



The INDIAN PANORAMA will bring out a profusely illustrated New Year special edition which will carry Messages, articles by scholars across the world, readers' views, and advertisements. Please submit your articles, comments, and advertisements by December 15, 2025 at salujaindra@gmail.com For any questions, please call Prof. Indrajit S Saluja on 646-247-9458. Visit www.theindianpanorama.news

New Yorkers throng to Watch Macy's Thanksgiving Parade despite Cold and Winds



Macy's 99th Thanksgiving Parade in New York City on November 27

NOVEMBER 27, 2025 NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Despite chilly temperatures and dicey wind conditions, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade went off without a hitch Thursday, November 27, to celebrate the holiday, New York Daily News reports. City law prevents Macy's from flying the parade's trademark balloons if sustained winds top 23 mph and gusts exceed 35 mph, but the gusts stuck between 25 and 30 mph for this year's celebration.

Winds have only prevented the balloons from soaring once, in 1971, though they've flown lower due to weather conditions before. Much to the delight of an estimated 3.5 million people in the city and millions more watching at home, Spider-Man,

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Trump plans to 'permanently pause migration from all Third World Countries'

Donald Trump announced the plans a day after an Afghan national allegedly shot two National Guard soldiers



U.S. President Donald Trump

File photo

NOVEMBER 28, 2025

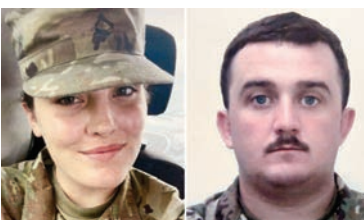
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday, November 27 that he planned to suspend migration from what he called "third world

countries," a day after an Afghan national allegedly shot two National Guard soldiers in Washington.

"I will permanently pause migration from all Third World Countries to allow the U.S. system to fully recover," Mr. Trump wrote on social media. He also threatened to reverse "millions" of admissions granted under his predecessor Joe Biden, and to "remove anyone who is not a net asset to the United States". The Trump administration said it will conduct a "rigorous" re-examination of all Green Cards issued to immigrants from "every country of concern". CONTD ON PAGE 36

National Guard member Sarah Beckstrom dies after shooting in Washington, DC, President Trump says

NOVEMBER 27, 2025



US Army Spc. Sarah Beckstrom and US Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe were injured in an "ambush style" shooting just blocks away from the White House on Thanksgiving Eve.

MARTINSBURG, WV (TIP): President Donald Trump said Thursday, November 27, that US Army Spc. Sarah Beckstrom, one of the National Guard members shot in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, has died.

"Sarah Beckstrom of West Virginia, one of the guardsmen that we're talking about, highly respected, young, magnificent person, started service in June of 2023 outstanding in every way. She's just passed away," Trump said in a Thanksgiving call to service members.

The death of Beckstrom, 20, comes after she and US Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, 24, were injured in an "ambush style" shooting just blocks away from the White House on Thanksgiving Eve.

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Georgia prosecutor kills the historic election interference case against Trump and allies

NOVEMBER 27, 2025

ATLANTA (TIP): A Georgia prosecutor on Wednesday, November 26, officially dropped the historic racketeering case against President Donald Trump and others for attempting to overturn the 2020 presidential election, closing the chapter in a legal effort once seen as a grave threat to Trump's political future, a CNN report says.

The move means that Trump has dodged criminal legal jeopardy for his attempts to overturn his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden. The federal cases against Trump from special counsel Jack Smith on election interference leading up to the January 6, 2021, US Capitol riot and on

CONTD ON PAGE 36



Peter Skandalakis, the prosecutor on the case, on Wednesday, November 26, officially dropped the racketeering case against President Donald Trump and others for attempting to overturn the 2020 presidential election

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By Indrajit Saluja

America's Deadly Romance with Guns Must End

Another holiday in America has been punctured by gunfire. In New York City, on Thanksgiving Day, when families were meant to gather around tables rather than emergency rooms-seven people were shot within four hours. A day earlier, near the White House in Washington, D.C., two National Guards were shot; one later died of her injuries. These are not isolated incidents. They are snapshots from a rolling catastrophe that America has normalized.

We have heard this dirge before. We know the choreography by heart: the sirens, the police cordons, the anguished candlelight vigils, the "thoughts and prayers," and then the slow fade into forgetfulness-until the next burst of gunfire. This desensitization is itself a national emergency. A country that shrugs at the murder of its own in schools, malls, houses of worship, buses, barber shops, and now on Thanksgiving Day has crossed a moral red line.

The United States once promised its children classrooms of curiosity. Instead, it has given them lockdown drills. Bulletproof backpacks are marketed with the same cheery normalcy as lunchboxes. Parents kiss their children goodbye each morning with an unspoken prayer that the evening will bring them home alive. What kind of republic trains its youngest citizens to live with the possibility of massacre as routine?

America's defenders of the gun culture cloak themselves in constitutional absolutism and the language of freedom. But freedom that cannot protect life is a hollow boast. No right is sacred when its exercise slaughters innocents. No tradition is noble when it leaves bodies in its wake. The gun is not a neutral object; it is a machine designed to kill efficiently. To pretend otherwise is willful blindness bordering on cruelty.

We are told that "bad people" will always find weapons. Yet nations with serious gun laws do not endure this relentless bloodshed. The data are relentless even when lawmakers are not. Where guns are fewer, shootings are fewer. Where access is restricted, death rates plunge. This is not ideology; it is arithmetic.

What has America gained from its romance with guns? A sense of swagger? A substitute for courage? Meanwhile, it has lost sons and daughters, teachers and pastors, doctors and delivery drivers, holiday shoppers and parade-watchers. The ledger is soaked in blood, and the balance sheet is bankrupt.

Enough with the fantasy that every armed citizen is a hero in waiting. Enough with the myth that more guns make us safer. Enough with the cowardice of leaders who hide behind lobbyists while communities bury their dead. Restrict firearms to the minimum necessary for legitimate purposes. Demand universal background checks, red-flag laws, safe storage requirements, and bans on weapons whose only purpose is mass killing. Treat gun violence as the public health crisis it is. Fund research. Disarm the streets.

A nation that celebrates Thanksgiving while dodging bullets has lost its way. America must choose between worshipping at the altar of the gun and honoring the sanctity of life. The choice should not be hard. If this republic is to remain worthy of its ideals, it must finally find the courage to outgrow its infatuation with instruments of death.

The dead are asking for nothing extravagant; they are only asking that the living act.

Mamdani's Transition Test: Policing, Prudence, and the Promise to Keep New York Safe

As New York City enters a new political chapter, Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani's transition exercise is more than a ceremonial change of guard.

Governing this city is not embellishment; it is administration on a scale that rivals a small state. With eight and a half million lives moving through its streets each day, the central promise of any incoming mayor must be simple and uncompromising: keep people safe.

In that context, Mamdani's decision to request Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch to remain in place is a reassuring signal that stability, not disruption, will guide the handover at New York City Police Department. A city already wrestling with crime cannot afford a vacuum at the top of its most critical institution. Continuity in leadership buys the new mayor time-time to learn the terrain, calibrate policy, and responsibly assemble a team that understands the weight of this badge and this borough-by-borough reality.

Public safety is not an ideological slogan; it is the bedrock of growth and prosperity. Shops stay open late, investors sign checks, tourists book flights, and families step outside when they feel secure. Talk of "defunding" the police may animate rallies, but it alarms households. Less policing in a city of this density does not translate into more freedom; it produces more fear. A visible, professional, and well-led police presence on the streets prevents crime as much as it responds to it. Deterrence is not an abstraction-it is the daily reassurance that someone is watching the corners.

Mamdani must therefore work with Commissioner Tisch to ensure rigorous training and modern equipment. The mandate should be excellence: better investigation, smarter deployment, and community-savvy policing that wins trust without yielding authority. Policing must be firm and fair, relentless against crime and righteous in conduct. Where there is historical mistrust-especially among people of color-the answer is not retreat but reform through training, accountability, and leadership that treats every resident as equal before the law.

Order also begins with the small things that add up to a city's character. Traffic laws in New York are flouted with impunity, and nothing corrodes civic discipline faster than rules that exist only on paper. The incoming mayor should not be afraid to annoy even his own base when the law requires enforcement. Taxi drivers, delivery riders, cyclists, and motorists alike must be held to the same standard-by education first, persuasion second, and the force of law when needed. Street safety is public safety.

There are, of course, a hundred fires the next mayor will need to fight-housing, affordability, transit, sanitation, schools. But none can be extinguished if the city feels unsafe. Security is the oxygen that allows every reform to breathe.

The Indian Panorama wishes Mr. Mamdani success as he chooses his team and begins the hard work of governing. Reform is welcome. Recklessness is not. The greatest city in the world deserves a mayor who understands that safety is not the enemy of justice-it is its precondition.

New Yorkers throng to Watch Macy's Thanksgiving Parade despite Cold and Winds

CONTD FROM PAGE 1



The Spiderman floats



Debbie Gibson waves to the crowds



A view of the spectators



Santa was lustily cheered

Mickey Mouse and 32 others soared through the streets as usual, joined by 28 floats. The parade also included performances from "Wicked" star Cynthia Erivo, Ciara, Lainey Wilson, Debbie Gibson, Foreigner, Lil Jon, the cast of the Netflix hit animated film "KPop Demon Hunters" and more.

Additionally, the Radio City Rockettes, founded in 1925, marked their 100th

anniversary with their traditional performance near the end of the parade. Santa closed out the 99th Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

(Source: New York Daily News)

Sharanjit Thind (R) Announces Run for Congress in New York's 18th District



Democrat-held CD18 in the Hudson Valley is flippable, insists the Indian American, who is using his extensive business and government experience to build a campaign to win the 2026 election.

BY PARVEEN CHOPRA
NOVEMBER 27, 2025

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Sharanjit Singh Thind filed his candidacy in September 2025 for the US House of Representatives from New York's District 18 in the Hudson Valley. A lifelong Republican and Sikh born in Punjab, India, he believes this Democrat-held seat is ready to flip. His campaign focuses on promoting business, making jobs AI-proof, defending family values, and prioritizing community safety. With extensive experience in both the private and public sectors, he is the best candidate to represent this district north of Manhattan.

In a wide-ranging conversation over coffee, Thind told me that he believes he

has the blessing of the party's establishment. Before filing his nomination papers in September, he met with New York Republican State Committee Chairman Ed Cox-son-in-law of President Nixon to discuss the party's support. At the time, Thind was told that there were no other Republican candidates in the fray and that the 18th Congressional District (CD-18) would be a strong place for him to run. "But, even with the best intentions and backing of the party leadership, primaries are unavoidable and even healthy," said Thind.

Thind describes himself as fully familiar with CD-18 and notes that he is in close contact with local party leadership, thanks to Chairman Cox. "I am getting a very enthusiastic response

when I interact with constituents of all stripes and backgrounds," he added.

While agreeing that the incumbent, Patrick Ryan, defeated Alison Esposito (R) by 14 points in 2024, Thind points to a changed environment that would help him emerge victorious on November 3, the election day in 2026. "People were fed up seeing hotels and motels teeming with illegal migrants housed in the Hudson Valley under President Biden and Mayor Adams. Under President Trump, that threat to law and order has been cleared."

The recent election of self-declared socialist and freebies-promising Zohran Mamdani as Mayor of New York City is worrying all, Thind claims.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

INDIAN-ORIGIN PUNJABI CRIME BLOGGER ARRESTED IN INTERNATIONAL DRUG KINGPIN CASE



Punjabi-origin crime-blogger Gursewak Singh Bal, 31, has been arrested as part of a US-Canadian crackdown on a drug empire allegedly led by ex-Olympic snowboarder Ryan James Wedding.

**NOVEMBER 21, 2025
MISSISSAUGA**

(TIP): Mississauga-based Punjabi-origin crime-blogger Gursewak Singh Bal, 31, has been arrested as part of a US-Canadian crackdown on a drug empire allegedly led by ex-Olympic snowboarder Ryan James Wedding.

Bal, co-founder of the "Dirty Newz" website, was one of seven Canadians detained on November 19 in coordinated police raids codenamed "Operation Giant Slalom" - a cross-border sting that officials call "an unprecedented clampdown on transnational narco-terrorism."

According to Global News and Edmonton City News, "Bal, 31, of Mississauga, Ont., was the operator of a Canadian urban news outlet dubbed 'the Dirty News'. He was reportedly paid \$10,000... not to post about Wedding and Clark, and was instead given a photograph of the witness and was paid to post it so that he could be found and killed, the indictment claims.... On November 5, 2024, Bal reportedly posted a story on Instagram depicting the victim and wrote: 'This guy single-handedly (rat emoji) out one of the strongest underworld networks that this (earth emoji) has seen. Good chance he'll never be found again'."

CityNews adds, "As part of the developments in Operation Giant Slalom, which were announced today, Gursewak Singh Bal, 31, of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, was arrested. Bal was the co-founder and co-operator of 'The Dirty News,' a website that law enforcement seized pursuant to a federal warrant".

Federal authorities quoted in various Canada and US media reports allege Bal's actions led directly to the murder of the key witness, identified as Jonathan Acebedo-Garcia, who "was shot and killed at a restaurant in Medellín, Colombia, in January 2025".

The indictment further states, "On January 31, 2025, via Instagram, defendant BAL posted a story depicting a photograph of the restaurant and the bottom part of a body lying on the ground, and a caption that read: '[Victim A] down...' and 'BOOM! Headshot'".

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Five of Indian-origin Punjab family killed in tragic Brampton house fire

NOVEMBER 26, 2025

BRAMPTON/ LUDHIANA (TIP) : A pall of gloom has descended on Guram village in Ludhiana district after five members of a local family died in a devastating house fire at their residence in Brampton, Canada, about a week ago.

Among the deceased was the unborn child of Arashveer Kaur, who survived by jumping from the roof but suffered severe injuries that resulted in a miscarriage.

Happy Shankar, a close relative of the family, said that Jugraj Singh was the only member of the joint family present in the Brampton home at the time of the incident who managed to escape the blaze that broke out last Thursday.

His mother-in-law, an unmarried



Five members of a local family died in a devastating house fire at their residence in Brampton, Canada

sister-in-law, a niece and his wife's cousin all perished in the fire. His wife, Arashveer Kaur, sustained injuries after leaping from the rooftop in a desperate

attempt to save her life.

Former sarpanch of Shankar village, Ranvir Singh Mehmi, confirmed that one of the deceased was an unmarried woman from the village who was burned alive inside the house. He added that many members of the family had migrated to different parts of Canada in recent years. Several relatives still living in Punjab have now left for Canada after receiving the tragic news.

"As the family and close relatives remain in deep shock, no decision has been taken yet regarding the last rites of the deceased," Mehmi said, expressing sorrow that a farming family who had moved abroad seeking better prospects has been devastated by a tragedy beyond their control. (With input from Tribune)

Indian-Origin Rajesh Bakshi Jailed For 10 Years For Conspiring To Smuggle Heroin To UK

NOVEMBER 28, 2025

LONDON (TIP) : A 57-year-old Indian-origin man who admitted to a conspiracy to smuggle heroin into the UK was on Thursday, November 27, sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment, with a co-conspirator being jailed for nine years following a trial in south-eastern England.

Rajesh Bakshi, from the East Lothian region of Scotland, had pleaded guilty to smuggling the Class A banned drug after a National Crime Agency (NCA) investigation identified his fingerprints on a consignment, with a street value of 4 million pounds, was stopped at the port of Dover in June 2022.

His co-conspirator Jon-Paul Clark, 44, attempted to deny any involvement and told a jury at Canterbury Crown Court that his DNA was found on the smuggled drugs because he was wearing Bakshi's sweater.

"My officers built a solid case against Clark, who clearly tried to pull the wool over the jury's eyes," said Jules Harriman, NCA's Senior Investigating Officer.

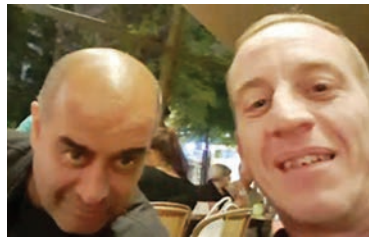
"There was clear evidence of his guilt, and the jury saw through his attempts to cheat justice. Both offenders didn't have the slightest care for the impact class A drugs have on our communities.

"The NCA, working with partners at home and abroad, will continue to do everything possible to fight the threat of Class A drugs," he said.

Both accused were sentenced by Canterbury Crown Court this week. The NCA said that Clark and Bakshi's phones were identified as travelling in the Netherlands and Belgium in the days leading up to the drugs' seizure at the UK port.

"Officers found a photo of Clark and Bakshi together on Clark's phone taken just days before the drugs were intercepted. Texts were also found of Clark asking Bakshi for cash in the weeks following the seizure," the agency stated.

Bakshi was found to have multiple previous convictions, including conspiring and being involved with the supply of a controlled drug.



Indian origin Rajesh Bakshi who admitted to a conspiracy to smuggle heroin into the UK was on Thursday, November 27, sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment

Toronto police arrest Indian-origin Nicholas Singh, one of Canada's most-wanted fugitives

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

TORONTO (TIP): Toronto Police have arrested Nicholas Singh, a 24-year-old man from Toronto who was listed among Canada's 25 most-wanted fugitives, the Toronto Police Service said in a press release on Sunday morning (IST).

Singh was taken into custody on Friday, November 21 night near Bathurst Street and Dupont Street in Toronto. Officers found him sitting in a car and arrested him without resistance.

During the search, they recovered a loaded handgun with an extended magazine and extra ammunition. The gun's serial number had been removed.

He has been charged with several serious firearm offences, including possession of a loaded prohibited firearm, carrying a gun in a vehicle and possessing a firearm without a license. Singh appeared in a Toronto court on Saturday morning.

According to the police statement, the arrest was made possible with the help of the BOLO Program, a Canadian public-awareness campaign that publishes photos and details of the country's 25 most-wanted criminals on social media, news outlets and digital billboards to encourage people to give tips. The initiative has helped police catch many dangerous fugitives in recent years.

Singh was already wanted across Canada for violating parole conditions. He had earlier served time for violent crimes and was considered high-risk by the Repeat Offender Parole Enforcement Squad. Owing to his criminal history, he had been placed on the BOLO Top 25 list until a public tip led police to him, the Toronto Police Service added.



Nicholas Singh, a 24-year-old man from Toronto who was listed among Canada's 25 most-wanted fugitives was arrested by Toronto Police on November 21 night. He offered no resistance to his arrest.

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NRIs donate INR 2.5 million for flood-hit farmers of Punjab's Baupur Mand area

Still need more assistance, says Sant Seechewal



Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, Rajya Sabha member on a visit to Baupur Mand region

NOVEMBER 22, 2025

LONDON / PHAGWARA (TIP):

NRIs settled in England have donated over INR 2.5 million to support the flood-affected farmers of the Baupur Mand region, says a report filed by Ashok Kaura. The funds are being used to provide diesel and other essential supplies to the farmers. NRI Mota Singh Sarai visited Baupur Mand on November 22, along with Rajya Sabha member Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal.

Land-levelling work in the area is still underway.

Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal said on the night of August 10 and 11, a temporary embankment gave way, causing massive destruction in the region. Deep pits had formed in the fields, and thick layers of sand and silt were deposited. He added that the majority of the farmers whose land has now been levelled are small farmers, and wheat sowing has already begun on the

fields that have been restored.

Praising the spirit of the farmers of the area, NRI Mota Singh Sarai said the people of Punjab never lose courage, no matter how severe the crisis. He noted that although the paddy crop in the entire Mand area was completely destroyed, the farmers remained determined. He said that Punjabi families abroad deeply felt the suffering of the affected farmers, their children and the women of the community, and contributed to the relief efforts to the best of their ability. He thanked the volunteers for ensuring that all relief materials - whether diesel, fertilizer or wheat seed - are being delivered to farmers with complete transparency.

Kulwinder Singh Sarai also expressed gratitude to the NRIs who sent donations for the flood victims. Major Singh, a farmer from Jania Chahal village who brought a laser-leveler machine, recalled that during the 2019 floods, a breach in the Sutlej river's Dhusi bandh near his home had caused severe damage. At that time too, Sant Seechewal, with the help of local people, had the 45-foot-deep crater in his field filled within a few days. He said he brought the laser leveler this time because he truly understands the pain of flood-affected farmers.

'GOT BIGGER OPENING AFTER EVERY INCIDENT': KAPIL SHARMA ON CAFE SHOOTING IN CANADA



Sharma's Kap's Cafe, which opened in Surrey, British Columbia, in July, was first targeted by unknown people on July 10.

File photo



NOVEMBER 27, 2025

MUMBAI (TIP): Actor-comedian Kapil Sharma on Wednesday, November 26, said the three incidents of firings at his cafe in Canada's Surrey has forced authorities to act against such attacks in the country.

Sharma's Kap's Cafe, which opened in Surrey, British Columbia, in July, was first targeted by unknown people on July 10, followed by two more attacks on August 7 and October 16. No one was injured in the incidents and no group has claimed responsibility for it.

At the trailer launch event of his latest film "Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon 2", the actor-comedian was asked about the firings.

"What I feel is that the rules there and the police perhaps don't have power to control (such incident). But when our case happened, it went to federal government and there was a discussion in Canadian parliament," Sharma said.

"In fact, after every firing incident, we got a bigger opening at the cafe. So it is all ok if God is with me," he added.

Sharma said that many people reached out to him after the attacks.

"I believe whatever god does we don't get to know the story behind that... I got calls from a lot of people from there who told me that there were a lot of things happening but after the firing at my cafe, it became news and now steps are being taken to improve the law-and-order situation there," he said.

The 43-year-old actor said he had never felt unsafe in Mumbai or anywhere else in India.

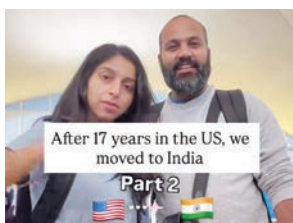
"I never felt unsafe in Mumbai or in our country. There is no other city like Mumbai," he added.

(Source: PTI)

NRI family choses to return to India after 17 years of stay in US

NOVEMBER 26, 2025

NEW YORK / NEW DELHI (TIP): After spending 17 years in the United States, Dhara, an Indian-American mother, has chosen to return to India with her family, citing cultural connection and healthcare concerns as key reasons.



In two viral Instagram videos, Dhara explained that she wanted her children to grow up immersed in Indian culture. -Video grab

Dhara, who moved to the US at 15, married an Indian-origin man and had twins there. Over the past few years, the couple began discussing a return to India and meticulously planned their move before making the leap.

In two viral Instagram videos, Dhara explained that she wanted her children to grow up immersed in Indian culture. "In India, my twins are growing up with our prayers, our stories, and what culture really feels like-not just what it sounds like on a holiday," she said.

Healthcare was another major factor in their decision. Dhara highlighted the challenges she faced with the US system, including a six-week maternity leave and high insurance costs.

"We had to meet a \$14,000 deductible every year before insurance even helped, on top of monthly premiums of \$1,600," she said, noting that this did not even cover their twins. By contrast, she found healthcare in India more accessible, affordable and family-friendly. (Source: PTI)

Indian American entrepreneur Hemant Goradia gets Oklahoma University Regents' Alumni Award

NOVEMBER 26, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Indian American entrepreneur Hemant P. Goradia is among nine remarkable alumni of the University of Oklahoma honored with Regents' Alumni Awards for their achievements and contributions.



Hemant P. Goradia is among nine remarkable alumni of the University of Oklahoma honored with Regents' Alumni Awards for their achievements and contributions.

The awards celebrating OU graduates who have shown exceptional dedication and service to the university were recognized at a Nov. 21 ceremony on the OU Norman campus, according to a university release.

Presented by the OU Board of Regents and OU Alumni Association, the award highlights the profound ways in which OU alumni and supporters are helping shape the university's vibrant future.

The recipients are awarded a commemorative plaque in recognition of their exceptional contributions, and their names are permanently inscribed on a plaque displayed in the historic Oklahoma Memorial Union.

Goradia, a chemical engineering student of the class of 1981, distinguished himself as a student with numerous achievements, including the Award for Excellence in Chemistry, the release stated highlighting his contributions.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Racists are now openly targeting Indian Americans

BY HARMEET KAUR
NOVEMBER 25, 2025

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Last month, FBI Director Kash Patel wished his followers on X a happy Diwali. It did not go well with many.

Far-right Christian nationalist and white nationalist accounts flooded his post with bigoted memes and rhetoric. "Go back home and worship your sand demons," a far-right pastor wrote. "Get the f**k out of my country," read another reply. Said another, "This is America. We don't do this." These responses, some of which were seen millions of times, were on the tamer end of the spectrum.

Similar hostility followed Diwali greetings on X from former UN ambassador Nikki Haley, former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy and Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Harmeet Dhillon, as well as posts about the holiday from the White House, the State Department, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Some Indian American conservatives seem shocked that segments of the political right are now taking aim at them. When Democrats won big on election night, Ramaswamy advised Republicans to "cut out the identity politics," saying "we don't care about the color of your skin or your religion. We care about the content of your character." After one X user said that the existence of Indians disgusted them, Dinesh D'Souza, the right-wing commentator who has peddled racism against Black Americans for decades, mused: "In a career spanning 40 years, I have never encountered this type of rhetoric. The Right never used to talk like this. So, who on our side has legitimized this type of vile degradation?"

This type of degrading rhetoric is not new, but it's increasingly prominent from the political right. With the rise of once-fringe figures, and with President Donald Trump aggressively cracking down on nearly every type of immigration, some members of the MAGA coalition are openly suggesting that only white Christians belong in America.

"The call is coming from inside the house," said Siddharth Venkataramakrishnan, an editorial manager and analyst at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue who has examined anti-Indian hate speech and the far right online.

Indian immigrants and Indian Americans - or anyone perceived as Indian - are the latest target of a growing anti-migrant movement in the US and around the world. Over the past year, researchers at the Center for the Study of Organized Hate have documented a surge of anti-Indian sentiment on X that is showing no signs of abating. Raqib Naik, the center's founder and executive director, said that his team recorded nearly 2,700 posts promoting racism and xenophobia against Indians and Indian Americans in October alone. At least some of that might be explained by Elon Musk's transformation of the platform: Since he took over, racist content that would previously have been policed by content moderators is now amplified and encouraged. (X did not respond to a request for comment.)

As with the Diwali outrage, these attitudes flare up at times when India or Indians are in the news: Trump's appointment of Sriram Krishnan as senior adviser on artificial intelligence, Ramaswamy criticizing American culture as mediocre in a social media post, escalations in the US-India trade war and a fatal accident in Florida involving a Sikh truck driver.

But the most consistent anti-Indian bigotry online focuses on the H-1B visa program, of which Indian nationals are the biggest beneficiaries, Naik and other researchers said. The program, which admits highly skilled foreigners into the US to work in specialized fields, has sparked infighting among Trump supporters, with visa opponents such as deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller accusing India of "a lot of cheating on immigration policies." While the president's stance on the issue has fluctuated, he recently restricted access to H-1B visas by imposing a \$100,000 application fee.

