your hard work. Keep moving towards your goals and remain confident.



Aquarius

AQUARIUS

Ganesha says the prediction for this week is very encouraging. You will feel an increase in your creativity and thoughtfulness, which will help you face new opportunities. New friendships and opportunities for collaboration will come in social life. Your professional success will require hard work and patience, but you will see some significant progress this week. Your health condition will be better, but do not forget to take care of your mental health. You can maintain

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 2 TO JUNE 8 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

JUNE 2

Ganesha says you can see that you are very excited today. Your sociable behavior and jovial nature are highly appreciated in the social circle. The power of your leadership ability can fill you with so much confidence that you will be able to do everything very well. If you work hard, success may kiss your feet. Today may bring some good luck as the planets are in your favor.

JUNE 3

Ganesha says may your day be very kind today. Today you may be able to complete the remaining tasks in the projects. You can complete your work faster so that you will be able to enjoy your time with your family. You can plan to go somewhere with your partner. Your business can do very well today. Today, things can happen as per your wish, as you are getting the full support of luck. A new opportunity may come your way, which can come immediately today itself and can give you good profits. The stars are in your favor, which can help you to easily solve any problem regarding this new opportunity.

JUNE 4

Ganesha says you will see that things are working in your favour without any special effort. Small, auspicious tasks can be performed throughout the day. It is a great thing that everything will be fine for you today, but do not be lazy and focus on the tasks you have to do today. You are very lucky today because you can get what you want. Make sure that you use today's luck for your benefit and not for others, because only then can it be a positive thing for you.

JUNE 5

Ganesha says meditate first thing in the morning; This can be beneficial for your personal and professional life. You can make a good profit in your business, so today can be a good day for you. Given the spiritual awakening in your zodiac sign, today you may be more inclined towards philanthropy. Make sure that you do not stray away from your dreams and ambitions, as you may face some distractions today. Make sure that you are ethical in both your personal and professional life.

JUNE 6

Ganesha says you may feel that you are getting a lot of love and care from family, friends, as well as from your partner. You may have a difficult day today but may you feel supported and cared for in every way. At the end of the day, you may feel very satisfied at this time in your life. Your partner's loving and caring nature can make you fall in love with your partner immensely today. You can experience for yourself how beautiful it is to be loved and cared for by someone you trust and love with all your heart.

JUNE 7

Ganesha says your love life has been full of ups and downs, but today you can experience stability. Try saying what you're thinking. Expressing your feelings can help you improve your love life. Venus may bring love, and the Moon may bring luck to your face today. You are entering a new phase that marks the beginning of a lane called success. Along with your old commitments, you may also handle additional responsibilities today, but it may not seem like a difficult or difficult task, as you may enjoy doing it.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

JUNE 8

Ganesha says you are very lucky today because you can get what you want. Make sure you use today's luck for your benefit and not for others, because only then can it be a positive thing for you. You may focus more on your financial issues so that your love life may take a back seat. Your life partner's full cooperation may surprise you a bit. Try to be patient and understanding. You are so close to finding that one person who can support you through everything, don't make that person angry.

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

CONTD FROM PAGE 36

your inner peace with yoga and meditation. This week, you will also get a chance to spend time with family, which will strengthen your relationships. Financially, you are advised to spend wisely. Avoid making any big purchases this week, and focus on your financial goals. Overall, this week is a chance for you to bring balance not only in your professional life but also in your personal life. Keep a positive attitude and keep moving towards your goals.

PISCES



Ganesha says this week has signs of change, especially for you. It is time to believe in yourself, recognize your inner desires. You will understand your emotional side even better, which will help you make better decisions. You may face challenging situations in the field of work, but your spontaneity and creativity will help you find solutions to problems. Try to keep better coordination with the team. You also need attention in personal relationships. Hidden emotional issues may come to the fore, so communicate and talk honestly with your loved ones.

AUTHOR BIO

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website chiragdaruwalla.com. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com

Be a little more careful about your health this week. You may feel mentally exhausted, so try to relax and take some time for yourself. Measures like

meditation and yoga will help improve your mental health. Maintain a positive attitude, and face whatever situations come with some patience and

understanding. The purpose of this week is to recognize and unleash your inner strength.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Budhwa Mangal: Sacred Tuesday devoted to Lord Hanuman

Budhwa Mangal is a day dedicated to Lord Hanuman. This day holds an important place for Hindus. Budhwa mangal is also called big mangal. Lord Hanuman is worshiped on this day.

