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INDIAN



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The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a special edition to commemorate the 350th Martyrdom Day of the Ninth Master of the Sikhs, Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji, which falls on November 24



Please email to salujaindra@gmail.com your articles and advertisements for the special edition by November 17, 2025. For any questions, please email or call 646 247 9458.

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Indian-origin Zohran Mamdani scripts history, first South Asian to be New York mayor

The 34-year-old Democratic Socialist quotes the first PM of India from his famous "Tryst with Destiny" speech of 1947 to reflect his own agenda of revitalization, equality and tackling corruption



Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani (R) and his wife Rama Duwaji react to supporters during an election night watch party, on Tuesday, November 4, in New York. -Credit: AP/ PTI

NOVEMBER 5, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): "A moment comes but rarely in history," said New York's winning mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani, as he addressed a few thousand core campaign volunteers at the Brooklyn Paramount Theater in New York last night, "when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation long suppressed finds utterance."

"Tonight," he added, now rephrasing Jawaharlal Nehru, "we have stepped out from the old into the new." Zohran's words echoed through the room, resonating deeply and touching upon the various aspects of one's being - migration, belonging and freedom. His parents, the Punjabi filmmaker of Indian origin, Mira Nair, and the noted

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Nassau County Elections: Republicans Make a Clean Sweep



Winners - Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and District Attorney Anne Donnelly, and Challengers County Legislator Seth Koslow and Nicole Aloise

NOVEMBER 5, 2025

MINEOLA, N.Y. (TIP): Republican candidates scored a decisive victory across Nassau County on Nov. 4, delivering what local party leaders called a mandate to continue the GOP's law-and-order and tax- restraint agenda on Long Island. With all 1,097 precincts reporting, the GOP swept the countywide contests - most prominently re-electing incumbent County Executive Bruce Blakeman and returning Anne Donnelly to the District Attorney's office - while holding other countywide posts and key town offices.

Blakeman - who campaigned on public safety, fiscal restraint and opposition to sanctuary policies - declared victory late Tuesday, November 4, as returns showed him with a clear margin over Democratic challenger and County Legislator Seth Koslow. The Nassau County Board of Elections' unofficial tally put Blakeman ahead by roughly 55.8% to 44.2%, a result that preserves Republican control of the executive seat Blakeman first won in 2021. "It's an honor to keep serving the people of this county," Blakeman told supporters at his

CONTD ON PAGE 36

'PM Modi a great man': Trump says he 'could' visit India next year

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Donald Trump has said he could travel to India next year and noted that talks with India are "going good".

"It's great, going good. He (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) stopped... Largely he stopped buying oil from Russia," Trump said at the Oval Office in response to a question on how talks with Modi and trade discussions with India are progressing.

"He's a friend of mine, and we speak... He wants me to go there. We'll figure that out. I'll go. I had a great trip there with Prime Minister Modi, he's a great man. And I'll be going," Trump said.

When asked if he is planning to go to India next year, Trump said, "It could be, yeah."

India will host leaders from Australia, Japan, and the United States for the Quad summit in New Delhi after the 2024 summit was held in Wilmington, Delaware.

However, the dates for the summit in



PM Narendra Modi with US President Donald Trump at the White House -File Photo/ PTI

India are yet to be announced.

In his remarks before the press, Trump reiterated his claim that he stopped the war between India and Pakistan in May using trade.

"Of the eight wars I ended, I would say five or six were ended because of tariffs. I'll give you an example. If you take a look at India and Pakistan, they started to fight, they are two nuclear nations... They were shooting each other. Eight planes were shot down. It was seven.

CONTD ON PAGE 36

Trump's advice to Mamdani after stunning NYC win: "He should be nice to me"



New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani and US President Donald Trump.

NOVEMBER 5, 2025

MIAMI, FL (TIP): US President Donald Trump has termed New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani's victory speech on election night a "very angry" address, saying he is off to a bad start and doesn't have a chance of succeeding if he is not respectful of Washington.

CONTD ON PAGE 36



Andy Singh

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COMMENT

Time to Stop Rhetoric and Start Action

By Indrajit Saluja



The 2025 New York City mayoral election will go down in the annals of the city's political history as one of the most remarkable - not merely for its result, but for the message it conveys about the evolving identity of New York and, indeed, of America itself.

For the first time in history, New York City has elected a Muslim, Indian-origin, Social Democrat, and the youngest mayor ever at 34 - Mr. Zohran Mamdani. His victory, with 51 percent of the vote against Andrew Cuomo's 41 percent, signals a generational and ideological shift in the political consciousness of the city. This was an election that drew the highest voter turnout in five decades, with youth participation surging to unprecedented levels.

Despite fierce opposition, including overt attempts by President Donald J. Trump to delegitimize Mamdani's candidacy and warn of dire consequences if he were elected, the people of New York exercised their right to choose - emphatically, decisively, and democratically.

THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN

Mr. Mamdani's victory speech was both emotional and visionary. "This city belongs to all who build it, clean it, teach in it, and dream in it," he declared to thunderous applause in Queens. Indeed, New York's choice of Mamdani is a reaffirmation of America's enduring faith in democracy, pluralism, and inclusivity - the very principles enshrined in the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution, which promises to "establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty."

It is worth recalling the words of President Abraham Lincoln, who said, "The ballot is stronger than the bullet." The voters of New York have, by their ballot, chosen a new direction for their city - a direction that calls for social justice, economic reform, and fairness.

THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

However, as the saying goes, winning an election is one thing; governing after it is another.

In an earlier editorial (See the June 28th edition of The Indian Panorama - <https://www.theindianpanorama.news/opinion/comments/zohran-mamdani-stunning-victory-in-nyc-mayoral-primary-a-tale-of-promises-populism-and-political-miscalculation/>), we had raised valid questions about how Mr. Mamdani planned to fund his ambitious promises - free transportation, free baby-sitting, rent stabilization, and wage increases - all of which appeal strongly to working-class and middle-income New Yorkers. We had asked for clarity on his resource mobilization plans. Unfortunately, there was no response from his campaign then.

Now that he is Mayor, rhetoric must give way to reality. It is time for Mr.



Mamdani promises 'new era of leadership' in his victory speech

Mamdani to move from the poetry of campaigning to the prose of governing.

TRUMP'S THREAT AND THE FEDERAL FACTOR

Among the immediate challenges Mamdani faces is political hostility from Washington. President Trump, now in his second term, has already hinted at withholding federal grants from New York City as a form of punishment for electing Mamdani - a move both dangerous and undemocratic.

Let us be clear: any such action by the President would amount to punishing the citizens of New York for exercising their constitutional right to vote. It would be an affront to the sovereignty of the people, violating the very oath the President takes under Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution: "to faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The Constitution does not give the President power to discriminate between states or cities based on political leanings. The Tenth Amendment preserves the rights of states and municipalities in managing their own affairs. For a President to interfere in city-level governance out of political spite is not only unprincipled but deeply unethical.

Moreover, such interference demeans the dignity of the Presidency. As Theodore Roosevelt once said, "The Presidency is not an office to be used for the gratification of personal ambition." The people's mandate must be respected - whether or not one agrees with it politically.

CALL FOR COOPERATION

The politicians who opposed Mamdani during the campaign must now put aside partisanship and work with him in the larger interest of New York City. Democracy demands magnanimity in victory and grace in defeat. It is time to close ranks, not deepen divides.

Mamdani's success or failure will not

be his alone - it will be New York's. The city's economic revival, infrastructure renewal, and social cohesion depend on cooperation between the Mayor's office, City Council, State government, and the federal administration.

As John F. Kennedy once reminded Americans, "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer." That wisdom must guide New York's leaders today.

MAYOR FOR ALL NEW YORKERS

For Mr. Mamdani himself, the challenge is to prove that he is not merely a symbol of representation, but a servant of all New Yorkers. He must lead as a Mayor for every community - white, Black, Latino, Asian, Arab, Jewish, Sikh, Christian, Hindu, and Muslim alike.

While he may rightly feel pride in being the first Muslim to lead America's largest city, he must also remember that he is not the Mayor of Muslims, but the Mayor of New York City - a city whose greatness lies in its diversity and secular spirit.

He must ensure that no group feels alienated or excluded. His leadership should echo the words of George Washington, who in his 1790 letter to the Touro Synagogue wrote: "The Government of the United States gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."

GOVERNANCE AND THE ROAD AHEAD

Mr. Mamdani's policy platform is ambitious, even audacious. Free transportation, free baby-sitting, rent stabilization, and wage increases are noble goals - but they will require robust fiscal management.

New York's infrastructure is visibly struggling. Roads and bridges need urgent repair. The subway system, once the pride of the city, now suffers chronic delays, equipment breakdowns, and safety concerns. Sanitation and public cleanliness remain subpar for a global metropolis that aspires to world-class status.

To realize his promises, Mamdani must first fix the fundamentals - efficiency, accountability, and transparency in governance. One possible step is to trim the city's top-heavy bureaucracy, where layers of management often stifle decision-making. Redirecting funds from administrative excess to essential services could help balance the books.

Yet, Mamdani must also learn an old truth of economics: charity cannot cure poverty. Sustainable prosperity requires employment, not entitlement. The new Mayor would do well to focus on job creation, reviving small businesses, and supporting local entrepreneurship - the very backbone of New York's economy.

While social welfare has its place, it should be a safety net, not a permanent cushion. Handouts may provide temporary relief, but opportunity provides dignity. The people of New York deserve both compassion and competence from their leaders.

CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION

The Mayor should convene roundtable consultations with business leaders, labor unions, educators, transit experts, housing advocates, and community representatives to design practical solutions. Governance is not a solo act; it's a symphony of stakeholders.

As we wrote before the election, the real test of leadership lies not in making promises, but in keeping them. The time has come for Mr. Mamdani to translate his ideals into policies, and his policies into measurable outcomes.

Beyond the politics, Mamdani's victory carries a profound symbolic weight. It tells every child of immigrant parents, every Muslim, every South Asian American that the American Dream - though battered and bruised - still breathes.

In a time of deep polarization, his election reminds us that democracy remains capable of renewal. The Founding Fathers, in their wisdom, created a republic flexible enough to evolve with its people. As Thomas Jefferson said, "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

The youth of New York participated - and they changed history.

Mr. Mamdani now carries the hopes of millions - those who voted for him and those who did not. His success will depend on his ability to unite, to listen, and to deliver. The city's problems are immense, but so are its possibilities.

As the world watches this young, first-of-his-kind Mayor step into City Hall, the message from the voters is clear: Enough talk. It's time for action.

We wish Mayor Zohran Mamdani a tenure marked by integrity, innovation, and inclusivity - one that truly serves the people of New York, honors their trust, and justifies their faith in democracy.

GOPIO hosts a reception for BJP stalwart Meenakshi Lekhi



GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, President Prakash Shah, Life Member Ashok Bhatt, and other GOPIO members, presenting to Ms Lekhi two designs of First Day Covers released by the US Postal Service at the First Global Convention of People of Indian Origin held in New York in 1989



The gathered guests with Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

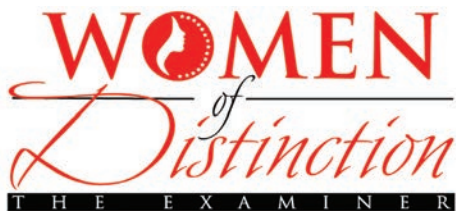
NEW YORK CITY (TIP): GOPIO International and its chapters in the New York area organized a Meet and Greet event with Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, MP, former Minister of State for

External Affairs and Culture of India, currently a Member of Parliament from New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency. It was attended by GOPIO members, chapter officials, community leaders and media representatives. It was

hosted by GOPIO Life Member Ashok Bhatt at his new hotel Lexington Plaza in Manhattan. GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham and Prakash Shah spoke on GOPIO's mission and its activities. Ms Lekhi spoke on the importance of the Diaspora contributing to the STEM area in the

Western countries and answered many questions from the audience. GOPIO presented her with a collector's item, two designs of First Day Covers released by the US Postal Service at the First Global Convention of People of Indian Origin held in New York in 1989.

Prominent community leader Shashi Malik honored with Women of Distinction Award



NEW YORK (TIP): The Annual Women of Distinction Awards Banquet began in 2016 to celebrate the important role of women and their contributions to the communities.

at the September 25, 2025 awards ceremony with detailed biographies featured in the annual Women of Distinction publication, published by The Examiner.

IALI President Shashi Malik was among the 2025 honorees.