Far-right accounts and actors now routinely frame Indian immigrants as scammers who are depriving Americans of high-paying jobs and call to deport them. They accuse Indians of hiring only within their caste or

@Kashpatel

Happy Diwali - celebrating the Festival of Lights around the world, as good triumphs over evil.



ethnicity, invoke stereotypes about Indians being dirty or smelly, and highlight behaviors like eating with one's hands as cultural backwardness. It isn't just far-right trolls who invoke these tropes - during the recent New York City mayoral race, the independent campaign of former Democratic governor Andrew Cuomo released (then quickly deleted) an AI-generated attack ad depicting Zohran Mamdani sloppily eating rice with his hands.

Slurs directed at South Asians, some of which originated on the largely unmoderated online forum 4chan, are surging and entering the lexicon, both online and offline. Photos and videos selectively showing Indian-origin people in public places are held up as evidence of an "invasion," another iteration of white "replacement theory." These attitudes didn't emerge in a vacuum. Even before Trump was first elected, powerful figures in his movement including Steve Bannon and Miller were referencing the 1970s novel "The Camp of the Saints" as a cautionary tale - in the book, a favorite of white supremacists, a fleet of Indian migrants led by a feces-eating farmer invades France and overthrows the Western world.

Against this backdrop of racist and economic grievance, the success and prominence of Indian Americans make them an easy target, said Rohit Chopra, a professor at Santa Clara University who studies far-right online communities and who co-authored the reports for the Center for the Study of Organized Hate with Naik. Indian immigrants and Indian Americans are among the highest-earning ethnic groups in the US, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of census data. They've ascended to top government posts and are CEOs of billion-dollar companies. They're represented at the highest levels of media, entertainment, technology, business, medicine and academia.

"The public image of the Indian community has been that of these basically successful tech professionals and CEOs," Chopra said. "And the Indian community and Indian American community significantly plays up that image too."

This image certainly doesn't reflect all Indian Americans, a religiously and ethnically diverse group that includes US citizens, legally authorized visa workers, international students and undocumented migrants. But as long-simmering resentment against affluent Indian Americans metastasizes into a demonization of the entire community, Chopra said there's a danger that this could inspire real-world violence.

In recent weeks, a city councilmember in Palm Bay, Florida, repeatedly denigrated Indians and called for their mass deportation on social media, leading to censure and calls for his removal. In Irving, Texas, a Dallas suburb home to thousands of Indian tech professionals, three masked men staged a roadside protest carrying signs that read "Don't India My Texas," "Deport H-1B Visa Scammers" and "Reject Foreign Demons."

The Palm Bay City Council in Florida voted on October 2 to request controversial Councilman Chandler Langevin's removal from office for remarks attacking Indian Americans.

Stephanie Chan, Stop AAPI Hate's director of data and research, recounted a recent conversation with a South Asian community leader in Texas who told her white supremacist groups were harassing people outside Hindu temples. Stop AAPI Hate co-founder Manjusha Kulkarni said she overheard people at a Diwali party talking about readying their OCI cards - which allow foreign citizens of Indian origin to live and work in India indefinitely - just in case.

Racist incidents reported to Stop AAPI Hate this year and shared with CNN also suggest that anti-immigrant rhetoric from Trump and parts of his coalition is inspiring hostility. One woman in Georgia shared that a fellow customer at a fast food restaurant threatened to call ICE to get her deported back to India. Another woman in Texas reported that a man who came into her workplace yelled profanities at her and a coworker, saying "I am glad Trump is deporting you b*tches. I hope you have a green card."

Salil Maniktahla, an Indian American who lives in Springfield, Virginia, said he was similarly accosted while dining at a restaurant with a friend earlier this year. A man hurled slurs at him, said Trump was president and told him to "go home" and "do Bharatanatyam," referring to a South Indian classical dance. The man also threatened them with violence and waited for them outside, resulting in Maniktahla's friend calling the police.

"What I see now is that a lot of people are mouthing off in ways that they felt they were prevented from doing prior to 2016," Maniktahla said.

When asked about backlash to officials' Diwali posts online, White House spokesman Kush Desai said, "The President is a fierce defender of religious liberty and cherishes his deep and longstanding relationship with this patriotic community." As racist, nativist and anti-immigrant rhetoric continues to proliferate on the right, Trump and Vice President JD Vance have done little to quell it.

Vance has also furthered ideas underlying such bigotry, though with more delicate language. In a speech at the Claremont Institute in July, he ruminated on what it meant to be an American. Merely embracing the nation's foundational principles was not enough, he said, because it would potentially open the country to millions of foreigners and exclude some on the right who reject those same ideals. A better criterion might be one's heritage, he added: "I think the people whose ancestors fought in the Civil War have a hell of a lot more claim over America than the people who say they don't belong."

In the speech, Vance conceded that there was room in the US for some immigrants, so long as they demonstrated sufficient gratitude. Too many, though, would threaten the fabric of the nation, he argued. "And what we're doing is recognizing that if you stop importing millions of foreigners into the country, you allow that social cohesion to form naturally," he said. "It's hard to become neighbors with your fellow citizens when your own government keeps on importing new neighbors every single year at a record number."

At this year's White House Diwali celebration, Kash Patel used a conspicuous turn of phrase - one seemingly meant to distinguish himself from another kind of immigrant. "It's an honor to be a first-generation Indian American whose parents lawfully immigrated to this country," he said.

To some Trump supporters responding online to his remarks, it didn't seem to matter that Patel's parents entered the US legally or that he was a dutiful member of the Trump administration. "Go celebrate your foreign gods back home in India. America is a Christian nation," one user wrote. Said another, "Hard to think of something less American. This is an abomination."

"I think that sections of the Indian American community have been living in this fool's paradise," Chopra said.

He continued, "This should serve as a kind of wake-up call - that racism that's directed at people of color and minority groups, you are not exempt from. And maybe that should spark some kind of reflection about questions of solidarity with other vulnerable groups."

US will reexamine all green cards issued to people from 19 countries as Trump administration ramps up immigration crackdown

NOVEMBER 28, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): The US will reexamine all green cards issued to people from 19 countries "of concern" at President Donald Trump's direction, as the Trump administration intensifies its immigration crackdown following the shooting of two National Guard members in Washington, DC, says a CNN report.

"At the direction of @POTUS, I have directed a full scale, rigorous reexamination of every Green Card for every alien from every country of concern," Joe Edlow, the director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services, wrote in a post on X Thursday, November 27.

Asked for additional details, including which countries are considered to be "of concern," USCIS pointed CNN to 19 countries listed in a June presidential proclamation.

The 19 countries include Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela.

Since officials last night identified the suspect of the shooting as Rahmanullah Lakanwal, an Afghan national, the Trump administration has ramped up its efforts to restrict immigration.

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees USCIS, said Thursday the administration is also reviewing all asylum cases that were approved under former President Joe Biden.

"Effective immediately, processing of all immigration requests relating to Afghan nationals is stopped indefinitely pending further review of security and vetting protocols," DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement to CNN, adding, "The Trump Administration is also reviewing all asylum



Joseph B. Edlow, Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

cases approved under the Biden Administration." Lakanwal - who previously worked with the US

government, including the CIA - came to the country in 2021 as part of Biden's "Operation Allies Welcome" after assisting the US in Afghanistan. He applied for asylum in 2024, and the Trump administration granted it in April 2025, CNN previously reported.

More than 190,000 Afghans have resettled in the United States since the US military withdrew from Afghanistan in August 2021, according to the State Department.

In a video address from his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida late Wednesday, November 26, Trump blamed the Biden administration for bringing the alleged shooter to the US and argued the attack "underscores the single greatest national security threat facing our nation."

Trump said in the remarks, "We must now reexamine every single alien who's entered our country from Afghanistan under Biden and we must take all necessary measures to ensure the removal of any alien from any country who does not belong here or add benefit to our country."

Trump also lamented what he described as "20 million unknown and unvetted foreigners" who entered the US during his predecessor's administration, casting it "a risk to our very survival."

The administration's latest move to reexamine green cards is in line with Trump's anti-immigration rhetoric. A green card is a document that deems its holder as a lawful permanent resident of the US. It differs from refugee and asylum programs - which the Trump administration has already sought to limit - though refugees must apply for a green card after one year of being in the US.

(Source: CNN)

7 people shot in a span of 4 hours in NYC on Thanksgiving eve



Credit: Pixabay / For representation only

NOVEMBER 27, 2025

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Just after 7:20 p.m., a man and a woman, both 18 years old, were shot at Fulton Street and Jay Street in Downtown Brooklyn. They were taken to New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. Police say the shooting stemmed from a verbal dispute.

Around 9:40 p.m. two men were shot outside a building on Ryer Avenue in the Bronx. The 22 and 23 year old men were taken to St. Barnabas Hospital. Detectives were talking to two people in that shooting.

Just before 11:20 p.m., a 22-year-old man and 25-year-old woman were shot outside a building on Melrose Avenue in the Bronx. They were taken to Lincoln Hospital.

Finally, just after 11:15 p.m., a 24-year-old man was grazed in the head in a shooting inside of a parking garage on 30th Drive in Astoria, Queens. He was treated at Mount Sinai Queens. Police say two suspects fled that shooting in a Jeep.

All the victims will survive and no arrests have been made in any of the shootings.

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WHY CHANDIGARH STILL ELUDES PUNJAB

Every change in Chandigarh's governance brings Punjab back to the unresolved promise of 1966



By Kuldip Singh

"THE POLITICAL RESONANCE OF THE TERRITORIAL ISSUES LIKE CHANDIGARH HAS NOT FADED. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE OF TRANSFER OF CHANDIGARH TO PUNJAB, WHICH HAS DEFINED THE POLITICS OF THE STATE FOR DECADES, REMAINS INTACT. IT IS BOUND TO REMAIN SO TILL A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO THE POLITICALLY DOMINANT CLASS OF PEASANTS IS FOUND. AND FOR THIS CLASS, PUNJAB'S CLAIM ON CHANDIGARH IS INDISPUTABLE."

The proposed Bill of the Central government to put Chandigarh under Article 240 of the Constitution so as to bring it on a par with the other union territories without legislatures has triggered condemnation from across the political class of the state. For Punjab-based political leaders, it is just not a move to reverse the change introduced in 1984 whereby the Punjab Governor was made the administrator of Chandigarh or merely a step to put the union territory under the Lieutenant Governor, as is the case elsewhere in the country. In Punjab, any move to alter



Promise broken: As per the Rajiv Gandhi-Longowal Accord, Chandigarh was to go to Punjab. Seen in the picture, among others (From L to R): VP Singh, partially visible Mr. Singh, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, Surjit Singh Barnala, Arjun Singh, SB Chavan, Rajiv Gandhi. -File photo

Chandigarh's governance takes stakeholders back to the question as to why a city built as Punjab's capital has not been returned to it even decades after the 1966 reorganization.

Let us first understand why the city could not be given to the state of Punjab on the eve of its reorganization in 1966. It is noteworthy that the three-member Boundary Commission headed by Justice JC Shah, appointed in April 1966, to identify the Hindi and Punjabi regions of the state recommended by majority vote that Chandigarh should go to Haryana. The third member, S Dutt, dissenting with the majority verdict, pleaded that the city should instead go to Punjab. There was an inbuilt problem with the commission regarding its terms of reference.

The commission was asked to take into consideration the Census figures of 1961, which, as was well known, could not be trusted because in the then politically surcharged atmosphere of the state, a large section of Punjabi Hindus was persuaded to disown their mother tongue, Punjabi. Secondly, instead of the village being taken as a unit, as was the practice in the past, the commission was required not to break up the tehsils. Since Kharar tehsil, in which Chandigarh fell, was shown to have 55.2 per cent Hindi-speaking population as per the 1961 Census figures, it led the two members of the commission to recommend that the city should go to Haryana.

The Central government realized the flaws in the terms of reference of the commission. To come out of the messy situation, which was essentially its own creation, the Central government decided to declare the city a union

territory to be shared by both Punjab and Haryana.

Ever since the reorganization of Punjab, political leaders across parties, with the Akalis being in the forefront, have been proclaiming that the boundaries of the state need to be redrawn along linguistic lines and that Chandigarh should be transferred to Punjab.

Akali Dal leader Sant Fateh Singh was accused of breaking his fast-unto-death or the vow to immolate himself on December 27, 1966, if Chandigarh was not given to Punjab. Darshan Singh Pheruman of the Swatantra Party died for the cause on October 27, 1969, after a 74-day hunger strike.

On January 26, 1970, Sant Fateh Singh began a fast for the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab, following which Prime Minister Indira Gandhi announced that Chandigarh would be given to Punjab while Haryana would get a part of Fazilka tehsil and Abohar. Haryana was also to be given an outright grant of Rs 10 crore for building a new capital. In view of the problem of contiguity of the areas proposed to be given to Haryana, the plan of the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab got stuck.

After the launch of the Nehru Roko Morcha in April 1982, the Akali Dal participated in many rounds of talks with the Central government, negotiating on its demand charter submitted to the Centre in October 1981. The transfer of Chandigarh and Punjabi-speaking areas to Punjab were the major demands. Subsequently, in July 1985, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed the Accord with Akali Dal president Harchand Singh Longowal, wherein he

the PM gave a solemn undertaking that Chandigarh would be transferred to Punjab on Republic Day, ie, January 26, 1986.

But like the earlier occasion, this promise was also not honored. The official excuse given by the Centre was that the Matthew Commission - despite two extensions having been given to it - had failed to identify the areas to be given to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh. However, the real reason was the fear of the loss of Hindu votes in Haryana in the state Assembly elections which were due the following year.

This is why the issue has remained unresolved for so long, even though leaders of Punjab from across the political spectrum have all along been very vocal on the subject.

The politics played on the territorial issues of Punjab pushed the state into the throes of a prolonged political turmoil in the 1980s, which lasted for more than a decade.

The Akali Dal-sponsored agitation, which had the backing of Punjab's peasantry, eventually took a violent form. This led the peasantry, which had earlier supported the movement wholeheartedly, to move away from the violent struggle. Thus, the movement ended without achieving any closure.

However, the political resonance of the territorial issues like Chandigarh has not faded. The importance of the issue of transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab, which has defined the politics of the state for decades, remains intact. It is bound to remain so till a solution acceptable to the politically dominant class of peasants is found. And for this class, Punjab's claim on Chandigarh is indisputable.

The Comey and James dismissals are a reminder of Trump's lawlessness



By Austin Sarat

Monday brought good news for two of Donald Trump's most hated enemies: the former FBI director James Comey, and the New York state attorney general, Letitia James. A federal judge dismissed the sham indictments the administration had obtained against them.

Judge Cameron McGowan Currie reminded the president and his attorney general of the great lessons of a society governed by the rule of law: how things are done matters as much as what is done. Without fair procedures, no one can be safe from the arbitrary exercise of government power.

This is never more apparent than when leaders target their political opponents and seek revenge against those who do not fall in line. The US is learning this lesson in real time as the Trump administration politicizes prosecution.

Recall the president's infamous 20 September direction to Pam Bondi, the US attorney general.

"Pam," Trump posted to Truth Social, "I have reviewed over 30 statements and posts saying that, essentially, 'same old story as the last time, all talk, no action. Nothing is being done. What about Comey, Adam 'Shifty' Schiff, Leticia???' They're all guilty as hell, but nothing is going to be done.'

"Then," he continued, "we almost put in a Democrat supported U.S. Attorney, in Virginia, with a really bad Republican past ... I fired him, and there is a GREAT CASE, and many lawyers, and legal pundits, say so. Lindsey Halligan is a really good lawyer, and likes you, a lot."

The president ended by making it clear what he wanted and why he wanted it. "We can't delay any longer, it's killing our reputation and credibility. They impeached me twice, and indicted me (5 times!), OVER NOTHING. JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED, NOW!!!"

Two days later, Bondi installed Halligan as interim US attorney for the eastern district of Virginia with an apparent mandate to go after Comey, James and others. Several days after that, Comey was indicted in federal court, accused of lying to Congress; the next month, James was indicted in a mortgage case. Both denied wrongdoing and said the cases were intended to punish them for past clashes with him.

On Monday, Currie delivered a decisive rebuke to Trump and Bondi when she threw out the Comey and James indictments. She found that Halligan's



A judge tossed indictments against two of the president's political enemies, standing against politicized prosecutions- Letitia James and James B Comey.

appointment violated the clear language of the statute governing such appointments and of the constitution itself.

As a result, all of the actions flowing from her appointment, including the indictments of Comey and James, were "unlawful exercises of executive power". While Currie left the door open for the administration to refile indictments against Comey and James, in Comey's case, the time allowed under the applicable statute of limitations has run out.

As the Washington Post notes, Currie's decision is just the latest in a series of judicial rulings "disqualifying Trump's interim U.S. attorney picks in New Jersey, Nevada, and Los Angeles". Like her colleagues, Currie made clear that Trump's Department of Justice had again distinguished itself by its dangerous combination of lawlessness and incompetence.

Her opinion is good news for defenders of the rule of law. It should also strengthen the hand of other judges who want to push back against the administration's vindictive prosecutions.

Judges, like Currie, are never eager to dismiss an indictment issued by a grand jury. They are inclined to trust the grand jury process and are reluctant to cast aside the investment of time and resources that a good prosecutor makes in securing an indictment.

In 1988, the supreme court held that, in most cases, dismissal of an indictment is

appropriate only if errors in the handling of the grand jury process prejudiced a defendant by "substantially" influencing the decision to indict or raising "grave doubt" about whether the decision was free from such influence.

As the attorney James M Burnham has written, this high bar "plays a central role in the ever-expanding, vague nature of federal criminal law because it largely eliminates the possibility of purely legal judicial opinions construing criminal statutes". Burnham wants judges to be more active in policing indictments and making sure they are legally justified.

Currie did just that. She found that Halligan lacked the authority to seek indictments of Comey or James because the justice department had not followed the applicable law governing the appointment of interim US attorneys. That law is, in her words, "unambiguous".

It allows the attorney general to appoint an interim US attorney, who can serve for a period of 120 days. It falls to a federal district court, not the administration, to choose a successor or extend the term of the current interim appointee - as happened with Halligan's predecessor.

The purpose of the law, Currie noted, was to prevent the president from circumventing the constitutional requirement that US attorneys go through a Senate confirmation process by making a series of interim appointments back-to-back.

But Senate confirmation takes time.

Alas, how inconvenient when the president demands that his enemies must be brought to justice now.

Bondi may have known what the law required when she appointed Halligan to do the president's bidding. But she seems to interpret her role as serving Trump and pushing the outer boundaries of the law until a judge has the temerity to tell her she can't.

Like federal judges in other cases, that is what Currie did. Along the way, the judge noted that Halligan was a "White House aide with no prior prosecutorial experience", who appeared alone before the grand jury after career prosecutors in her office concluded that neither had committed any crime.

In the end, the judge, having pointed out the lawlessness and incompetence that accompanied Halligan's appointment and the Comey and James indictments, reminded Bondi and the president that the legal requirements governing appointments, as the supreme court once said, are "more than a matter of etiquette or protocol". No matter how much the president insists or how many all-caps messages he posts to Truth Social, those requirements cannot be discarded, she concluded, to suit the president, since they are "among the significant structural safeguards of the constitutional scheme".

(Austin Sarat, William Nelson Cromwell professor of jurisprudence and political science at Amherst College, is the author or editor of more than 100 books, including *Gruesome Spectacles: Botched Executions and America's Death Penalty*)



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No democracy without dissent, believes CJI Surya Kant



By Ranbir Singh

The CJI's life reminds young lawyers that excellence comes not from privilege, but from preparation, perseverance and integrity

"JUSTICE SURYA KANT HAS ALSO BEEN AN ARTICULATE PUBLIC VOICE. HE HAS DESCRIBED "DEMOCRACY WITHOUT DISSENT" AS A CONTRADICTION AND SILENCE IN THE FACE OF INJUSTICE AS COMPLICITY. HE HAS DEFENDED THE COLLEGIUM SYSTEM AS AN IMPERFECT BUT VITAL SAFEGUARD OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE. SPEAKING AT MICROSOFT'S GLOBAL HEADQUARTERS, HE WELCOMED AI FOR LEGAL RESEARCH AND DRAFTING BUT INSISTED THAT EMPATHY, MORAL REASONING AND HUMAN JUDGMENT REMAIN IRREPLACEABLE."

With Justice Surya Kant assuming office as the 53rd Chief Justice of India, many of us in the legal fraternity feel a quiet but profound sense of satisfaction. The appointment of a judge from a modest, middle-class family in Hisar to the highest judicial office captures something essential about the Indian Constitution - its faith that talent and integrity can rise from any corner of the country.

For me, this moment is also deeply personal. As his former teacher, I have seen him first as a serious law student, then as a diligent young advocate, an exacting high court judge and finally as a widely respected judge of the Supreme Court of India. Across these different roles, what has remained constant is his humility, his discipline and his belief that the law exists above all for those who are in dire need of it.

Born in 1962 at Petwar village in Hisar district, Haryana, he graduated from Government Post-Graduate College, Hisar, in 1981 and earned his law degree from Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak (1984). He began practice in Hisar district courts, shifted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, and built a formidable reputation in constitutional, service and civil matters. In 2000, he became the Advocate General of Haryana; in 2001, he was designated Senior Advocate. Elevation to the Punjab and Haryana High Court followed in 2004, and in 2018, he became the Chief

Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court before joining the Supreme Court in May 2019.

His judicial record reveals a consistent concern for human dignity. In *Jasvir Singh vs State of Punjab*, while dismissing a particular plea, he recognized conjugal visits and, in suitable cases, procreation as part of Article 21 rights and directed the state to frame a policy on family visits as prison reform. Prisoners, in his view, remain rights-bearing citizens.

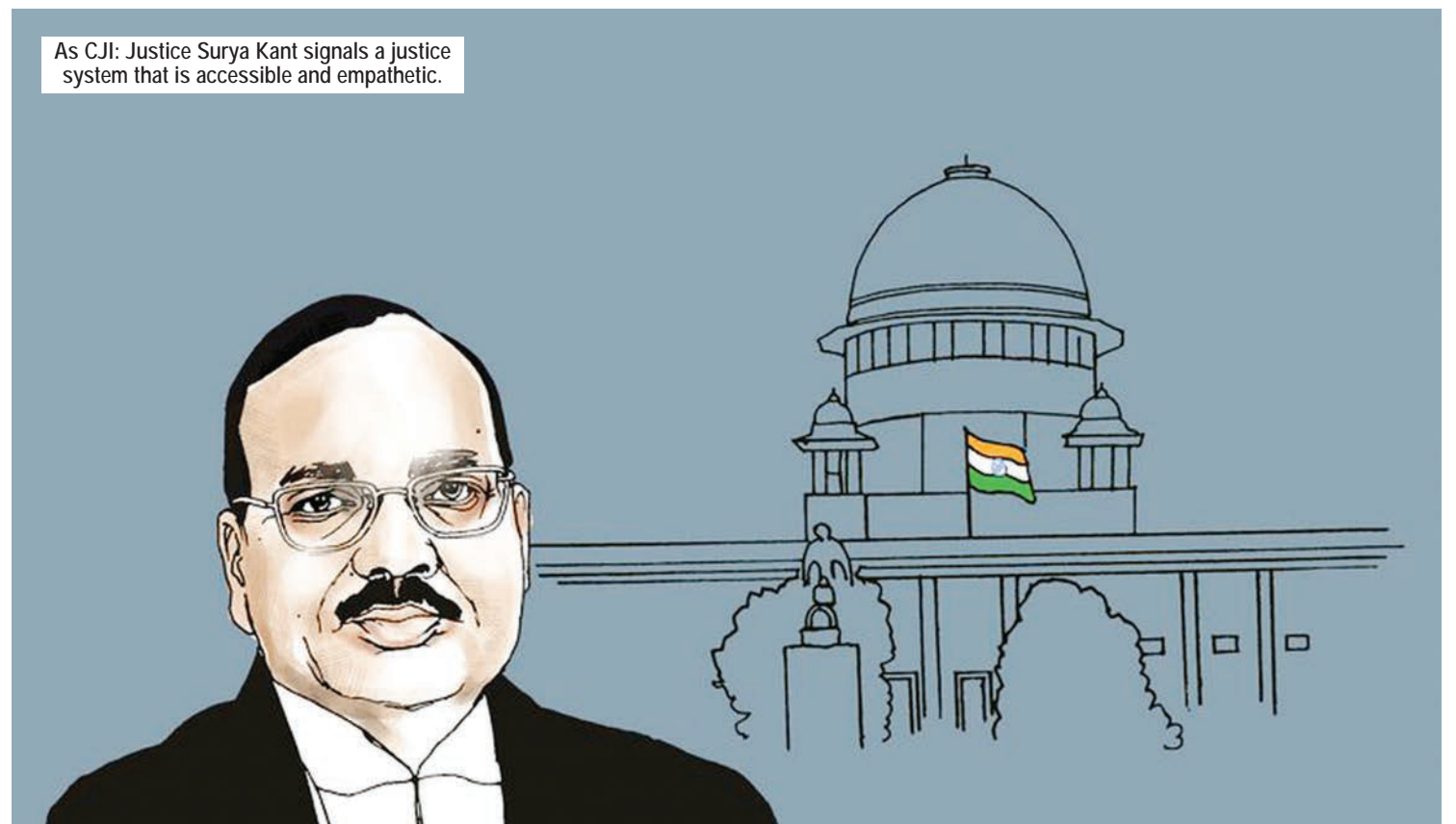
Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority, he has already signaled two priorities: reducing pendency and promoting mediation and alternative dispute resolution. This is not mere docket-clearing; it reflects his long engagement with legal-aid movements and his conviction that many disputes are better resolved by restoring relationships than by protracted adversarial litigation.

From his tenure, we may reasonably expect a steadfast defense of judicial

distinct position where he felt constitutional fidelity demanded it and I hope that under his stewardship, the Supreme Court will remain a forum where competing views are debated with rigor and mutual respect.

From the point of view of legal education, Justice Surya Kant's elevation also carries a symbolic message for young students, especially those who come from small towns and non-elite backgrounds. His life story tells them that excellence in the

As CJI: Justice Surya Kant signals a justice system that is accessible and empathetic.



As the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court, he managed environmental, land acquisition and hydropower disputes in a mountainous, largely rural state, while insisting on punctuality, thorough preparation and courteous hearing even to the youngest lawyers.

At the Supreme Court, he was part of the Bench (headed by then CJI NV Ramana) that, in 2022, effectively suspended the colonial-era sedition law (Section 124A IPC) until the Union re-examines it and protected existing accused persons from fresh prosecution - an order that reaffirmed that dissent is the safety valve of democracy.

Justice Surya Kant has also been an articulate public voice. He has described "democracy without dissent" as a contradiction and silence in the face of injustice as complicity. He has defended the collegium system as an imperfect but vital safeguard of judicial independence. Speaking at Microsoft's global headquarters, he welcomed AI for legal research and drafting but insisted that empathy, moral reasoning and human judgment remain irreplaceable.

As incoming CJI and ex-officio

independence that neither obstructs legitimate governance nor abdicates the court's role as constitutional sentinel; steady, practical reforms that strengthen case management, bolster district courts and harness technology to make justice less intimidating and more accessible; a compassionate yet balanced approach to the great social questions of our time - prisoners' dignity, rights of the marginalized and vulnerable groups, gender equality and environmental protection - always aware that the hardest cases demand both heart and restraint; and a warmer, more structured partnership between the higher judiciary and legal academia through internships, research collaborations and shared deliberations that will enrich both the Bench and the classroom.