Budhwa Mangal is an important festival dedicated to Lord Hanuman. Budhwa Mangal is mainly celebrated in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, especially in cities like Lucknow and Varanasi. This festival is celebrated on Tuesday during the Hindu month of Bhadrapada or sometimes in the month of Jyeshtha.

Budhwa Mangal is on the first Tuesday of Jyeshtha month i.e. 13 May 2025, however, all the Tuesdays coming in Jyeshtha month are called the days of Budhwa Mangal.

Importance of Budhwa Mangal

This festival holds special significance for the devotees of Lord Hanuman. Budhwa Mangal is a festival completely dedicated to Lord Hanuman. Hanuman ji protects his devotees, hence it is believed that worshiping Hanuman on Budhwa Mangal gives strength, courage and protection from evil forces to the devotees. Hanuman ji, who is completely devoted to Lord Rama with his devotion, physical and spiritual strength, these three qualities are the famous qualities of Hanuman ji. It is believed that worshiping Hanuman on this day helps the devotees to adopt these qualities and receive the blessings of Hanuman.

According to mythology Hanuman ji is the god who is still alive on earth. Following the orders of his beloved Lord Shri Ram, he does the welfare of his devotees while still alive on earth. It is a religious belief that worshiping Lord Hanuman removes all the miseries of the devotees.

Lord Hanuman, considered the embodiment of strength, courage, and devotion, is deeply venerated during Bada Mangal. Believers consider him the protector from evil, negative energies, and untimely death. Astrologically, it is believed that worshipping Lord Hanuman helps mitigate the malefic effects of Mars and Saturn.

Devotees engage in special rituals including recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa, Sunderkand, and Bajrangbali Aarti. Chanting the following powerful mantra 108 times on Budhwa Mangal is said to bring peace, happiness, and divine blessings:

"Om Namo Hanumate Rudravataray Vishwaroopay Amit Vikramay

Praktaparakramay Mahabalaya Surya Kotisamprabhay Ramdootay Swaha."

According to ancient scriptures, it was during the month of Jyeshtha that



Important information

Budhwa Mangal Dates in Jyeshtha month 2025

First Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 13 May 2025

Second Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 20 May 2025

Third Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 27 May 2025

Fourth Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 02 June 2025

Fifth Budhwa Mangal - Tuesday, 10 June 2025

Lord Ram first encountered Hanuman while searching for Sita, marking the beginning of a divine alliance.

A fascinating historical link also connects Bada Mangal with the Mughal era. During the reign of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah of Awadh, his son fell gravely ill. Upon local advice, prayers were offered at the Hanuman temple in Aliganj, Lucknow. Miraculously, the child's condition improved.

In gratitude, the Nawab and his Begum had the temple renovated, with the work completed in the month of Jyeshtha. Since then, the tradition of offering gur (jaggery) prasad and organising bhandaras on these Tuesdays has continued across Lucknow.

Bada Mangal is more than just a religious event, it is a vibrant expression of faith, unity, and community service. With temples adorned, devotees offering prayers, and the aroma of freshly prepared prasad filling the air, the festival continues to

be a beloved tradition that strengthens spiritual bonds and cultural heritage year after year.

The story of Hanuman ji's birth is more related to the Ramayana period. When Lord Hanuman went to Lanka in search of Mata Sita, Ravana held him as a captive and set his tail on fire. In return, Hanuman ji set fire to the entire Lanka with his burnt tail.

According to beliefs, that day was the Budhwa Mangal of Jyeshtha month. Since then, the Budhwa Mangal of Jyeshtha month has been considered important to worship Lord Hanuman.

If you want the auspicious blessings of Lord Hanuman, then you must visit Lord Hanuman's temple on Budhwa Mangal and offer him Prasada. The donation also holds vast importance on this day. You can also offer a leaf of a banyan tree to Lord Hanuman.

And, when this leaf dries, let it float in a holy river. Following this remedy will help you get rid of all problems in your life.

How To Perform The Pooja On Budhwa Mangal?

On the day of Budhwa Mangal, you must wake up early in the morning and get done with your morning routine. After this, you need to clean the Pooja place of your house. You should wear neat and clean clothes on this day. Then, take the place of Kush in front of Pooja place.

If you are observing a fast on that day, then you must light up a Diya of Ghee in front of Lord Hanuman and take an oath to keep a fast. After this, offer Sindoor, flowers, Tilak, and Dhoop-Deep to Hanuman ji. Also, he loves Boondi Ladoos so make sure to offer him this sweet on Budhwa Mangal. Later, pray to Lord Hanuman and make sure to recite Hanuman Chalisa.