Shashi Malik is a businesswoman and she manages her own IT Software Company, SD Services Inc. She has a Master of Arts degree and she is a Senior System professional with experience in



Shashi Malik being honored by NY State Senate

The annual awards are bestowed on the most distinctive women representing business, government, education, community and not-for-profit areas. These amazing women were recognized

all aspects of Information Technology over the past 30 years. Her past assignments were as Chief Information Officer (CIO), Vice President, Director and Manager for several Fortune 1000



Shashi Malik is being honored in Nassau County.

companies.

She is actively involved in the Indian community providing volunteer services to several non-profit organizations, India Association of Long Island (IALI), Association of Indians in America (AIA), India Day Parade (IDP), Indian American Forum (IAF), Vegetarian Vision, Gift of Life USA, Rotary Club of Hicksville South, Suffolk County Coalition against Domestic Violence (SCCADV), RotaCare NY - Free Health Care for People in Need, Mary Brennan INN Soup Kitchen, United Methodist Church, India Vision Foundation G30 and Arya Samaj of Long Island (ASLI). Founder of Seva center for Humanity (SCH), She believes that helping our society should be one's life goal.

Member of "United Way Community

Impact Council" and member of Long Island Hate and Bias Prevention Regional Council for bringing awareness, preventing hate and bias incidents in NY state.

In 2013, she also received from President Barack Obama - "The President's Volunteer Service Award" for her excellent volunteer service to the community.

Shashi has a master's degree and worked in the Indian Army prior to coming to the USA. She Co- Authored a book on Cross System Product (CSP) - A developer's guide which was published by McGraw Hill.

For her personal life she is married, has 4 children and is a long-time resident of Wantagh, Nassau County NY.

Canada's student visa crackdown: India's rejection rate soars to 74% in August 2025

India, historically Canada's largest source of international students, now has the highest refusal rate among major applicant countries

NOVEMBER 4, 2025

TORONTO (TIP): Canada has intensified crackdown on student visa fraud and temporary migration has led to a dramatic decline in Indian study permit approvals and a drop in enrolment at major universities, while both governments signal a desire to restore normal relations amid ongoing scrutiny and new immigration controls

74% of Indian study permit applications were rejected in August 2025, up from 32% in August 2023, according to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) data cited by Reuters.

Overall rejection rate: 40% of all applications.

China's rejection rate: 24%.

Sharp drop in Indian applications

Number of Indian applicants fell from 20,900 (Aug 2023) to 4,515 (Aug 2025).

India, historically Canada's largest source of international students, now has the highest refusal rate among major applicant countries.

FRAUD AND VERIFICATION CONCERNS

In 2023, authorities found 1,550 fraudulent study permit applications, mostly from India.

In 2024, enhanced verification flagged over 14,000 potentially fake documents.



Canada's crackdown on student visas hits Indian applicants hard -Photo: iStock

Canada has tightened verification and raised financial proof requirements for applicants.

Government and diplomatic context

The restrictions follow diplomatic tensions between Canada and India after Trudeau's 2023 allegations about India's

involvement in a killing in British Columbia-claims India denied.

Ottawa has proposed new powers to cancel groups of temporary visas over fraud concerns (Bill C-12).

India and Bangladesh were described as "country-specific challenges" in

internal documents.

IMPACT ON UNIVERSITIES

University of Waterloo: Indian student enrolment down two-thirds in 3-4 years.

Similar declines reported at University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan.

Universities say visa caps and scrutiny have changed campus diversity.

REACTIONS

Indian Embassy (Ottawa): Acknowledged high rejections, but emphasized Indian students' quality.

Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand said Canada still wants Indian students, but must protect system integrity.

Consultants: Applicants now must prove financial and academic credibility in greater detail.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Diplomatic thaw: PM Narendra Modi's June 2025 visit to Canada and new high commissioners appointed in both countries.

Processing delays: TRV (Temporary Resident Visa) times increased from 30 to 54 days; approvals fell from 63,000 (Jan 2024) to 48,000 (June 2024).

NRIs in Canada welcome move to issue life certificates at consulate camps

Banks yet to ascertain proper guidelines for uploading document



NRI pensioners at a camp for the issuance of life certificates by the Indian Consulate in Manitoba.

NOVEMBER 4, 2025

TORONTO / LUDHIANA (TIP): NRI pensioner, settled in various provinces of Canada, are upbeat that Indian Consulates have started issuing life certificates at public utility camps that are being felicitated by Indian community groups.

However, authorities concerned at the paying branches of various commercial banks are yet to ascertain the proper procedure for uploading these certificates sent by pensioners through post, personally or online. Pensioners organizations, on the other hand, have urged Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and Ministry of Finance to coordinate with each other on the subject and ensure that no

inconvenience or harassment is caused to beneficiaries.

All Banks Retirees Forum president KK Bansal appreciated that the Union Government has initiated a process for issuing life certificates to NRIs settled abroad to enable them to get their pension at the paying branch of the Bank in India.

"However, pensioners who have settled abroad or are visiting foreign countries in November are asking us for the procedure of updating life certificates," said Bansal, admitting that the actual process for uploading was yet to start in the region.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Sikh Museum Initiative marks 10 years of heritage and technology

The Sikh Museum Initiative has digitized artefacts from disparate collections relating to Guru Gobind Singh, Maharajah Ranjit Singh and Maharani Jindan Kaur



Gurinder Singh Mann with the 3D interactive at the Royal Armouries, Leeds.

BY GURINDER SINGH MANN IN LEICESTER

NOVEMBER 4, 2025

LEICESTER, UK (TIP): The Sikh Museum Initiative (SMI) has marked a remarkable milestone - 10 years of pioneering work in bringing Sikh history and heritage to new audiences through digital technology. From its modest beginnings as a community-led project to becoming a respected national and international presence, SMI's journey has been one of innovation, perseverance, and collaboration.

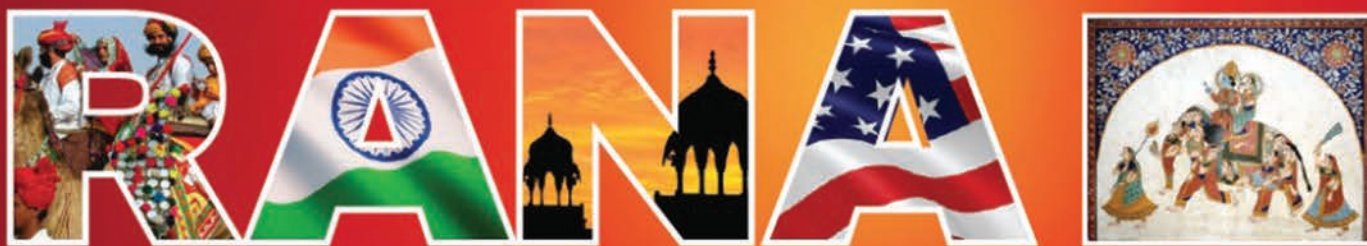
Founded by historian Gurinder Singh Mann, the initiative was born out of a desire to connect younger generations with Sikh heritage through modern means. Over the past decade, SMI has worked with leading museums, universities, and grassroots

organizations, developing projects that merge scholarship with cutting-edge technology. Collaborations with institutions such as the Royal Armouries, Victoria and Albert Museum, The National Trust, as well as private collections allowing rare Sikh artefacts to be researched, digitized, and shared with the wider public in unprecedented ways.

One of the hallmarks of SMI's work has been its exploration of Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), and 3D modelling to bring Sikh relics and historic spaces to life.

Working closely with technologist Taran Singh, a 3D developer, the team brought a range of Sikh relics into the digital realm, allowing audiences to interact with artefacts in ways never before possible.

The landmark exhibition "Anglo Sikh Wars: Battles, Treaties and Relics", held between 2016 and 2017 at Newarke Houses Museum in Leicester, was the first Sikh exhibition to employ 3D technologies - enabling visitors to explore digitized relics and learn about the conflict between the Sikh Empire and the British through immersive digital storytelling. This groundbreaking approach laid the foundation for SMI's later digital heritage projects.



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Tribute

Remembering Dr. Yash Goyal who passed away on October 16, 2025, after prolonged illness

THE INDIAN PANORAMA HAS LOST A BRILLIANT CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Yash Goyal was born on February 6, 1956, in Ferozepur, Punjab. His family later moved to Jodhpur, Rajasthan, where he completed his B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. in Botany. A stellar student, he earned two Gold Medals during his M.Sc. for his academic excellence. His research work gained international recognition, leading to an invitation to pursue postdoctoral studies at A&I University in Kingsville, Texas, under the guidance of Dr. Peter Felker. While in the United States, he also took an additional course in Journalism, which sparked a deep and lasting interest in the field.

Upon returning to India, Dr. Goyal briefly worked at the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC), under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), in Lucknow. Soon after, he transitioned to journalism, joining the Press Trust of India (PTI), where he dedicated over three decades as a Special Correspondent, covering Rajasthan, Delhi, and Madhya Pradesh. Although political journalism remained his primary focus, his work also spanned scientific, investigative, war/conflict, health/medical, and later even sports journalism. Beyond news reporting, he had a passion for storytelling-writing satire, children's stories, and pieces highlighting rural and regional life, with hundreds of published works to his credit.

Following his well-earned retirement from PTI, Dr. Goyal's love for journalism remained undiminished.



Dr. Yash Goyal has been with The Indian Panorama as its Special Correspondent in Jaipur. A seasoned journalist, he worked with the PTI and Times of India, among other publications

He continued contributing as a freelancer to several publications, including The Tribune, Lokmat Times, and The Statesman, as well as the U.S.-based newspaper The Indian Panorama. A keen traveler, he frequently visited the United States, where he cherished time spent with his close friend Dr. Peter Felker and his family.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Goyal received numerous awards for his literary and journalistic contributions. He was honored with the Manak Alankaran Award (1994) for excellence in journalism, and his stories received accolades such as the Bhagwan Atlani Award for 'Utara Hua Coat' (1997), the Rajasthan Patrika Katha Award for 'Kaagaz Ke Haath' (2000), and the Himachal Pradesh Sahitya evam Sanskriti Department Award for 'Shrishtipuri' (2009). In 2018-2019, the Press Club of Jaipur recognized his lifetime of dedication with a prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Goyal's life was a testament to resilience, reflected not only in his professional journey but also in his courageous and prolonged battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). He passed away on October 16, 2025. He is survived by his beloved wife, Dr. Rama Goyal-whom he met during his M.Sc. and shared a 45-year-long bond-and their two sons.

The Indian Panorama family prays for eternal peace to the dear departed soul.

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by
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Chowki will be Facebook Live as well
Chowki will be followed by Langar & Prasad

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HONORING OUR HEROES: VETERANS DAY AND THE CALL FOR A GRATEFUL NATION

As America pauses on November 11 to salute its defenders, the day's solemn history, its civic purpose, and the unfinished duty of caring for veterans remind us that patriotism must live not only in our words but in our deeds.

Every year, on November 11, the United States pauses to honor those who have stood in uniform - men and women who have borne the weight of duty, discipline, and danger in defense of their nation. Veterans Day is more than a ceremonial observance marked by parades and speeches; it is a day of national reflection, gratitude, and resolve - to remember the sacrifices of those who fought for liberty and to renew the nation's commitment to their welfare when the guns fall silent.

A DAY ROOTED IN HISTORY

The origins of Veterans Day trace back to the closing chapter of World War I, a conflict once described as "the war to end all wars." On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the armistice between the Allied powers and Germany took effect, ending the bloodiest war the modern world had then known.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as Armistice Day, honoring the heroism of those who served and celebrating the triumph of peace.

But as history unfolded, new generations went to war. After World War II and the Korean conflict, Congress amended the 1938 Act, and in 1954 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the proclamation renaming it Veterans Day - a tribute to all who served, in war or peace, living or deceased.

THE PURPOSE AND THE PROMISE

Veterans Day differs from Memorial Day: it honors not only those who died but all who have worn the nation's uniform. It seeks to recognize valor, remind the nation of the cost of freedom, and inspire civic unity.

At its core, Veterans Day calls every American to go beyond ceremony - to acknowledge not just the battles fought abroad but the struggles many veterans face at home.

CELEBRATION ACROSS THE NATION

The most solemn ceremony takes place at Arlington National Cemetery, where the President lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Across the country, parades, school programs, community luncheons, and interfaith services fill the day with color and reverence.

By Indrajit Saluja



THE MORAL OBLIGATION

"Support our troops" must mean more than wartime rhetoric. It must take the form of comprehensive healthcare, affordable housing, job training, and mental-health resources.

Government, corporate America, and community organizations share this duty. Companies can expand veteran hiring and mentorship programs; schools can teach the living history of service and sacrifice.