There will, of course, be challenges and disagreements along the way. That is natural for any Chief Justice who presides over a court where strong minds differ on questions of interpretation and principle. In fact, the health of our judiciary lies in precisely this culture of reasoned dissent, both within and outside the courtroom. Justice Surya Kant himself has not hesitated to take a

profession does not depend on lineage or privilege, but on preparation, perseverance and ethical commitment. In a time when public discourse around the judiciary is sometimes polarized, it is important to highlight such stories that quietly affirm the seriousness and integrity that still characterize much of Indian judging.

As someone who has spent a lifetime in building institutions such as the NALSAR University of Law and National Law University Delhi, I see Justice Surya Kant's tenure as an opportunity to renew trust in the judiciary as the guardian of the Constitution and the protector of the ordinary citizen. His clarity of thought, his rootedness in the realities of Indian society, and his openness to technology and comparative learning give me confidence that he will lead the court with wisdom and grace.

It is a proud day for Haryana, for his alma mater and for all those who believe that the Indian judiciary can continue to renew itself from within. I look forward, as many others do, to seeing how his vision for a more accessible, more compassionate and more efficient justice system unfolds in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DHARMENDRA

The 'He-Man' of Hindi cinema, the gentle giant of Indian hearts

In the grand tapestry of Indian cinema, certain stars do not merely shine—they create constellations. Dharmendra, born Dharam Singh Deol on 8 December 1935 in Sahnewal, Punjab, is one such eternal constellation in Bollywood's sky. A man whose journey from a humble village background to becoming the "He-Man" of Indian cinema remains one of the industry's most iconic and inspiring success stories. His life is not just the tale of an actor; it is the saga of charm, humility, masculinity, romance, and an old-world grace now rare in modern cinema.

The veteran actor passed away in Mumbai on Monday (November 24, 2025). The 89-year-old actor had been in and out of south Mumbai's Breach Candy hospital for several days earlier this month.

THE ROOTS OF A LEGEND: HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO STARDOM

Dharmendra's childhood was steeped in simplicity—far from the glamour, arc lights, and chaotic studios he would later own with ease. Raised in a farming family, he carried the ethos of Punjab: warmth, community, grit, and pride. His dream of acting first sparked when he would walk miles to watch films at local theatres. The young boy who once sat mesmerized by Dilip Kumar and Guru Dutt would one day stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them in Bollywood's pantheon.

His breakthrough came when he won the Filmfare New Talent Award in 1960. With no industry connections, no godfather, and nothing but a suitcase of aspirations, he arrived in Bombay. The journey from studio to studio, audition to audition, could have broken many—but not Dharam. His sincerity and striking good looks made him impossible to ignore.

THE RISE OF A SUPERSTAR

Dharmendra's filmography is nothing short of a cinematic catalogue of India's evolving tastes—romance, drama, action, comedy, social commentary—he mastered them all with an effortless versatility.

The Romantic Heartthrob (1960s)

Long before he was known for his action image, Dharmendra was India's most adored romantic hero. Films like *Anupama*, *Satyakam*, *Bandini*, *Chupke Chupke*, and *Baharen Phir Bhi Aayengi* revealed an actor who could express deep emotion with just a gaze. His pairing with actresses like Meena Kumari, Nutan, and Sharmila Tagore remains timeless.

The He-Man of Bollywood (1970s)

The 1970s transformed Dharmendra into the ultimate action hero. He wasn't just muscular—he exuded raw masculinity with warmth. Movies like *Sholay*, *Yaadon Ki Baaraat*, *Jugnu*, *Phool Aur Patthar*, and *Dharam Veer* showcased him as a force of nature. His iconic role as Veeru in *Sholay* remains a cornerstone of Indian pop culture.



Comedy with Charm

Few action stars could do comedy with Dharmendra's timing. His roles in *Chupke Chupke*, *Do Chor*, *Dream Girl*, and *Naukar Biwi Ka* reveal an actor who understood humour as deeply as he understood romance.

A Career That Refuses to Fade

Even in later years, Dharmendra continued to surprise—appearing in *Yamla Pagla Deewana*, *Apne*, *Life In A... Metro*, and even returning to the screen at 87 with *Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani*, where his performance as a tender, poetic lover reminded the world of his eternal magic.

THE PERSONALITY: HUMILITY WRAPPED IN STARDOM

Ask anyone who has worked with Dharmendra—directors, co-stars, spot boys—and one phrase repeats: "Dharam paaji is a man of the people."

Warmth & Simplicity

Despite being one of the most handsome men to ever grace Indian screens, Dharmendra never carried the air of a superstar. He speaks with the innocence of a village boy who still marvels at love, life, and destiny.

He performed his own stunts at a time when safety measures were minimal.

Whether jumping off cliffs or wrestling villains, he gave his all because he carried an unspoken promise to his audience: authenticity.

Romantic Soul

Behind his rugged exterior lies a soft heart. His love for poetry, nature, and human relationships emerges in every interview. He often shares self-penned couplets, revealing a creative soul behind the powerful frame.

THE MAN BEHIND THE MYTH: FAMILY, LEGACY & VALUES

Dharmendra's personal life reflects complexity, commitment, and love. His marriage to Prakash Kaur, his celebrated partnership with Hema Malini, and his bond with his children—Sunny, Bobby, Esha, and Ahana—have been widely spoken about. Yet through all of life's complexities, he remained respectful, protective, and devoted to his family.

What truly stands out is that he never let stardom overshadow his roots. He continued visiting his village, interacting with fans, and staying grounded.

THE ICON AND HIS LEGACY

Dharmendra is not merely an actor—he is an era. An emotion. A symbol of a

time when heroes were heroic, when sincerity shaped stardom, and when cinema touched the soul.

His Legacy Includes:

- One of the longest active careers in Hindi cinema
- 300+ films across six decades
- A rare versatility: romance, action, comedy, drama
- A fanbase spanning generations
- Sons and daughters who have carried forward the cinematic lineage
- A legend who remains relevant even in his late eighties
- He bridged eras—from black-and-white storytelling to digital filmmaking—with unmatched grace.

Dharmendra will always be remembered not just for the films he gave, but for the spirit he embodied. He represented a masculinity that wasn't harsh—it was protective. A stardom that wasn't arrogant—it was affectionate. A personality that wasn't manufactured—it was pure.

In an industry obsessed with reinvention, Dharmendra never needed to change. He remained authentic. Real. Human.

He is the last of the true blue stars—a gentleman warrior, a romantic at heart, a Punjabi lion, and India's beloved Dharam paaji.

THE CULT & CLASSIC FILMS OF DHARMENDRA

SHOLAY (1975)



Role: Veeru
Director: Ramesh Sippy
Why It's Iconic:

- India's greatest blockbuster, still watched across generations.
- Dharmendra as Veeru gave the film its emotional warmth and humour.
- The water-tank drunken scene ("Soorma Bhopali ke paas...") and the "Basanti in kutton ke saamne mat nachna!" line became part of Indian pop culture.
- His chemistry with Hema Malini and Amitabh Bachchan created a perfect blend of romance and friendship.

Legacy:

- Veeru remains one of the most loved characters in Indian cinema-charming, brave, romantic, unforgettable.

PHOOL AUR PATTHAR (1966)



Role: Shaka, the anti-hero with a heart
Why It's Iconic:

- Dharmendra's breakthrough as a superstar.
- The shirtless scene became historic and reinvented the idea of the Hindi film hero.
- A powerful performance blending toughness with emotional depth.

Legacy:

This film earned Dharmendra his first Filmfare nomination for Best Actor and firmly established him as the "HE-MAN" of Bollywood.

ANUPAMA (1966)

Director: Hrishikesh Mukherjee
Why It's Special:

- Dharmendra's finest romantic performance.
- A sensitive portrayal of a poet who heals a broken woman.
- His eyes and silence conveyed more than dialogues.

Legacy:

This film is still studied for its subtle acting and poetic storytelling.

SATYAKAM (1969)



Role: Satyapriya Acharya
Director: Hrishikesh Mukherjee
Why It's Iconic:

■ Dharmendra's most critically acclaimed performance ever.

- A man of unshakeable integrity navigating a morally corrupt world.
- Many critics call it one of the greatest performances in Hindi cinema.

Legacy:

Proof that Dharmendra was not just a star-he was an actor of extraordinary depth.

CHUPKE CHUPKE (1975)

Role: Parimal Tripathi
Director: Hrishikesh Mukherjee

Why It's Cult:

- One of the greatest comedies in Indian history.
- Dharmendra displayed brilliant comic timing, especially in the "Botany professor" scenes.
- His pairing with Sharmila Tagore and Amitabh Bachchan ensured sparkling chemistry.

Legacy:

This film made Dharmendra a legend in comedy, proving his versatility.

YAADON KI BAARAAT (1973)



Director: Nasir Hussain

Why It's Iconic:

- One of the earliest Bollywood "masala" films.
- His stylish action scenes and screen presence made

him a fan favourite.

- The title song picturisation featuring Dharmendra became iconic.

Legacy:

Still remembered for its music, nostalgia, and Dharm's swagger.

JUGNU (1973)

Role: Millionaire-cum-robber hero

Why It's Popular:

- A giant commercial hit.
- Dharmendra's charisma, fights, and romantic scenes became a rage.
- Helped shape his action-hero image.

Legacy:

A defining film of Dharmendra's 70s superstardom.

DHARAM VEER (1977)



Director: Manmohan Desai

Why It's Iconic:

- A grand costume drama with action, emotion, and fantasy.

Dharmendra's swashbuckling presence was the film's lifeline.

- His scenes with Jeetendra became crowd favourites.

Legacy:

A cult favourite in Indian households.

DOST (1974)

Role: Maanav

Why It's Loved:

- A powerful story of friendship and betrayal.
- Dharmendra's emotional performance elevated the film.
- The song "Gaadi Bula Rahi Hai" remains evergreen.

Legacy:

A classic in the friendship genre.

SHAAN (1980)

Role: Cameo but impactful

- Though a small appearance, his opening action sequence became memorable.
- His presence instantly added star power to the film.

Legacy:

A cult addition to his filmography.

THE BURNING TRAIN (1980)

Director: Ravi Chopra

Why It's Iconic:

- India's first major disaster film.
- Dharmendra's heroic leadership on screen gave the movie strong emotional weight.

Legacy:

A nostalgic favourite on television even today.

RAM BALRAM (1980)

Co-star: Amitabh Bachchan

Why It's Popular:

- Their partnership-strong, emotional, and intense-was a massive draw.
- Packed with action and drama.

Legacy:

One of the most successful multi-starrers of its time.

Dream Girl, Ghazab, Do Chor

Dharmendra and Hema Malini created magic in many films, but these stand out for:

- sparkling chemistry
- effortless comedy
- family-friendly, repeat-watch appeal

AAYA SAWAN JHOOM KE (1969)

A romantic-emotional film remembered for Dharmendra's sincere performance and evergreen music.

SEETA AUR GEETA (1972)



Role: Raka

Why Memorable:

- A supporting role, yet Dharmendra's charm lifted the entire film.
- His scenes with Hema Malini remain fan favourites.

GHAYAL (1990) - As Producer

- He backed the film that turned Sunny Deol into a national icon.
- Earned Filmfare and National Awards.
- Cemented the Deol family legacy.

LIFE IN A... METRO (2007)

Role: Amol

- A beautiful, vulnerable performance playing an elderly man in love.
- Gave audiences a glimpse of his poet's soul.

YAMLA PAGLA DEEWANA (2011)



■ A fun, masala entertainer that revived his on-screen charm.

■ His comic one-liners were a huge hit.

ROCKY AUR RANI KI PREM KAHANI (2023)

- Even at 87, Dharmendra created magic-
- The poetry scene
- The grace
- The softness

Left with myriad memories to relive: Hema Malini in first post since Dharmendra's death

Veteran actor-politician Hema Malini paid an emotional tribute to her late husband Dharmendra, saying that he was "everything" to her — a partner, guide and friend whose passing has left an irreplaceable void.

In her first post since Dharmendra's death on Monday at the age of 89, Malini remembered him as a loving husband and an adoring father to their daughters, Esha and Ahana, as well as a warm presence who effortlessly endeared himself to everyone in her family.

"Dharam ji. He was many things to me. Loving Husband, adoring Father of our two girls, Esha & Ahana, Friend, Philosopher, Guide, Poet, my 'go to' person in all times of need — in fact, he was everything to me! And always has been through good times and bad. "He endeared himself to all my family members with his easy, friendly ways, always showing affection and interest in all of them," the 77-year-old wrote while also sharing their old photos.

Calling her loss "indescribable", the actor said the vacuum left behind will remain for the rest of her life.

"After years of togetherness, I am left with myriad memories to relive the many special moments..." Malini, who acted with Dharmendra in many blockbusters such as "Sholay", "Seeta aur Geeta" and "Pratigya", said.

Amitabh Bachchan calls Dharmendra a valiant giant in emotional tribute

Longtime co-star and friend Amitabh Bachchan, who later shared an emotional note remembering the actor.

On his personal blog, Bachchan wrote an emotional tribute, describing Dharmendra as "a valiant Giant" whose absence has created an irreplaceable void. "Another valiant Giant has left us



left the arena leaving behind a silence with an unbearable sound," he wrote.

Recalling the qualities that made Dharmendra beloved both on and off-screen, Bachchan added, "Dharam ji the epitome of greatness, ever linked not only for his renowned physical presence, but for the largeness of his heart and its most endearing simplicity."

He reflected on how Dharmendra remained grounded despite decades of fame. "He brought with him the earthiness of the village in Punjab he came from, and remained true to its temperament, unsoiled throughout his glorious career, in a fraternity that witnessed changes every decade. The fraternity underwent changes not him."

Bachchan also remembered Dharmendra's warmth and generosity. "His smile, his charm and his warmth, extending to all that came in his vicinity a rarity in the profession," he added.

Ending his tribute with a sense of profound loss, Bachchan wrote, "The air about us swings vacant a vacuum that shall ever remain vacuus prayers."

Bachchan and Dharmendra shared an enduring bond, made immortal by their iconic roles in 'Sholay', one of Indian cinema's most celebrated films. Dharmendra's death marks the end of an era, and tributes continue to pour in from across the film industry and fans worldwide.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also paid tribute to Dharmendra saying that his death marked the end of an era in Indian cinema. "He was an iconic film personality, a phenomenal actor who brought charm and depth to every role he played. The manner in which he played diverse roles struck a chord with countless people," Modi said on X.

"Dharam ji the epitome of greatness, ever linked not only for his renowned physical presence, but for the largeness of his heart and its most endearing simplicity."

AMITABH BACHCHAN

"An affable and cooperative human being who met everyone, whether rich or poor, with the same warmth. I did not find any change in him till the end."

SHARMILA TAGORE

"Rest in Peace Dharam ji. You were nothing short of a father figure to me... thank you for showering me with blessings and love the way you did. An inconsolable and irreplaceable loss not just to his family, but to cinema and film

lovers the world over. You are immortal... and your soul will live through your films and your beautiful family forever. Love you always."

SHAH RUKH KHAN

"The passing of Dharmendra Ji marks the end of an era in Indian cinema. He was an iconic film personality, a phenomenal actor who brought charm and depth to every role he played. The manner in which he played diverse roles struck a chord with countless people. Dharmendra Ji was equally admired for his simplicity, humility and warmth. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with his family, friends and innumerable fans. Om Shanti."

NARENDRA MODI

"Heart broken, pained & deeply saddened by the passing away of our dearest family friend, our elder brother, people's hero, @aapkadharm Most loved, son of the soil, pride of Punjab/Maharashtra a 'Bharat Ratna' in true sense, down to earth, kind & a humble. He will be remembered forever for his great contributions to the film industry/ cinema. A personality in totality an era of 'He Man/Star' has gone. My first 'Hero' & People's Hero' in the film industry is no more. It is an irreparable & irreplaceable loss to all of us & the entire film industry. Strength to the family, friends, well wishers & fans in these traumatic times. Om Shanti."

SHATRUGHAN SINHA

Massive Somali Welfare-Fraud Cases in Minnesota

Billions in taxpayers' money has been stolen; millions could have gone to terrorists-an allegation that lawmakers are asking federal prosecutors to investigate

NOVEMBER 27, 2025

SAINT PAUL, MN (TIP) Networks of fraudsters, many from Minnesota's Somali community, exploited welfare programs and raked in billions of taxpayer dollars, authorities say, according to a CNN report.

At least three major scandals are involved, one of which has been developing for years. Two others recently surfaced. Then came new revelations that inspired presidential action and touched off calls for further investigation.

Here's what we know about the multifaceted controversy drawing national attention and greater scrutiny to the North Star State.

BIGGEST SCANDAL OF ITS KIND

The Department of Justice (DOJ) said a Minnesota nonprofit called "Feeding Our Future" and its affiliates stole more than \$240 million in federal funds, in what constituted the nation's largest COVID-19 pandemic-relief scheme.

"This was a brazen scheme of staggering proportions," then-U.S. Attorney Andrew M. Luger said in 2022 when the first 47 people were charged.

The defendants' quarter-billion haul was used to buy "luxury cars, houses, jewelry, and coastal resort property abroad," Luger said.

Since then, dozens more have been charged; on Nov. 24, the DOJ announced it had charged a 78th defendant connected to Feeding Our Future.

So far, about 50 defendants, including the nonprofit group's founder, Aimee Bock, have been convicted; Bock is being held in federal custody awaiting sentencing.

All but a handful of Feeding Our Future defendants have Somali names; at least one formed a company called "Minnesota's Somali Community." The state is home to the nation's largest group of Somalis, constituting about 1 percent of its population, according to multiple sources, including World Population Review.

Those immigrants come from a nation steeped in public-sector corruption. Somalia ranks as the world's second-most-corrupt nation, according to the 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index. That ranking, compiled by Transparency International, gave Somalia 9 points on a scale where 100 means "very clean;" only South Sudan was worse, with 8 points. The United States scored 65, while the world's least corrupt country, Denmark, earned 90 points.

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?

Because schools were closed during the pandemic, officials relaxed rules for the Federal Child Nutrition Program and began allowing non-educational organizations to feed needy children.

Bad actors figured out how to take advantage. Feeding Our Future recruited people to open more than 250 nutrition-program sites throughout Minnesota. These locations "fraudulently claimed to be serving meals to thousands of children a day within just days or weeks



Aimee Bock, founder and executive director of the nonprofit organization Feeding Our Future, arrives at the Minneapolis federal courthouse with her attorney, Ken Udoibok, right, on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, in Minneapolis, Minn. -File photo: Kerem Yücel/Minnesota Public Radio via AP

of being formed," the Justice Department said in 2022 when announcing the first wave of defendants.

To enroll in the program, and to receive and launder proceeds of the scheme, the defendants "created dozens of shell companies" in attempts to hide their fraud, which included submitting fake documentation, the Justice Department alleged.

Alarm bells started ringing after officials saw how fast the program was expanding for Feeding Our Future. In 2021, the organization received and disbursed \$200 million-59 times more than the \$3.4 million it handled in 2019, pre-pandemic.

A 2024 special review, conducted by the Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor, found that the state Department of Education "failed to act on warning signs ... prior to the start of the alleged fraud." Those warning signs included numerous complaints and red flags raised about Feeding Our Future, which began operating in 2016. The department also did not enforce program requirements and "was ill-prepared" to take effective action, the report said.

The state's education commissioner, Willie L. Jett II, defended his agency's oversight of the programs. He said the agency reported suspicions and concerns to law enforcement.

"What happened with Feeding Our Future was a travesty-a coordinated, brazen abuse of nutrition programs that exist to ensure access to healthy meals for low-income children," Jett said in the report, adding, "The responsibility for this flagrant fraud lies with the indicted and convicted fraudsters."

SECOND SCANDAL SURFACES

Two months ago, the Justice Department released information on a separate scandal. It centers around millions in fraudulent Medicaid claims submitted through a program called Housing Stabilization Services. Eight initial defendants are accused, a Sept. 18

DOJ news release says.

In 2020, Minnesota became the first U.S. state to offer Medicaid coverage for finding and maintaining housing for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and those struggling with mental or substance-abuse disorders.

The program was intended to combat homelessness.

But crooks gamed the system.

They obtained names of eligible people from places such as addiction-treatment centers, then used that information to submit inflated, fake reimbursement claims, the Justice Department said.

The initial cost of the program was expected to be \$2.6 million per year. But in 2021 alone, the program paid out nearly 10 times that amount, \$21 million. That figure increased exponentially each year, reaching \$104 million in 2024-nearly 40 times more than originally estimated.

Housing Stabilization Services ended Oct. 31 because of "large-scale fraud," the state Department of Human Services website says.

THIRD SCHEME TARGETED AUTISM-CARE FUNDING

Six days after announcing the Housing Stabilization Services accusations, Acting U.S. Attorney Joseph Thompson revealed charges in a third major welfare-fraud case. In that case, a 28-year-old woman is accused of illegally reaping \$14 million from an autism-care program.

Prosecutors say that, from 2019-2024, Asha Farhan Hassan and her associates would recruit parents to get their children checked for autism. Every recruited child got that diagnosis, the DOJ said, unlocking federal reimbursements.

In exchange for cooperating with the scheme, parents received a monthly "kickback" of \$300 to \$1,500 per child, depending on how much money the federal government authorized for that child, the DOJ said.

The defendant and her partners

allegedly split their ill-gotten gains, and Hassan "sent hundreds of thousands of dollars in fraud proceeds abroad, some of which she used to purchase real estate in Kenya," the DOJ said.

Hassan is also accused in the Feeding Our Future case-an example of the intertwined nature of the Minnesota scandals, the DOJ said.

During 2020-21, she "claimed to have served nearly 200,000 meals to children," which was untrue, and fraudulently obtained \$465,000 in Federal Child Nutrition Program funds, the DOJ said in its Sept. 24 news release.

MASSIVE CASELOAD OVERWHELMS DOJ PROSECUTORS

Many more defendants are expected to be charged in the latest two scandals, whose contributing factors have not yet been assessed.

Together, the three scandals "form a web that has stolen billions of dollars in taxpayer money," Thompson said, lamenting "schemes stacked upon schemes, draining resources meant for those in need."

"I have spent my career as a fraud prosecutor and the depth of the fraud in Minnesota takes my breath away," Thompson said in one of the recent news releases.

During a news conference in September, a reporter asked Thompson whether the DOJ was getting extra help to handle the workload.

He replied that a small, dedicated team was working "extra hard."

"We can't prosecute our way out of this problem. These cases are resource-intensive," Thompson replied.

"But can we charge everyone? No," he said.

State Rep. Walter Hudson called that "an astounding statement," which means that "injustice will stand."

"People are going to get away with this because there's so much fraud, so much fraud, that they don't have the capacity to administer justice in response," Hudson said in a Sept. 22 video posted on X along with clips of Thompson's remarks.

ARE SOMALI TERRORISTS BENEFITING?

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) said Nov. 21 that a new report revealed "truly disgusting" facts: "Millions in stolen Minnesota welfare dollars have been funneled to [Al-Shabab]- an ISIS-aligned TERROR group."

Johnson, in comments on X, called the situation "a national security problem," to which Americans deserve answers and accountability immediately.

His comments were linked to a report in City Journal, a publication of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research.

Authored by Ryan Thorpe and Christopher Rufo, the Nov. 20 investigative article alleges that millions of the Minnesota welfare-fraud dollars "have been sent back to Somalia, where they ultimately landed in the hands of the terror group [Al-Shabab]."

CONT'D ON PAGE 36

Rich tributes paid to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur at a joint event by Consulate General of India and Virasat-e-Khalsa



--->By Prabhjot Singh

NOVEMBER 24, 2025

BRAMPTON (TIP): Marked by solemnity, religious fervor, and sanctity, the Consulate General of India in Toronto joined Virasat-e-Khalsa in commemorating the 350th anniversary of the unprecedented martyrdom of the ninth Sikh Guru, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur, while eulogizing his extraordinary courage, unwavering faith, and supreme sacrifice.

The event held on November 23, in Brampton, the largest home of the Indian community in Ontario, started with soulful shabad kirtan by Professor Paramjit Singh and his group amidst flowing crowds of devotees and the vibrant diaspora gathering in heartfelt devotion. Public representatives and revered religious scholars also joined this sacred moment, alongside followers of the Sikh Panth who came in deep reverence.

Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's life epitomized courage and compassion. He is universally admired for his courage and unwavering commitment to his principles as well as ideals. His supreme sacrifice was for humanity so that everyone could live a dignified life of his or her own belief and thought without ever being pressured to abandon their faith and belief.

Scholars and social and religious leaders who attended and spoke at the event held that the 350th Shaheedi Samagam offered a solemn and reflective occasion for the community. The organizers had invited dignitaries and members of the diaspora to honor his sacrifices, revisit his teachings, and draw inspiration from his enduring message of compassion, bravery, and unwavering commitment to righteousness.

The acting Consul General Kapidhwaja Pratap Singh reflected on Guru Sahib's unwavering courage and his unparalleled sacrifice for the protection of faith and humanity. Consul Girish Juneja conducted the event that also witnessed recognition of outstanding diaspora members-



The acting Consul General Kapidhwaja Pratap Singh reflected on Guru Sahib's unwavering courage and his unparalleled sacrifice for the protection of faith and humanity.



The acting Consul General with eminent guests



Shabad Kirtan being performed by Professor Paramjit Singh and his group

Lajpat Rai Prashar, who gave a call for reviving the spirit of Punjab and Punjabiyat; Kuldip Singh Bacchher, father of Chancellor of Waterloo University, Jagdeep Singh Bacchher; Vishal Khanna of Sai Dham food bank; and Prof. Paramjeet Singh, a teacher, musician, and singer-for their

meaningful contributions to society. The presence of prominent public representatives, including Dr. Surjit Singh Bhabhra, Amarjot Sandhu MPP, Inderjeet Singh Bal, and Vidya Bhushan Dhar. Inderjeet Bal traced the history leading to the supreme sacrifice of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur, while Vidya Bhushan Dhar, a



Dr. Raj of Delhi, through a remote message, talked about Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur and his great sacrifice



A scene from a play

Kashmiri Pandit, recalled that Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed himself not only for the survival of Kashmiri Pandits but for a secular humanity. Dr. Raj of Delhi, through a remote message, talked about Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur and his great sacrifice.

The exceptional turnout and the commemoration that culminated with the staging of plays on the ninth Sikh Guru stood out as a significant and powerfully resonant event.

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based senior journalist who has received many awards for his journalistic work. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)



Speakers



A view of the large gathering

SC to comedians: Raise funds for specially abled

The Supreme Court on Thursday, Nov 27, ordered comedian Samay Raina and four other social media influencers to host persons with disabilities (PwD) at least twice every month, using their digital platforms and events to create awareness and generate funds for treatment of children suffering from rare disorders such as Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA). "If you show repentance and commitment to the cause of specially abled persons, this will have a widespread positive effect," emphasised a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant. The direction came after the bench took strong exception to a video in which the comedians mocked people with disabilities, prompting the court to convert the controversy into an opportunity for reparative engagement rather than punitive action.

"We will not impose a fine on you, provided you come with a proposal for donation to a very good institution... we don't want to impose a penal burden but you must discharge a social responsibility," the bench, also comprising justice Joymalya Bagchi, told the influencers after their counsel informed the bench that they had already filed affidavits tendering unconditional apology. Taking note of the proposal placed before it, the bench recorded: "The private respondents have proposed to organise at least two events a month to generate funds. They have also sought permission to invite the persons whose success stories have been brought on record to these shows... We leave it to the respondents to pursue and invite the specially abled persons to the shows for the cause of generating funds."