Must Remember Things To Worship Hanuman

In Vedic Astrology, keeping a fast on Tuesday is considered extremely important. If someone in your house has kept a Budhwa Mangal fast, then you must avoid Tamasic foods and stay away from alcohol as well.

It is inauspicious to wear white or black colored clothes on Tuesdays. Also, you should not lend or borrow money on this day. Donate on the day of Bhudwa Mangal and don't disrespect or insult anyone. It would be best if you follow celibacy on this day.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Supreme Court lets Trump end humanitarian parole for 5,00,000 people from 4 countries

hundreds of thousands of immigrants, pushing the total number of people who could be newly exposed to deportation to nearly 1 million.

The justices lifted a lower-court order that kept humanitarian parole protections in place for more than 5,00,000 migrants from four countries: Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

The court has also allowed the administration to revoke temporary legal status from about 3,50,000 Venezuelan migrants in another case.

Republican President Donald Trump promised on the campaign trail to deport millions of people, and in office has sought to dismantle Biden administration policies that created ways for migrants to live legally in the U.S.

His administration filed an emergency appeal to the Supreme Court after a federal judge in Boston blocked the administration's push to end the programme.

The Justice Department argues that the protections were always meant to be temporary, and the Department of Homeland Security has the power to revoke them without court interference. The administration says Mr. Biden granted the parole en masse, and the law doesn't require ending it on an

individual basis.

The Trump administration's decision was the first-ever mass revocation of humanitarian parole, attorneys for the migrants said. They called the Trump administration's moves "the largest mass illegalization event in modern American history." The case is the latest in a string of emergency appeals the administration has made to the Supreme Court, many of them related to immigration.

The court has sided against Mr. Trump in other cases, including slowing his efforts to swiftly deport Venezuelans accused of being gang members to a prison in El Salvador under an 18th century wartime law called the Alien Enemies Act. (Agencies)

India, US pledge to boost tech, defense ties

In a parallel development, a US delegation is expected to visit India next month for trade talks, with sources indicating that an interim agreement is "on track" for June 25. This follows last week's negotiations by India's chief trade negotiator Rajesh Agrawal and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's meetings with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

The interim deal assumes urgency as the US' 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods, suspended till July 9, could impact bilateral trade. New Delhi is pushing for full exemption from these tariffs.

The broader discussions during Misri's visit span defense, energy

security and the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BTA), aimed at doubling trade to \$500 billion by 2030. Both nations are also deepening collaboration in biotechnology, space exploration and energy trade, with the US poised to be a key supplier of crude oil and LNG to India. The talks come amid geopolitical unease over recent claims by former US President Donald Trump regarding India-Pakistan relations.

(Source: TNS)

UN seeks 20% cut in staff to deal with funding shortfall

UN Controller Chandramouli Ramanathan said in a memo to the affected agencies that the staff cuts are part of Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' goal of achieving a reduction of between 15% and 20% in the UN's current budget of \$3.72 billion.

The cuts are part of the UN80 reform initiative launched by Mr. Guterres in March as the world body approaches its 80th anniversary later this year.

The UN chief has dismissed any relationship with the cuts to foreign aid and other programs by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Instead, he has pointed to shrinking UN resources over at least the past seven years as not all member states pay their yearly dues and many don't pay on time.

The U.S., with the world's biggest economy, is expected to pay 22% of the regular budget, while China, with the second-largest economy, recently had its share raised to 20%.

Last year, 152 of the UN's 193 member nations paid their dues in full, including China, but 41 countries did not, including the U.S.

The controller's memo, obtained Thursday night by The Associated Press, gives advice to the heads of agencies on which posts to cut: "Assess functions based on efficiency; Prioritize based on impact; Target redundant, overlapping or non-critical functions or roles for consolidation or abolition."

Mr. Guterres and his predecessors in past decades struggled to reform the United Nations, which was established following World War II, and bring it into a modern era with different powers, new technology and greater global divisions.

One key problem is that while the secretary-general is the UN's chief executive, power rests with the 193 member nations, which have very different ideas about the UN and the world.

The proposed cuts must be submitted to the controller by June 13.

Mr. Dujarric said they will be incorporated into Mr. Guterres' proposed 2026 budget, to be adopted by the General Assembly in December.

The UN's 11 peacekeeping missions are financed by a separate budget, and many of its far-flung agencies and operations are funded entirely by voluntary contributions, including the Rome-based World Food Programme, known as WFP.