A grateful nation does not salute once a year - it sustains its veterans all year.

PATRIOTISM RENEWED

Veterans Day is a renewal of America's founding ideals - liberty, justice, equality, compassion. It reminds citizens that true patriotism is proven by how we care for those who have already paid the price of freedom.

As President John F. Kennedy observed:

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

A CONTINUING LEGACY

From the Revolution to Afghanistan, more than 41 million Americans have served in uniform. Their stories span centuries, yet share the same thread - faith in a cause larger than self.

The younger generation of veterans brings that same courage into civilian life, enriching workplaces, communities, and public service. The nation must harness that strength with opportunity and respect.

TOWARD A MORE GRATEFUL NATION

To make Veterans Day meaningful, America must act on three fronts:

Universal Access to Care: Every veteran must receive timely, quality medical and mental-health services.

End Veteran Homelessness: No one who has defended freedom should sleep without shelter.

Support Families of Veterans: Extend education, counseling, and employment support to those who share the burdens of service.

"Patriotism lives not in applause but in action."

A SALUTE BEYOND THE PARADE

As the flags wave and the bands play, let every citizen remember: our freedom is daily guarded by those who once risked everything for it. Veterans Day calls us not merely to remember but to serve - to build a country worthy of their sacrifice.

In the quiet dignity of the veteran lies America's enduring strength - its conscience, courage, and continuity.



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Why Zohran Mamdani fights for the underdog in New York



By Tibita Kaneene

His background as a religious and ethnic minority in every country he has lived in and his experience working on community issues deeply inform his politics.

"MAMDANI HAS CAPTIVATED THE NEW YORK MASSES WITH HIS ASPIRATIONAL VISION FOR A GOVERNMENT THAT IS MORALLY CONSCIOUS, PROTECTIVE OF MULTIRACIAL AND MULTIRELIGIOUS DEMOCRACY, AND HYPER FOCUSED ON THE ISSUES OF GREATEST RESONANCE TO LOCAL RESIDENTS. THIS LAST POINT IS KEY: DESPITE MAKING WAVES NATIONALLY, THE WAY HIS CAMPAIGN EMBODIES THE ESSENTIAL SPIRIT - AND THE CORE CONCERNS - OF NEW YORKERS IS INDISPENSABLE FOR ANALYZING MAMDANI'S MAYORAL CANDIDACY."

Last Sunday night at Forest Hills Stadium in Queens, where Frank Sinatra once played, a packed crowd of 13,000 came out to see the man leading the race to be the next mayor of New York.

Zohran Mamdani, the charismatic state assemblyman and Democratic mayoral nominee, was joined by dozens of people, including Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen Bernie Sanders of Vermont, in a demonstration of his ascent to the pinnacle of New York politics.

The cheers for the 34-year-old Mamdani exceeded those for AOC and Bernie, two New York natives who are among the most popular politicians in America.

TRUE NEW YORKER

Mamdani has been vilified by Trump and other MAGA right-wingers as a radical Marxist who is allegedly plotting a communist revolution in New York City, and as a self-destructive and dangerous choice for the Democratic Party by those in the center.

However, Mamdani has captivated the New York masses with his aspirational vision for a government that is morally conscious, protective of multiracial and multireligious democracy, and hyper focused on the issues of greatest resonance to local residents. This last point is key: Despite making waves nationally, the way his campaign embodies the essential spirit - and the core concerns - of New Yorkers is indispensable for analyzing Mamdani's mayoral candidacy.

Born in Uganda to parents of Indian descent - a Punjabi Hindu mother, Mira Nair, who is a celebrated, Oscar-nominated director, and a Muslim father, Mahmud Mamdani, a highly regarded professor of international politics at Columbia University - Zohran is committed to a tolerant, pluralist society. He studied at Bowdoin College, where he founded a chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, and after college worked as a foreclosure prevention and housing counselor. His background as a religious and ethnic minority in every country he has lived in and his experience working on community issues deeply inform his politics and he has not shied away from expressing that.

On the contrary, Mamdani affirmatively leans into his experiences and influences. In an age when authenticity is prized, this has worked well for him - the mainstream Democratic strategist David Axelrod called him "a powerfully articulate, authentic exponent of change." He parries attacks on his age and



Ready : He parries attacks on his age, inexperience and ethnicity with a warm smile and affable wit. -Credit / Reuters

inexperience, religion and ethnicity, and alleged naivete with a warm smile and affable wit. But he can also address his identity more head-on when faced with Islamophobic attacks by his rivals, as his viral speech on his experience as a Muslim in New York City showed.

The cause that has presented Mamdani with perhaps his greatest political challenge is his passionate advocacy of Palestinian rights, especially in the face of the massive suffering in Gaza. Mamdani's perceived anti-Israel stance, including his initial refusal to disavow the phrase "globalize the intifada" - that, contrary to popular perception, he has not personally used - has alienated many New York Jews and called into question his message of inclusion. Mamdani has countered by aggressive outreach the city's Jewish community, the largest in the world. He gathered business leaders and assured them he would discourage the use of that phrase going forward. Although Cuomo is still the clear favorite among New York Jews, Mamdani might have gained some ground, according to some polls.

But Mamdani continues to fuse a religious moral language with secular liberal institutionalism, an idealistic concern for the marginalized and the economic underdogs with a commitment to empirical governance and outcome-based goals. And he channels the love of New Yorkers for their city - which makes him hyper-focused on local conditions. (As an assemblyman in 2021, he went on a 15-day hunger strike to give debt relief to taxi medallion holders, whose exorbitant debts had resulted in multiple suicides.) But he also has an international sensibility that befits a city where nearly 40% of the population is foreign born.

FRIEND OF ABUNDANCE

Likewise, Mamdani's democratic socialism is not the kind that seeks government control of the means of production. He is fond of arrangements like housing co-ops and community land trusts - akin to a kibbutz - which are collectively owned and managed; however, these entities still must compete in the overall

marketplace and respond to market dynamics, not seek public subsidies. It is about keeping markets honest, not eliminating them.

Consider his efforts on behalf of food vendors. His campaign's first viral video featured Mamdani eating from a halal cart and talking to street vendors about inflation. He discussed the high cost of renting licenses, related that to the price of the food, and then placed on the screen the Street Vendor Reform Package, an excellent and vital set of reforms, currently sitting on the City Council's desk.

More controversial is Mamdani's freeze-the-rent policy to deal with the city's notoriously high-priced rental market. Freezing rents for four years, even on a small subset of units as Mamdani is proposing, while their expenses increase thanks to inflation, would cause about 200,000 or 20% of rent stabilized units to go bankrupt.

Mamdani also supports one city-owned grocery store in each borough that would either have to compete with the private market or operate at a loss. Such stores are supposed to ameliorate fresh food scarcity in areas where the market has failed. In practice, such policies have no effect on public health, and the savings that he postulates don't exist, so Mamdani would be wise to rethink this plan.

Mamdani no doubt sees elected office as an extension of social movements - and activism as a supplement to democracy - which is why he comes across as a radical. But the scope of his bad proposals is modest.

If elected, which is likely, Mamdani could certainly crash and burn. But it won't be because he is a radical determined to foist an ideological agenda on the city. It'll be because he is young and has no executive experience, or insufficiently relies on technocratic solutions. That would be a mistake in a complex city that is notoriously difficult to govern, partly because entrenched interests thwart rational reforms of its many lopsided laws.

Time will tell whether Mamdani is as competent as he is likable and able to rise to the occasion.

Courtesy : Excerpted from 'The Unpopulist'

Rethinking immigration in the age of exclusion

THE FUTURE OF IMMIGRATION POLICY IS LINKED TO A WILLINGNESS TO CONFRONT THE DARK PAST AND THE BRUTAL REALITIES OF THE PRESENT



By Shelley Walia

The arrival of Columbus in the New World marked the beginning of a long history of human migration, driven by the universal quest for survival, hope and dignity. Yet, in a grotesque inversion of history, contemporary politics in the United States, particularly under the Trump administration, has perversely transformed immigration into a toxic battleground of fear, exclusion and ideological warfare. By erasing this brutal history, successive governments in the United States have perpetuated a myth of exceptionalism, even as it denies the humanity of those seeking refuge on its shores.

As schoolchildren, many of us were asked to write an essay on the theme, "What if Columbus had not discovered America?" Understandably, the very framing of this question is steeped in colonial ideology that assumes that Columbus's landing was a historic necessity, a great leap for civilization rather than what it actually was. Our answers, drawn from textbooks that valorized explorers and erased victims, inevitably celebrated Columbus's courage and navigational daring. We were taught to admire the predator, never to mourn the prey.

THE DESTRUCTION OF VIBRANT CIVILIZATIONS

But what if Columbus had not landed in the Bahamas in 1492? What if the Arawaks, the generous, peace-loving people he first encountered, had been allowed to live in peace? What if the Americas had been allowed to evolve on their own terms, with their own cultures, languages, and knowledge systems flourishing unmolested? The Iroquois Confederacy, for instance, had developed a sophisticated democratic system that inspired elements of the U.S. Constitution, though that influence is often buried or denied. These were not "primitive" societies awaiting rescue. They were civilizations with libraries, roads and astronomy, all destroyed in the name of gold and god.

From the early waves of European colonization in the Americas and Africa to the apartheid regimes of South Africa, migration has not merely been a matter of movement. It has also been a means of conquest, expansion and domination. Settler colonial projects thrived through the forceful displacement and systematic downgrading of native populations, manifesting in overt and subtle ways through systems of oppression that are deeply ingrained in societal structures that perpetuate racial disparity and injustice. The U.S., frequently celebrated as an ideal for the "tired, poor, huddled masses", was itself forged through the expurgation of native peoples and the abuse of enslaved labor. By denying entry to migrants, powerful nations conveniently obscure their own complicity in creating the conditions that drive people to flee.

The intricate dynamics of historical memory and its distortion are starkly illustrated in the U.S.'s approach to immigration and counter-terrorism. Let us for a moment go back to the distressing example of "Geronimo", the code word said to have been used in the 2011 mission ("Operation Neptune Spear") to eliminate Osama bin Laden. By appropriating the name of the legendary Apache leader, Geronimo, the U.S. military inadvertently highlighted its historical amnesia. Geronimo was a complex figure, a warrior who resisted Mexican and U.S. military forces, seeking to preserve Apache sovereignty and way of life. Labelling him a terrorist overlooks the nuances of his struggle and reduces it to simplistic binaries.

But this is no isolated misstep, for it is symptomatic of a deeper sickness in the dominant historical narrative; a narrative that begins in 1492 with the mythic arrival of Christopher Columbus. This moment is still described in textbooks, museums and mindless school rhymes as the "discovery" of America. The truth, of course, is far more brutal. Columbus did not discover a new world. He invaded one, and that invasion set in motion one of the most

ferocious chapters in human history. Columbus's arrival heralded not discovery, but genocide. The devastation was total.

WHAT MAINSTREAM HISTORIANS MISS

Mainstream historians seldom dwell on the mass enslavement, the sexual violence or the cultural annihilation. To question Columbus's legacy is to invite accusations of being "anti-American" or "revisionist". But if revision means restoring truth to the record, then revisionism is a moral obligation. The problem is not that we remember too little; it is that we remember too selectively.

The Columbus myth, far from being a harmless fable, is the ideological blueprint for centuries of colonial expansion, white supremacy and racial capitalism. It legitimizes the pillaging of the Americas, the enslavement of Africans, and the later interventions of American imperialism under the guise of spreading "freedom". The mentality that justified the extermination of the Arawaks is the

fellow human in search of security but as an economic burden, a cultural contagion or a national security risk. What emerges, then, is a moral paradox of nations founded on violent migration and colonization but now busy erecting moral and legal barriers to those seeking refuge.

If settler colonialism is justified under the banner of "civilizing mission", why should today's migration be framed illegitimate? The glaring disparity between the revered pioneers of the past and the vilified migrants of today lays bare the insidious role of race, power and historical amnesia in shaping the immigration narrative.

A FUNDAMENTAL ASPIRATION

Clearly, the future of immigration policy hinges on our willingness to confront the darkest chapters of our past and the brutal realities of our present. We need to excavate the buried subtexts of empire, capitalism and racial domination that continue to shape mobility, and forge a new path forward



If settler colonialism is justified under the banner of "civilizing mission", why should today's migration be framed illegitimate? Photo / TIP

same that rationalizes drone strikes today.