SC seeks autonomous body to vet online content, calls self-regulation ineffective

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court, on Thursday, November 27, underscored the urgent need for a "neutral, independent and autonomous" regulatory body for online and user-generated content (UGC), expressing clear dissatisfaction with the existing self-regulatory mechanisms followed by digital media platforms and content creators.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a batch of petitions, including those filed by YouTubers Ranveer Allahabadi and Ashish Chanchlani, challenging FIRs lodged in connection with allegedly obscene content aired on the show India's Got Latent. During the hearing, the court expanded the scope of the proceedings to examine the larger issue of regulating online obscenity and pernicious content.

CJI Surya Kant expressed surprise at the absence of accountability for individual content creators. "So I create my own channel, I am not accountable to anyone... somebody has to be accountable!" the Chief Justice remarked. Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta submitted that the problem was not limited to obscenity but extended to "perversity" in UGC uploaded on personal YouTube channels and other platforms.

Emphasising constitutional limits on speech, the Bench observed that freedom of expression, though invaluable, is not absolute. The court said, "Right to freedom of speech is very important but a regulated right... Self-regulatory codes may not work in case of UGC." The judges noted that by the time unlawful or



The Supreme Court flagged the inadequacy of self-regulation for online and user-generated content, stressing the need for a neutral, autonomous regulatory mechanism to prevent obscene, perverse and socially damaging material from going viral before authorities can act

socially disruptive content is taken down, it often goes viral, causing irreversible harm.

The Chief Justice cautioned against reliance on self-regulatory bodies, stating, "Self-styled bodies will not help... some neutral autonomous bodies which are free from the influence of those who exploit all of this and the state also is needed as a regulatory measure." He questioned why violations continued to recur if self-regulation was truly effective.

Justice Bagchi highlighted the challenge of response time, observing that once "scurrilous material" is uploaded, it spreads to millions before authorities can intervene. He noted that prosecution after publication amounts to a "post-occurrence penalty" and stressed the necessity of preventive checks to stop the spread of misinformation and social harm.

The Bench also addressed concerns around pre-censorship, clarifying it would not endorse any mechanism that throttles legitimate dissent. "We will not put our seal of approval on something which can gag somebody. We will only address the vacuum," CJI Kant said. At the request of senior advocate Amit Sibal, appearing for OTT platforms, the court replaced the term "preventive" with "effective" in its order to avoid any impression of prior restraint.

Attorney General R Venkatramani informed the court that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is in the process of drafting guidelines, which would be placed in the public domain for consultation. Recording this assurance, the Bench directed that the draft be published to invite public feedback and suggested the constitution of an expert committee comprising domain experts and persons with judicial background.

"We are informed by the learned Attorney General that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is proposing certain guidelines which are to be brought in public domain to invite suggestions from the public at large," the order stated, posting the matter for further consideration after four weeks.

The court reiterated that while dissent and criticism of the government form the backbone of democracy, the rights of ordinary citizens, particularly the poor, marginalised and those without a platform, also deserve protection from online abuse, humiliation and reputational harm. The issue of regulating UGC, the Bench observed, requires a delicate balance between safeguarding free speech and preventing irreversible social damage.

Cong brass discusses Karnataka crisis, reviews Bihar jolt

NEW DELHI (TIP)

After a bruising defeat in the Bihar Assembly elections and mounting turmoil in Karnataka, the Congress high command met here on Thursday, Nov 27, for a crucial stock-taking exercise.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and general secretary KC Venugopal held a late-evening huddle at the party's Indira Bhawan headquarters, reviewing the Bihar results and assessing the escalating leadership row in Karnataka.

The meeting, which lasted several hours, saw Bihar leaders present a bleak assessment of the party's performance. The Congress won only six of the 60 seats it contested — a strike rate of under 10 per cent — while the RJD collapsed to 25 wins out of 143 seats, delivering a major blow to the Mahagathbandhan.

Bihar Congress chief Rajesh Ram said the leadership heard every candidate, noting that a common concern was the use of the SIR process, which leaders alleged enabled "vote theft" despite the Model Code of Conduct being in force. Candidates also told the central leadership that "financial inducements" and covert campaigning continued during the restricted period.

"We are analysing the reasons for the defeat... Despite the MCC, such acts happened, but the vote



percentage of the Congress and other INDIA partners did not get affected," Ram said.

Congress MP Akhilesh Prasad Singh added that each candidate's grievances were heard in detail. "There was talk of taking corrective measures... Rahul and Kharge have taken it positively. We believe a good roadmap will be formed so we don't face such defeats again," he said.

Sources said the Karnataka leadership crisis also featured prominently in the Delhi discussions, with the high command weighing the political costs of any decision. Pressure has intensified after the government

crossed its half-term mark on November 20, reviving debate over the reported 2023 power-sharing understanding between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar.

Kharge, acknowledging the unrest, said he would summon both leaders, along with Rahul, to New Delhi to settle the matter. "I will call the important leaders and discuss the way ahead. The confusion must end," he said, stressing that Congress decisions are always collective.

Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar quickly signalled compliance. The Chief Minister said he would travel to Delhi once called; Shivakumar said he would accompany him and follow whatever instructions the high command issued. Within the party, Shivakumar is expected to push the mid-term rotation formula.

In Bengaluru, Siddaramaiah huddled with senior ministers from his camp — G Parameshwara, Satish Jarkiholi, HC Mahadevappa, K Venkatesh and KN Rajanna — in a sign of consolidation ahead of the Delhi talks.

Adding to the churn, Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra asserted that the Chief Minister would complete his full five-year term, claiming widespread support among legislators and insisting that any reshuffle or leadership change lay solely with the high command.

Delhi Police arrest gangster linked to firing at Kapil Sharma's Canada restaurant

The Delhi Police have arrested a suspected gangster allegedly involved in the firing at comedian Kapil Sharma's restaurant in Canada, an official said on Friday, Nov 28. Bandhu Man Singh is a close associate of Canada-based gangster Goldy Dhillon, who is believed to be involved in multiple extortion rackets targeting businessmen and high-profile individuals abroad, he added.

According to investigators, Singh was coordinating with Dhillon's network and part of a broader conspiracy to target the popular artiste's restaurant as an act of intimidation.

A police officer said the arrest followed specific intelligence inputs.

"A Chinese pistol along with cartridges was recovered from him. His role in the conspiracy and his links with overseas operatives are being probed," the officer said. Further investigation is under way to identify additional conspirators and ascertain the extent of the gang's activities in India and abroad, officials said.

India, Indonesia working on BrahMos deal, maritime ties

India and Indonesia on Nov 28 discussed the sale of BrahMos supersonic missile and separately committed to enhance cooperation in the maritime domain.

Sources said the missile sale was discussed and modalities were being worked out. The issue came up at the Defence Cooperation Dialogue hosted by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for his Indonesian counterpart Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin in New Delhi.

Rajnath Singh also gifted a model of BrahMos missile to Sjamsoeddin and posted a picture on X. The Indonesian delegation was briefed about the missile by officials of the India-Russia joint venture, also named BrahMos.

India has already sold the missile to the Philippines, a country with a coastline along the disputed, hydrocarbon-rich South China Sea. Indonesia also has a coast on the same sea, where China has overlapping maritime claims.

India and Indonesia are working on phased procurement that would include BrahMos missile, which can strike targets up to 300 km away. A Ministry of Defence statement said, "Both countries committed to enhancing practical cooperation in maritime domain awareness, cyber resilience and joint operational readiness."

DELHI AIR POLLUTION

Court has no magic wand; only experts can find solutions, says SC

NEW DELHI (TIP)

THE SUPREME COURT on Thursday, Nov 27, observed that it does not possess any "magic wand" to resolve the severe air pollution crisis in Delhi-NCR, stressing that only domain experts and scientists can provide effective solutions, given the multiple factors contributing to the deteriorating air quality.

"Courts do not have a magic wand" to fix the worsening pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region, Chief Justice Surya Kant said while heading a Bench that also comprised Justice Joymalya Bagchi. The remark came after senior advocate and amicus curiae Aparajita Singh mentioned the matter urgently, describing the situation as "alarming and a health emergency."

The Chief Justice reiterated that only scientific and expert assessments can guide meaningful policy responses. The Delhi-NCR is hit by severe air pollution every year during the Winter months.

Singh's mentioning came a day after the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) revoked



restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan 3 (GRAP III), citing "improved air quality" in Delhi and adjoining regions over the past three days. Expressing concern that the Air Quality Index continues to remain in the hazardous category, CJI Surya Kant asked what immediate directions the Court could issue to clean the air. Amicus curiae responded that effective enforcement—not a lack of measures—remained the real problem.

Acknowledging this, the Chief Justice remarked that air pollution matters

should not be taken up ceremonially before Diwali or other festivals but require continuous monitoring.

Listing the matter for further hearing on Monday, December 1, the CJI said the pollution crisis is caused by "not one reason but multiple reasons," and that "only domain experts can address the issue and suggest solutions."

The observations also came a day after CJI Surya Kant shared his personal difficulty with the toxic air. On Wednesday, he told the Court that he could not go for his routine morning walk due to the AQI levels. Two days earlier, after completing his usual 55-minute walk, he had returned home feeling "discomforted," a sensation that persisted for the next two days. "Now I walk only in the evening," he said. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who was present in court, urged him to discontinue even the evening walks, pointing out that AQI levels in the evening too remain around 300-400 — which falls in the "very poor" category and poses serious health risks.

Assam Assembly passes Bill to ban polygamy; Himanta promises UCC if he becomes CM again

GUWAHATI (TIP)

The Assam Assembly on Thursday passed a Bill to ban polygamy, making it an offence which may lead to a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment, barring some exceptions.

It kept people belonging to the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category and areas under the Sixth Schedule out of the purview of the legislation.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will be implemented in Assam if he becomes the CM again after the Assembly poll next year.

During the passage of the Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025, the Chief Minister who also holds the portfolio of the home and political departments, said the law is "irrespective of religion and not against Islam as being perceived by a section".

"The Hindus are not free from polygamy. That's also our responsibility. This Bill will cover people from Hindu, Muslim, Christian and all other societies," he added.

Despite the CM's request to all opposition members to withdraw their respective amendments to send a message from the House that the Bill is passed unanimously to empower

women, AIUDF and CPI(M) went ahead with their modification suggestions, which were defeated by voice vote.

CPI(M) MLA Manoranjan Talukdar demanded that the Bill be sent to Select Committee of the Assembly for a detailed discussion on the clauses.

On the issue of UCC, Sarma said it will be implemented in Assam if he becomes the CM again after the assembly polls next year.

Assembly election in Assam is likely to take place in March-April in 2026.

"I assure the House that if I return as CM, the UCC Bill will be tabled on the first session of the new government and will be implemented," Sarma said.

He said that the ban on polygamy is a direction towards the implementation of the UCC.

The CM also said, "A Bill against deceptive marriage will be brought in during the session by February end. So, whatever we have spoken about 'love jihad', we will do that."

The term 'love jihad' is used by right-wing organisations to claim that Muslim men lure women of other religions and marry them in order to convert them to Islam.

He had earlier this month said that the government would ban 'love jihad' and introduce a Bill against this.

Key Bills, SIR, Vande Mataram on table during winter session

The three-week-long Winter Session of Parliament will begin on Monday, December 1, with discussions on Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and "Vande Mataram," and bills on nuclear energy and higher education expected to be the legislature's focus.

The government intends to begin the Winter Session with a full-day discussion on the "Vande Mataram" as the country commemorates 150 years of the national song. The idea is to discuss the full recitation of the national song after Prime Minister Narendra Modi alleged that the removal of "significant verses" from the song in 1937 led to India's partition.

"In 1937, significant verses of 'Vande Mataram', the very essence of its spirit, were removed. Stanzas of 'Vande Mataram' were broken up. This removal sowed the seeds for the eventual partition of the country. Today's generation needs to understand why such injustice was committed against this great mantra of nation-building. Because that same divisive mindset continues to pose a major challenge for the nation even today," the Prime Minister had said on November 7. Officials say the aim is to remind young people of Vande Mataram's history and its role in the freedom movement.

India in history this Week

NOVEMBER 28 TO DECEMBER 4

28 NOVEMBER

1997 Prime Minister IK Gujral resigned from his post.

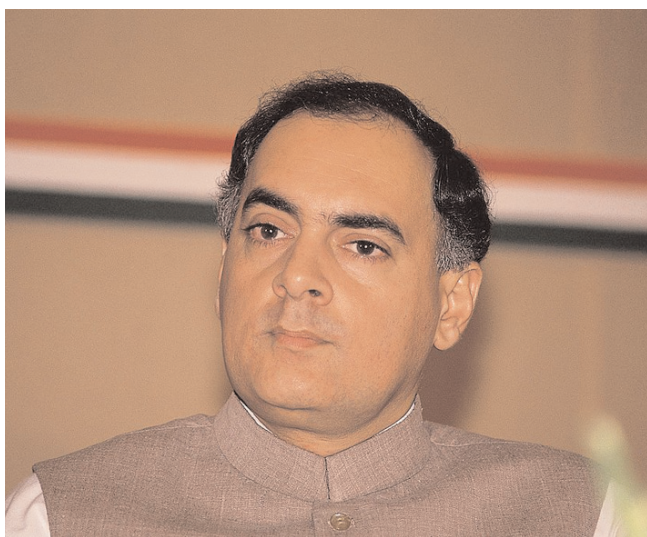


1962 KC de, the famous blind singer of Bengal, died.
1996 Captain Indrani Singh became the first woman to command an Airbus A-300 aircraft.
1927 Famous Indian physician Pramod Karan Sethi was born.

29 NOVEMBER



1993 Industrialist Jahangir Ratanji Dadabhai Tata died.
1759 Assassination of Emperor Alamgir II of Delhi.
1961 Yuri Gagarin, the world's first astronaut, came to India.
1970 Haryana became the first Indian state to achieve hundred percent rural electrification.



1989 The then Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi resigned.
1869 The famous Indian social worker Thakkar Bappa was born.
1913 Famous poet Ali Sardar Jafri was honored with the Jnanpith Award.

30 NOVEMBER



2000 Priyanka Chopra became Miss World.
2010 Indian scientist and Swadeshi movement pioneer Rajiv Dixit died.
2012 Former Prime Minister Indra Kumar Gujral died.
1759 Emperor Alamgir II of Delhi was killed by his minister.
1965 Gudiya Museum Delhi was founded by the famous cartoonist 'K.K. Shankar Pillai'.
1831 Indian historian Romila Thapar was born.
1944 Famous Hindi writer Maitreyi Pushpa was born.
2010 Indian scientist and Swadeshi movement pioneer Rajiv Dixit died.
1909 Ramesh Chandra Dutt, the famous writer of English and Bengali language, died.

01 DECEMBER



1924 Major Shaitan Singh, who was awarded the Param Vir Chakra, for playing an important role in the India-China war, was born.
1963 Nagaland became the 16th state of India.
1965 The Border Security Force was established.
1933 Air service started between Calcutta and Dhaka.
2006 Nepal approved the new national anthem, which does not even have the name of the king.
1990 The sister of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the female freedom fighter Vijayalakshmi Pandit died.
1974 Sucheta Kripalani, the Indian freedom fighter and the first woman Chief Minister of India (Uttar Pradesh), passed away.

02 DECEMBER

1911 Gateway of India was built in memory of his arrival at Bombay (now Mumbai), the first king of Britain to visit India, George V and Queen Mary.
1918 Gurudas Banerjee, the leading educationist and the first Indian Vice Chancellor of the University of

Calcutta, died.

1942 Sri Aurobindo Ashram School was established in Pondicherry (now Puducherry), which was later known as Sri Aurobindo International Center of Education.

1999 Private sector investment was approved in the insurance sector in India.

1937 Renowned politician, former Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi was born.

1918 India's leading educationist Gurudas Banerjee passed away.

1989 Vishwanath Pratap Singh became the seventh Prime Minister of the country.

03 DECEMBER

1844 The first President of the country Dr. Rajendra Prasad was born.

1796 Baji Rao II was made the Peshwa of the Maratha Empire. He was the last Peshwa of the Maratha Empire.

1889 Revolutionary Khudiram Bose was born in the independence movement.

1915 A magnitude 6.5 earthquake in Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh killed 170 people and destroyed many homes.

1971 The Emergency came into force in the country after the war between India and Pakistan started.

1979 Hockey magician Major Dhyan Chand Singh died.

2004 India and Pakistan agreed to restore rail connectivity between Munabav and Khokhrapar after 40 years.

2011 Film actor Dev Anand died.

1984 Leaking toxic gas from the Union Carbide



factory in Bhopal killed at least 3000 people and caused several thousands of physical deformities.

1959 India and Nepal signed the agreement of Gandak Irrigation and Power Project.

1967 India's first rocket (Rohini RH 75) was launched from Thumba.

2008 Chief Minister of Maharashtra Vilasrao Deshmukh resigned from his post on the day after the terrorist incident of 23 November in Mumbai.

04 DECEMBER

2008 Renowned historian Romila Thapar was chosen for the Cluj honor.

1888 Birth of historian Ramesh Chandra Majumdar.

1860 Agustino Lawrenceo of Margao, Goa, received a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Paris. He became the first Indian to pursue a doctorate from a foreign university.

1899 For the first time, the vaccine of typhoid was used to protect humans from this disease.

1919 The twelfth Prime Minister of India, Indra Kumar Gujral was born.

1910 Ramaswamy Venkataraman, the eighth president of India, was born.

1971 The Indian Navy attacked the Pakistani Navy and Karachi.

INDULGE IN THE MAGIC OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH FILM AND DANCE CONCERTS, COMEDY AND KWANZAA

BY MABEL PAIS

Experience the magic of this holiday season's celebrations through spectacular concert performances and beloved holiday classics. This season promises to be filled with laughter, cheer, and the spirit of togetherness as the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) transforms into a holiday haven for everyone.

Embrace the holiday spirit with heartwarming entertainment that brings families together for unforgettable moments!

SCHEDULE, & MORE, AND TICKET INFORMATION

RICK SCHULAR'S 'ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH EXPERIENCE': JOHN DENVER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, November 30th at 2:00 P.M.

Enjoy the nostalgic charm of John Denver Christmas a heartfelt tribute led by renowned performer RICK SCHULAR. Celebrate the season with 'ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH EXPERIENCE' at NJPAC playing in the Victoria Theater. A John Denver Christmas, a heartfelt tribute led by renowned performer Rick Schuler. This nostalgic concert blends John Denver's greatest hits with timeless holiday classics, capturing the warmth and spirit of the 1970s.

TICKETS: njpac.org/event/rocky-mountain-high-experience-a-john-denver-christmas-starring-rick-schuler

CHRISTMASTIME WITH TRISHA YEARWOOD WITH A SYMPHONY

Friday, December 5th at 8:00 P.M.

Be captivated by the enchanting melodies of TRISHA YEARWOOD as she brings heartfelt warmth to the season with a magical evening of holiday music at NJPAC's Prudential Hall, featuring songs from her brand-new album 'Christmastime.' Accompanied by a full symphony, Trisha's powerhouse vocals and heartfelt style bring new life to festive favorites and soon-to-be holiday classics.

TICKETS: njpac.org/event/trisha-yearwood-with-symphony

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY: 'ELF' IN CONCERT

Saturday, December 6th at 2:00 P.M.

Get ready to relive the holiday magic as 'ELF IN CONCERT' brings the beloved film to life on the big screen at NJPAC's Prudential Hall by the New Jersey Symphony. Watch Buddy the Elf's hilarious and heartfelt journey unfold while a live symphony orchestra performs John Debney's enchanting score in sync with the movie.

TICKETS: njpac.org/event/new-jersey-symphony-elf-in-concert

A CHANTICLEER CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 6th at 3:00 P.M.

Celebrate the season with the Grammy-winning a cappella ensemble CHANTICLEER, as their exquisite harmonies fill NJPAC's Victoria Theater with holiday magic. Known for their seamless blend and stunning range, Chanticleer brings centuries of music to



A Capella CHANTICLEER singing group -Credit : njpac.org



BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA singers -Credit : njpac.org

life—from Renaissance madrigals to festive Christmas carols.

TICKETS: njpac.org/event/chanticleer

TRISHA PAYTAS: 'TRISHMAS LIVE'

Thursday, December 12th at 8:00 P.M.

Internet sensation and pop culture icon TRISHA PAYTAS brings her one-of-a-kind holiday spectacle, 'TRISHMAS LIVE!' to NJPAC's Prudential Hall. Expect glittering musical numbers, outrageous comedy, and unforgettable surprises in this festive celebration that's as over-the-top as Trisha herself. Get ready for an unforgettable experience with the cultural icon as she captivates audiences with her unique and magical holiday extravaganza!

TICKETS: njpac.org/event/trisha-paytas-trishmas-live

NIMBUS DANCE'S BREATHTAKING 'JERSEY NUTCRACKER'

Friday, December 12th at 7:00 P.M. and Saturday

December 13th at 2:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M.

Experience the magic of the holidays with Nimbus Dance's 'JERSEY NUTCRACKER' at NJPAC's Victoria Theater, in three performances. This vibrant reimagining of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet swaps snowy Russia for the streets of New Jersey, blending dazzling dance, humor, and heart. With stunning sets, animated projections, and a story full of local flavor. Audiences will be transported in a whimsical winter wonderland. This vibrant reimagining of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet swaps snowy Russia for the streets of New Jersey, blending dazzling dance, humor, and heart.

TICKETS: njpac.org/event/nimbus-nutcracker

NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION AND A HILARIOUS CONVERSATION WITH CHEVY CHASE

Thursday, December 18th, at 7:30 P.M.

The holiday season is a time for creating memories with family-friendly entertainment with a screening of

'NATIONAL LAMPOON'S CHRISTMAS VACATION' and a special live conversation with comedy legend CHEVY CHASE and his wife Jayni at NJPAC's Prudential Hall. Hear behind-the-scenes stories from the beloved holiday classic, plus highlights from Chevy's iconic career on Saturday Night Live (SNL) and Caddyshack which is sure to bring laughter and joy.

TICKETS: njpac.org/event/national-lamboons-christmas-vacation-and-a-hilarious-live-conversation-with-chevy-chase

CHRISTMAS WITH CECE WINANS LIVE IN CONCERT

Friday, December 19th at 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, December 20th at 8:00 P.M.

Don't miss the soul-stirring holiday gospel sensation of CECE WINANS as she will perform for two nights to what will be a sold out audience, just days before Christmas, bringing the spirit of the season to life at NJPAC's Prudential Hall. The 12-time GRAMMY® winner fills the stage with her powerful voice, performing beloved hits and soul-stirring holiday classics with special guest Roman Collins.

TICKETS: njpac.org/event/cece-winans

KWANZAA FAMILY FESTIVAL & ARTISAN MARKETPLACE

FREE FAMILY EVENT

Saturday Dec 20: 1:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

NJPAC comes alive with free family programming and a spectacular holiday market with FREE interactive events for the entire family. Enjoy performances from local dance troupes, KWANZAA rituals, dancing and drumming classes, exquisite face painting, storytelling and more to enchant all ages! At the same time, local artists and designers will sell handcrafted clothing and hats, jewelry, candles, home decor, natural beauty products, crystals and more. The Marketplace will be open until 11PM.

Register for the Kwanzaa Family Festival at njpac.org/about/community-engagement/kwanzaa-festival-and

marketplace

COLIN MOCHRIE & ASAD MECCI STAR: 'HYPROV: IMPROV UNDER HYPNOSIS'

Saturday, December 20th at 8:00 P.M.

'HYPROV' is IMPROV UNDER HYPNOSIS — For an extraordinary twist on comedy, don't miss "Hyprov: Improv Under Hypnosis," for a one-of-a-kind comedy experience that's so funny, it'll have you asking: "Is it real?" Celebrity hypnotist ASAD MECCI starts the evening by hypnotizing 20 audience volunteers. Once their inhibitions are removed and their unconscious minds are awakened, they'll star in an original improv show alongside legendary improviser COLIN MOCHRIE (Whose Line Is It Anyway?). Anything can happen when the volunteers let loose on stage.

TICKETS: njpac.org/event/hyprov-with-colin-mochrie-asad-mecci

BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA: CHRISTMAS SHOW

Sunday, December 21st at 3:00 P.M.

Witness the unforgettable harmonies of the GRAMMY winning BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA who will bring their signature blend of soul, blues, and heartfelt harmonies of timeless Christmas favorites and songs from 'Go Tell It on the Mountain' and 'Talkin' Christmas,' at NJPAC's Victoria Theater.

TICKETS: njpac.org/event/blind-boys-of-alabama

LUCY DARLING OF THE HOLIDAYS

Saturday, December 27th at 3:00 P.M.

Step into a world of holiday magic with 'LUCY DARLING OF THE HOLIDAYS' at NJPAC's Prudential Hall. Award-winning magician and entertainer Carisa Hendrix brings her witty, glamorous alter ego to life in a sparkling variety show filled with laughter, mischief, and a dash of holiday cheer. Joined by the delightfully musical Mark Ettinger, Lucy serves up a charming blend of comedy, music, and marvels sure to delight audiences of all ages.

TICKETS: njpac.org/event/lucy-darling

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

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

‘SASSY AWARDS’ NIGHT DECLARES WINNERS

BY MABEL PAIS

KATE KORTUM is winner of the 14th annual Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition. The New Jersey Performing Arts Center's (NJPAC) TD James Moody Jazz Festival reached its finale with ‘The Sassy Awards’ of the competition on November 23, 2025 held at 3 PM.

Hosted by WBGO Radio's Gary Walker, ‘The SASSY Awards’ presented the Top Five Finalists on the iconic NJPAC stage in front of a live audience and a distinguished panel of judges: TONY-nominated singer/lyricist Ann Hampton Callaway, GRAMMY®-nominated trumpeter Jon Faddis, GRAMMY®-nominated jazz vocalist Nnenna Freelon, GRAMMY® Award-winning bassist and Artistic Advisor for Jazz Programming at NJPAC Christian McBride, and founding member of The Manhattan Transfer and co-host of WBGO Radio's ‘Singers Unlimited,’ vocalist Janis Siegel.

Watch the video with the 3 winners of the night - <https://youtu.be/zbchHRalZ9Y>

Pulled from almost 200+ entrants from 27 different countries, these gifted young singers represented the next generation of great jazz vocalists. Ultimately, it was Kate Kortum who received the top honor and a \$5,000 cash award. Kortum is originally from Houston, Texas, and currently resides in Harlem of New York City. She wowed the judges singing the famous blues song ‘Easy Come, Easy Go Blues,’ a raw and timeless ballad ‘You’ve Been There’ by David Ashley Trent, and ‘What a Little Moonlight Can Do,’ a song that Sarah Vaughan performed and recorded.

Hailed for her warm, distinctive sound that seamlessly blends the blues, bebop and Broadway, Kortum issued her debut album ‘Good Woman’ (2023) to critical and streaming acclaim, surpassing 3.5 million streams for its imaginative reworkings of jazz standards from a female perspective. Her sophomore release ‘Wild Woman’ (2025) followed, continuing her fresh, story-driven approach to bebop, blues and The Great American Songbook. A graduate of the University of Miami's Frost School of Music and the Juilliard School, Kortum has appeared at Mezzrow, SXSW, Birdland, Blue Note and Dizzy's, collaborating with Peter Bernstein, Emmet Cohen, Bryan Carter,



(left to right) - NJPAC President & CEO John Schreiber, Ann Hampton Callaway, Jon Faddis, 3rd Prize winner Julia Moscardini, Grand Prize winner Kate Kortum, 2nd Prize winner Emma Smith, Diamond Princess Franklin, Candace Jones, Nnenna Freelon, Christian McBride, Janis Siegel, WBGO Radio Host Gary Walker, and producer Carl Griffin. -Credit: njpac.org

Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra.