Several UN agencies were already planning to slash jobs or cut costs in other ways, with officials pointing to funding reductions mainly from the United States and warning that vital relief programs will be severely affected as a result.

WFP is expected to cut up to 30% of its staff, and the head of the U.N. refugee

agency UNHCR said it would downsize its headquarters and regional offices to reduce costs by 30% and cut senior-level positions by 50%, according to internal memos obtained by the AP.

Other agencies, including UNICEF, the UN children's agency, and OCHA, the UN humanitarian agency, have also announced or plan to make cuts. (Agencies)

Trade didn't figure in talks: MEA rebuts Trump claim in NY court on truce bait

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated this while answering queries from mediapersons. He said during Operation Sindoor, there were conversations between Indian and US leaders on the evolving military situation.

"The issue of trade or tariff did not come up in any of those discussions," Jaiswal said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has also made it clear that the cessation of firing was decided upon through direct contact between the DGMOs of India and Pakistan.

Asked that the US was saying this on record under oath, and it's a statement that could invite perjury if it wasn't true, Jaiswal said, "I have stated my position and when I state my position, I do it as the spokesperson for the MEA. That has an implication, it means a lot."

The Trump administration had told a New York court that India and Pakistan reached a "tenuous ceasefire" only after President Donald Trump "interceded and offered both nations trading access with the US to avert a full-scale war".

(TNS)

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Located amidst imposing mountains in Karnataka with a perpetually misty landscape, Coorg is the place to be for all nature lovers. This popular coffee producing hill station is not only popular for its beautiful green hills and the streams cutting right through them. It also stands as a popular destination because of its culture and people. The Kodavas, a local clan specialising in martial arts, are especially notable for their keen hospitality.

Coorg, officially known as Kodagu, is the most affluent hill station in Karnataka. It is well known for its breathtakingly exotic scenery and lush greenery. Forest covered hills, spice and coffee plantations only add to the landscape. Madikeri is the region's centre point with all transportation for getting around starting from here. On a visit to Coorg, cover the beautiful towns like Virajpet, Kushalnagar, Gonikoppal, Pollibetta, and Somwarpet, and experience the beautiful concept of "homestays" to make your experience more memorable!

Abbey Falls

Abbey Falls, also known as Abbi Falls, is located around 10 kilometres away from the town of Madikeri and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in and around Coorg. The water cascade coming down from the cliff from a height of 70 feet provides a spectacular scene to behold. Nestled within the lush greenery which is typical to the sceneries of Western Ghats, the waterfalls attract hundreds and thousands of people throughout the year - especially nature lovers and photographers. The waterfall is located between private coffee plantations with stocky coffee bushes and spice estates with trees entwined with pepper vines. There is an over-bridge that hangs opposite of the falls, from where the most picturesque scene of white foams gushing down the ridge can be seen, captured and remembered. The flow of the falls leaves a significant amount of water spray on those who stand on the bridge for some time.

Some small mountain streams and brooks join together to form one of the most beautiful waterfalls of South India and falling off its cliff as the water flows to join the River Kaveri or Cauvery as one of its tributaries. The walk to the falls from the main entrance has around 200 steps downwards throughout and takes you through exotic coffee, cardamom, pepper and other spice plantations. It is a fantastic opportunity for shutterbugs to capture the real beauty and grace of the natural world. Even though bathing is prohibited in the falls now, the essence of the place itself is quite enough to draw tourists every day.

Talacauvery

Talakaveri is the source of the river Kaveri, located on the Brahmagiri hill (not to be confused with the Brahmagiri range further south) near Bhagamandala in Kodagu district, Karnataka. Kodavas erected a tank which is now considered as its origin. It is believed that the river originates as a

Coorg: The Scotland of India



spring feeding a tank or a Kundike and then flows underground to re-emerge as Kaveri some distance away. The place has a temple dedicated to the Goddess Kaveriamma is located next to the tank and bathing in it on special occasions is considered holy.

Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary

The Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary covers an area of 181 square km and has

got its name from the Brahmagiri Park which is the highest peak with a height of 1608 m. The primary vegetation of the sanctuary includes evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, shoal forest patches in grasslands and bamboos. The sanctuary was established in the year 1974 and is surrounded by plantations of coffee and cardamom.