Fast-forward to the 21st century, and the brutal calculus of migration remains unchanged: flee war-torn Syria, economically ravaged Venezuela, or climate-ravaged sub-Saharan Africa, and you will be met with suspicion and hostility at the borders of the Global North. The Trump presidency has been a zenith of this xenophobic fervor, pathologizing immigration as an existential threat to American identity. The border wall, family separations, and the Muslim ban are not just policy aberrations but ideological manifestos that codify cruelty and exclusion. These measures are not pragmatic responses to complex issues; they are declarations of war on the most vulnerable.

Moreover, the resurgence of exclusionary nationalism, a hallmark of Trump-era politics, has biased the discourse around belonging and citizenship. It designates the immigrant not as a

informed by historical reckoning and a commitment to human dignity. The right to seek safety, to move across borders, is not a privilege to be doled out to the few, but a fundamental human aspiration that must be recognized and protected.

To imagine, therefore, a world in which Columbus had not made landfall is not to indulge in idle fantasy, but to confront the brutal reality of a collective past. It is to consider the possibility of a world unshaped by genocide, a world where Indigenous peoples flourished on their own terms, where empires did not build their foundations on loot and plunder. The truth about history is not a matter of nicety, but a fundamental requirement for justice, accountability, and a future that does not replicate the wrongs of the past.

(Shelley Walia has taught Cultural Theory at Panjab University, Chandigarh. He can be reached at shelleywalia@gmail.com)

G2 won't be music to India's ears

The new deal between the US and China is all about give and take



By Manoj Joshi

"One thing is clear: the threatened decoupling of the Western and Chinese economies is not around the corner. The race now is for global leadership amidst some shaky guardrails between the G2. Here, while the US has been seeking ephemeral gains through tariffs, the Chinese are preparing for another future. Their latest five-year plan focuses on quantum technology, bio-manufacturing, hydrogen energy and nuclear fusion. China already leads in some of these fields, but the US remains ahead overall and has placed its current bets on AI.

The economic and geopolitical consequences of competitive US-China relations in these areas are hard to forecast. But they cannot be particularly comforting for countries like India that had counted on the US to maintain geopolitical heft against China. The new deal between the US and China is all about give and take."

The recent meeting between US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in South Korea has been judged as a draw/ceasefire/truce in the long-term competition between the two world powers. From a situation suggesting decoupling, the relationship seems to have taken a 180-degree pivot. This seems to be a consequence of China besting the US in its trade negotiations.

Trump termed the outcome of the meeting as scoring a hyperbolic 12 out of 10. US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, who was in Kuala Lumpur for the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus, tweeted after he met his Chinese counterpart Admiral Dong Jun, "I just spoke to President Trump and we agree - the relationship between the US and China has never been better".

Having spoken to Admiral Dong twice in a day to restore ties between the US and Chinese militaries, he declared that the tone had been set by Trump's

"historic G2 meeting" and ended by noting "God bless both China and the USA!"

He was echoing Trump's tweet posted hours earlier: "My G2 meeting with President Xi of China was a great one for both our countries. The meeting will lead to everlasting peace and success. God

per cent of the product used Chinese rare earth processing technologies anywhere in the world. This virtually covered almost all smartphones, hard drives, TVs, motors and medical devices in the world.

The Chinese also agreed to resume soyabean purchase, much to the relief of

a belief that the American economy, with the help of artificial intelligence (AI), had gained a decisive edge, while Covid-19 travails, economic slowdown, unemployment and military purges had weakened China.

The détente, which now seems to be verging on an entente, has brought a



Truce : Donald Trump and Xi Jinping have kicked the can down the road. -Credit / Reuters

bless both China and the USA!"

Both sides have pulled back from some of their more dire threats and actions. Effectively, they have kicked the can down the road by making their decisions valid for just the coming year. At another level, they seem to be trying to work out the framework in which G2, or a global US-China condominium, can operate.

In his official tweet on the Dong Jun meeting, Hegseth noted the importance of maintaining a balance of power in the Indo-Pacific and US concerns about Chinese activities in the South China Sea and Taiwan.

In the Phase I trade deal that China signed with the US during Trump's first term in 2020, Beijing was forced to make unilateral commitments to buy American products. But the current deal is all about give and take.

The US backed off from its new Entity List export restrictions in exchange for China doing so with its rare earths rules. The Entity List rule was unveiled on September 29, barring Chinese firms at least 50 per cent owned by previously sanctioned Chinese companies from receiving restricted US tech exports using subsidiaries. What it did was to effectively increase the number of Chinese firms on the Entity List from 1,400 to a massive 20,000.

This had led China to use its Brahmastra of rare earths on the eve of the Xi-Trump meeting. Under this rule, export controls would kick in even if 0.1

Trump, whose farmer support base was becoming increasingly restless over the Chinese decision not to buy American soyabean. The US suspended the implementation of measures under its Section 301 investigation targeting China's maritime logistic and shipbuilding industries for a year.

The US will now drop its overall tariff rate for China to 47 per cent. This is, in effect, where it was before Liberation Day, April 2. If we take the 20.7 per cent tariff that existed before Trump assumed office and add 10 per cent of the reduced fentanyl tariff, we are left with just 10 per cent additional tariff which was the baseline figure applicable to all.

Both sides have agreed to cooperate on the fentanyl issue, but there are other matters that need to be resolved, such as Chinese access to Nvidia chips and the ownership of TikTok. The Taiwan issue seems to have been sidestepped for the present.

A major reason for China's success has been tactics. While Beijing systematically prepared for a possible clash in the last few years, Trump led Washington to hit out recklessly on the tariff issue. Instead of targeting China alone, as it had done in 2020, the US sharply escalated the fight with China and hit the whole world with its Liberation Day tariffs, alienating friends and allies.

To an extent, this was also an underestimation of Chinese developments in recent years. There was

sense of relief around the world. A US-China implosion would have had consequences for the entire global economy. But the developments should not generate a false sense of security. Despite Trump's and Hegseth's effusive take on the China relationship, the reality is that there have been too many recent ups and downs to predict a stable future.

One thing is clear: the threatened decoupling of the Western and Chinese economies is not around the corner. The race now is for global leadership amidst some shaky guardrails between the G2. Here, while the US has been seeking ephemeral gains through tariffs, the Chinese are preparing for another future. Their latest five-year plan focuses on quantum technology, bio-manufacturing, hydrogen energy and nuclear fusion. China already leads in some of these fields, but the US remains ahead overall and has placed its current bets on AI.

The economic and geopolitical consequences of competitive US-China relations in these areas are hard to forecast. But they cannot be particularly comforting for countries like India that had counted on the US to maintain geopolitical heft against China. The new deal between the US and China is all about give and take.

(Manoj Joshi is an Indian journalist and author specializing in security and international relations)



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BHARAT PATEL
Vice President

RITA ZAVERI
Treasurer

PARAM Diwali Sneh Milan 2025 Lights Up Philadelphia with Unity, Joy, and Cultural Pride



NOVEMBER 4, 2025

PHILADELPHIA (TIP): The Philadelphia Rajasthani Mandal (PARAM) celebrated its grand Diwali Sneh Milan 2025 on Saturday, November 1, at Indian Grill, Montgomeryville, PA, bringing together over 150 to 200 members and guests from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey, and New York to celebrate the Festival of Lights in true Rajasthani spirit.

The evening radiated with vibrant cultural performances, colorful traditional attire, and the warmth of togetherness that PARAM has become known for. Guests enjoyed a delicious festive dinner followed by music, dance, and laughter. The event was completely sold out, reflecting the growing enthusiasm and unity within the Rajasthani community of Greater Philadelphia.

Guests were welcomed with traditional aarti and tilak, followed by live folk dances, music, and performances by talented local youth. The highlight of the night was a spectacular fireworks display, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness.

Dignitaries in attendance included Commissioner Neil Makhija and his wife Dr. Rachel Nash, along with Harish Goyal, CEO of ZTV Africa and America, and his wife Dr. Renu Goyal, who graced the event as Chief Guests. Their presence added great prestige and encouragement to the celebration.

Also present was Shri Nand Todi ji, President of Bharatiya Temple and a noted philanthropic leader, whose guidance and community service continue to inspire the Rajasthani and Indian diaspora across the region.

PARAM President Dr. Ravi Murarka, together with Core Committee Member Pankaj Ajmera, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all volunteers, sponsors, and committee members for their dedication and teamwork.

Dr. Murarka commented: "This Diwali was not just about celebration - it was about connection, culture, and community. PARAM symbolizes unity, compassion, and pride for every Rajasthani family in North America."

The event was supported by generous sponsors, including Gwynedd Wealth Partners-Vivek Sharma, World Financial Group-Vijay Singhal, Todi Foundation Shri Nand Todi ji, Premier Rider Services-Pramod Agrawal, NextGen IT Services Manoj Gandhi, and Teadus Pharma-Umamaheswar Siripurapu, whose contributions helped make the evening a grand success.

PARAM continues to be at the forefront of promoting Rajasthani culture, community service, and philanthropy. Following this memorable Diwali celebration, preparations are already underway for the next major cultural event - the 19th Annual Bharatiya Temple Gangaur Festival, scheduled for March 14, 2026, one of the largest Rajasthani festivals in North America.

You may access the media files by clicking the link below:

PARAM Diwali Sneh Milan Festival 2025 - Media

(Based on a press release)



Hundreds of US flights are getting slashed Friday, November 7 as the shutdown continues

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): People wait in a security checkpoint line at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, on November 4, 2025. With the federal government shutdown entering its second month, lines at airports are expected to grow amid increased absenteeism among security and safety staff at some of the country's busiest hubs. (Photo by Mark Felix / AFP) (Photo by MARK FELIX/AFP via Getty Images)

Millions of Americans expecting to fly this month could have their plans grounded weeks ahead of the holiday travel season if the longest government shutdown in US history drags on.

Starting Friday, the Trump administration will cut flights at 40 airports nationwide by 4% and incrementally increase the reduction to 10% by next Friday if the shutdown continues, according to an emergency order from the Federal Aviation Administration.

Several major airlines have preemptively canceled hundreds of flights scheduled for Friday and into the weekend. The cancellations will impact airlines like a busy weather day, one airline official told CNN. Unlike a storm, however, they will be spread across multiple cities as opposed to a geographic region.

Here's what to know if the travel nightmare turns into reality Friday: WHICH 40 AIRPORTS WILL LOSE FLIGHTS?

The reduction in flights will be restricted to 40 "high-volume traffic markets," FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford said. "We're going to ask the airlines to work with us collaboratively to reduce their schedules."

The list of airports mentioned in the FAA's order issued Thursday, November 6, includes New York City's three major hubs - New York LaGuardia, New York John F. Kennedy International and Newark Liberty International. Other impacted airports in the Northeast include Boston Logan International, Philadelphia International and Teterboro in New Jersey.

HERE ARE THE AIRPORTS IN OTHER REGIONS THAT WILL SEE CUTS BEGINNING FRIDAY.

MIDWEST: Indianapolis International, Chicago Midway International, Chicago O'Hare International, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County, Louisville International and Minneapolis-St. Paul International.

SOUTH: Charlotte Douglas International, Dallas Love Field, Dallas-Fort Worth International, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International, Houston Hobby, George Bush Houston Intercontinental, Memphis International, Orlando International, Miami International and Tampa International.

DC AREA: Baltimore/Washington International, Washington Dulles International and Ronald Reagan Washington National.

WEST: Denver International, Harry Reid International Airport, Los Angeles International, Oakland International, Ontario International, Portland International, Phoenix Sky Harbor International, San Diego International, Seattle/Tacoma International, San Francisco International and Salt Lake City International.

HAWAII AND ALASKA: Anchorage International and Honolulu International.

Many other airports could be impacted as well, since flights from the major cities where FAA cuts are mandated travel to smaller airports.

HOW MANY FLIGHTS WILL BE CUT?

A 10% reduction in flights as mandated by the FAA could result in thousands of canceled flights a day - an unprecedented cut.

Canceled flights will increase over the next week, beginning with a 4% cut of flights starting Friday at 6



a.m., the FAA order said.

The cut will increase to 6% on Tuesday, then 8% on Thursday and up to 10% next Friday, the order says, if no deal is reached to end the government shutdown. Airlines will decide which specific flights to cut.

"We are seeing signs of stress in the system, so we are proactively reducing the number of flights to make sure the American people continue to fly safely," said FAA administrator Bedford in a statement from the Department of Transportation.

WHICH AIRLINES HAVE CANCELED FLIGHTS ON FRIDAY?

While most major airlines said the impact would be limited, the four largest US airlines have preemptively canceled hundreds of flights.

Delta Air Lines has canceled around 170 regional and mainline flights that were scheduled on Friday, and more regional flights will be canceled, a spokesperson for the carrier told CNN.