The Second Place honor and \$1,500 prize went to Emma Smith (London, England). Third Place and a prize of \$500 was awarded to Julia Moscardini (Buenos Aires, Argentina). Rounding out the Top Five was Diamond Princess Franklin (Philadelphia, PA) and Candace Jones (Hollywood, FL).

THE SASSY AWARDS

The Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, also known as ‘The SASSY Awards,’ is open to singers over the age of 18, of all genders and nationalities, from anywhere in the world, and not signed by a major label. Entrants are judged on vocal quality, musicality, technique, performance, individuality, artistic interpretation, and ability to swing.

What has become one of the top annual vocal competitions in jazz, ‘The SASSY Awards’ offers outstanding jazz singers a one-of-a-kind platform for embarking on a career in the music business—and offers audience members a chance to discover the jazz

stars of tomorrow.

Past winners include Cyrille Aimée, Jazzmeia Horn, Ashleigh Smith, Arianna Neikrug, Deelee Dubé, Quiana Lynell, Laurin Talese, Samara Joy (GRAMMY® Award winner for Best New Artist 2023), Gabrielle Cavassa and Tawanda Suessbrich-Joaquim, G. Thomas Allen, Lucía Gutiérrez Reboloso, Tyreek McDole, and April May Webb.

The competition recalls the humble beginnings of legendary jazz singer/NEA Jazz Master Sarah Vaughan (1924-1990) who, back in 1942, was a Newark teenager and winner of an amateur singing contest at the Apollo Theater. That memorable night helped launch the lifework of one of the most successful, influential jazz vocalists in the history of American music.

NJPAC has a long history of preserving and celebrating Sarah Vaughan's music and impact. In 1999, NJPAC officially proclaimed the street in front of it as ‘Sarah Vaughan Way.’

TD BANK, AMERICA'S MOST CONVENIENT BANK®

For the 14th consecutive year, NJPAC's TD James Moody Festival is sponsored by TD Bank, which has supported the event since its inauguration, ensuring that the event annually includes free community performances and educational events, as well as mainstage concerts showcasing jazz superstars.

Find TD Bank on Facebook at facebook.com/TDBank and on Instagram at instagram.com/TDBank_US. To learn more, visit td.com/us.

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC located in downtown Newark, N.J., is America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey – where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts.

NJPAC has served more than 10 million visitors (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.

NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHORUS INVITES YOU TO ‘THE LIGHT WE GIVE’ HOLIDAY CONCERT

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC), a program of Wharton Arts, invites the community to ‘The Light We Give: A Holiday Readings & Carols Concert,’ a concert woven with warmth and tradition. This will take place on Friday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m., at the Morristown United Methodist Church (50 South Park Place, Morristown, NJ 07960).

Featuring two of the New Jersey Youth Chorus' ensembles, Coriste, led by Trish Joyce, and Camerata, led by Dan Malloy, with accompanists Phillip Steffani and Andrew Macirowski, the concert invites the audience to reflect on the light we share with one another. Choristers will offer music and readings that honor the diverse traditions celebrated by the NJYC choral family.

The concert repertoire, inspired by Diwali, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas, include such pieces as ‘Aarti’ by Mishaal Surti, ‘Ocho Kandelikas’ by Flory Jagoda, ‘Kuumba’ by Zanaida Robles, ‘Carol of the Bells’ arranged by Peter Wilhousky, and ‘As It Fell Upon a Night’ by Katherine K. Davis.

Audience members are invited to join in several carols throughout the program, including ‘O Come, All Ye Faithful,’ ‘Deck the Hall,’ ‘Zol Zain Sholem,’ and ‘Hark the Herald Angels Sing.’ Choristers will take part in symbolic lighting rituals, including diyas, the



New Jersey Youth Chorus.

Credit: whartonarts.org

menorah, the kinara, and the Advent wreath.

The concert concludes with a set of songs that explore connection and community. ‘Auld Lang Syne,’ along with ‘Touch Hands,’ by Abbie Betinis, are beautiful reminders of long-held traditions: “strong hands to weak, old hands to young, for who may say if ever this day many come to us again.” The program will come to a close with an excerpt from Maya Angelou's ‘Amazing Peace,’ and a final shared carol, ‘Let There Be Peace on Earth,’ which shows that ‘the

light we give’ can always illuminate the dark.

Wharton Arts Artistic Director & Principal Conductor Helen Cha-Pyo said, “This concert reflects the very heart of NJYC's mission—using music to bring people together and to build a community rooted in care and belonging. That mission comes to life through the artistry and spirit of our remarkable directors and young singers. I warmly invite you to this meaningful concert and be part of this beautiful musical community.”

TICKETS

Tickets are available at NJYC.org. Adult prices are available. Students and seniors, with valid ID, get discounts.

WHARTON ARTS

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles. The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3-12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development. Learn more at whartonarts.org.

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

NIMBUS DANCE OF JERSEY CITY MAKES INAUGURAL TOUR AROUND NEW JERSEY WITH LOCAL TWIST ON NUTCRACKER



Nimbus Dancers in 'Jersey Nutcracker,' Poster -Credit : nimbusdance.org.



Samuel Pott, Artistic Director.
Credit : nimbusdance.org.

NEWARK, NJ

New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)
1 Center Street, Newark, NJ 07102
Friday, Dec. 12 at 7 PM
Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2 PM & 7 PM

TICKETS

Single ticket and group rates are available at njpac.org/event/nimbus-nutcracker

JERSEY CITY, NJ

Nimbus Arts Center
329 Warren Street, Jersey City, NJ
Friday, Dec. 19 at 7 PM
Saturday, Dec. 20 at 3 PM & 7 PM
Sunday, Dec. 21 at 3 PM & 7 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 23 at 3 PM & 7 PM

TICKETS

Single tickets and group rates are available @ nimbusdance.org/events/nutcracker-2025

BY MABEL PAIS

NIMBUS DANCE (nimbusdance.org), this year, embarks on its first-ever New Jersey tour of 'Jersey Nutcracker,' bringing its beloved, distinctly local twist on Tchaikovsky's classic ballet to audiences in Jersey City, Newark, and Elizabeth on several dates in December. With dazzling new sets and costumes, an expanded youth cast from across the state, and performances at the Nimbus Arts Center, Kean University, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), this year marks a bold new chapter for Nimbus' signature holiday production.

Now in its 15th year, 'Jersey Nutcracker' delights audiences young and old with a quirky and lovable story of two Jersey kids and their city adventure — filled with magic, battles with bullies and rats, stories of friendship, and exceptional dancing. **Audiences meet traditional characters like an exquisite Sugar Plum Fairy and her dashing Cavalier, along with locals like a corrupt mayor (modeled on NJ's infamous political bosses like Jersey City's Mayor Frank Hague); traditional toy soldiers become hip hop dancers, and the show stopping 'Waltz of the Hipsters' is led by a Bruce Springsteen-like principal dancer!** Set to Tchaikovsky's timeless score with jazzy twists, Artistic Director Samuel Pott's choreography is performed by Nimbus' celebrated dancers alongside more than 100 of the state's most talented youth performers from throughout the state.

With a libretto co-written by Alysia Souder and Pott, and animated projections by Jersey City artists Laia Cabrera and Isabelle Duverger, 'Jersey Nutcracker' transforms the stage into an imaginative New Jersey landscape — parks, bustling streets, back alleys, sewers, and City Hall — infused with humor, heart, and holiday cheer. The 2025 production includes new costumes by LA Clevenson.

"When young people see stories where they can

recognize themselves and where they come from, a special connection happens that makes theater and dance come alive," says Pott. "A family trip to the theater becomes an enduring experience that will stay with families for years to come."

Praised by 'Time Out New York' as one of the "Best Christmas Shows in NYC," Nimbus Dance's 'Jersey Nutcracker' has performed to sold out audiences in Jersey City for 3 years in a row. Among the state's leading theater producers the enthusiasm is palpable:

"Nimbus Dance's Jersey Nutcracker is unlike any Nutcracker production we've seen before — perfectly blending outstanding dancing, hilarious comedy, and a meaningful story set right here in the Garden State," says **David Rodriguez, Executive Producer at NJPAC**, "Nimbus has made a name for itself as one of the country's most exciting new dance companies, and NJPAC couldn't be more thrilled to showcase some of New Jersey's top talent on our stages!"

Steve Cochran, Manager of Kean Stage at Kean University, says: "We are ecstatic to welcome Nimbus Dance's 'Jersey Nutcracker' to Kean Stage this season. This production brings a fresh, local spirit to a beloved holiday tradition, and we're proud to share its magic, artistry, and joy with our community. It's a celebration of dance, storytelling, and togetherness — perfect for audiences of all ages."

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE & TICKET INFORMATION

ELIZABETH, NJ

Kean Stage: Wilkins Theatre
100 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083
Saturday, Dec. 6 at 1:00 PM & 6:00 PM

TICKETS

Single tickets and group rates are available at keanstage.com/events/jersey-nutcracker

NIMBUS DANCE

Nimbus Dance (nimbusdance.org) bridges the gap between world-class performance and community engagement by presenting work that challenges, speaks to, and elevates diverse audiences across the nation. Founded in 2005 by visionary Artistic Director Samuel Pott (former soloist with Martha Graham Dance Company), Nimbus stands at the forefront of excellence in the arts, civic engagement, and equitable impact. With a highly physical and visually engaging aesthetic, Nimbus' international company of dancers "split the difference between traditionalism and modernism... A Nimbus Dance piece can pivot from ballet to Broadway to Beyoncé in a few beats." (Tris McCall, 'Jersey City Times').

The company tours nationally impacting over 16,000 people annually; and collaborates regularly with some of the nation's most storied arts organizations including the New Jersey Symphony, Boston Symphony, Gordon Parks Foundation, NJPAC, and heralded artists like Jason Samuels Smith, Qasim Naqvi, Pedro Giraud, Nicola López.

Nimbus maintains its home base in Jersey City, NJ, at the Nimbus Arts Center, a 14,500 sq ft venue which supports interdisciplinary arts, incubates diverse arts entities, and houses Nimbus' educational programs including the School of Nimbus. Nimbus recently opened a new 8,800 sq ft location in Summit, NJ, offering classes and performances, and fostering creative work. Nimbus produces the annual Acadia Dance Festival in Bar Harbor, Maine.

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



Amitabh Bachchan turns narrator for 26/11 tribute film

Seventeen years after the 26/11 terror attack shook Mumbai, Amitabh Bachchan has paid tribute in a powerful new way by lending his voice as the narrator of a short film honouring the victims and heroes of the tragedy. The film, shared by Amruta Fadnavis, wife of Maharashtra's Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, was unveiled on the anniversary of the attack. Akshay Kumar also joined in remembering the victims, posting a solemn message on social media.

The animated short, narrated by Amitabh, recounts how the barbaric attack failed to break the spirit of Mumbai or the nation. Sharing the film on Instagram, Amruta wrote, "A powerful video that was played at the 'Global Peace Honours'. A tribute to the 26/11 martyr families and the victims of the Pahalgam attack, at the Gateway of India. It left the audience with goosebumps." As India marked the 17th anniversary of one of its worst terror strikes, Bollywood celebrities came together to remember the lives lost on November 26, 2008, when Pakistan-backed LET terrorists stormed Mumbai, killing 166 people and injuring around 300.

Deepika Padukone's skincare brand posts Rs 12.26-crore loss

The skincare brand 82°E backed by Deepika Padukone has reported a sharp decline in revenue for FY25. According to the latest filings, revenue dropped to Rs. 14.7 crore, down from Rs. 21.2 crore in the previous year.

On the bright side, the net loss has reduced significantly. While the company had posted a loss of Rs. 23.4 crore in FY24, the shortfall narrowed to Rs.12.3 crore in FY25.

Financial statements show that total expenditure in FY25 was Rs. 25.9 crore a steep cut from Rs. 47.1 crore a year earlier. Marketing spend, in particular, was drastically reduced to Rs. 4.4 crore from nearly Rs. 20 crore in FY24. This suggests 82°E deliberately pulled back on customer-acquisition efforts after its previous heavy marketing push failed to translate into sustainable revenue.

Despite having leveraged Deepika's massive social-media presence with the actress sharing personal experiences while promoting products the brand could not avoid the downturn.

82°E positions itself as a "luxury" skincare brand, offering products priced between Rs 2,500 and nearly Rs 4,000 mid-premium range, but below the territory dominated by established luxury players such as Estée Lauder.

In a fiercely competitive market where both emerging direct-to-consumer brands and longstanding luxury labels vie for customers 82°E now aims to cut costs further and ramp up sales efforts in a bid to return to profitability. The company has indicated as much in its latest filing.



Celina Jaitly files domestic violence case against husband



Bollywood actor Celina Jaitly has filed a domestic violence case against her husband, Peter Haag, and sought Rs 50 crore for loss of earnings due to him. Jaitly and Haag got married in 2010 and have three children -- Winston, Viraj and Arthur.

Jaitly, known for her work in films like No Entry, Apna Sapna Money Money, Money Hai Toh Honey Hai, Golmaal Returns, and Thank You, filed a petition in a Mumbai court on November 21, following which a notice was issued to Haag, an Austrian entrepreneur and hotelier.

In her petition, Jaitly, 47, said that 48-year-old Haag is a "narcissist" and "self-absorbed individual" who demonstrates "no empathy" for her or their children.

She claimed she has suffered severe emotional, physical, sexual, and verbal abuse by her husband, because of which she was forced to flee her home in Austria and return to India.

The actor, represented by a team from law firm Karanjawala & Co., sought Rs 10 lakh monthly maintenance and urged the court to restrain Haag from entering her Mumbai residence. She also sought custody of their three children, who are presently living with Haag in Austria.

She said that Haag, after they had children, "prohibited" her from working on various pretexts and "robbed her of her financial independence and dignity".

She said she was only able to undertake "small projects with the permission" of Haag from time to time.

Her plea further said that Haag had filed a divorce application before a court in Austria in August this year.

Celina Jaitly and Peter Haag became parents to twin boys in March 2012. Five years later, she gave birth to a second set of twin boys, one of whom died due to a hypoplastic heart.

The former Miss India and Miss Universe runner-up had also penned a long romantic post on social media for Haag on their anniversary last year.

"14 years ago today Peter Haag flew down to Mumbai for 8 hours only (he had an important meeting the next day) to meet my father and mother. I did not know he asked for their permission to propose to me... That very same night before departure, he proposed to me with a ring," she wrote on Instagram.

She said he proposed to her at the same place where her mother had told her she would find her "right one".

Scarlett Johansson brings star power to Exorcist reboot after Jurassic World Rebirth's box-office success

Hollywood star Scarlett Johansson is officially taking the lead in The Exorcist franchise, marking her first major dive into full-blown horror. According to a report in Deadline, the two-time Oscar nominee was locked in to star in the next installment of the iconic series, written and directed by Mike Flanagan.

"Scarlett is a brilliant actress whose captivating performances always feel grounded and real, from genre films to summer blockbusters, and I couldn't be happier to have her join this Exorcist film," Mike was quoted as saying.

The untitled feature will become the seventh film in the long-running franchise, which began with the 1973 Oscar winner starring Ellen Burstyn. It will "tell an all-new story set in The Exorcist universe and is not a sequel to 2023's The Exorcist: Believer."

According to reports, both Universal and Blumhouse appear determined to steer the series in a very different direction after Believer failed to spawn the profitable trilogy that had been envisioned. While the previous film earned around \$136 million globally on a \$30 million spend, it still fell far short of expectations — especially in light of the studios' \$400 million investment to secure rights for three films. The financial performance, coupled with poor reviews, led director David Gordon Green to exit the franchise and left the trilogy plans shelved.

Mike — who has built a reputation as one of horror's most distinctive voices with projects like The Haunting of Hill House and Gerald's Game — is now taking the reins. Though his theatrical outings have seen varied commercial outcomes (Ouija: Origin of Evil hit big, Doctor Sleep less so), he has described this new Exorcist project as "the scariest movie I've ever made."



Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker to reunite for Rush Hour 4

After years of uncertainty, Rush Hour 4, starring Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan is officially back in motion, returning to life at Paramount. The long-delayed sequel has finally secured studio backing and distribution, reportedly following intervention from American President Donald Trump on behalf of filmmaker Brett Ratner, who has been attempting to revive the Jackie Chan-Chris Tucker franchise since stepping away from Hollywood amid multiple sexual misconduct allegations during the #MeToo era.

Brett recently stepped back behind the camera to direct a \$40 million documentary on Melania Trump for Amazon MGM Studios, owned by Jeff Bezos—another figure who has maintained amicable ties with Trump. The documentary is scheduled for a theatrical release in January, next year.

The 56-year-old maker spent several years trying to finance and place the project, but studios repeatedly passed on it. However, according to latest reports, the tide turned when the US President lobbied his friend and political supporter Larry Ellison, the principal shareholder of the newly formed Paramount Skydance. The company, previously known as Paramount Global, only earlier this year settled a lawsuit with Trump related to a contentious CBS News interview.

Jennifer Lopez goes desi in saree at billionaire wedding

Singer Jennifer Lopez made a striking style statement in Udaipur over the weekend, stepping out in a pink embroidered saree for the grand wedding of Netra Mantena, daughter of billionaire Rama Raju Mantena, and Vamsi Gadiraju, the co-founder of Superorder. The look sparked instant buzz online, with fans and fashion watchers calling it one of her best cultural crossovers yet.

Photos and videos of Lopez in the saree quickly circulated across social media, where fans praised her styling. One user summed up the mood with a simple line: "She did it right."

Lopez arrived in Udaipur on Saturday morning ahead of her performance at the celebrations. Videos shared online showed her rehearsing her hit track 'On The Floor' with her dancers.

The festivities kicked off on November 21 with a high-energy sangeet featuring performances by some of Bollywood's biggest names — Ranveer Singh, Janhvi Kapoor, Shahid Kapoor, Kriti

Sanon and Jacqueline Fernandez — setting the tone for a star-studded weekend.

This isn't Lopez's first high-profile Indian wedding. She last performed in India in 2015 at the opulent Sanjay Hinduja and Anu Mahtani celebration, also held in Udaipur.

Jennifer Lopez's saree was crafted in a shimmering rose-gold hue, intricately embroidered with reflective sequin grids that caught the afternoon sun from every angle.

Draped asymmetrically, the ensemble fused the silhouette of a structured gown with the fluidity of a saree pallu. Meanwhile, the bodice featured a sculpted, strapless neckline with delicate hand embellishment, giving the outfit a corset-like precision that highlighted Jennifer Lopez's cinched waist. Complementing the couture saree, the singer wore an opulent jewellery set comprising a statement choker layered with pastel-toned gemstones, matching drop earrings, and a coordinating bracelet.



UK net migration drops to 204,000 in June 2025

The British government welcomed the news Thursday that net migration in the UK, the difference between those moving to the country long-term and those leaving, fell by more than two-thirds in the year to June, but insisted that the figure must fall further in order to ease tensions within communities.

The Office for National Statistics said net migration fell 69 per cent to a four-year low of 204,000 in the year to June 2025 from 649,000 the year before, largely because fewer people from outside the European Union arrived in the UK for work or to study, along with an increase in people moving out of the country. The British government will hope that the sharp decline will help lower the temperature around an issue that has risen on the political agenda this year. However, voter concerns have largely centred on illegal migration, specifically on the difficulties successive governments have had in getting a grip on asylum-seekers making dangerous small boat crossings across the English Channel. That number, though running at almost 40,000 this year, represents a fraction of the total immigration figure.

In the year to June, the statistics agency said long-term immigration stood at 898,000, against nearly 1.3 million over the corresponding period the year before.

Net migration in the UK peaked at a record 944,000 in the year to March 2023 in the wake of the lifting of restrictions following the coronavirus pandemic, a new immigration system introduced following the UK's departure from the European Union and the arrival of those fleeing war in Ukraine and China's clampdown in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong fire contained: Death toll at 94; dozens still missing

HONG KONG (TIP)

At least 94 people were killed and dozens injured in a massive fire that tore through a Hong Kong apartment complex on Wednesday, Nov 26, with some 280 still listed as missing.

Seven of the eight residential towers at Wang Fuk Court in the Tai Po district caught fire in the Chinese city's deadliest blaze in almost 80 years, forcing nearly 900 of the 4,800 residents to stay in temporary shelters overnight.

Five more bodies, including of two children, were found on Friday after flames reignited in the early hours.

A unit of the complex burst into flames again at around 5am local time with fire tongues visible through windows, accompanied by heavy smoke, The Standard reported.

The fire services department said the death toll had risen to 94 while 76 people were undergoing treatment for various injuries, including 11 firefighters.

Firefighters had mostly contained the fire by Thursday, Nov 27, evening and rescue workers were scouring the complex's smouldering remains for survivors.

"Hope they can find more survivors. I think they have tried their best. The firefighters have done a lot," resident Jacky Kwok said. "It's a terrible disaster that no one wanted to happen."

Rescuers battled intense heat, thick smoke and collapsing scaffolding and debris as they fought to reach residents feared trapped on the upper floors of the complex.

The blaze was expected to be extinguished by Friday evening, fire services deputy director Derek Armstrong Chan said, adding that firefighters had located multiple



survivors in the destroyed buildings.

Most of the victims were found in two towers of the complex, the deputy director said.

As many as 279 people were listed as missing on Thursday and that figure was yet to be updated.

Chan said 25 calls for help to the fire services remained unresolved, including three in recent hours, which would be prioritised.

A distraught woman carrying her daughter's graduation photograph searched for her child outside a shelter, one of eight that authorities said were housing the nearly 900 displaced residents.

"She and her father are still not out," said the woman, who gave only her surname, Ng, as she sobbed. "They didn't have water to save our building."

The fire has put a spotlight on the use of bamboo scaffolding in the city, a decades-long practice, after bamboo lattices came crashing down in flames.

Police said that "the building's exterior walls had protective nets, membranes, waterproof tarpaulins, and plastic sheets suspected of not meeting fire safety standards".

The blaze started on the external scaffolding of a 32-storey tower, engulfed its bamboo scaffolding and construction netting, moved inside the building, and eventually leapt to nearby high-rises, likely aided by windy conditions.

In the wake of the fire, police arrested two directors and an engineering consultant of Prestige Construction, which was contracted to perform maintenance on the building, on suspicion of manslaughter.

Pope warns of risk from 'piecemeal' world war in first overseas trip

ANKARA (TIP)

A new world war is being fought "piecemeal" and is endangering the future of humanity, Pope Leo has warned, as he arrived in Turkey for his first foreign trip since becoming head of the Catholic church.

Speaking in Ankara, where he was welcomed on Thursday by the Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Leo said the world was experiencing "a heightened level of conflict on the global level, fuelled by prevailing strategies of economic and military power".

Recalling a description of the world's conflicts by his predecessor, the late Pope Francis, Leo said "a third world war is being fought piecemeal".

"We must not give in to this," he added. "The future of humanity is at stake."

After Leo's visit to Turkey – a country with a Muslim majority and home to an estimated 36,000 Catholics – he is due to travel to Lebanon on Sunday.

His arrival in Beirut is especially anticipated amid fears of a deepening conflict between Israel and Hezbollah after an Israeli strike earlier this week on a neighbourhood in southern Beirut that killed four



Hezbollah operatives and one of the group's most senior military commanders.

Leo urged Turkish leaders to "embrace" the country's role of being "a source of stability and rapprochement between peoples, in service of a just and lasting peace", in reference to its growing role in conflict resolution efforts in Gaza, Ukraine and elsewhere.

Leo will meet Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of the world's 260 million Orthodox Christians, for celebrations of the 1,700th anniversary of a major

early church council in Nicaea, now Iznik, which settled ideological disputes. His packed schedule also includes a visit to the Blue Mosque in Istanbul and the celebration of a Catholic mass at the city's Volkswagen Arena.

Francis, who died in April, had planned to visit both countries but was unable to because of ill health.

Leo is considered more of a moderate, low-key operator than the charismatic but often divisive Francis, and the choice of Turkey and Lebanon for his first overseas trip is highly strategic, while also presenting an opportunity for the pope to show the world his style and personality.

In recent weeks, Turkish media has buzzed with images of Vatican delegations touring the country, while in Beirut banners showing Pope Leo's smiling face have lined the stone outer walls of churches in the Lebanese capital's central Christian neighbourhoods.

"This is a trip where Leo will get to promote one of the central themes of his papacy, peace – and he'll have two different audiences in mind," said Christopher White, a Vatican expert and author of Pope Leo XIV: Inside the Conclave and the Dawn of a New Papacy.

Putin says US peace plan could form basis for end to Ukraine war

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday, Nov 27, asserted that the US plan for peace in Ukraine could be a starting point for future agreements. However, he warned that Russia would take more territory by force if Ukraine does not withdraw. Putin confirmed that a US delegation led by Special Envoy Steve Witkoff is expected in Moscow next week before peace talks.

Speaking to reporters in Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek, Putin emphasised that Kremlin was ready for a "serious discussion". "Overall, we agree that it could form the basis for future agreements," he said about the latest peace draft. However, the Russian President reiterated, the conflict can only end after Ukrainian troops withdraw from the territories they occupy. "If they don't withdraw, we will achieve this through military means," Putin said.

CNN reported that Russia controls about 20% of Ukraine, including all of Luhansk and parts of Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions, which are recognised as Ukrainian territory under international law. Russia wants Ukraine to give up these four regions, which it has claimed but not fully captured. In recent weeks, Moscow has made gains along the eastern front, especially near the city of Pokrovsk.

While a swift breakthrough seems difficult with Putin's demands, United States President Donald Trump has repeatedly touted "tremendous progress" in his efforts to end the four-year-old Russia-Ukraine war.

France to introduce voluntary military service amid threat from Russia

PARIS (TIP)

France is to introduce voluntary military service of 10 months aimed mainly at young people aged 18 and 19, as concern grows in Europe about the threat from Russia.

In a speech to troops in Varcès-Allières-et-Risset in the French Alps, the French president, Emmanuel Macron, said the service would begin by mid-2026 and help France respond to "accelerating threats" on the global stage.

Almost 30 years after France scrapped conscription, Macron said he would not go back on that decision, but added: "We need mobilisation."

"France cannot remain idle," Macron said. He believed French youth had a "thirst for engagement", saying there was a young generation "ready to stand up" for their nation.

Under the new military service, men and women, mostly aged 18 and 19, could volunteer to sign up for 10 months. They would be paid a minimum of 800 (€700) per month and receive food and accommodation, as well as a 75% discount on rail travel. They would be deployed "only on national soil", Macron said. A minority with specific qualifications, for example in engineering or medical skills, could be aged up to 25.

There is so far no suggestion that military service in France could again be compulsory, as it was before the then president, Jacques Chirac, abolished conscription in 1997.

"We cannot return to the time of conscription," Macron said. "This hybrid army model corresponds to the threats and risks ahead, bringing together national service youth,



reservists, and the active army."