Some interesting birds one can spot in the place include black bulbul, Malabar

trogon, and emerald dove. Cobra, python and king cobra are some reptiles which can be easily spotted. Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary is also home to many animals including macaques, gaurs, elephants, tigers, leopard, cats, wild pigs, Nilgiri langurs and sloth bears. It is a famous attraction visited by tourists almost throughout the year. It is also famous among the trekkers. It is said by the locals residing there that seven sages meditated on the top of the hill.

Golden Temple (Namdroling Monastery)

Namdroling Monastery, situated at a distance of 34 km from the Coorg, is the largest teaching centre of the school of Tibetan Buddhism known as Nyingmapa. Popularly known as the 'Golden Temple', the Namdroling Monastery holds some excellent examples of Tibetan architecture and artwork, as seen with the elaborately decorated temple tower and ornate outer walls, intricately adorned with beautiful murals. It is spread over an area of 80 square feet and was built from Bamboo which was donated by the Indian Government to the Tibetans in exile. Today, it houses many auxiliary structures like educational institutions and a hospital, in addition to being home to about 5,000 members of the Sangha community.

Raja's Seat

Raja's Seat, a garden with beautiful flowering plants and skilfully designed artificial fountains, is located in Madikeri in the district of Coorg. The garden was a favorite venue to rejuvenate for the Kings of Kodagu, and they loved watching the sunsets sitting here as they spent some memorable time with their Queens. Even today, the breathtaking view of the Sun setting into the undulated mountains is mesmerizing. The delightful garden here is adorned with a multitude of flowers and is a treat to nature lovers, and the proximity of the location also makes it a preferred picnic spot for the locals. Visiting Raja's Seat is an excellent way to get a glimpse into the lifestyle of royal indulgence in Coorg.

The Raja's Seat has been built on an elevated ground overseeing the valleys that lie to the west. Early mornings are usually misty and cold, but as the sun rises, the mist clears slowly offering a mind-stirring view of the lush green gardens adorned with colourful seasonal flowers beds. The sunsets are equally splendid as the day slowly ends with the Sun setting in the mountains. There is also a Toy Train available for your little ones to take a ride on and the fountains have been modified into musical fountains. Today, this place is managed by the Archaeological Survey of India and is considered of historical importance in the country. The Raja's Seat Garden is known for its beautiful seasonal bloom, panoramic view and picturesque location making it an apt attraction for Nature Lovers.

History This Week

MAY 30 - JUNE 05

MAY 30

May 30, 1783 - The Pennsylvania Evening Post became the first daily newspaper published in America.

May 30, 1922 - The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated. The Memorial was designed by architect Henry Bacon and features a compelling statue of "Seated Lincoln" by sculptor Daniel Chester French.

May 30, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska were retaken by the U.S. 7th Infantry Division. The battle began on May 12 when an American force of 11,000 landed on Attu. In three weeks of fighting U.S. casualties numbered 552 killed and 1,140 wounded. Japanese killed numbered 2,352, with only 28 taken prisoner, as 500 chose suicide rather than be captured.



Birthday - Founder of the Russian empire Peter the Great (1672-1725) was born near Moscow. He vastly increased the power of the Russian monarchy and turned his backward country into a major power in the Western world. Among his accomplishments, he completely overhauled the government and the Greek Orthodox Church as well as the military system and tax structure. He built St. Petersburg, established printing presses and published translations of foreign books, modernized the calendar, simplified the Russian alphabet and introduced Arabic numerals. He died at age 52 and was succeeded by his wife Catherine.

MAY 31



May 31, 1862 - During the American Civil War, the Battle of Seven Pines occurred as Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston's Army attacked Union General George McClellan's troops in front of Richmond Virginia and nearly defeated them. Johnston was badly wounded. Confederate General Robert E. Lee then assumed command, replacing the wounded Johnston. Lee renamed his force the Army of Northern Virginia.

May 31, 1889 - Over 2,300 persons were killed in the Johnstown flood in Pennsylvania. Heavy rains throughout May caused the Connemaugh River Dam to burst sending a wall of water 75 feet high pouring down upon the city.

Birthday - American poet Walt Whitman (1819-1892) was born in Long

Island, New York. His poem Leaves of Grass is considered an American classic. His poetry celebrated modern life and took on subjects considered taboo at the time.

JUNE 1

Birthday - Founder of Utah and patriarch of the Mormon church Brigham Young (1801-1877) was born in Whittingham, Vermont. Called the "American Moses," he led thousands of religious followers across the wilderness to settle over 300 towns in the West, including Salt Lake City, Utah.