United Airlines will preemptively cancel about 200 flights starting Friday, roughly 4% of the airline's Friday schedule and comprising mostly regional flights. It will cancel about 4% again on Saturday and Sunday, the airline said.

American Airlines reduced flight schedules by 4% at 40 airports Friday through Monday, amounting to about 220 flights canceled each day, according to airline spokesperson Sarah Jantz. "Even with these cancellations, we plan to operate around 6,000 daily flights," Jantz told CNN.

Around 100 Southwest Airlines flights will be canceled Friday, the airline said. A Southwest spokesperson urged Congress to "immediately resolve its impasse" and said the airline is determining the schedule adjustments needed to meet the FAA's flight reductions.

I HAVE TRAVEL PLANS IN THE COMING DAYS. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

"If you are flying Friday or in the next ten days and need to be there or don't want to be stranded I highly recommend booking a backup ticket on another carrier," Frontier Airlines CEO Barry Biffle posted on Instagram.

"Don't book a basic ticket. For example, book Economy on Frontier so you can reuse the ticket value as changes are free or you can get a credit," Biffle wrote. "If your flight is cancelled your chances of being stranded are high so I would simply have a backup ticket on another airline."

American, Delta, Southwest, United and Frontier are all offering waivers to allow passengers who do not want to fly to change their tickets without fees.

It's also helpful to book directly with an airline instead of through a third-party website. That's because if your flight gets canceled, you might have to deal with another party to resolve the problem.

And try to avoid booking flights with layovers, the US Public Interest Research Group says. The more planes you have to get on to reach your destination, the more chances you have for a flight to be delayed or canceled.

WHAT IF I'M STUCK AT ANOTHER AIRPORT AND MY FLIGHT GETS CANCELED? WILL ANYONE PAY FOR A HOTEL?

Airlines will be required to refund passengers for flight cancellations but they will not cover other costs like hotels, which the FAA notes is the normal procedure when an airline is not at fault for a delay or cancellation.

WHY IS ALL THIS HAPPENING?

The government shutdown, which started on October 1, has prevented many federal employees from getting paid.

Air traffic controllers and Transportation Security Administration screeners are considered essential employees and are expected to go to work during the shutdown. But they're not getting paid, and some have needed to find other sources of income to pay the bills.

"Controllers are resigning every day now because of the prolonged nature of the shutdown," said Nick Daniels, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association. "We're also 400 controllers short - shorter than we were in the 2019 shutdown."

More than 450 staffing shortages have been reported at FAA facilities since the shutdown began, according to a CNN analysis.

IF AIRPORTS ARE SHORT-STAFFED, IS IT STILL SAFE TO FLY?

The longer the shutdown continues, the more risks could emerge - especially as controllers go longer without pay, the union leader said earlier this week. But federal officials say reducing the number of flights will improve safety.

"Every single day that this goes on, tomorrow is now less safe than today," Daniels told CNN.

But the newly announced flight cuts will help maintain safety, the head of the National Transportation Safety Board said Thursday.

"THIS is safety management, the very foundation of our aviation system, and it's the right thing to do," National Transportation Safety Board Chair Jennifer Homendy posted on X.

"NTSB has repeatedly stated low air traffic control staffing levels, mandatory overtime, and six-day work weeks have a direct impact on #safety." (Source: CNN)

A Boost to Canada-India Relations: S. Jaishankar to participate in G7 Foreign Ministers Conference in Niagara



--->By Prabhjot Singh

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): By taking yet another step, India and Canada are on the threshold of restoring normal cordial diplomatic relations after a gap of a little more than two years.

The first step was taken when the new Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, invited his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, as a special guest to the G7 leaders' summit in Alberta.

A subsequent telephonic conversation between Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand and her Indian counterpart, S. Jaishankar, broke the ice for the restoration of bilateral visits.

After meeting S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the United Nations, she undertook a bilateral visit to India, during which she met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

After her visit, the new Indian High Commissioner to Canada, Dinesh Patnaik, extended an invitation on behalf of Narendra Modi to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney for early next year. India wants Mark Carney to be in New Delhi for an AI international conference in February.

Next week, when Canada, during its presidency of the G7, is holding its second G7 Foreign Ministers conclave on November 11 and 12 at Niagara, Anita Anand has extended a special invitation to S. Jaishankar to participate. The Indian Foreign Minister's participation has been



Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand and her Indian counterpart, S. Jaishankar, at their meeting in New Delhi -File photo/ PTI

confirmed.

The G7 is an informal forum of seven countries with advanced economies and the European Union. Its leaders meet annually at the G7 Summit to address global economic and geopolitical issues.

Canada and its G7 partners are celebrating 50 years of partnership and cooperation in 2025. Since France hosted the first meeting in 1975, the G7 has been a driving force for international peace, economic prosperity, and sustainable development. From June 15 to 17, 2025, G7 leaders gathered in Kananaskis, Alberta,

for the G7 Summit. As host, Canada led discussions on shared priorities, including international trade, peace and security, and global economic stability. It was here that Narendra Modi was invited to end the thaw in diplomatic relations between India and Canada.

Meanwhile, Anita Anand has confirmed the participants for the upcoming G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which will take place in Niagara.

Minister Anand will welcome the foreign ministers of the G7 members- France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United

Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Union.

Canada is also pleased to host ministers from several outreach countries, reflecting shared global priorities and partnerships. These include Australia, Brazil, India, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, and Ukraine.

This important gathering will provide an opportunity to advance Canada's G7 agenda on pressing global economic and security challenges, including maritime security and prosperity, economic resilience, energy security, and critical minerals.

Following the March 2025 G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, hosted by Minister Mélanie Joly in Charlevoix, Quebec, this upcoming meeting marks the second time Canada will host the foreign ministers this year under the G7 Presidency.

This meeting will bring together G7 ministers to discuss global challenges and strengthen international collaboration. The agenda will cover thematic issues, including security and prosperity, as well as important work on economic resilience, following discussions held at the G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis. Minister Anand and her counterparts will work toward coordinated G7 responses to pressing international challenges, emphasizing cooperation with partners across regions and sectors.

The Liberals are on a roll, clearing the first of three no-confidence hurdles

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): The minority Liberal government won the first of its three possible no-confidence votes on its first budget by turning down an amendment proposed by the main opposition party, the Conservatives, to cut public spending.

The amendment was defeated 198-139, with the New Democrats and Bloc Québécois voting against the amendment.

The challenge is still not over. Prime Minister Mark Carney's caucus is likely not breathing a sigh of relief just yet. It will relax only after the budget has met the approval of the House. As Liberals survived the first acid test, their camp was jubilant, as one of the Conservative MPs had already announced his decision to cross the floor and join the Liberal caucus. This raises the Liberals' strength to 171, just two short of a clear majority.

After the no-confidence vote, the interim NDP leader, Don Davis, said that he and the six other New Democrats have not decided how they'll vote going forward-and the government is still two votes shy of what it needs to pass the budget on its own.

"We had a discussion about the vote today, and we decided we are going to vote no today, and we will have a discussion tomorrow about the Bloc motion," Davies said.

"The Conservatives want massive cuts to public spending. That's exactly the opposite direction that New Democrats think we need to go in," interim NDP leader Don Davis said Thursday, November 6 afternoon before the vote.

Government House leader Steven MacKinnon's office said the votes are being considered matters of confidence because both amendments call on MPs to reject the budget.

If the government loses Friday's vote, or the main vote on the budget itself, it will have lost the confidence of the House, which could trigger an election.



Parliament Building, Ottawa

The main vote on the budget will happen after Parliament takes a weeklong break next week.

Liberal MP Sean Casey told reporters that despite all the posturing this week, he thinks the House will find a way to pass the budget.

"People recognize deep down that they will be punished for forcing a Christmas election," he said.

Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne told reporters he has heard from Canadians this week who are happy with the budget.

"I would invite any member of the opposition to go in the street, talk to people, and you'll see what they tell you," he said.

The Bloc had a highly unusual opportunity on Wednesday to propose the main amendment to the budget-after Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre missed his chance.

Traditionally, the Official Opposition leader amends the budget after their speech to the House of Commons. The third party then has a chance to add a sub-amendment.

Poilievre finished his speech without moving an amendment, and the Bloc jumped in to add its own, which calls on MPs to reject the budget because it is "harmful to

Quebec."

The Tory sub-amendment, added on Thursday, also calls on MPs to reject the budget on the basis that the government did not present "an affordable budget so Canadians can have an affordable life."

Poilievre's procedural mix-up means little to the overall fate of the budget or the government. Davies said it "speaks to the disarray in the Conservative party right now." Parliament Hill has been buzzing with rumors and speculation after Nova Scotia MP Chris d'Entremont left the Conservative caucus on Tuesday, just hours after the budget was released, and joined the Liberals.

The move puts the government within two seats of a majority, and the Liberals are reportedly trying to woo more opposition MPs.

Alberta Conservative MP Matt Jeneroux's office released a statement yesterday saying he was not planning to cross the floor. Quebec MP Dominique Vien released a video in which she addressed the rumors and reaffirmed that she remains a Conservative Party of Canada MP.

Quebec MP Gérard Deltell told reporters in Quebec City on Thursday that d'Entremont's departure was an isolated event. "There won't be any other departures; that's the reality, whether it's in Quebec or elsewhere," he said after an event where Poilievre delivered a speech.

His caucus colleague Jacques Gourde seemed less certain, however. He told reporters he doesn't think any more MPs will leave, but he "can't guarantee anything."

(Toronto based Prabhjot Singh is an award-winning journalist recognized for investigative journalism, environment and business reporting, sports and feature writing. A Media Consultant, he has remained associated with various news agencies, including Reuters, and media houses like PTC News (India/Canada), Parvasi Media (Canada) the Liberal World (India), and The Indian Panorama, New York. He is interested in Indian Diaspora and the Sikh Diaspora in particular. His work has appeared in various international and national newspapers, magazines and journals.)



Ajit Pawar's son 'lands' in trouble over Rs 300-cr Pune deal; govt orders probe

A Rs 300-crore land deal in Pune involving a firm linked to Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son Parth was embroiled in charges of irregularities and set off a political row, prompting the state government to order a high-level probe and suspend a sub-registrar.

While Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday, Nov 6, termed the land transaction "prima facie serious" and said he has sought information concerning the case from relevant departments, Ajit Pawar insisted he was no way connected with the controversial deal.

The Opposition slammed the ruling Mahayuti comprising the BJP, Ajit Pawar's NCP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and demanded a judicial inquiry into the deal.

The government has suspended a sub-registrar and set up a high-level committee under Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Vikas Kharge to investigate alleged irregularities in the land deal, said officials. PTI tried to reach Parth Pawar by phone for his comments, but he did not respond. The office of Inspector General of Registration (IGP) issued an order suspending RB Taru, Sub-Registrar attached to Haveli No. 4 office in Pune district, for irregularities in document registration and causing a loss to the state exchequer.

The action against Taru was based on a report submitted by the Joint District Registrar and Collector (Stamps), said the order.

According to an official, 40 acres of Mahar Vatan land belonging to the government in Pune's upmarket Mundhwa area was sold to a private firm, Amadea Enterprises LLP, in which Parth Pawar is a partner, for Rs 300 crore, and the stamp duty on it was waived. Being government land, the plot cannot be sold to a private firm, he explained.

Talking to reporters in Nagpur, Fadnavis said, "Prime facie, the issue looks serious. I've sought information concerning the case from relevant departments. Orders have been given to conduct a probe."

State BJP minister Nitesh Rane asserted, "Our party will not tolerate anything like this. Zero tolerance for corruption is the style of Chief Minister Fadnavis. Nobody will be spared."

'What does Howdy Modi have to say about this?': Congress mocks PM as Trump reiterates mediation claim

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Congress on Friday, Nov 7, took a jab at Prime Minister Narendra Modi after US President Donald Trump once again claimed credit for stopping a military conflict between India and Pakistan and for India "largely stopping" oil imports from Russia.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh mocked the Prime Minister, asking, "What does Howdy Modi have to say about all this?", a reference to the 2019 "Howdy Modi" event in Houston that highlighted Modi and Trump's close rapport.

Ramesh also noted that Trump had now repeated his claims 59 times. "The TrumpTracker this morning has touched 59," he wrote.

"The TrumpTracker this morning has touched 59. He reiterates: 1. He stopped Operation Sindoor within 24 hours by using trade and tariffs as leverage 2. India has stopped buying oil from



Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh.

Russia largely. 3. He speaks to Prime Minister Modi, who wants him to visit India, which could be as soon as next year," Ramesh said on X.