The plan will cost 2bn, which Macron called "a significant and necessary effort".

The scheme aims to bring in 3,000 volunteers in 2026, rising to 10,000 by 2030. "My ambition for France is to reach 50,000 youth by 2036, depending on evolving threats," Macron said. After the programme, participants could integrate into civilian life, become a reservist, or stay in the armed forces, he said.

He said the plan was "inspired by practices of our European partners ... at a time when all our European allies advance in response to a threat that weighs on us all".

The move is part of a broader shift across Europe, where nations who have long enjoyed the decades-long tranquillity of US security

guarantees are concerned about Donald Trump's shifting priorities and Russia's aggressive posturing.

Macron's announcement brings France in line with nearly a dozen other European nations such as Germany and Denmark who have launched similar projects.

Military service is seen as a way of bolstering armies with recruits, but also of providing a large pool of potential reservists, who could be called up in the case of a future war.

The French armed forces have approximately 200,000 active military personnel and 47,000 reservists, numbers expected to increase to 210,000 and 80,000 respectively by 2030.

Macron's office said polling data suggested high support for the armed forces among 18- to 25-year-olds.

China warns of nuclear conflict risks after Trump orders testing

BEIJING (TIP)

China warned the United States that it would "resolutely counter" the proposed Golden Dome missile defense system, saying it undermines its legitimate security interests.

The remarks were made on Thursday in a Chinese white paper on arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation, which also discussed the issue of nuclear buildup.

The U.S. homeland is currently safeguarded by a defense system—comprising radars and interceptors; however, it is neither designed nor capable of countering the large, sophisticated missile threats from Russia and China, the country's nuclear adversaries.

As global missile threats continue to evolve, including Chinese nuclear missiles said to have a global range, the Trump administration is advancing the Golden Dome initiative to protect the U.S. homeland, a plan that includes space-based interceptors and sensors.

While China has previously voiced concerns over the Golden Dome, which it says would weaken strategic



balance and stability, the East Asian power unveiled similar systems during a September military parade that form a multilayer defense shield.

In a white paper released by the State Council Information Office, China accused the U.S. of pursuing "absolute security" by developing the Golden Dome without restraint, saying such a plan would undermine the legitimate security interests of other countries.

"China will resolutely counter any acts that threaten or undermine its core interests," the document said, adding that Trump's anti-missile defense system seeks to deploy weapons in outer space, which it said would severely threaten security in the domain.

Beijing also criticized Washington over its withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in 2002, a now-defunct arms control agreement with Russia that prohibited the deployment of nationwide defenses against strategic nuclear-armed ballistic missiles.

"This has severely undermined strategic mutual trust, increased strategic risks, and damaged global and regional security and stability," China said in the document.

However, the white paper justifies China's development of missile defense capabilities, saying it is motivated solely by self-defense and does not target any country or region.

Meanwhile, China addressed offensive missiles in the document, protesting the U.S.—without naming it—for promoting the deployment of intermediate-range missiles in the Asia-Pacific region, while saying Chinese missile technologies are used to "deter wars."

Pakistan Denies Strike On Afghanistan After Taliban Vows Retaliation

Afghanistan's Taliban government vowed to "respond appropriately" to deadly overnight air strikes it blamed on Pakistan, a claim Islamabad denied, as tensions spiked a day after a suicide bombing in a Pakistani city.

An air raid on Khost province "martyred" nine children and a woman, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid posted on X, blaming Pakistani forces and saying the target was "the house of a local civilian resident".

Residents of the targeted area near the Pakistan frontier searched through the rubble of a collapsed house and prepared graves for victims, an AFP correspondent saw.

"Our request from the government of Pakistan is this: do not bomb ordinary people," said Sajidulrahman, a resident of the Jige Mughalgai area.

"Civilians have done nothing wrong."

Mustaghfir Gurbuz, a spokesman for the governor of Khost, said the strikes were carried out by aircraft that included drones.

The nearby border regions of Kunar and Paktika were also hit, wounding at least four people, government spokesman Mujahid said.

"The Islamic Emirate strongly condemns this violation and reiterates that defending its airspace, territory, and people is its legitimate right, and it will respond appropriately at the right time," Mujahid said in a separate statement.

Pakistan denied carrying out any attack. According to state broadcaster PTV, military spokesman Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said: "Pakistan has not attacked Afghanistan."

"Whenever we conduct a strike, it is announced openly and properly," he said. "Pakistan never attacks civilian populations. The allegations of the interim Afghan government are baseless."

The bombardment came after a suicide attack on Monday killed three officers and wounded 11 others at the headquarters of Pakistan's paramilitary Federal Constabulary force in Peshawar.

No group has claimed responsibility, but state broadcaster PTV reported the attackers were Afghan nationals.

President Asif Zardari blamed the "foreign-backed Fitna al-Khawarij" -- Islamabad's term for the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) it accuses of operating from Afghan soil.

Another suicide blast this month killed 12 people outside a court in the Pakistani capital. It was claimed by a faction of the Pakistani Taliban, which shares the same ideology as the Afghan Taliban. Islamabad has said the cell behind the capital attack was "guided at every step by the... high command based in Afghanistan".

After death sentence, Bangladesh ex-PM Hasina gets 21 years for land grab

DHAKA (TIP)

Ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been sentenced to 21 years in prison in separate corruption cases related to allocations of land in a government project, dealing another legal blow to the country's former leader, living in exile.

In a decision issued on Thursday, Nov 27, a court found Hasina guilty of illegally securing plots of land in a suburb of the capital, Dhaka, for herself and her family despite their ineligibility.

Last week, Hasina was sentenced to death by hanging after she was found guilty of crimes against humanity for ordering a deadly crackdown against a student-led uprising last year that eventually ousted her.

Hasina fled Bangladesh by helicopter on August 5, 2024, after weeks of student-led protests against her "autocratic rule".

The 78-year-old former leader is currently residing in India and has defied court orders that she return to Bangladesh. New Delhi is said to be studying Dhaka's extradition request.

Shaina Begum, the mother of 20-year-old student Sajjat Hosen Sojal, who was shot and his body burned by the police hours before the student-led uprising forced Hasina to resign and flee the country, told Al Jazeera after the verdict, "I cannot be calm until she [Hasina] is brought back and hanged in this country." Hundreds of families who lost loved ones in the protests wonder if the deposed prime minister will actually face justice.

The three corruption cases were brought against her by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) over alleged land grabs of lucrative plots in the Purbachal New Town project.



The 78-year-old former leader is currently residing in India and has defied court orders that she return to Bangladesh [File: Monirul Alam/EPA]

Hasina's conduct "demonstrates a persistent corruption mindset rooted in entitlement, unchecked power, and a greedy eye for public property", ruled Judge Abdullah Al Mamun.

"Treating public land as a private asset, she directed her greedy eye toward state resources and manipulated official procedures to benefit herself and her close relatives."

Each sentence was seven years in prison, and Mamun ruled that Hasina would need to serve them consecutively.

Jail authorities reject rumors, say Imran Khan in 'completely good health'

LAHORE (TIP)

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan is in "completely good health inside Adiala Jail", the jail authorities said on Thursday, rejecting rumours on social media about his medical condition.

"The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership has been informed regarding Imran Khan's health. All necessary care is being provided to the PTI chief," the Adiala Jail administration said in a statement issued here on Thursday.

Khan, 73, has been in jail since August 2023 in multiple cases.

Several social media accounts on X have shared unverified claims of Imran Khan's death, with some foreign media also reporting on the alleged rumours about his health. The trend 'Where is Imran Khan?' was also trending on X on Thursday morning.

There is no truth to the rumours being circulated on social media about his medical condition, the statement said.

The development comes as Imran Khan's three sisters have been repeatedly denied a meeting with him for the last six weeks, leading them to question the whereabouts of the ex-prime minister. They also staged sit-ins outside the Adiala jail.

The Adiala Jail administration further clarified that reports about shifting



Imran Khan from Adiala Jail are entirely baseless.

"Imran Khan is in Adiala Jail and is healthy. The social media rumours about his transfer are unfounded," the jail administration said. The PTI has demanded that the government lift the undeclared ban on Imran Khan's meetings and immediately arrange a meeting between the former premier and his family.

In a statement issued early on Thursday on X, the PTI demanded that the current government and the interior ministry clearly dismiss and clarify the rumour and immediately arrange a meeting between Imran Khan and his family.

"A formal and transparent statement should be issued on behalf of the state regarding the health, security and current status of Imran," the party

demand. It further called on the state to investigate those responsible for spreading rumours of a sensitive nature and demanded that the facts be presented before the nation.

"The nation will not tolerate any uncertainty regarding the status of Imran Khan. The government is directly responsible for protecting Imran's security, human rights and constitutional rights," the PTI said.

The party vowed to take every legal and political step to counter these rumours and bring the truth to light.

PTI leader Meher Bano Qureshi, who is also the daughter of former foreign minister and PTI vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, said on X that rumours regarding Imran Khan's health were concerning.

"The government is responsible for Khan sahib's safety and is duty-bound to issue a statement updating the nation. As far as putting an end to these rumours goes, the best, most credible way possible is to allow Khan sahib's sisters, lawyers and party members to meet with him," Qureshi said.

Interestingly, Adiala Jail comes under the administrative control of the Punjab government of Maryam Nawaz.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, daughter of three-time premier Nawaz Sharif, has already stated that she has no control over Khan's meetings.

Sikh History This Week

NOVEMBER 28 TO DECEMBER 4

28th November

1982 Members of All India Sikh Student Federation rallied during the Asian Games. They raised slogan expressing Sikh demand. For this they were subsequently arrested.

29th November



1631 Sant Sipahi Baba Budha Ji passed away in Ramdas at the age 125. Guru Hargobind personally conducted the last rights. Subsequently, his son Bhai Bhana Ji was made the head Granthi of Sri Harmandir Sahib.

1737 Bhai Mani Singh, a great scholar among the Sikhs, was martyred. He started a school of exposition of holy Guru Granth Sahib. He was second famous head priest of Sri Harmandir Sahib, after Baba Buddha Ji.



1885 Baba Ram Singh Namdhari passed away after 13 years of solitary confinement while in exile at Rangun, Burma.

1955 Sardar Pratap Singh's accepted shahadat in Loon (Salt) Mandi, in connection with Punjabi Suba morcha.



1961 Master Tara Singh, along with Sant Fateh

Singh and 8 members of Akali Dal Working Committee were tried for breaking the solemn vow taken before the Akal Takhat. Both Master Tara Singh and Sant Fateh Singh separately had taken vow before the Akal Takhat for fasting unto death for achieving Punjabi Speaking State but had broken the fast without achieving the objective on sheer assurances.

30th November



1710 Mahabat Khan captured Lohgarh fort after Sikh forces withdrew from Sadhaura. Amir Khan occupied Sirhind.

1st December



1764 Ahmad Shah Abdali attacked Sri Harimandir Sahib. Jathedar Gurbakash Singh and 30 GurSikhs sacrificed their lives defending the sanctity of Sri Harimandir Sahib.

1924 Babbar Amar Singh of Pindori Nijjaran, Jalandhar, died during the trial of Babbar Akali conspiracy case. He was involved in the second abortive attempt to murder Labh Singh of Dhadda Fateh Singh.

2nd December



1848 Sikhs fought the British at Sadulpur, Gujranwala. The Sikh Army under Sher Singh fought against the Right Column of the Army of the Punjab under Command of Major General Joseph Thackwell.

1990 International Conference on Sikh Studies was held at University of British Columbia, Vancouver. The Canadian Sikh Study and Teaching Society was instrumental in organizing and hosting the conference. Some of the topics covered included: "Fundamentalism; Enlightenment of Mind; Sikhism as a Tortume Quid; Sikh Culture; From Ritual to Counter Ritual in a Critical Analysis; Role of Reason in Sikhism; Guru Granth Sahib and Modern Science; Creation of the Khalsa – a non-Sikh Indian Perspective; Need for World Institute of Sikhism, and Sikh Identity a Continuing Feature. More than 700 people attended this Sikh Academic Conference, a befitting tribute to the Vancouver Sikh community.

3rd December



1849 Maharaja Dalip Singh meets Lord Dalhousie.

4th December

1705 Seige of Anandpur ended. The seige of Anadpur initiated on May 3, 1705 ended. In response to beseiger's continuous pleas to vacate the fort of Anandpur in return for safe passage, Guru Sahib sent rubbish covered brocades, loaded over bullocks. In violation of the solemn oaths on the Quran, the goods were looted. Ashamed at their sordid behavior, the Mughal commanders now sent a message in the Emperor's name, expressing regret at the behavior of the imperial troops and reiterated the agreement on safe conduct if Guru agreed to quit Anadpur.

1926 SGPC initiated activities to seek control of 750 Sikh Shrines.



Smooth skin, smart choices: What to know before laser hair removal

Laser hair removal uses concentrated light energy to target the melanin in hair follicles. The energy heats and damages the follicle, slowing its ability to grow hair in the future. Over multiple sessions, the hair becomes finer, lighter, and significantly reduced. It is not an instant one-session miracle; it is a scientifically timed process.

One of the most important things to remember is that laser hair removal follows the body's natural hair growth cycle. Only the hair in its active growth phase (anagen) responds effectively to the laser. Since not all hairs are in the same stage at the same time, you will need at least 6-10 sessions, spaced 4-6 weeks apart. Some stubborn areas like the chin, upper lip or hormonal zones may require more maintenance sessions.

Lasers work best when there is a clear contrast between the hair and the skin—such as light skin with dark hair. That said, newer technologies like Diode lasers, Nd:YAG lasers, and Triple Wavelength systems are safe for Indian skin tones too. However, white, grey, red or very light blonde hair responds poorly because these hairs have little pigment for the laser to target. Always choose a clinic experienced with your skin type.

Sun exposure increases the risk of pigmentation, burns or blotchy marks. It is best to avoid tanning, beach vacations, or prolonged sunlight at least 2 weeks before and



after each session. Always step out with sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher), even on cloudy days.

Laser targets the root of the hair. Waxing, threading or epilating removes the hair root, making the laser ineffective. You must stop waxing 4-6 weeks before beginning laser sessions. Shaving, however, is allowed because it leaves the root intact. In fact, most clinics ask you to shave the area 12-24 hours before the appointment.

Most people describe the sensation as a warm pinprick or a rubber band snap. Modern lasers

with cooling tips or chilling gels reduce discomfort significantly. If the pain feels sharp or burning, inform the technician immediately. Correct settings should never feel intolerable.

Redness, mild swelling around the hair follicles, or slight sensitivity for a few hours is normal. These usually settle on their own. Ice packs, aloe vera gel, and soothing creams help reduce the irritation. Avoid hot showers, saunas, intense exercise, or swimming for 24-48 hours after the session.

Learning to trust in a new relationship

It takes a while to get to know someone. When we first enter a new relationship, many of us want to present the best version of ourselves – deliberately hiding certain aspects of who we are until we feel we've got to know the person a bit better.

And then later on, it may take a while before we're truly willing to let them in – to know our insecurities, our hopes, our chequered family histories.

We often worry that our new partner won't accept us warts and all – that they won't like and accept us once they're familiar with our quirks and faults.

But trust is an essential part of any relationship. It's the foundation block upon which all the other good stuff – affection, intimacy, connection – is based.

How do we learn to trust someone?



It can be a scary thing to do. After all, when you begin to trust someone, you're not just learning to rely on them – you're giving up some of what you've learned in terms of relying on yourself. Trust can sometimes make you feel vulnerable.

Furthermore, lots of people find this difficult because of what they've been through in previous relationships. If you've been cheated on or let down – or if you grew up in an environment where you had to learn to look after yourself – it can take even longer to let down those defences. It's common to worry that in doing so you risk being hurt all over again.

The first thing to say is that you can't rush trust. Sometimes, it just takes time. If you're finding it difficult, it might just be that you need to take things at a slower pace and see how you get on.

At the same time, it can be useful to think about any reasons you might have for finding it hard to trust a new partner. As mentioned, it could be memories from previous relationships or your family upbringing that are causing you to be cautious.

FOOD CORNER

Amritsari fish fry

Few dishes capture the soul of Punjab's street-food culture like the iconic Amritsari Fish Fry. Bright, crisp, tangy, and irresistibly spiced, this legendary delicacy comes from the bustling lanes around the Golden Temple, where vendors have perfected it over generations. Light on batter yet bold in flavour, it is the perfect balance of crunch and comfort.

INGREDIENTS

For the Fish

- Fish fillets - 500 g (preferably Singhara, Sole, Colin, or Basa), Lemon juice - 1 tbsp, Salt - ½ tsp, Ginger-garlic paste - 1 tsp

For the Batter

- Gram flour (besan) - ½ cup, Rice flour or cornflour - 2 tbsp, Ajwain (carom seeds) - ½ tsp, Kashmiri red chilli powder - 1 to 1½ tsp, Turmeric - ¼ tsp, Garam masala - ½ tsp, Chaat masala - ½ tsp, Crushed black pepper - ½ tsp, Salt - to taste, Ginger-garlic paste - 1 tsp, Lemon juice - 1 tsp, Thick curd (optional) - 1 tbsp (gives light tang & softness), Water - as required to make a thick coating batter, Mustard oil or refined oil - for deep frying

For Serving

- Chaat masala, Fresh lemon wedges, Sliced onions, Green chutney

METHOD

Begin by washing the fish fillets and patting them completely dry, as excess moisture softens the crust. Rub the fish with lemon juice, salt and ginger-garlic paste, and set it aside for 10-15 minutes to absorb the flavours. Meanwhile, prepare the signature Amritsari batter by mixing gram flour, rice flour, ajwain, Kashmiri red chilli powder, turmeric, salt, garam masala, black pepper and chaat masala in a bowl. Add lemon juice, ginger-garlic paste and a spoon of curd if you prefer a slightly richer coating. Gradually pour in water to form a thick, clinging batter that sticks well to the fish without running off.

Heat mustard oil or any preferred frying oil in a deep pan until moderately hot. The flavour of mustard oil gives an authentic Punjabi touch, but refined oil also works well. Dip each marinated fish fillet into the batter, ensuring every piece is well coated. Shake off excess batter and gently slide the pieces into hot oil. Fry on medium flame until the coating turns crisp, golden and textured. Avoid overcrowding the pan to maintain the oil temperature, and fry in batches if needed.

Once uniformly crisp, remove the fish onto absorbent paper. Sprinkle a pinch of chaat masala on the hot fish to enhance the flavour instantly. Serve immediately with lemon wedges, sliced onions and a refreshing green chutney.



Healing the natural way: Reversing fatty liver with diet

Fatty liver disease, once considered a silent condition, has now become one of the most widespread metabolic disorders affecting people of all ages. What makes it especially worrying is that it often shows no obvious symptoms until the liver becomes significantly compromised. But the encouraging truth is that in most cases—especially non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)—the condition can be slowed, halted, and even reversed through purposeful changes in diet and lifestyle. The liver is the only organ with the remarkable power to regenerate, and when we feed it right, that healing power becomes visible.

Reversing fatty liver through diet is not about strict deprivation; it is about nourishing the liver with foods that reduce inflammation, melt visceral fat, improve insulin sensitivity, and support detoxification. As research continues to show, the food we choose daily has a direct impact on whether fat accumulates in the liver or leaves it. The first step in dietary healing is reducing the intake of foods that overwork the liver. Excess sugar, refined carbohydrates, deep-fried snacks, sweetened beverages, bakery items, and processed foods contribute to insulin resistance, which in turn triggers the storage of fat inside liver cells. When the diet is dominated by white rice, white bread, potatoes, and sugary drinks, the liver becomes flooded with glucose, forcing it to convert the surplus into fat. Cutting down on these foods is one of the most immediate ways to stop further fat buildup. Replacing them with whole grains, millets, vegetables, and fibre-rich foods stabilizes blood sugar and prevents further fat deposition.

Equally important is the role of healthy fats. Contrary to old beliefs, avoiding all fats does not help fatty liver; instead, we need the right fats in the right amount. Foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids—such as salmon, sardines, flaxseeds, walnuts, and chia seeds—help reduce liver inflammation and lower triglyceride levels. Extra-virgin



olive oil, nuts, seeds, and avocados provide monounsaturated fats that protect liver cells. These fats help the liver break down existing fat deposits and restore its normal functioning.

Another key element of a liver-friendly diet is increasing the intake of antioxidants. Vegetables like spinach, kale, methi, broccoli, cabbage, and beetroot contain phytonutrients that combat oxidative stress and inflammation—two major drivers of fatty liver progression. Fruits such as berries, apples, citrus fruits, and papayas support detoxification, but moderation is important because excess fructose can worsen liver fat. The idea is variety, not excess. Colourful plates, leafy greens, and natural plant foods help the liver cleanse itself naturally.

Protein plays an important role too. Adequate protein helps regulate metabolism, reduce cravings, build lean muscle, and burn liver fat more efficiently. Including lentils, beans, eggs, paneer, curd, tofu, and lean meats in daily meals creates a balanced diet that keeps the liver supported without overwhelming it. Many nutritionists now recommend that people with fatty liver follow a Mediterranean-style diet or an Indian plate adapted with whole grains, dal, sabzi, salads, nuts, seeds, and limited refined carbs.



Researchers find immune cells use surprising trick to heal muscle faster

A research team has found that specific immune cells can connect with muscle fibres in a lightning-fast, neuron-like way to promote healing. These cells deliver quick pulses of calcium, triggering repair within seconds. The mechanism works in both injury and disease models. The discovery could inspire new treatments for muscle recovery and degeneration.

At the cellular scale, the way muscle tissue repairs itself becomes surprisingly complex. The body does not respond the same way to all forms of damage. A sudden muscle tear from a sports injury differs greatly from the slow decline in muscle strength seen in conditions such as muscular dystrophy.

A research team at Cincinnati Children's has uncovered a shared and unexpected repair process that may help the body recover from several kinds of muscle damage. The findings were published online on November 21, 2025, in *Current Biology*.

The project was led by first author Gyanesh Tripathi, PhD, and corresponding author Michael Jankowski, PhD, who oversees the Research Division in Cincinnati Children's Department of Anesthesia and serves as Associate Director of Basic Science Research for the Pediatric Pain Research Centre.

The newly identified mechanism involves macrophages, a type of immune cell. These cells are usually known for acting like tiny cleanup crews that remove bacteria, dead cells, and other unwanted material.

A Neuron-Like Repair Signal

"The biggest surprise about this was finding that a macrophage has a synaptic-like property that delivers an ion to a muscle fiber to facilitate its repair after an injury," Jankowski says. "It's literally like the way a neuron works, and it's working in an extremely fast synaptic-like fashion to regulate repair," added Jankowski. Scientists have long known that macrophages respond to muscle injury by releasing cytokines and chemokines that create inflammation, influence pain, and help drive the growth and regeneration of muscle fibres. *Source: ANI*

On the horizon: A pill that could transform cholesterol management

A promising daily oral therapy that dramatically reduces low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C)—the "bad" cholesterol linked to heart attacks and strokes—has captured global attention after strong results from a late-stage clinical trial.

The drug, enlicitide, developed by Merck, lowered LDL-C by 58.2 percent in adults with a genetic form of high cholesterol, according to findings recently published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

The prospect of achieving such reductions with a simple pill, rather than an injection, has generated significant excitement among cardiologists seeking more patient-friendly treatment options.

The phase 3 study, led by researchers at the Texas Heart Institute, enrolled 303 adults across 59 medical sites in 17 countries.

All participants were diagnosed with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia (HeFH), a hereditary condition that elevates LDL levels and significantly increases the risk of premature cardiovascular disease.

In India, where heart disease remains a leading cause of mortality, the potential impact of a potent and easy-to-use cholesterol-lowering drug could be enormous.

Evidence suggests that India is facing an unprecedented lipid burden. A large survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, published in *The Lancet* in 2023, reported that more than 81 percent

of Indians have dyslipidaemia, while 20.9 percent—about 185 million people—have elevated LDL-C levels.

In response to this growing challenge, the Cardiological Society of India's first-ever lipid management guidelines, released in July 2024, recommend that high-risk individuals such as those with diabetes or hypertension maintain LDL-C levels below 70 mg/dL.

Despite the widespread use of statins—the backbone of cholesterol management—around 20 percent of patients fail to reach target LDL levels even with treatment.

Others cannot tolerate statins due to side effects such as muscle pain or weakness. For this subset of patients, additional therapies are essential.

Enlicitide belongs to the same class of drugs as injectables such as evolocumab and inclisiran, both of which are available in India as third-line therapies for cholesterol management.

Like them, enlicitide targets PCSK9, an enzyme that reduces the liver's ability to clear LDL cholesterol from the bloodstream. By silencing the gene responsible for PCSK9 production, the therapy enhances the liver's natural LDL-removal mechanism.

While the trial results are promising, experts caution that the study measured cholesterol reduction but did not evaluate whether enlicitide prevents heart attacks, strokes, or cardiovascular deaths—key outcomes needed before widespread adoption.

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NASA's Perseverance rover detects 'mini-lightning' on Mars

NASA's Perseverance rover has obtained evidence that the atmosphere of Mars is electrically active, detecting electrical discharges — what one scientist called "mini-lightning" — often associated with whirlwinds called 'dust devils' that regularly saunter over the planet's surface.

The six-wheeled rover, exploring Mars since 2021 at a locale called Jezero Crater in its northern hemisphere, picked up these electrical discharges in audio and electromagnetic recordings made by its SuperCam remote-sensing instrument, researchers said.

It is the first documentation of electrical activity in the thin Martian atmosphere.

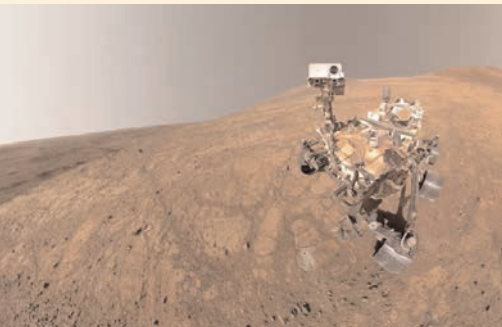
"These discharges represent a major discovery, with direct implications for Martian atmospheric chemistry, climate, habitability and the future of robotic and human exploration," said planetary scientist Baptiste Chide of the Institute for Research in Astrophysics and Planetology in France, lead author of the study published on Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

"The electrical charges required for these discharges are likely to influence dust transport on Mars, a process fundamental to the planet's climate and one that remains poorly understood. What's more, these electrostatic discharges could pose a risk to the electronic equipment of current robotic missions - and even a hazard for astronauts who one day will explore the Red Planet," Chide said.

The researchers analysed 28 hours of microphone recordings made by the rover over a span of two Martian years, detecting 55 electrical discharges, usually associated with dust devils and dust storm fronts. "We did not detect lightning by the common definition. It was a small spark, perhaps a few millimeters long, not really lightning. It sounded like a spark or whip-crack," said planetary scientist and study co-author Ralph Lorenz of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in Maryland.

Sixteen of the electrical discharges were recorded during Perseverance's two close encounters with dust devils.

Another study published in October documented how dust devils are a common feature on dry and dusty Mars, with two orbiting spacecraft detecting wind speeds reaching around 98 miles per hour (158 kph) in these whirlwinds that hoist dust into the atmosphere.