Birthday - Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962) was born in Los Angeles (as Norma Jean Mortensen). Following an unstable childhood spent in foster homes and orphanages, she landed a job as a photographer's model which led to a movie career. She later married baseball legend Joe DiMaggio. Beneath her glamorous movie star looks she was fragile and insecure and eventually succumbed to the pressures of Hollywood life. She died in Los Angeles from an overdose of sleeping pills on August 5, 1962. Best known for Gentlemen Prefer Blondes (1953), The Seven Year Itch (1955), Bus Stop (1956), Some Like It Hot (1959), and The Misfits (1961).

JUNE 2



Birthday - Marquis de Sade (1740-1814) was born in Paris. He was a military leader, governor-general, and author, whose acts of extreme cruelty and violence resulted in the term sadism being created from his name to describe gratification in inflicting pain.

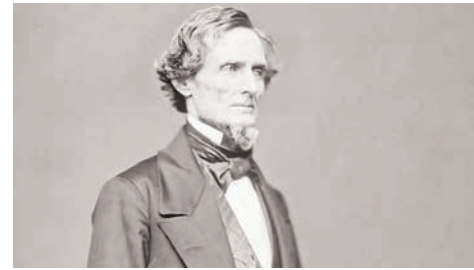
JUNE 3

June 3, 1937 - The Duke of Windsor married Wallis Warfield Simpson in Monts, France. As King Edward VIII, he had abdicated the British throne in December of 1936 amid tremendous controversy to marry Simpson, an American who had been divorced. Following the wedding, the couple lived in France and had minimal contact with the British Royal family. The Duke died in Paris on May 28, 1972, and was buried near Windsor Castle in England.

June 3, 1972 - Sally Jan Priesand was ordained a rabbi thus becoming the first woman rabbi in the U.S. She then became an assistant rabbi at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City.

June 3, 1989 - Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, died. On February 1, 1979, after 15 years in exile, he had staged a triumphant return to Iran which led to the downfall of the Shah. Khomeini then reorganized the government on Islamic principles. On November 11, 1979, a group of students loyal to Khomeini

seized 66 hostages in the American Embassy in Teheran after the former Shah had entered the U.S. for medical treatment. Thus began an international political crisis lasting until January 20, 1981, when they were released.



Birthday - Confederate president Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) was born at Todd County, Kentucky. After the Southern states formed the Confederacy in 1861, he hoped to be named commander of the Confederate military forces but was instead chosen to be president, serving until 1865. Following the Civil War, he was imprisoned but never brought to trial. He died at age 81 in New Orleans.

JUNE 4



June 4, 1944 - During World War II in Europe, Rome was liberated by the U.S. 5th Army, led by General Mark Clark. Rome had been declared an open city by German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring amid Allied concerns the Germans might stage a Stalingrad-style defense that would devastate the historic 'Eternal' city.

June 4, 1972 - An express train packed with more than 600 people rammed into a stalled train at full speed in the main station of Jessore, Bangladesh, killing 76 and injuring over 500 persons.

June 4, 1989 - The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The protest had started on April 16 as about 1,000 students marched to mourn the death of Hu Yaobang, a pro-reform leader within the Chinese government. Despite government warnings, pro-reform and pro-democracy demonstrations continued for a month drawing ever-larger crowds of young people, eventually totaling over a million persons. On May 13, three thousand students began an eight-day hunger strike. The government imposed martial law on May 20 and brought in troops. On June 2, in their first clash with the People's Army, demonstrators turned back an advance of unarmed troops. However, in the pre-dawn hours of June 4, the People's Army, using tanks, machine-guns, clubs and tear gas, opened fire on the unarmed protesters. Armored personnel carriers then rolled into the square crushing students still sleeping in their tents. The Chinese government later claimed only 300 died in the attack. U.S. estimates put the toll at

over 3,000. Following the massacre, over 1,600 demonstrators were rounded up and jailed, with 27 being executed.

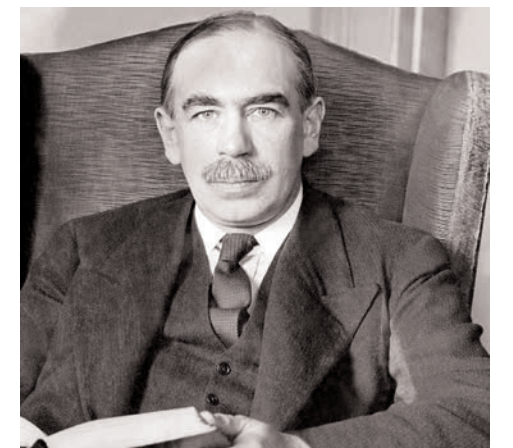
Birthday - King George III (1738-1820) was born. He ruled England for 60 years from 1760 to 1820 and was the British King against whom the American Revolution was directed.