Trump, speaking to reporters at the Oval Office, reiterated his version of events, claiming that tariffs helped him end an armed confrontation between the two nuclear-armed neighbors in May.

"Of the eight wars I ended, five or six were because of tariffs," Trump said. "If you look at India and Pakistan, they started to fight... Eight planes were shot down. And I said, 'If you guys are going to fight, I'm going to put tariffs on you.' Within 24 hours, I settled the war."

Calling tariffs a "great national defence," Trump added that trade talks with India were progressing well and hinted at a possible visit next year.

"He (Modi) wants me to go there. We'll figure that out... He's a great man," Trump said.

Since May 10, when Trump first declared that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after US mediation, he has repeatedly credited himself for defusing tensions.

India, however, has firmly denied any third-party role in resolving disputes with Pakistan. The Modi government has maintained that all issues between the two countries are bilateral.

Arrested persons must be told reasons in writing, says SC

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

In a significant judgment upholding the rights of accused persons, the Supreme Court on Thursday, Nov 6, es must provide the grounds of arrest in writing, in a language the accused understands, as soon as possible, regardless of the offence or statute under which the arrest is made.

"The right to be informed of the grounds of arrest is a fundamental and mandatory safeguard under Article 22(1) of the Constitution and applies to all offences, including those under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The grounds of arrest must be communicated in writing to the arrestee in the language he/she understands," a two-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice AG Masih said. The apex court delivered the judgment while hearing a batch of appeals arising from the 2024 Worli BMW crash case in Mumbai, involving accused Mohir Rajesh Shah against the State of Maharashtra.

The court further clarified that in exceptional circumstances where it is not possible to supply written grounds immediately, they must be conveyed orally to the accused.

"Even in such cases, written grounds must be furnished within a reasonable time and no later than two hours before

production of the arrestee for remand proceedings before the magistrate," the court said in its 53-page judgment, a copy of which was accessed by TNIE.

The top court held that the constitutional requirement of informing the arrestee of the grounds of arrest is mandatory in all offences under all statutes, including those under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (now the BNS, 2023). It further clarified that non-compliance with this requirement would render the arrest and subsequent remand illegal, and the person would be entitled to immediate release.

Before pronouncing the verdict, the bench cited the landmark Prabir Purkayastha case, which held that the grounds of arrest must be conveyed in writing at the earliest possible opportunity—if not at the time of arrest, then within a reasonable time thereafter—for offences under all statutes. "In our view, it would ensure implementation of the constitutional rights provided to an arrestee as engrafted under Article 22 of the Constitution of India in an effective manner. Such clarity on obligation would avoid uncertainty in the administration of criminal justice. The ends of fairness and legal discipline therefore demand that this procedure as affirmed above shall govern arrests henceforth," the bench said.

Gujarat HC grants rape convict Asaram Bapu six months bail

The Gujarat High Court on Thursday, Nov 6, granted a six-month bail to self-styled godman Asaram Bapu, convicted in a 2013 rape case, citing his advanced age and deteriorating heart condition. The order aligns with the Rajasthan High Court's earlier decision to extend similar relief to the controversial godman on medical grounds.

The division bench of Justice I J Vora and Justice R T Vachhani observed that, at 86 years old, Asaram has a constitutional right to medical treatment, and his health issues warrant temporary reprieve.

The court noted that since the Jodhpur High Court had already allowed bail on medical grounds, Gujarat "cannot take a different view."

The judges further clarified that if Asaram's appeal hearing in the 2013 rape case fails to progress within the next six months, he will be entitled to seek bail extension.

Conversely, if the Rajasthan government decides to challenge the Jodhpur order, the Gujarat government will also have the liberty to contest this relief.

State counsel informed the court that if medical facilities in Jodhpur Jail prove insufficient, Asaram could be shifted to Sabarmati Jail in Ahmedabad, where advanced treatment could be arranged.

Remove stray dogs from bus stands, railway stations: SC's big order

Amid the "alarming rise" in dog bite cases, the Supreme Court on Friday ordered the removal of stray dogs from educational institutions, hospitals, bus stands, sports complexes, and railway stations, directing that the canines be sent to designated dog shelters.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta and NV Anjaria, which is monitoring stray dog-bite incidents through a suo motu proceeding, directed the authorities to prevent the dogs from entering the premises of government and private educational institutions and hospitals. It also said that they must not be released back to the same place where they were picked up.

The removal should be done within eight weeks, the court said.

The matter will be heard further on January 13.

The court was hearing a suo moto case, which was initiated on July 28 over a report on stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in the national capital.

The court also directed all states and union territories, the National Highway Authority, and civic bodies to ensure the removal of stray cattle from national highways, state highways, and other roads. The court also ordered to set up a dedicated highway patrol team that will get a hold of stray cattle on the roads and ensure they are shifted to shelter homes, where proper care will be provided.

"All national highways will have helpline numbers for reporting stray cattle. The chief secretaries of all states will ensure strict compliance with these directives," it said.

The top court, in July, had ruled that all stray dogs in the national capital and adjoining regions must be shifted away from residential localities to shelters, given the rising cases of dog bites leading to rabies deaths. According to the court, the dog shelters must have professionals who can tackle dogs, carry out sterilisation and immunisation, and not let the canines out. Terming the stray dog menace in the city as "extremely grim", the Supreme Court had warned that any individual or organisation blocking the picking up of stray dogs by authorities will face the "strictest action".

In another order, it had directed that the animals would be released back into the same area after sterilisation and immunisation. However, the three-judge bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria had made it clear that the relocation would not apply to dogs infected with rabies or suspected to be infected with rabies and those displaying aggressive behavior.

Arbitral award can be scrapped if delay taints decision-making, SC rules

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court has held that an arbitral award may be set aside if an undue and unexplained delay in its delivery has a demonstrable adverse impact on the tribunal's decision-making and results in material lapses. Even though delay alone is not an independent ground to strike down an award under the law, the ruling clarified that such delay can nonetheless vitiate the award if it undermines its quality, reasoning or fairness.

A bench of justices Sanjay Kumar and Satish Chandra Sharma noted that while Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (which allows courts to set aside arbitral awards) does not list delay as a standalone basis to challenge an award, inordinate delay can weaken memory, distort the arbitrator's understanding of the record, and foster suspicion in the minds of litigating parties, thereby eroding the trust that is essential to the arbitral process.

Absolute faith, the bench noted in a recent judgment, is central to alternative dispute resolution, and "once that belief is shaken, it would lead to a breakdown of the system itself." However, the bench acknowledged that delays are not common and that each instance must be examined on its own facts to determine whether the delay affected the outcome.

It stressed that only when the adverse impact of the delay is "explicit" and the award appears "tainted" by the consequences of such delay, can the award be treated as being in conflict with the "public policy of India" under Section 34(2)(b)(ii) (meaning it offends basic legal principles), or as suffering from "patent illegality" under Section 34(2A) (meaning it contains a clear and obvious legal error).



Significantly, the court further clarified that a party challenging such an award need not first seek termination of the arbitrator's mandate under Section 14(2) of the Act (which relates to an arbitrator's inability to act). The remedies under Sections 14 and 34 are independent, and a challenge under Section 34 does not depend on first invoking Section 14.

The judgment also addressed a broader question concerning the nature of arbitral awards. The bench held that an award that fails to finally resolve the disputes between the parties and instead leaves them with no option but to initiate further litigation or fresh arbitration defeats the basic purpose of arbitration, which is meant to be a faster and conclusive mode of dispute settlement.

If an award alters the parties' positions irreversibly while still failing to resolve the core dispute, it amounts to an "unworkable" award. Such an award, the bench held, would not only be contrary to public policy but would also be patently illegal, and therefore liable to be set aside under Section 34.

The judgment underscored the Supreme Court's concern that arbitration must remain a credible and efficient alternative to court litigation. Any delay or failure that undermines the

finality and fairness of the process, the bench emphasised, has the potential to shake the trust that parties repose in arbitration, and courts must step in to restore that trust when necessary.

These principles were applied in a case where the arbitrator reserved the award in July 2012 but pronounced it only in March 2016, after nearly three years and eight months. The delay was unexplained and, more critically, the award did not settle the dispute at all. Instead, the arbitrator had passed interim directions that changed the parties' commercial positions, including granting possession of part of a building to one side, which they subsequently leased out to third parties. The result was that the situation created by the arbitrator could not be reversed, yet the substantive issues remained unresolved, forcing the parties back into litigation over a contract dating back to 2004.

The bench described the arbitrator's approach as "utterly shocking" and observed that he had "totally lost sight of the very purpose of the exercise." Setting aside the award was necessary, the bench said, but sending the parties back to a fresh arbitral process would only prolong a dispute already stretched across 16 years and would be neither practical nor just. Given these exceptional circumstances, the top court invoked its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, which allows it to pass orders necessary to do "complete justice", to bring the matter to a close.

Exercising that power, the bench fashioned a final settlement between the parties by allowing the validity of sale deeds that had originally been executed in violation of the agreement terms but directing that the party responsible for the violation must be financially penalised.

150 years of Vande Mataram: 'No goal that can't be achieved,' says PM on courage instilled by song

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, Nov 7, inaugurated year-long commemoration of 'Vande Mataram' to mark 150 years of the national song. He also released a commemorative stamp and coin on the occasion at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here.

The PM said the song is relevant in every era, adding that the phrase 'Vande Mataram' "fills our present with self-confidence, gives courage that there is no goal that cannot be achieved". He added, "We mark 150 years of 'Vande Mataram' today. This will give us new inspiration, and fill people of the country with new energy."

He said, "Vande Mataram became voice of India's freedom struggle, it expressed feelings of every Indian."

The programme will mark the formal launch of the year-long nationwide commemoration — from November 7, 2025 to November 7, 2026 — celebrating 150 years of the timeless composition that inspired India's freedom movement and continues to evoke national pride and unity.



The song was written by Bankim Chandra Chatterji on the occasion of Akshaya Navami, which fell on November 7 in 1875.

The song first appeared in the literary journal, "Bangadarshan", as part of Chatterji's novel, "Anandamath".

India in history this Week

NOVEMBER 7 TO NOVEMBER 13

07 NOVEMBER

1858 Bipin Chandra Pal, the great revolutionary who fought against the British, was born.

1862 Bahadur Shah II, the last ruler of the Mughal Sultanate, died in Rangoon.

1876 Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed the song Vande Mataram in a village called Kantal Pada in Bengal.

1888 Renowned scientist Chandrashekhar Venkata Raman was born.

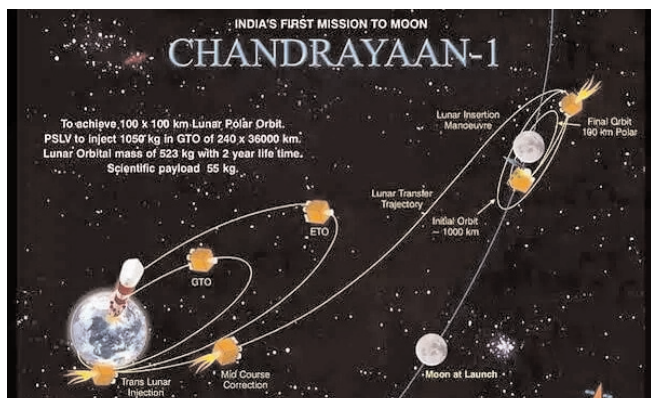
2006 India and ASEAN agreed to create a fund for the development of science and technology.

2008 The famous poet Rahman Rahi of Kashmir was conferred with the Jnanpith Award.

1711 The ship of the Dutch East India Company sank all of the 300 crew.

08 NOVEMBER

1661 Guru Har Rai Ji – 7th Sikh Guru, died.



2008 India's first unmanned space mission Chandrayaan-1 reached the lunar orbit.

2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced demonetisation and 500,1000 notes were discontinued. After that, new 2000 notes were issued.

1999 Rahul Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar set a world record by sharing 331 runs in a one-day cricket match.



1627 The Mughal ruler Jahangir died.

1920 India's famous Kathak dancer Sitara Devi was born.



09 NOVEMBER

1236 The Mughal ruler Ruknuddin Firoz Shah was assassinated.

1270 The great saint Namdev was born.



1947 Junagadh state merged into India.

1960 First Indian Air Force Chief Subroto Mukherjee died.

2000 Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh and made a new state.

10 NOVEMBER



2001 Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee addressed the United Nations General Assembly.