Microsoft to remove Copilot from WhatsApp on Jan 15 as new rules block AI chatbots

If you've been chatting with Microsoft Copilot on WhatsApp, your days with the AI assistant are numbered. Microsoft has confirmed that Copilot will stop working on WhatsApp from January 15, following new policy changes introduced by Meta, the parent company of WhatsApp. After that date, users will only be able to access Copilot through Microsoft's standalone mobile apps or via the web version.

The move comes as WhatsApp enforces new rules aimed at limiting general-purpose AI chatbots on its platform. The company wants to ensure that its business tools focus on customer service and commerce workflows rather than hosting large-scale AI assistants created by tech giants.

Meta first announced its updated platform policy in November, confirming that the WhatsApp Business API would no longer support general AI chatbots used for mass engagement. The goal, according to Meta, is to free up infrastructure for businesses that rely on the API for real-time customer interaction and automated services. This means AI systems such as Microsoft Copilot, OpenAI's ChatGPT, and Perplexity AI can no longer operate



directly through WhatsApp. Instead, only bots designed for specific customer service functions will remain supported.

Microsoft's decision to withdraw Copilot from the messaging app follows a similar move by OpenAI, which has already announced that its own WhatsApp integration will end in January. The change is part of a broader shift in how major platforms manage AI access, ensuring that third-party tools do not overload their systems or blur the line between customer assistance and general conversation.

The biggest downside for users is that

Copilot chat history on WhatsApp will not transfer to Microsoft's other platforms. Because Copilot's WhatsApp sessions were unauthenticated, they were not linked to users' Microsoft accounts. As a result, once the integration shuts down, all chat data will be permanently deleted.

Microsoft has advised users to export their Copilot conversations manually using WhatsApp's built-in tools before January 15. After that deadline, Copilot will simply stop replying within the app.

To continue using the assistant, users can switch to the Copilot mobile app on Android or iOS or access it through the official Copilot website. Both versions offer enhanced functionality, including document summarisation, creative writing tools, coding help, and image generation.

This development highlights the ongoing transformation of the AI chatbot ecosystem, as platforms like WhatsApp draw clearer boundaries between entertainment-focused AI and business automation. For Microsoft, the shift may prove beneficial, driving users toward its dedicated ecosystem where Copilot is deeply integrated with Windows, Office, and Edge.

ChatGPT Voice mode now built into main Interface

Voice chat is quite useful with AI. You can get answers to your queries without having to type long sentences or prompts. However, if you wanted to use ChatGPT Voice, things were a bit tedious. The chatbot only worked with voice mode in a separate interface from your normal chat. Now, OpenAI has introduced a major update for ChatGPT by integrating Voice mode directly into the main chat interface.

OpenAI confirmed that the feature is being rolled out to all users. It requires users to update their ChatGPT app to access the integrated voice capabilities. It is available to all smartphone and web users.

Now, users can talk to ChatGPT through Voice in the main chat itself, without the need to switch to a separate screen. Previously, ChatGPT's voice mode required users to leave the main chat and enter a dedicated voice interface, which included limited options such as listening to responses and managing mute or video settings.

The update allows for conversations to flow more naturally, allowing users to speak, view responses, and interact with visuals all within a single window.

The integrated Voice mode supports



everything that we have grown accustomed to with ChatGPT. With this update, you will be able to see images and maps as responses are generated. This is expected to streamline workflow and make interactions feel more seamless.

OpenAI wrote on X, "You can talk, watch answers appear, review earlier messages and see visuals like images

or maps in real time."

For those who prefer the older interface, OpenAI has included the option to revert to the separate voice mode. Users can do this by going into Settings, selecting Voice Mode, and turning on "Separate mode." This restores the classic interface and layout for those who want to keep their voice and text interactions distinct.

Meta said in talks to use Google Tensor AI chips in fresh headache for Nvidia

PARIS (TIP)

Meta Platforms Inc. is reportedly in talks to spend billions on Google's Tensor AI chips, which are powering its industry-benchmark Gemini 3 model. Nvidia Corp. shares plunged even as Alphabet Inc.'s shares surged on the news.

The parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp is in discussions to use Google's tensor processing units in AI data centres in 2027, The Information reported, citing sources. Meta may also rent chips from Google Cloud next year.

A deal here would help establish Google Tensor as an alternative to Nvidia's chips—currently the gold standard to run AI computing power. Google already supplies up to 1 million Tensor chips to Anthropic PBC, in what has been called a “really powerful validation” for TPUs.

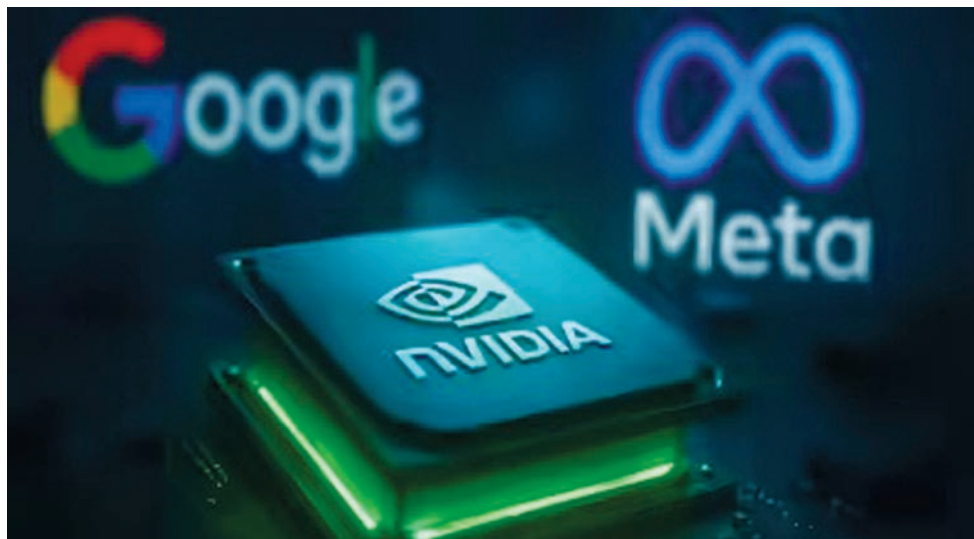
“A lot of people were already thinking about it (TPUs), and a lot more people are probably thinking about it now,” Seaport analyst Jay Goldberg had said.

Google Tensor vs Nvidia AI chips

The tensor chip, first developed more than 10 years ago for AI tasks, is gaining momentum outside Google amid worries of an over-reliance on AI chips made by Nvidia even as Advanced Micro Devices Inc. (AMD) remains a distant rival.

Nvidia's Blackwell is essentially a graphics processing unit (GPU), which until the last decade formed the “brain” of video games. It turned out to be well-suited for training AI models because they can handle large amounts of data and computations.

Google's TPUs are a type of specialised product known as “application-specific



integrated circuits”, or microchips that were designed for a sold purpose — AI compute.

The tensor chips were so far powering only Google's AI models Gemini. That they are highly customisable—Tensor powers Google's Pixel phones as well—has worked to the advantage of the search giant.

Meta AI, powered by Google Tensor?

If Meta chooses Google over Nvidia, then the burgeoning AI industry will have a viable alternative to Nvidia, if not essentially better.

“Meta's capex of at least \$100 billion for 2026 suggests it will spend at least \$40-\$50 billion on inferencing-chip capacity next year,” Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Mandeep Singh and Robert Biggar said.

A deal with Meta would mark a win for Google, but much depends on whether the tensor chips can demonstrate the power efficiency and computing muscle necessary to become a viable option in

the long run.

Nvidia said its tech remains a generation ahead of the industry, in response to Wall Street's concerns that the company's dominance of AI infrastructure could be threatened by Google's AI chips.

“We're delighted by Google's success — they've made great advances in AI and we continue to supply to Google,” Nvidia said in a post on X. “NVIDIA is a generation ahead of the industry — it's the only platform that runs every AI model and does it everywhere computing is done.” The post came after Nvidia saw its shares fall 3% on Tuesday after a report that Meta, one of its key customers, could strike a deal with Google to use its tensor processing units for its data centers. In its post, Nvidia said its chips are more flexible and powerful compared with so-called ASIC chips — such as Google's TPUs — which are designed for a single company or function. Nvidia's latest generation of chips are known as Blackwell.

India clears Rs 7,280 crore rare earths scheme amid China's export curbs

The Union Cabinet has approved a new initiative to scale up manufacturing of sintered rare earth permanent magnets (REPMs), a key component across electric vehicles (EVs), renewable energy and defence. The decision comes at a time when China's tighter export norms on rare earth magnet materials are set to heighten supply challenges for Indian industries.

The government has cleared a financial outlay of Rs 7,280 crore to set up 6,000 metric tonnes per year of fully integrated REPM manufacturing capacity in India. This will include the entire process—from converting rare earth oxides into metals, turning metals into alloys, and finally producing finished magnets.

At present, almost all of India's REPM needs are met through imports. With demand expected to double by 2030, the new initiative aims to secure supplies and develop a strong domestic ecosystem.

According to Raju Kumar, Partner and Energy Tax Leader, EY India, “The announcement of incentives for rare-earth magnets, along with allocations in National Critical Minerals Mission, signal a broader national commitment to building a secure, competitive critical-minerals ecosystem. The proposed support for magnet manufacturing, a segment where India has historically depended on global supply chains, can unlock new opportunities across mining, processing, alloying and advanced materials. It creates headroom for Indian companies to participate in high-value applications spanning electric mobility, renewables, electronics and defence.”

There are growing signs of weakness in the US job market

NEW YORK (TIP)

While most US official economic data releases have been suspended until recently due to the government shutdown, Goldman Sachs Research's analysis of alternative measures of US job layoffs suggests the labor market is weakening further.

“A sustained increase in layoffs would be particularly concerning because the hiring rate for workers is low and it is harder than usual for the unemployed to find jobs,” economists Manuel Abecasis and Pierfrancesco Mei write in the team's report.

Private-sector layoff announcements reported by Challenger, Gray & Christmas increased in October to their highest level outside of recession (even after excluding the effect of an announcement of warehouse layoffs that our economists suspect is being partially double-counted). Outside of the large spike in layoffs involving warehousing jobs,



the tech, industrial goods, and food sectors accounted for the largest increases in layoff announcements in October.

In addition, Goldman Sachs Research's real-time

tracking of Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN), which companies have to file before conducting mass layoffs, has also ticked up, reaching its highest level since 2016 (outside of the initial pandemic surge).

By contrast, initial jobless claims—which are less noisy and more representative but could lag layoff announcements and WARN notices—remain low, Abecasis and Mei write.

Not all US states that Goldman Sachs Research tracks provide industry breakdowns of WARN notices. Our analysts combined machine learning techniques with a large dataset of company names, industries, and states to predict industry classifications for their WARN estimates.

The results suggest that technology companies also accounted for a meaningful increase in Goldman Sachs Research's measure of overall WARN notices, followed by the manufacturing, healthcare, and food and beverage industries.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - DEC 01 TO DEC 07, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

**ARIES**

Ganesha says circumstances will be somewhat challenging for Aries this week. Some instability and confusion

may arise in your life. This is a time to focus on yourself and maintain inner balance. Controlling emotions may be challenging, and you will want to exercise restraint and thoughtfulness in your interactions with others. Relationships with others may become strained, leading to mental fatigue. While this time brings challenges, it also offers opportunities for introspection and self-growth. You need to foster communication and understanding to improve your relationships. Take any problems that arise positively and strive to learn. Self-control and patience will help you overcome this time. Maintain direct and clear communication; this will help you better understand yourself and those around you.

TAURUS

Ganesha says this week is quite important for Taurus. Some challenges may arise in your overall life during this time,

which may make you feel a little anxious. Although this time is full of difficulties, you can face them with patience and restraint. You may also experience instability in your personal relationships. It's important to share your feelings openly with your loved ones. This week is about communication, which can improve your relationships. Overall, it's a time to gain clarity. Pay attention to your inner thoughts and understand what you want. Focus on positivity to avoid any negativity. During this time, be sensitive to your loved ones and respect their feelings. Remember, temporary challenges always lead to dynamism and growth. Control your emotions and turn this challenging time into an opportunity.

GEMINI

Ganesha says this week will bring prosperity and positivity for Gemini. A special energy will surround you during this

time, allowing you to strengthen your relationships. Spending time with family and friends will be extremely enjoyable. This is a time to promote harmony and understanding, allowing you to express your feelings. Your communication skills will also improve this week. This will allow you to express your thoughts openly, bringing freshness to relationships. You'll be inspired to share your ideas, strengthening not only your

**CANCER**

Ganesha says this week will be generally pleasant for Cancerians. Positive energy will flow into your life during this

time. You'll try to build better relationships with those around you, which will improve your social life. This is a time when you'll enjoy spending time with loved ones and develop mutual understanding. Your sensitivity will prove to be a strength this week, bringing depth and sweetness to your relationships. If you're single, this is a good time to form new relationships. Family relationships will also strengthen, and spending time with family will increase happiness. Try to express your thoughts clearly so that your loved ones can understand your feelings. This week will also help you in self-analysis and personal growth. Your creativity and self-expression will increase, allowing you to express your thoughts better. Overall, this week is a time of dedication, love, and strong relationships.

LEO

Ganesha says the overall situation seems a bit challenging for Leos. You'll need to make a lot of effort to maintain

composure and normalcy. There may be some tension in your social life, causing you to experience anxiety and instability. Communication with family and friends may be a bit confusing, so exercise patience and understanding. This week may bring some distance to relationships. Spending time with loved ones is important, but you'll need to be careful about expressing your feelings appropriately. Use communication and cooperation to reduce stress. Although circumstances are challenging, this is a time when you can recognize your inner strength and move forward with a positive attitude. Have faith in yourself and don't dwell on small things. This is a time for self-reflection and improvement.

VIRGO

Ganesha says the overall situation is likely to be somewhat challenging for Virgos this week. You may

experience some discomfort in your daily life. This is a time when you may experience mental stress and unrest. Your inner anxiety and restlessness may affect your mood. During this time, your relationships may also experience some disruptions. You need to be careful in communicating with your loved ones. Misunderstandings may arise over small matters, causing anxiety. Remember that

it's important to maintain patience and resolve old issues openly. You may face some difficulties expressing your feelings correctly, but try to share your thoughts clearly. This will strengthen your relationships. This is a week when you need to control your worries and channel your inner energy in a positive direction. Always remember that every situation is temporary and you can overcome it.

**LIBRA**

Ganesha says this week will be a positive and happy time for Libras. The atmosphere around you will be filled

with joy and harmony, strengthening your relationships. You will feel inspired to spend more time with your loved ones, which will deepen your relationships. This is a time to understand each other's thoughts and share your feelings. Your communication skills will be excellent this week, allowing you to express your thoughts clearly. This is especially important when you need to resolve problems in your relationships. Your behavior will be balanced and fair, strengthening your relationships. Your creativity and tendency to self-expression will also be highly influential, enhancing your perspective. The overall experience of this week will provide you with emotional stability and inner balance, bringing new energy and inspiration into your life. This time will undoubtedly prove to be exemplary for your relationships.

**SCORPIO**

Ganesha says this week will be extremely positive and encouraging for Scorpios. Your inner energy and confidence

will provide you with opportunities to strengthen your relationships. Moments spent with family and friends will be especially enjoyable. Mutual understanding and cooperation will resolve many of your conflicts, bringing newness and freshness to your relationships. Clarity and honesty in communication will be especially beneficial this week. You will share your feelings openly, which will deepen your bonds with your loved ones. Try to find joy in small things; this will add sweetness to your relationships. Your sensitivity and depth will help you achieve excellence in love this week. This week, an influx of love will transform your life. The possibilities are endless; just follow your heart and maintain positivity. Therefore, this week will prove to be emotionally rich and satisfying for you.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Ganesha says this week may bring some challenges for Sagittarius. The overall impact of your

experiences may open up new

perspectives in your life. However, you may feel a little anxious during this time. It's important to maintain balance in your emotions in relationships, as those around you may have difficulty understanding you. This is a time for harmony. There may be some turmoil in your thinking, but to benefit from this period, you must focus on your inner strength. Remember, moments of restlessness can also be a means of self-realization. This week will teach you to cope with emotionally difficult moments. It's important to maintain positivity and hope within yourself so that you can achieve harmony in your relationships and the environment around you. Believe in yourself and keep moving forward, as this time is only a temporary situation.

**CAPRICORN**

Ganesha says this week is overall a wonderful time for

Capricorns. You will feel a change in the environment around you, and this will fill you with confidence. Your feelings and thoughts will be clearer, allowing you to communicate better in your relationships. This is an opportunity to strengthen your bonds with those close to you. The surrounding environment will be positive, which will also have a positive impact on your social life. Spending time with friends and family will bring you inner satisfaction. Your thoughts will be refreshed, inspiring your creativity. This week is perfect for increasing mutual understanding. Having the courage to express your deepest feelings will bring you closer to relationships. Furthermore, if you share your thoughts, you will find people who listen. Overall, this week will be wonderful and loving for you. This is the best time to strengthen your relationships.

**AQUARIUS**

Ganesha says this week will be challenging for

Aquarius. There will be some ups and downs in your social life and relationships. This is a time to increase communication with those close to you, but you may also face some conflicts. You may find it difficult to express your thoughts and feelings clearly, which may make others misunderstand you. Maintain patience this week and be cautious in fulfilling your emotional responsibilities. There may be some differences in your relationships, but try to resolve them. There will be some anxiety and hesitation in romantic relationships, which could create tension. Try to spend time with loved ones and exercise restraint. This time will teach you how important honesty and understanding are in relationships. Handle these

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : DEC 01 TO DEC 07 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

DECEMBER 1

Ganesha says you live each day to the fullest and have the potential to become a writer, philosopher, or thinker, but you need to learn to regulate your often restless and stubborn behavior. If you mingle with your coworkers, clients, and clients after work this year, you will build stronger relationships with all of them. Your investments will soar to new heights, and your financial situation will improve, causing you to spend more on comforts and luxuries. There will be nice romantic entanglements and good opportunities to form a marriage union.

DECEMBER 2

Ganesha says you'll face new problems this year, but your perseverance and the support of your friends and family will assure your success. With time, your financial situation will get better. Gains from investments and speculation are both possible. Being a responsible parent, you'll provide your kids with nothing but the best. Towards the middle of the year, some unsettling news from a faraway location is to be anticipated. A spiritual person offers consolation and mental calm.

DECEMBER 3

Ganesha says if you try your best, you can turn sand into gold. However, you need to curb your tendency to act vindictive, stubborn, and moody at times. Your international business activities can be very profitable. If you explore new sources of income, your financial condition will improve, and your confidence level may remain at its highest. Business modifications done in the middle of the year can be beneficial.

DECEMBER 4

Ganesha says if you have been concerned about the lack of advancement in your professional career, now is the time to rejoice and celebrate. Your work will be much valued and will earn you the respect of your superiors, coworkers, and clients. Gains will also come from property-related issues. Home renovation and other construction work may also be high on your priority list. Patients with chronic conditions may need to pay more attention to their health. At all costs, preventative medications shouldn't be ignored.

DECEMBER 5

Ganesha says you have a fantastic

personality and may quickly make friends because of your helpfulness, but you need to curb your tendency to occasionally act gloomy, wasteful, and inconsiderate. Gains and rewards are guaranteed this year, but you must remain entirely committed to your objectives. You will suffer losses or suffer a great deal of embarrassment if you are unable to obtain appropriate and reliable information. Financial transactions will go much smoother during the second half of the year, but partnerships and joint ventures should be avoided.

DECEMBER 6

Ganesha says that although you have a fantastic imagination and can easily outsmart your competitors, you need to curb your occasionally vengeful, impulsive, and stubborn behavior. Gains in both health and wealth are anticipated in the upcoming year. There will be lots of praise and incentives for your achievements. Your self-assurance and tenacity will grow, helping you to complete challenging tasks with ease. You'll spend more money on entertainment at this time, and you'll also buy costly items for your home.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

DECEMBER 7

Ganesha says that although you have a pleasant disposition and are highly diplomatic, you need to curb your tendency to occasionally act spendthrift, fickle-minded, and restless. You may face unexpected issues at work that are to be expected. You must approach these issues with more poise and tact. Traveling during this time will not only provide you with crucial information but also guarantee financial rewards. Later in the year, some couples will tie the knot.

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CONTD FROM PAGE 32

difficulties with patience and understanding, so you can strengthen yourself and move towards positivity. This week, recognize your inner strength and use it to move forward on your path.



PISCES

Ganesha says this week, the general situation will be quite positive and encouraging for Pisces. You will not only build better relationships with those around you, but you will also experience a deeper connection. This will be a time to boost your self-confidence and deepen your understanding. You will find the right inspiration to spend special time with your partner, which will strengthen your feelings even more. Your sensitivity will connect you with truth and depth this week, bringing a new warmth to your relationship. This is an excellent time to express your heartfelt feelings openly, which will not only increase mutual trust but also

strengthen your relationship. This week will be filled with spirituality and love. Conversation and communication

will be of particular importance, taking you to new heights on a social and emotional level. Just listen to your

heart and embrace positivity. This week will be a wonderful and memorable experience.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Bhagavad Gita Jayanti: The day the universe spoke its eternal wisdom



Gita Jayanti is a very important day for Hindus. On this day, the holy book of Hindus, Bhagavad Gita was born, ie Gita Jayanti is the day when Lord Shri Krishna told the Gita to Arjuna. It is celebrated on Shukla Ekadashi on the 11th day of Margashirsha month of the Hindu calendar. The Bhagavad Gita was described by Lord Krishna himself before the Mahabharata war began. It is believed that in the Mahabharata, the seeds of the Pandavas and the Kauravas had decided to go to war even after every possible reconciliation effort.

Every year, on the bright Margashirsha Shukla Ekadashi-also celebrated as Mokshada Ekadashi-devotees across the world observe Bhagavad Gita Jayanti, the sacred day when the Gita was first revealed to humanity. It marks the moment when, on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, Lord Krishna imparted timeless wisdom to Arjuna, forever changing the course of the Mahabharata-and spiritual history itself.

This is not merely an anniversary of a scripture. It is a celebration of an inner awakening, a reminder that divine guidance is born in the very heart of human dilemmas. On Bhagavad Gita Jayanti, the world pays tribute to a text that transcends time, geography, and religion-a text that continues to illuminate the consciousness of seekers, leaders, thinkers, and ordinary individuals across millennia.

KURUKSHETRA-A BATTLEFIELD OUTSIDE AND WITHIN

The significance of Bhagavad Gita Jayanti begins with the location itself. Kurukshetra, literally meaning the field of dharma, is not just a physical battleground; it is an allegory of the human mind, where every individual struggles with confusion, doubt, desire, duty, and moral dilemmas. As the Pandava and Kaurava armies face each other, the universe seems to hold its breath. Arjuna-the greatest archer of his time-stands paralysed, not by fear but by compassion and moral conflict. The weight of having to fight his own kin, teachers, and friends overwhelms him. He asks: "How can this be right? How do I choose duty over emotion?"

In that vulnerable moment, Krishna becomes not only his charioteer but his divine guide. The Gita emerges from this crisis as a dialogue between God and man, between the eternal and the temporary, between courage and confusion. Bhagavad Gita Jayanti reminds us that spiritual wisdom often appears when we admit our helplessness and seek clarity.

A SCRIPTURE THAT EXPANDS THE HUMAN SPIRIT

The Bhagavad Gita, comprising 18 chapters and 700 verses, is one of the most profound spiritual dialogues ever recorded. It synthesises multiple streams of Indian philosophy, including:

- Samkhya (analysis of the self and universe)
- Yoga (disciplines of union)
- Vedanta (knowledge of ultimate reality)

Important information

5162nd Anniversary of the Gita
Monday, 01 December 2025

The International Geeta Festival will be held on 01 December 2025.

Yet its power lies in its accessibility. The Gita does not demand renunciation; it demands understanding.

It does not tell us to escape the world, but to awaken within it.

Krishna guides Arjuna through layers of existential questions-"Who am I?" "What is my purpose?" "How should I act?"-and offers answers that blend logic, compassion, and spiritual depth.

3 PILLARS OF THE GITA'S TEACHINGS

Karma Yoga: Path of Right Action

Krishna instructs Arjuna to perform his duty selflessly, without attachment to rewards. This is nishkama karma, action rooted in sincerity rather than expectation. It purifies the mind, reduces anxiety, and transforms work into a sacred offering.

Bhakti Yoga: The Power of Devotion

Bhakti in the Gita is not blind faith. It is an intimate surrender of ego, a deep relationship with the Divine.

Krishna declares:

"Offer Me your mind and heart, and you shall dwell in Me."

This path teaches humility, trust, and emotional resilience.

Jnana Yoga: Wisdom that Cuts Through Illusion

The Gita explains the nature of the Self (Atman) as eternal, unchanging, beyond the body and mind.

Understanding this truth dissolves fear, especially the fear of death, failure, and loss.

VISHVAROOPA DARSHAN

One of the most powerful moments of the Gita occurs in the 11th chapter, when Krishna grants Arjuna divine eyesight.

Before him unfolds the Vishwaroopa-the Cosmic Form-an infinite vision of creation, preservation, and destruction contained in a single divine presence.

It is here that Arjuna fully understands Krishna's divinity, and his surrender becomes complete.

This revelation remains one of the most spiritually charged moments in world literature.

HOW THE DAY IS CELEBRATED

Across India and the world, Bhagavad Gita Jayanti is celebrated with devotion and intellectual reflection:

- Gita Path - complete recitation of all 18 chapters. Discourses and

pravachans by spiritual masters.

- Study circles, encouraging group reading and discussion.
- Bhajans and kirtans, celebrating Krishna's message.
- Yagnas and prayers at temples and sacred sites like Kurukshetra.
- Distribution of Gita copies, especially to students and youth.
- Seva and charity, echoing the Gita's call for selflessness.

Some devotees begin a year-long practice of reading one chapter daily or weekly.

THE EVER-LIVING MESSAGE

More than 5,000 years after it was spoken, the Bhagavad Gita continues to pulse with life and light.

Its words remain as fresh as ever, offering guidance whether one is facing grief, confusion, ambition, responsibility, or spiritual longing.

On Bhagavad Gita Jayanti, we celebrate not just a scripture but a living teacher.

The Gita whispers to every seeker:

"When you find clarity within, the world outside changes."

It reminds us that the divine conversation between Krishna and Arjuna is not locked in history - it continues every moment we pause, reflect, and listen.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1**Trump plans to 'permanently pause...**

Mr. Trump added that he would end all federal benefits and subsidies to non-U.S. citizens, as well as deport any foreign national who is a security risk or "non-compatible with Western Civilization".

His angry post, which ended by wishing Americans a happy Thanksgiving, marked an escalation in the anti-migrant policies of his second term dominated by a mass deportation campaign. "These goals will be pursued with the aim of achieving a major reduction in illegal and disruptive populations," Mr. Trump said. "Only REVERSE MIGRATION can fully cure this situation," he added.

Trump to intensify scrutiny on 19 'high-risk' countries

In a statement, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said the agency has issued new guidance allowing for "negative, country-specific factors" to be considered when vetting aliens from 19 high-risk countries. These countries include Afghanistan, Myanmar, Burundi, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Laos, Libya, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Yemen. These are the same countries that were subject to a travel ban announced by Trump in a proclamation issued in June this year.

In another social media post, Mr. Trump said the official United States foreign population stands at "53 million people, most of which are on welfare, from failed nations, or from prisons, mental institutions, gangs, or drug cartels".