JUNE 5

June 5, 1783 - The first sustained flight occurred as a hot-air balloon was launched at Annonay, France, by brothers Joseph and Jacques Montgolfier. Their 33-foot-diameter globe aerostatique ascended about 6,000 feet. In September, they repeated the experiment for King Louis XVI, using a sheep, rooster and duck as the balloon's passengers.

June 5, 1968 - Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded while leaving the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles. The shooting occurred after a celebration of Kennedy's victory in the California presidential primary. He died at 1:44 a.m., June 6, at age 42, leaving behind his wife Ethel and eleven children, the last one born after his death. President John F. Kennedy had named his brother and campaign manager, Robert Francis Kennedy, to the post of U.S. Attorney General in 1961. Robert served as the president's closest confidant. After the assassination of JFK, Robert remained as Attorney General until 1964, when he resigned to make a successful run for the U.S. Senate from New York. Allied with the plight of the poor and disadvantaged in America, he spoke out against racial discrimination, economic injustice and the Vietnam War. In March of 1968, he had announced his candidacy for the presidency. And with the win in California, appeared headed for the nomination.

Birthday - Scottish economist and philosopher Adam Smith (1723-1790) was born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland. He wrote An Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, published in 1776. The book described the workings of a market economy and established him as one of the most influential figures in the development of modern economic theory.



Birthday - British economist John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946) was born in Cambridge, England. He wrote The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money in 1936, stating his ideas about government responsibility and commitment to maintaining high employment. He claimed that business investors and governments, not consumers, were the source of business cycle shifts.

Royal Challengers rout Punjab Kings to storm into final

MOHALI (TIP)

Royal Challengers Bengaluru raced to their first Indian Premier League final since 2016 with an eight-wicket pounding of Punjab Kings in a lopsided Qualifier 1 here on Thursday, May 29.

Punjab Kings' ultra-aggressive approach backfired on the day as RCB skittled out the home team for 101 in 14.1 overs.

RCB, who are yet to win the IPL despite reaching three finals (2009, 2011, 2016) since the league's inception in 2008, gunned down the small target in 10 overs courtesy a belligerent fifty from opener Phil Salt (56 not out off 27). With a near perfect performance, RCB marched to the title clash scheduled in Ahmedabad on June 3.

Punjab Kings, who reached the play-offs for the first time since 2014, will get another shot at reaching the final in Qualifier 2 in Ahmedabad on June 1. The home team batters found it difficult to hit through the line but it seemed Salt was batting on a different surface, collecting boundaries for fun.

He ended up smashing six fours and three sixes including a crisp pull off pacer Arshdeep Singh.

The match ended prematurely when RCB skipper Rajat Patidar slog swept Musheer Khan for a maximum. Punjab Kings were blown away by RCB but Kyle Jamieson got the home crowd going for a brief period by bowling a stellar wicket maiden that included the wicket of Virat Kohli (12 off 12).

Number three Mayank Agarwal was left clueless in the same over with Jamieson getting the ball to swing away.

"We need to go back to the drawing board. We have lost the battle but not the war," said Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer after a rather heavy loss.



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Rajat Patidar and Phil Salt celebrate after the team won the Indian Premier League 2025 Qualifier 1 cricket match against Punjab Kings, in New Chandigarh, Thursday. PTI

Earlier, the all-out attack strategy of the Punjab Kings contributed to their downfall after they were put in to bat. Their innings lasted just 14.1 overs. The RCB pace trio of Josh Hazlewood (3/21), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/17) and Yash Dayal (2/26) exploited the conditions well before leg-spinner Suyash Sharma (3/17) made it worse for the opposition.

Punjab Kings' steep slide began when in-form opener Priyansh Arya was caught at cover off Dayal as he couldn't check his drive. His opening partner Prabhsimran Singh (18 off 10) followed him back into the dugout in the following over from Bhuvneshwar.

Having collected two straight boundaries on the charge, Prabhimsran stepped out for a third swipe but Bhuvneshwar pulled his length back to induced the edge. Captain Shreyas Iyer, who has been central to the team's success

this season, went for a wild slog off Hazlewood on his third ball of the innings but was caught behind. The Australian pacer then sent back his country man Josh Inglis off a rising ball that the former could not control, creating a sense of panic in the dressing room.