2013 The famous Rajasthani language litterateur Vijaydan Detha passed away.

1978 Rohini Khandilkar became the first woman to win the National Chess Championship.

2008 India won the Border-Gavaskar Trophy by defeating Australia 2-0.

2008 Giving strategic depth to India-Qatar relations, the two countries signed the Defense and Security Agreement.

11 NOVEMBER



1888 Freedom fighter Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was born in Saudi Arabia.

1973 The first international postage exhibition started in New Delhi.



1889 Freedom fighter Jamnalal Bajaj was born in 1889.

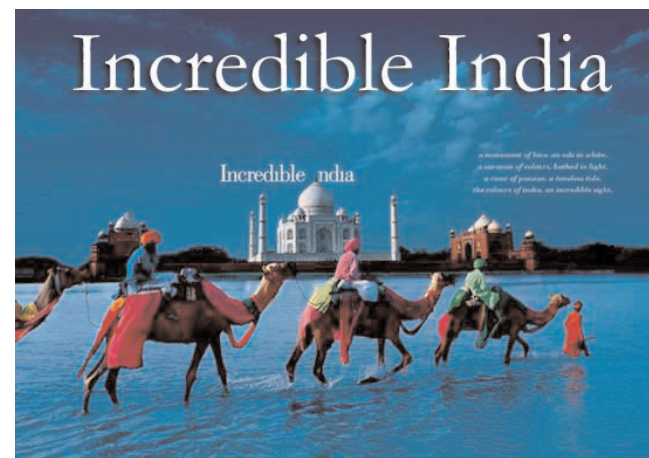
1943 Indian nuclear scientist Anil Kakodkar was born in 1943.

12 NOVEMBER



1946 Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, founder of Banaras Hindu University and honored with Bharat Ratna, died in Uttar Pradesh.

1927 Mahatma Gandhi made his first and last visit to Ceylon.



2009 To promote tourism in India, the 'Incredible India' campaign of the Central Government was awarded the World Travel Award.

13 NOVEMBER

1780 Sikh ruler Maharaja Ranjit Singh was born in Gujranwala, Pakistan.

2009 In Jharkhand, Naxalites have killed seven people including outgoing MLA Ramchandra Singh.

1892 Storyteller, prose writer Rai Krishnadas was born.

Each year on 11 November, the United States pauses for a moment of deep gratitude. In the hush between autumn's fading colors and winter's first chill, Veterans Day arrives as a national reminder that the freedoms enjoyed by millions have been shaped, safeguarded, and defended by those who wore the uniform. It is more than a ceremonial date; it is a collective act of remembrance, respect, and recommitment to those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Origins Rooted in the End of a Global Storm

The story of Veterans Day begins in the closing hours of World War I, once called "the war to end all wars." On November 11, 1918, at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the Armistice between the Allied nations and Germany came into effect, silencing the guns across Europe.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day, dedicated to peace and to honoring those who fought in the Great War. After World War II and the Korean War, the day took on a broader purpose. In 1954, Congress officially renamed it Veterans Day, transforming it from a World War I commemoration into a nationwide expression of respect for all American veterans - past, present, and future.

To understand how Veterans Day came into existence, we must begin long before the holiday itself - in the turbulent years that led to World War I. By the early 20th century, Europe was a powder keg of military rivalries, expanding empires, rigid alliances, and rising nationalism. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in June 1914 triggered a chain reaction that plunged the world into its first truly global war. Over the next four years, more than 30 nations were drawn into the conflict, mobilizing tens of millions of soldiers and introducing catastrophic new technologies like machine guns, tanks, poison gas, and aerial bombing.

The Armistice of 1918: The Moment the Guns Fell Silent

After four years of destruction, exhaustion and collapse spread across Europe. Germany's economy and military were failing, its allies were defeated, and domestic unrest was rising. In the early morning of November 11, 1918, representatives from Germany and the Allied Powers met in a railway carriage in France's Compiègne Forest to sign an armistice agreement.

The truce officially took effect at 11:00 a.m. - the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The symbolism was deliberate, marking a moment of solemn symmetry and hope for a peaceful future. Across the Western Front, soldiers who had spent years in mud-filled trenches stood in stunned silence as the gunfire ceased. That singular moment would become the foundation of the holiday we know today.

The Birth of Armistice Day in the United States

One year later, in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson declared the first Armistice Day, calling it a day filled with

Veterans Day: Honoring courage, preserving legacy

Veterans Day, observed on November 11, honors the brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. It is a solemn reminder of their sacrifice, courage, and enduring commitment to safeguarding the nation's freedom and values.



"solemn pride in the heroism" of those who served in World War I. The observance included parades, church services, public gatherings, and moments of silence at 11 a.m. The idea resonated deeply with a nation that had seen more than 116,000 of its service members perish in the war.

In 1926, Congress passed a resolution urging states to observe November 11 with appropriate ceremonies. In 1938, the day officially became a national holiday dedicated to promoting peace and honouring World War I veterans. At this stage, Armistice Day was a tribute to the hope that the Great War would truly be the "war to end all wars."

The Transformation After World War II and Korea

However, as history unfolded, that hope faded. The outbreak of World War II - followed by the Korean War - exposed the fragility of global peace and significantly expanded the number of Americans who had served in uniform. More than 16 million Americans fought in World War II, and another 1.8 million served in Korea. Veterans organizations and community leaders began advocating that November 11 should honor all veterans, not just those of the First World War.

A key figure in this movement was Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran from Alabama, who in 1947 organized the first "Veterans Day" celebration and pushed leaders in Washington to adopt a broader observance. His idea attracted support from General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who later became President.

The Official Change to



"Veterans Day" in 1954

The transformation became law in June 1954, when President Eisenhower signed a bill replacing the word "Armistice" with "Veterans." The newly named Veterans Day recognized all American veterans - those of past conflicts, current service members, and future generations who would defend the nation. This marked a shift from a day focused on peace to a day focused on service, sacrifice, and national gratitude.

The Forgotten Chapter: The Attempt to Move the Holiday

In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, moving Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October to create a long weekend. The change took

effect in 1971 - and was immediately met with widespread public opposition.

Veterans groups insisted that the historic significance of November 11 should never be detached from the Armistice that ended World War I. Some states simply ignored the federal change and continued to celebrate on November 11. The discontent grew so strong that Congress reversed the decision. In 1975, President Gerald Ford restored November 11 as the official date. Since 1978, Veterans Day has been celebrated on this date every year.

Key Figures Who Shaped Veterans Day

The evolution of Armistice Day into Veterans Day involved several influential individuals:

From page 18

President Woodrow Wilson

He established the first Armistice Day observance and framed it as a moral tribute to peace.

General John J. Pershing

Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, Pershing became a revered advocate for honoring WWI soldiers.

Raymond Weeks (The "Father of Veterans Day")

A World War II veteran, Weeks proposed expanding Armistice Day into a day for all veterans. He organized the first Veterans Day celebration in 1947, gaining the backing of national leaders.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

As a former Supreme Allied Commander during World War II, Eisenhower strongly supported Weeks' idea. In 1954, he signed the law officially renaming the holiday Veterans Day.

The Global Context: How Other Nations Observe the Armistice

Although Veterans Day is unique to the United States, the date carries global significance. Many other countries observe November 11 as Remembrance Day or Armistice Day.

- United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand commemorate Remembrance Day with two minutes of silence and the wearing of red poppies.
- France and Belgium observe Armistice Day with ceremonies at historic World War I battlefields like Verdun, the Somme, and Ypres.

While these nations focus primarily on honouring the war dead, the U.S. version distinguishes itself by honouring all veterans, living or deceased.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier: A Symbol of Unspoken Sacrifice

A central part of Veterans Day history is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, established in 1921 with the burial of an unidentified World War I serviceman at Arlington National Cemetery. The tomb symbolizes all missing and unidentified American service members from every conflict. The site became the national focal point of Veterans Day ceremonies. Each November 11, a presidential wreath-laying ceremony is held here, reinforcing the nation's commitment to honouring those whose identities remain forever unknown.

Why the History of Veterans Day Still Matters Today

Understanding the history of Veterans Day reveals its deeper purpose. It is not merely a public holiday or a patriotic ritual - it is a symbolic bridge between generations. It links the soldiers in the trenches of 1918 to those who patrol oceans, deserts, cyber networks, and distant skies today. It reminds the nation that the freedoms enjoyed in daily life were safeguarded by those who stood ready to defend them.

The day's origins in the Armistice of 1918 give it a universal message: that



peace is precious, that service demands remembrance, and that the cost of freedom must never be forgotten.

The Symbolism of November 11: Numbers and Meaning

The triple repetition - 11/11 at 11 a.m. - is not accidental.

- 11 symbolizes harmony in numerology: balance between conflict and resolution.
- The symmetry of these numbers commemorates the universal desire for peace after global catastrophe.
- The moment also marks the beginning of modern international diplomacy and the hope of collective security.

How Veterans Day Helped Shape Veterans' Rights in America

Throughout the 20th century, Veterans Day became closely linked with the evolution of benefits and support systems for veterans.

Major developments include:

- The 1944 G.I. Bill, enabling education, home loans, and economic opportunity for millions of WWII veterans.
- Expansion of VA hospitals in the 1950s and 1960s.
- Recognition of PTSD after the Vietnam War, leading to increased mental health services.
- Support programs for post-9/11 veterans, including improved healthcare, disability benefits, and reintegration initiatives.

Veterans Day helped highlight the need for these reforms, pushing lawmakers to strengthen veterans' welfare.

American soldiers during the Korean War.



A CHRONOLOGICAL TIMELINE OF VETERANS DAY'S EVOLUTION

- 1914-1918: World War I
- The conflict whose end would inspire the holiday.
- November 11, 1918: Armistice signed
- Hostilities end at the symbolic "11th hour."
- 1919: First Armistice Day proclaimed by President Wilson.
- 1921: Establishment of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.
- 1926: Congress calls for national observance of Armistice Day.
- 1938: Armistice Day becomes a legal federal holiday.
- 1947: Raymond Weeks leads the first "Veterans Day" observance.
- 1954: Holiday officially renamed Veterans Day by President Eisenhower.
- 1968: Uniform Monday Holiday Act changes the date to October.
- 1971: First October observance of Veterans Day.
- 1975: Date change reversed by Congress.
- 1978: Veterans Day restored to November 11 permanently.
- 2000s-2020s: Expansion of programs for post-9/11 veterans.

THE BIG APPLE'S LITERARY FEST CELEBRATES VOICES, VISION AND VITAL CONVERSATIONS IN INDIAN LITERATURE

BY MABEL PAIS

It's back again! **The New York Literary Festival!**

The Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC - iaac.us) 2025 Literary Festival will take place at the International House (500 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027 - 212 316 8400) on November 15 & 16, 2025.

"Across borders and generations, Indian literature continues to redefine the global imagination. The IAAC Literary Festival is where those voices meet; bold, questioning, and alive with possibility. Voices that remind us that literature is not only art, but also the architecture of understanding," said Preethi Urs, Director, IAAC Literary Festival.

For the complete schedule and session details, visit iaac.us/iaac-literary-festival-2025/#Session-Details

TICKETS

Admission to all sessions is free and open to the public, except

WHAT: Sadhguru's Keynote Session

"Death: A Yogi's Guide to Living, Dying and Beyond"

WHEN: Sunday, November 16, 4PM | WHERE:

Davis Hall, International House, New York City

COST: For Tickets to the event, visit iaac.us/iaac-literary-festival-2025

Refund Policy: No refunds

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Join Sadhguru, yogi, mystic, and bestselling author, for a rare conversation exploring one of life's deepest mysteries and how an awareness of mortality can profoundly enrich the way we live. Drawing from timeless yogic wisdom, Sadhguru offers a luminous perspective on death not as an end, but as an essential aspect of life and a profound opportunity for transcendence.

This special session will be moderated by Chandrika Tandon, Grammy winning musician, prominent philanthropist, entrepreneur, and cultural patron.

In his acclaimed book *Death: A Yogi's Guide to Living, Dying and Beyond*, Sadhguru offers a luminous perspective on the inevitable, revealing death not as an end, but as an essential aspect of life and a profound opportunity for transcendence. Drawing from his inner experience and timeless yogic wisdom, he invites readers and listeners alike to look beyond fear and embrace death as a teacher — one that deepens our engagement with life itself.

This special session will touch upon the book's most compelling ideas — from how we can prepare for our own death and support others in theirs, to what it means to live purposefully and consciously in full awareness of our impermanence.

Whether you are familiar with Sadhguru's work or encountering his insights for the first time, this is a rare opportunity to witness a transformative dialogue on one of humanity's most universal questions.