National Guard member Sarah...

The two members were called to the nation's capital in August as National Guard troops from multiple states responded to Trump's surge of federal law enforcement in the area.

Wolfe remained in critical condition Thursday.

Sarah Beckstrom

US Army Spc. Sarah Beckstrom, 20, was one of two members of the West Virginia National Guard shot in Washington, DC, on November 26, 2025. Hoping others could spend Thanksgiving home, Beckstrom had volunteered to work in DC over the holiday.

"She volunteered, as did many of those guardsmen and women, so other people could be home with their families, yet now their families are in hospital rooms with them while they are fighting for their lives," Attorney General Pam Bondi told Fox News on Thursday.

Beckstrom, of Summersville, West Virginia, first began her service on June 26, 2023, and was assigned to the 863rd Military Police Company, 111th Engineer Brigade, West Virginia Army National Guard.

Even before joining the military, she had "always demonstrated the strength, character, and commitment that make our school and community proud," according to Webster County High School in Upperglade, where she graduated in 2023.

Her father was next to her on Thanksgiving, facing the severity of his daughter's condition before she died, according to The New York Times.

"I'm holding her hand right now," Gary Beckstrom told the Times by phone. (With inputs from agencies)

Georgia prosecutor kills the historic...

mishandling classified documents were previously dropped.

"Given the complexity of the legal issues at hand - ranging from constitutional questions and the Supremacy Clause to immunity, jurisdiction, venue, speedy-trial concerns, and access to federal records - and even assuming each of these issues were resolved in the State's favor, bringing this case before a jury in 2029, 2030, or even 2031 would be nothing short of a remarkable feat," Peter Skandalakis, the prosecutor on the case, wrote Wednesday.

Skandalakis said that he considered severing Trump's case from his codefendants to attempt to try them first while waiting for the conclusion of Trump's second term. However, he said, doing so "would be both illogical and unduly burdensome and costly for the

State and for Fulton County."

He added: "In my professional judgment, the citizens of Georgia are not served by pursuing this case in full for another five to ten years."

The historic state racketeering charges were filed against Trump and 18 others on August 14, 2023, by Fulton County, Georgia, District Attorney Fani Willis, an elected Democrat who launched a lengthy investigation into Trump's alleged interference in the Georgia election in early 2021.

The investigation began shortly after a January phone call became public in which Trump pressured Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, a fellow Republican, to "find" the votes necessary for him to win the state in the Presidential election.

Willis was eventually removed from the case after a lengthy legal fight over her authority. When Trump won the presidency in 2024, it put the prosecution in jeopardy. Wednesday, Skandalakis, the director of the Prosecuting Attorney's Council of Georgia, issued the final order.

The case "is on life support and the decision what to do with it falls on me and me alone. But unlike family members who must make the emotional decision to withdraw loved ones from life-sustaining treatment, I have no emotional connection to this case," Skandalakis wrote.

"As a former elected official who ran as both a Democrat and a Republican and now is the Executive Director of a non-partisan agency, this decision is not guided by a desire to advance an agenda but is based on my beliefs and understanding of the law," he added.

The high-profile case peaked in dramatic fashion when Trump surrendered to an Atlanta jail for a little over 20 minutes in August 2023, where he was forced to provide his mug shot for the first time.

The case was seen as the most likely of the various criminal charges surrounding Trump to go to trial because it was a state case handled by a local Georgia prosecutor, rather than federal charges that could be pardoned.

Trump hailed the dismissal on Truth Social, calling the case an "unAmerican hoax" while repeating falsehoods about the 2020 election and calling for accountability for those who he claimed "attempted to destroy our Legal System and Nation itself."

"We have to hold responsible those who attempted to destroy our Legal System and Nation itself as they tried to use it to silence and imprison Political Opponents for protecting our Country, and exercising our FIRST AMENDMENT Rights. The few remaining Democrat Witch Hunts will soon meet the same embarrassing end. We are going to keep winning, and continue to, MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" Trump concluded.

Notably, in his filing, Skandalakis emphasized that the 2020 election results were valid and gave no credence to Trump's claims of voter fraud.

Trump's lead Georgia defense counsel Steve Sadow said in a statement the "political persecution" of Trump was "finally over."

"This case should never have been brought. A fair and impartial prosecutor has put an end to this lawfare," he said.

Same law used to target the mafia

Trump was charged alongside 18 codefendants on sweeping charges using the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, the state law commonly referred to as RICO, similar to the federal version of the statute that was famously used to target criminal enterprises like the mafia.

Beyond the president, former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows was the highest-ranking official charged, along with former Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani, who reached an agreement with two Georgia election officials this year to settle a nearly \$150 million defamation lawsuit.

Trump and his accused codefendants "joined a conspiracy to unlawfully change the outcome" of the election, prosecutors alleged in the indictment, which said they "unlawfully conspired and endeavored to conduct and participate in criminal enterprise" after Trump lost the election in Georgia.

The defendants vehemently denied any wrongdoing, some arguing they were simply trying to rectify what they believed were serious irregularities that tainted

the 2020 election results.

"The decision to dismiss all criminal charges against Mayor Rudy Giuliani is long overdue and represents a complete repudiation of the demonstrably false claims that partisan actors used to justify his improper disbarment," Giuliani spokesman Ted Goodman said Wednesday. "The integrity of our justice system cannot be fully restored until Mayor Giuliani's law license is reinstated and the hundreds of other victims of political weaponization against President Trump and his supporters receive the justice they deserve."

Four of the 19 defendants in Willis' case, including three attorneys directly involved in Trump's bid to overturn the election results in the Peach State, accepted plea deals, in some cases pleading guilty to felony charges in exchange for more lenient sentencing recommendations.

Thirty "unindicted co-conspirators" were also named in the high-profile case - a freight train that was barreling down the tracks simultaneously as Trump was campaigning for his second run at the White House.

Case stalled after Willis was removed

In early 2024, Michael Roman, a campaign official for Trump in 2020, filed a motion that eventually derailed the case, getting Willis disqualified from prosecuting the case because of a romantic relationship she had with Nathan Wade, the special prosecutor she hired to help in the investigation.

The defendants argued that Willis financially benefited from the relationship with Wade, who defense attorneys say covered several vacations for the pair.

In March 2024, after Willis' dramatic televised testimony put her personal life in the spotlight, Superior Court of Fulton County Judge Scott McAfee found that there was not enough evidence to firmly prove that Willis financially benefited from the relationship, and allowed Willis to continue to helm the case if Wade stepped down, which he later did.

However, the legal proceedings against Trump and several codefendants were officially paused in June 2024 when a Georgia appeals court reviewed potential misconduct by Willis.

In December 2024, the appeals court officially disqualified Willis over her romantic relationship with the special prosecutor.

Then the final dagger for Willis came in September, when The Georgia Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal from the Fulton County district attorney on her removal. (Source: CNN)

CONTD FROM PAGE 14**Massive Somali Welfare-Fraud Cases in...**

The article cites "federal counterterrorism sources," and said, "As one confidential source put it: 'The largest funder of [Al-Shabab] is the Minnesota taxpayer.'"

In the article, Glenn Kerns, a retired Seattle police detective who worked 14 years on a federal terrorism task force, said a Somali money network runs from Seattle to Minneapolis.

Investigators noted a pattern: Somalis sending money to their native land were all U.S. welfare recipients, Kern said; people told law enforcement that they believed the money was reaped from welfare fraud before being sent overseas. Regardless of whether the money was intended for Al-Shabab, that terrorist group was taking a cut from it, the article said.

ACTIONS TAKEN AND REQUESTED

In the wake of those revelations, President Donald Trump on Nov. 21 halted temporary protected status-a deportation shield-for Somali immigrants in Minnesota. A Somali-born congresswoman, Rep. Ihan Omar (D-Minn.), Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, and other Democrats criticized Trump's action. The state's attorney general, Keith Ellison, questioned the legality of the president's move and said he was considering what options he might pursue in response.

Omar, along with other Somalis, gathered to protest Trump's order at the State Capitol Rotunda on Nov. 24.

Republican delegations in Minnesota and in Congress called upon the new U.S. Attorney for Minnesota, Daniel Rosen, to see whether the stolen welfare money could have gone to foreign terrorists.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

High in the trans-Himalayan fold of Himachal Pradesh lies Spiti, a stark, breathtaking valley often described as "Little Tibet of India." Remote, rugged, and dramatically beautiful, Spiti is not just a destination; it is a journey into a landscape shaped by glaciers, ancient monasteries, moonlike mountains, and a culture preserved in timeless stillness. For travelers seeking solitude, adventure, and spirituality, Spiti offers an experience like nowhere else. Separated from fertile Lahaul by the soaring 4551m Kunzum Pass, the trans-Himalayan region of Spiti is another chunk of Tibet marooned within India, a kind of 'mini-Ladakh' with fewer tourists. The scattered villages in this serrated moonscape arrive like mirages while the turquoise-grey ribbon of the Spiti River is your near-constant companion, albeit sometimes way below in precipitous gorges.

The whole Spiti-Kinnaur loop is scenically spectacular, attracting hordes of summer motorcyclists completing one of India's great road trips.

LHALUNG MONASTERY

Also known as the Golden Temple, Lhalung Monastery is situated in Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. It also holds the distinction of being one of the earliest monasteries to be founded in Himachal Pradesh. The temple was founded by the great Rinchen Zangpo, who ruled the western Himalayan kingdoms of Zaskar, Guge, Spiti and Kinnaur during the late tenth century.

The temple is believed to have been constructed overnight by the gods after Lotsava Rinchen Zangpo planted a willow tree here, promising that if it lived through the year, a temple would be built next to it. The tree still stands outside the Gumpa to this day.

The area was formerly a complex of nine shrines enclosed within a dilapidated wall with the main chapel richly decorated. The monastery is considered an ancient centre of learning and debate.

UDAIPUR OF HIMACHAL

Renowned for the ancient Marikula Mata Temple, the picturesque hamlet of Udaipur is located on the banks of Chandrabhaga River in Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. The pilgrimage site is considered holy by both Hindus and Buddhists.

Located at an altitude of 2,743 meters, Udaipur is 53 km to the north of Keylong. It was known as Markul in olden times because of the temple dedicated to Markula Devi, an incarnation of Goddess Durga. In 1695 AD, it was renamed as Udaipur in honour of King Udai Singh of Chamba. King Udai Singh became very popular after he elevated Udaipur to the status of a district centre.

Udaipur along with Trilokinath temple forms the two important pilgrimages in Lahaul and Spiti district. The temples are held in high regard by both Hindus and Buddhists. Both the places of worship are located on either side of the Chandrabhaga river.

KEY MONASTERY

The biggest centre of Buddhist learning in Spiti Valley, Key Monastery is over 1000-

Spiti: The cold desert where silence speaks and the mountains listen



year-old. It is the oldest training centre for Lamas. It is located at a height of 13,668 feet above mean sea level in Lahaul Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh in north India.

Founded by Dromton, a famous disciple of teacher Atisha in the 11th century, the monastery used to house about 350 lamas at one time. The number of inmates at the monastery has come down. The monastery is famous for its architecture called Pasada style. Pasada style is characterised by two or more stories and often plays the role of a fort-monastery. The monastery is spread over three floors – underground, ground and first floor. Underground is mainly utilized for storage; ground floor is used as assembly hall, called Du-Khang. The ground floor also has small rooms for monks.

LOSSAR

Lossar is the first village while entering in Spiti Valley from Kunzum Pass. Situated at high altitude near Spiti River it comes under the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh in north India.

The landscape and culture is quite similar to Tibet. People also dress up in Tibetan style and Buddhism culture is more prominent in Lossar. The Spiti region is also known as 'Little Tibet' as the culture here is almost the same.

Spiti river, large spread meadows and surrounding glacial mountain range collectively gives Lossar a beautiful scenic location. It is for this reason trekking and jeep safari quite popular in Lossar. It is starting point for trek route to Chandra Tal.

PIN VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Situated in the cold desert area of Lahaul and Spiti district in Himachal Pradesh, Pin Valley National Park is home for more than 20 species of animals and birds, including the endangered Snow leopard.



Constituted as a wildlife park in 1987, Pin Valley is located at altitude ranging from 11,500 feet to 20,000 feet in Spiti division of the district. Pin River flows through the base of the valley.

The park's core zone is stretched over 675 sq km and the buffer zone extends over 1150 sq km. Foreign nationals are not allowed inside the park. Indians have to take permit to enter the park.

Snow leopard is the most important resident of the park. There are about 12 of the big cat in the park. Besides snow leopard, Siberian ibex, bharal, weasel, red fox, marten are other animals that are the highlight of the park. It is home to birds like pika, snow cock, bearded vulture, chukor, golden eagle, griffon, Himalayan chough and raven.

History This Week

NOV 28 - DEC 04

NOVEMBER 28



November 28, 1919 - Lady Nancy Astor was elected as the first female in the British House of Commons.

November 28, 1934 - FBI agents killed bank robber George "Baby Face" Nelson near Barrington, Illinois.

November 28, 1942 - Fire erupted inside the Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston killing nearly 500 persons who had become trapped inside.

November 28, 1943 - The Teheran Conference began, attended by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Josef Stalin. Among the major topics discussed, a second front in Western Europe, resulting in D-Day, the seaborne invasion of Normandy in northern France on June 6, 1944.

Birthdays - British artist and poet William Blake (1757-1827) was born in London. Best known for Songs of Innocence examining life through the eyes of children and Songs of Experience exploring adult viewpoints of the world.

Birthdays - British cleric John Bunyan (1628-1688) was born in Elstow, Bedfordshire. He wrote A Pilgrim's Progress, a religious allegory of the human soul.

Birthdays - German socialist Friedrich Engels (1820-1895) was born in Barmen, Wuppertal, Germany. He was an associate of Karl Marx and edited the second and third volumes of Marx's Das Kapital.

NOVEMBER 29

November 29, 1929 - American explorer Richard Byrd and Bernt Balchen completed the first airplane flight to the South Pole.

November 29, 1947 - Palestine was partitioned into Jewish and Arab land by the U.N. General Assembly, resulting in the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel the following year.

November 29, 1989 - Forty-one years of Communist rule came to an end in Czechoslovakia following a twelve day revolution sparked by the beating of protesters. The Czech parliament voted unanimously to repeal constitutional clauses granting the Communist Party sole power. This brought a wave of reform headed by playwright Vaclav Havel, who later became president in the first free elections since World War II.

Birthdays - Little Women author Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Birthdays - Nellie Tayloe Ross (1876-1977) was born in St. Joseph, Missouri.

She became America's first female governor, finishing her husband's term as governor of Wyoming after his death. She was elected governor in 1924, but lost the 1927 election. She also served as vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee and was named director of the U.S. Mint by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.



Birthdays - Hollywood director Busby Berkeley (1895-1976) was born in Los Angeles (as William Berkeley Enos). After serving in World War I as an entertainment officer, he changed his name and began his show business career. Best known for lavish musicals including Forty-Second Street, Gold Diggers of 1933, Babes in Arms, Strike Up the Band, and Girl Crazy.

Birthdays - British author C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) was born in Belfast, Ireland (as Clive Staples Lewis). He wrote books on Christian teachings including The Pilgrim's Regress, The Problem of Pain, Miracles, and The Screwtape Letters.

NOVEMBER 30

November 30, 1939 - Finland was invaded by more than 20 Russian divisions in the Winter War.



November 30, 1995 - Bill Clinton became the first American president to visit Northern Ireland.

Birthdays - American author Samuel Clemens (1835-1910) was born in Florida, Missouri. He wrote books under the pen name Mark Twain including The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, and The Prince and the Pauper.

Birthdays - Winston Churchill (1874-1965) was born in Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, England. Before World War II, he held a number of high level political offices in Britain including First Lord of the Admiralty. In May 1940, he became Prime Minister, stating, "I have nothing to offer but blood, tears,

toil, and sweat." His inspirational speeches, combined with his political skills and military strategy carried Britain through the war, and helped the Allies overcome the Nazi onslaught and defeat Hitler.

Birthdays - 1960's political activist Abbie Hoffman (1936-1989) was born in Worcester, Massachusetts. He leapt to fame as a member of the Chicago Seven, a group of young radicals accused of conspiring to disrupt the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

DECEMBER 1

December 1, 1925 - The Locarno Treaties were signed by France, Belgium and Germany, as a preventative measure to avoid another war, in the aftermath of World War I. Terms of the Locarno Pact were guaranteed by Britain and Italy.

December 1, 1941 - The American Civil Air Patrol (CAP), a U.S. Air Force auxiliary, was founded as Director of Civilian Defense, former New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, signed the formal order. The CAP currently provides aerospace education, a CAP cadet program, and emergency services such as locating missing aircraft.

December 1, 1942 - The Beveridge Report was published in Britain envisioning the welfare state including insurance for the entire population.

December 1, 1955 - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.



December 1, 1988 - Benazir Bhutto was nominated to become prime minister of Pakistan, the first woman to govern a Muslim nation.

December 1, 1989 - Mikhail Gorbachev became the first Soviet Russian leader to visit the Vatican and meet the Pope, thus ending 72 years of strict atheist policy in Communist Russia.

December 1, 1990 - England was connected to mainland Europe for the first time since the Ice Age as engineers digging a railway tunnel under the English Channel broke through the last rock layer.

December 1, 1994 - The head of the U.N. Commission on Rwanda estimated 500,000 deaths had resulted from genocide.

DECEMBER 2

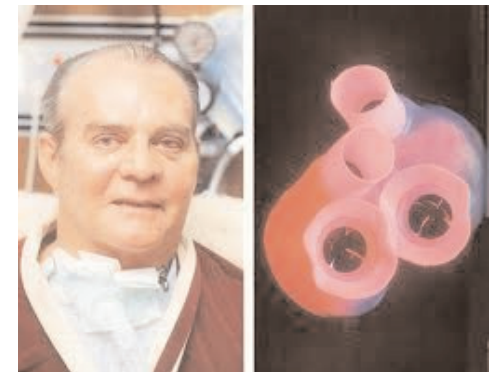
December 2, 1942 - Physicists led by Enrico Fermi carried out the world's

first successful nuclear chain reaction at the University of Chicago.

December 2, 1954 - The U.S. Senate condemned Senator Joseph McCarthy for misconduct following his ruthless investigations of thousands of alleged Communists.

December 2, 1971 - The United Arab Emirates was formed, consisting of seven Arab kingdoms on the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula including the former Trucial states Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al Qaiwain and Fujairah. Ras al-Khaimah became a member in 1972. The area has some of the world's largest reserves of petroleum and natural gas.

December 2, 1979 - Electors in Iran voted overwhelmingly in favor of a new constitution granting absolute power to Ayatollah Khomeini.



December 2, 1982 - The first permanent artificial heart was implanted in 61-year-old Barney C. Clark by Dr. William De Vries at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City. Clark, who was near death at the time of the operation, survived 112 days after the implantation.

DECEMBER 3

December 3, 1962 - Edith Sampson was sworn in as the first African American female judge, after she was elected associate judge of the Municipal Court in Chicago.

December 3, 1967 - The first successful heart transplant was performed by Dr. Christiaan Barnard at Cape Town, South Africa, on Louis Washkansky, who lived for 18 days.

December 3, 1984 - A deadly gas leak (of methyl isocyanate) at a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India, killed at least 3,000 persons and injured more than 200,000.

December 3, 1993 - Britain's Princess Diana announced she was stepping out of the public spotlight, desiring more privacy amid unyielding attention from the tabloid press and 'paparazzi.'

DECEMBER 4

December 4, 1791 - The Observer, now the oldest Sunday newspaper in the world, was first published in Britain.

December 4, 1829 - The British banned the practice of "suttee" in India in which Indian females traditionally burned themselves to death on their husband's funeral pyre.

December 4, 1918 - The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was proclaimed.

December 4, 1943 - During World War II, the second Cairo Conference took place, attended by Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt and President Inonu of Turkey.

December 4, 1991 - The last American hostage held in Lebanon was released. Journalist Terry Anderson of the Associated Press had been kidnapped.

Loss against SA: Selectors might be tempted to look at senior domestic stars

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Specialists could be back in vogue in Indian Test cricket after the series whitewash against South Africa as the Ajit Agarkar-led selection panel recalibrates its approach towards crucial positions like the number three slot in the batting line-up.

The spot, which was sealed by the likes of Rahul Dravid and Cheteshwar Pujara for a better part of the last three decades, is now up for grabs.

Karun Nair couldn't clinch it in England despite being given four Tests and B Sai Sudharsan, with an average 27 across 11 innings, has shown that he is still very much a work in progress.

There are a lot of technical issues in his game, especially on the spin-friendly sub-continental tracks, and he needs time in domestic cricket and time with pathways team (India A) to get ready for Tests.

Test cricket isn't a place to correct elementary mistakes when stakes are very high and India have been learning this again and again in the most painful way possible.

There is a strong possibility that the selection committee will now seriously consider some of the seasoned domestic names to lend some solidity to the line-up going forward.

While doors are mostly shut on Sarfaraz Khan and Abhimanyu Easwaran, three battle-hardened domestic veterans Rituraj Gaikwad, Rajat Patidar and Rinku Singh could keep the team management interested going forward.

Among the new crop of red-ball players Smaran Ravichandran (first-class average 78) and Yash Rathod (960 runs last Ranji season) have prolific numbers as middle-order batters.

"People might blame Ajit and his committee for not selecting Abhimanyu and Sarfaraz but then do the head coach (Gautam Gambhir) and new captain (Shubman Gill) have faith in their abilities? If not what will Ajit alone do?" asked a former selector, familiar with how the system works, when PTI reached out for a comment. But possibly time has come to once again go back to the drawing board and bank on specialists rather than placing faith in non-existent all-rounders.

"Let's be clear on one thing, Kapil Dev was the last world-class all-rounder and the last competent Test level all-rounder was Manoj Prabhakar, who could open batting and bowling.

"In case of Hardik (Pandya), his body didn't permit (him to



carry on)," the former selector said.

"But Nitish Reddy is a bits and pieces guy. He can play at best T20s not even ODIs and Gautam needs to understand that," he added. Reddy's batting average in 10 Tests is 26, largely due to that hundred in Australia, and he has bowled only 86 overs in 15 innings, which is not even six overs on an average.

The stats indicate that Reddy isn't even proficient in one of the two departments.

Those in Delhi cricket, who have seen Gambhir operate, know about his fascination for all-rounders.

"When Gauti was Delhi captain, he liked the idea of all-rounders more than the actual all-rounders. Remember Manan Sharma? He was more of a left-arm spinner but Gauti made him bat No.3 for sometime before he was dumped for good," a former Delhi teammate recalled.

At this point, the need of the hour for the Test team is a proper, tough number three and a reserve number five, who will give the team some solidity as and when required.

Rituraj Gaikwad is believed to be the player, who can be a stable number three with an average of 45-plus in 43 first-class games. He has already scored two hundreds and a 90-plus in Ranji Trophy this season, is a reasonably successful IPL captain, already played for India and looks like a man with the right mindset.

Ahmedabad to host 2030 Commonwealth Games

With the Commonwealth Sport's General Assembly in Glasgow on Nov 26 formally confirming Ahmedabad as the venue of the 2030 Commonwealth Games, India is likely to push for the inclusion of yoga as a medal sport at the centenary edition.

Indian officials said they were "well-prepared" to deliver a controversy-free Games, unlike the 2010 edition in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a post on X, said: "Delighted that India has won the bid to host the Centenary Commonwealth Games 2030. Congratulations to the people of India and the sporting ecosystem. It is our collective commitment and spirit of sportsmanship that has placed India firmly on the global sporting map... We look forward to welcoming the world".

India would "prefer" that the event be held in October 2030, Ashwini Kumar, principal secretary, Gujarat government, said, adding that the exact dates would be worked out closely with Commonwealth Sport. As the host, India can propose up to two new or traditional sports. An official from the Indian delegation said one of the sports identified is yoga.

Yoga will make its debut as a demonstration sport at the 2026 Asian Games and is vying to become a medal event at the 2030 Asiad. "Yoga has been a symbol of India's soft power. At a time when we are making a strong pitch to include the sport in multi-sport events across the world, it is important that we showcase it at the CWG, which will be held on home soil," the official said.

WPL Auction: Deepti Sharma costliest buy at Rs 3.2 cr by UP Warriorz

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's World Cup-winning allrounder Deepti Sharma finished as the highest paid player at the WPL 2026 Mega Auction, returning to UP Warriorz for INR 3.2 crore through the RTM card after Delhi Capitals made the only opening bid at her base price. The deal made her the joint second-most expensive signing in WPL Auction history. Amelia Kerr was the next big buy of the day, with Mumbai Indians spending over 52% of their purse to buy her at INR 3 crore. Shikha Pandey also enjoyed a big payday, joining UP Warriorz for INR 2.4 crore after a long bidding war with Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Other individuals with paychecks of one crore or more included Sophie Devine (INR 2 crore to Gujarat Giants), Meg Lanning (INR 1.9 crore to UPW), Phoebe Litchfield (INR 1.2 crore to UPW), Asha Sobhana (INR 1.1 crore to UPW), Laura Wolvaardt (INR 1.1 crore to DC), and DC's allrounder pair of Sree Charani and Chinelle Henry, both at INR 1.3 crore. Georgia Wareham rounded off that group with a INR 1 crore deal at GG.

A total of 67 players were sold at the mega auction, including 23 overseas players, with teams spending INR 40.8 crore overall.

There were no bids for the likes of Alyssa Healy, Heather Knight, Amy Jones, Alana King, Heather Graham, Uma Chetry and Marufa Akhter.



UPW, coming in with the biggest purse and four RTM cards, expectedly controlled the key moments across the day. They used RTMs to bring back Deepti at a record bid and Sophie Ecclestone at a steal price of INR 85 lakh after DC briefly held the bid. They then outbid DC for Lanning at INR 1.9 crore, before staving off

competing bids to add Litchfield at INR 1.2 crore and legspinner Asha Sobhana at INR 1.1 crore to their squad. They used their remaining couple of RTMs to bring back Kiran Navgire for INR 60 lakh (outbidding RCB) and pacer Kranti Gaud for INR 50 lakh (outbidding DC). Later in the accelerated phases, UPW added Chloe Tryon at INR 30 lakh and USA pacer Tara Norris at INR 10 lakh among others.

MI's decision to go up to INR 3 crore for Kerr, having already retained five players, left them with limited room later on, but they still managed to bring back Shabnim Ismail for INR 60 lakh.

DC opened strongly by signing Wolvaardt for INR 1.1 crore and then pushed hard for Lanning, Deepti and Ecclestone, only to be beaten each time by UPW's RTMs and higher bids. But they managed to redeem their day with two quality allrounders in Sree Charani and Chinelle Henry, both at INR 1.3 crore, Sneha Rana at INR 50 lakh and lastly Lizelle Lee for INR 30 lakh at the back end of the auction.

GG landed Sophie Devine for INR 2 crore after a long three-way contest with RCB and DC. They also secured Renuka Singh for INR 60 lakh and Titas Sadhu for INR 30 lakh. GG used RTMs to keep Bharti Fulmali at INR 70 lakh and Kashvee Gautam at INR 65 lakh, then brought back Kim Garth for INR 50 lakh. Later in the day, they added Georgia Wareham for INR 1 crore, along with wicketkeeper Yastika Bhatia for INR 50 lakh.



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combating avoidable blindness in children.

On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion.

Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute to be constructed 2024



In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated and Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

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