The batters continued to go for their shots to hasten Punjab Kings's slide. Against leggie Suyash, the likes of Marcus Stoinis (26 off 17) and Shashank Singh went for the slog sweep but could not connect to the googly. Musheer Khan, making an unexpected IPL debut as an impact player with wickets falling in heap, too fell to a sweep off Suyash, who got his googly to turn sharply.

Having put up a poor effort with the bat, Punjab Kings would take some confidence from their league stage outing against KKR when they defended 111 on a challenging surface here.



Avinash Sable clocked 8:20.92 sec to claim the top honor, which is also his second Asian medal after a silver in the 2019 edition.

Gold rush: Yarraji, Sable, women's 4x400m relay finish on top

It rained gold for India at the Asian Athletics Championships on Thursday, May 29, as the country's fastest woman hurdler Jyothi Yarraji, seasoned steeplechase runner Avinash Sable and the 4x400m women's relay team delivered stupendous performances to finish on top here.

After Jyothi and Sable set the tone, the quartet of Jisna Mathew, Rupal Chaudhary, Kunja Rajitha and Subha Venkatesan clinched the gold medal in the women's 4x400m relay event after clocking their season-best time (3:34.18sec) to extend India's dominance on the third competition day of the continental championship.

Vietnam took silver with 3:34.77sec, while Sri Lanka settled for the bronze with 3:36.67sec.

This was the 10th gold overall for India in the event and first since 2013. Overall, India snared three gold, two silver and a bronze medal on Thursday taking their overall tally to 14 after proceedings were disrupted by a massive thunderstorm.

India are currently placed second in the overall standings behind China, who have 21 medals including 12 gold.

The men's 4x400m relay team of Jay Kumar, Dharmveer Choudhary, Manu Thekkinalil Saji and Vishal TK also looked to be on course for a gold medal before settling for silver with a timing of 3:03.67sec which was their best performance so far.

Qatar (3:03.52sec) won the gold medal, while China (3:03.73sec) ended the race with bronze in the men's 4x400m relay.

Earlier, on his way to victory with a season-best performance, Sable became the first Indian man in 36 years to win a gold medal in steeplechase at the Asian Championships.

"I was confident of winning gold as I was best in the field," said Sable, who has already qualified for the World Championships in September.

Soon after, Jyothi produced a late burst to clinch her second straight gold medal in this competition with a new championship record of 12.96 seconds. The previous record was 12.99 seconds, achieved by China's Su Yiping in the 2000 edition of the tournament.

Mumbai Indians beat Gujarat Titans in Eliminator

MUMBAI (TIP)

The mighty Mumbai Indians handled the nerves better on the big stage to outlast Gujarat Titans by 20 runs in a high-scoring IPL Eliminator despite a classy effort from Sai Sudharsan here on Friday, May 30.

Rohit Sharma (81 off 50) rode his luck to play a fine knock after Jonny Bairstow (47 off 22) made instant impact on his Mumbai Indians debut to push them to an imposing 228 five in 20 overs.

Titans, who were sloppy in the field and with the ball, were able to take the game down to the wire with sensational batting from Sudharsan (80 off 49) before falling short at 208 for six to exit the tournament.

In the end, it was Mumbai Indians who won the key moments to advance in the competition. The victory took them to Qualifier 2 in Ahmedabad on Sunday when they take on Punjab Kings.

Despite heavy dew, overcoming a such a



steep target in a knock-out game needed a special effort which came from Sudharsan who put his team on course for an improbable chase until his dismissal in the 16th over.

Bumrah removed Washington Sundar (48 off 24) with his trademark yorker before Sudharsan missed scoop against Richard Gleeson to see his stumps dislodged,

bringing Mumbai Indians back into the game.

While it lasted, it was a delight to see Sudharsan go about his business. In a game of pure muscle, Sudharsan was a picture of elegance and found gaps all around the park with pinpoint precision.

The equation came down to 36 from 12 balls with two left-handers Rahul Tewatia and Sherfane Rutherford in the middle. Mumbai Indians debutant Richard Gleeson bowled the final over with Titans needing 24 runs and he bowled three immaculate deliveries to ensure victory before hobbling out due to hamstring issue. In fact, Suryakumar Yadav, the vice-captain was marshalling resources in the final over and it was a brave punt to bring Gleeson in for three deliveries knowing that he is in considerable discomfort. Once the target was out of reach, Surya took him off and asked left-arm seamer Ashwini Kumar to complete formalities.



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