POST KEYNOTE SESSION

Following his talk, audiences are invited to stay for a special book launch of "Seeking the Infinite: Maha Kumbh 2025" by Yakub Mathew, unveiled by Sadhguru himself. The unveiling will be followed by an onstage conversation with the author and a distinguished panel exploring the spiritual, cultural, and human dimensions of the book. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

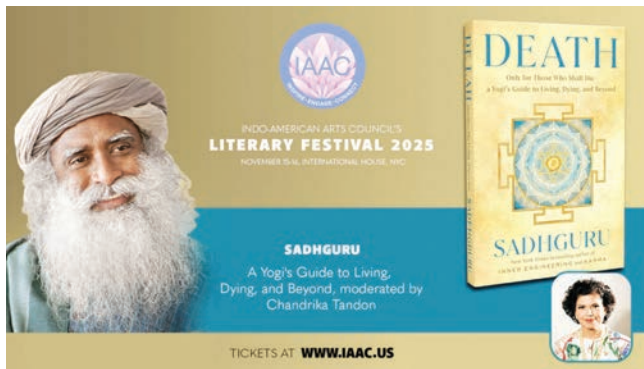
DEVDUPT PATTANAIAK - "ESCAPE THE BAKASURA TRAP"

Join mythologist and storyteller Devdutt Pattanaik for an illuminating discussion on his latest work, "Escape the Bakasura Trap." In this compelling book, Pattanaik revisits the myth of Bakasura, the demon whose insatiable hunger becomes a metaphor for greed and inner emptiness, offering a mirror to our modern struggles with excess and desire.

Moderated by Mathew Veedon, IAAC Board Member.



LITFEST Authors & interviewers - Credit : www.iaac.us



Author Sadhguru with interviewer Chandrika Tandon.

Credit : www.iaac.us

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15 INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Megha Majumdar – "A Guardian and a Thief"

The author of "A Burning" returns with her new novel, "A Guardian and a Thief," a compelling story of power, memory, and resistance that cements her reputation as one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary fiction. The book has already been named a finalist for the 2025 National Book Award for Fiction and was selected by Oprah Winfrey for her October 2025 Book Club pick.

Moderated by Mitra Kalita, journalist, media executive, author and the co-founder/ CEO of URL Media.

Padma Venkatraman – "Safe Harbor"

Award-winning author and oceanographer Padma Venkatraman presents her lyrical new verse novel about an immigrant girl's journey through nature, music, and belonging.

In conversation with Ramya Ramana, poet and former NYC Youth Poet Laureate.

Pooja Bavishi – "Malai: Frozen Desserts Inspired by South Asian Flavors"

Founder and CEO of Malai, Pooja Bavishi brings her culinary artistry to the page with a stunning cookbook celebrating ice cream infused with the vibrant spices of South Asia. With recipes that are inventive yet accessible, Malai redefines frozen desserts for a new generation.

Sunita Kohli – "The India Cookbook: From the Tables of My Friends"

Renowned designer and conservationist Sunita Kohli shares her second volume in her celebrated Cuisine Trilogy, *The India Cookbook*, featuring regional recipes and stories collected from friends across India's cultural and culinary map.

Sunita and Pooja will be in conversation with Simi Shah, founder and CEO of South Asian Trailblazers, a media platform elevating leading South Asians.

Archana Maniar – "Dry Spells"

A spellbinding debut novel by author and physician Archana Maniar explores the delicate intersections of identity, family, and the search for belonging in her latest work, "Dry Spells." Drawing from both personal

experience and keen observation, Maniar examines the subtle tensions between tradition and modernity, revealing the resilience of those navigating cultural and emotional landscapes. The conversation will be moderated by Jafreen Uddin, Executive Director of the Asian American Writers' Workshop (AAWW), whose work centers on amplifying underrepresented voices and building inclusive literary communities.

Stephen Huyler – "Transformed by India: A Life"

Historian, author, and cultural scholar Stephen Huyler presents a reflective memoir tracing his transformative encounters in India. "Transformed by India" offers readers a vivid journey into the country's spiritual, architectural, and social traditions, exploring how travel and engagement with Indian culture can reshape personal perspectives and professional pursuits.

Moderated by Dr. Nirmal Mattoo, Philanthropist, thought leader in Indian studies and Chairman, IAAC.

Industry Panel: From Page to Premiere – Adapting Books for the Screen

With Priya Doraswamy (Lotus Lane Literary Agency) and Reena Singh (TV producer and executive), exploring the creative and business challenges of bringing South Asian stories to the global screen.

Amish Tripathi – "The Chola Tigers"

India's bestselling author Amish Tripathi returns with an epic new tale set in the Chola Empire — a sweeping saga of courage, leadership, and destiny.

Moderated by Makarand Paranjape, renowned scholar, poet, and commentator on Indian culture.

Meenakshi Ahamed – "Indian Genius: The Meteoric Rise of Indians in America"

Journalist and author Meenakshi Ahamed examines the ascent of Indian-Americans in fields from technology to medicine and policy. "Indian Genius" highlights individual and community achievements while exploring the social and cultural factors behind this meteoric rise.

Vik Malhotra – "A CEO for All Seasons: Mastering the Cycles of Leadership"

Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company, Vik Malhotra draws on decades of experience and research in leadership to map the four phases of a CEO's career. His session offers insight into effective leadership at every stage.

Vik and Meenakshi's double header session is presented in partnership with McKinsey & Co and moderated by Liaquat Ahamed, author and financial historian.

Vasant Dhar – "Thinking with Machines"

NYU Stern professor Vasant Dhar explores artificial intelligence, machine learning, and the evolving relationship between humans and technology in "Thinking with Machines."

Moderated by Mukul Devichand, Editor, AI Initiatives at The New York Times, whose expertise spans media, technology, and the future of storytelling.

Poetry Panel, Curated by Ravi Shankar

Featuring Usha Akella (Embayed), Srinivas Mandavilli (Howrah Bridge), Amit Majmudar (Three Metamorphoses), Yuyutsu Sharma (An Alchemy of Nine Smiles), and Sunayana Kachroo.

Followed by Matwaala Mehfilm, a poetic film showcase curated by Matwaala to celebrate its 10 year anniversary.

Param Vir – "Twelve Buddhist Tales"

Acclaimed opera composer Param Vir takes us on a fascinating journey through music, philosophy, and craft as he shares the inspiration behind his upcoming opera based on Twelve Buddhist tales from the Pali Canon.

Moderated by Jamshed Bharucha, a neuroscientist and an educator exploring how the brain understands music.

The IAAC Literary Festival

The 2025 edition continues IAAC's mission to champion diversity, amplify underrepresented voices, and spotlight Indian excellence on the global stage. Learn more at iaac.us/iaac-literary-festival-2025.

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

NYC'S DOCUMENTARY FILM FEST RETURNS FOR SIXTEENTH YEAR

BY MABEL PAIS

Screening
GEETA GANDBHIR's Feature 'THE PERFECT NEIGHBOR'

KARLA MURTHY's Award Winning 'THE GAS STATION ATTENDANT'

And many, many more

DOC NYC presents program selections for its 16th edition, running in-person in New York City, November 12 - 20 at IFC Center, SVA Theatre, and Village East by Angelika, and continuing online through November 30. The 2025 festival showcases more than 200 films and dozens of events, including

- 30 World Premieres
- 34 US Premieres
- More than 115 feature-length documentaries
- Shorts programs
- Plus in-person appearances by filmmakers at most screenings

This year's festival slate includes Cannes-winning *Imago* and *The Six Billion Dollar Man* and documentaries featuring **E. Jean Carroll**, **Amy Goodman**, **Oscar Isaac**, **Marlee Matlin**, **Alec Baldwin**, **Gustavo Dudamel**, **Volodymyr Zelensky**, **Bruce Springsteen**, **Sandra Oh**, **Connie Chung**, **Kumail Nanjiani**, **Sen. Tammy Duckworth**, **Ben McKenzie**, **Kwame Braithwaite**, **Farruquito**, **Misan Harriman**, **Pablo Milanés**, and many more.

In this period of rapid change, we are proud to present a collection of films that speak to urgent global, national, and personal matters. The filmmakers of this year's official selection are bound by their illuminations of shared humanity.

More news will be announced in the coming days including

- The Short List sections for the year's leading awards contenders
- The Winner's Circle showcase of international festival laureates
- The new Selects Encore section featuring highlights of DOC NYC's year-round programming

Read on for highlights from our Opening Night, Closing Night, Centerpiece Screening, and more.

See the complete lineup at docnyc.net/program

OPENING NIGHT

WHISTLE - US PREMIERE

Wednesday, November 12 at SVA Theatre

Top-rate whistlers gather in Hollywood at the annual Masters of Musical Whistling competition, hoping not just to win but to connect.

This year's opening night film invites us into a world where sensitive, passionate people gather not just to participate in a public competition but to be seen, to connect, and to honor a shared craft. At the Masters of Musical Whistling festival in Hollywood, founder and force-of-nature Carole Anne Kaufman (aka the Whistling Diva) devotes herself to creating an inclusive, international stage for a typically amateur art form that's nevertheless deeply meaningful for its performers.

Filmmaker Christopher Nelius and his team hone in on a lively group of individuals who arrive in full possession of their quirks and hopes. As the festival's rehearsals and stages of competition progress, Nelius captures familiar rhythms — camaraderie, playful competitiveness, and tender gestures of support — revealing a community boundless by the pursuit of victory than by simply being there for each other.

'Whistle' reminds us that there is a space for everyone in this world — for connection, care, and mutual support.

The Opening Night screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Chris Nelius and film protagonists Carole Anne Kaufman, Jay Winston, Lauren Elder, Molly Lewis, Anya Ziordia Botella, and Davitt Felder.

All in-person screening venues provide sound



The Perfect Neighbor.

Credit: docnyc.net



The Gas Station Attendant.

Credit: docnyc.net



Coexistence, My Ass!

Credit: docnyc.net

amplification headphones upon request with venue management. IFC Center can also provide a T-Coil loop for compatible devices. whistlemovie.com

Director: Christopher Nelius

Producer: Camilla Mazzaferro, Louise Smith, Luke Mazzaferro, Al Hicks, Casey Ventura

Executive Producer: Rob Galluzzo, Sal Navarra, Andrea Cayton, Garrett Cayton, Alice Fiori, William Campbell, Linda A. Cornfield, David J. Cornfield, Paula DuPré Pesmen, Aniela Sidorska, Kevin Marciano, Nelson Khoury

Cinematographer: Kathryn Milliss (ACS)

Editor: Matias Bolla, Johanna Scott

Composer: Haydn Walker

Language: English, Spanish

Year: 2025

Duration: 84 m

Accessibility: Sound-Amplification Headphones upon request

CENTERPIECE

STEAL THIS STORY, PLEASE! - NYC PREMIERE

In-Person Date - Thursday, November 13, 2025 6:15 PM

Venue - SVA Theatre

Rush Only

In-Person Date

Friday, November 14, 2025 11:15 AM

Venue - IFC Center

Amy Goodman "believes that journalism put to its highest use can be the greatest force for good that the world has ever seen," says her former colleague Dave

Isay in 'Steal This Story, Please!' It's the reason that Goodman and her signature show Democracy Now! (celebrating its 30th year in 2026) are revered for integrity and dauntlessness. DOC NYC alumni Tia Lessin and Carl Deal literally chase after Goodman as she pursues the stories that Western corporate media increasingly finds inconvenient to cover. Along the way, they reveal the personal side to her iconic persona, confirming depths of empathy behind the scenes that balloon our appreciation of the force that is Goodman.

The first and second screenings will be followed by a Q&A with director/producer Carl Deal, director/producer Tia Lessin, and film protagonist Amy Goodman.

All in-person screening venues provide sound amplification headphones upon request with venue management. IFC Center can also provide a T-Coil loop for compatible devices. stealthisstory.org

Director: Carl Deal, Tia Lessin

Producer: Carl Deal, Tia Lessin, Karen Ranucci, Diana Cohn, Caren Spruch

Executive Producer: Dominique Bravo, Julie Cohen, Rosario Dawson, Tom Morello, Tony Tabatznik

Cinematographer: Cliff Charles, Nausheen Dadabhoy, Julia Dengel, Daniel Marracino, Keith Walker

Editor: Mona Davis

Composer: Zoe Keating

Language: English

Year: 2025

Duration: 101 m

Accessibility: Sound-Amplification Headphones upon request

CENTERPIECE

THE MERCHANTS OF JOY - WORLD PREMIERE

In-Person Date

Friday, November 14, 2025 6:30 PM

Venue - SVA Theatre

For the five families that control NYC's Christmas tree trade, the most wonderful time of the year starts months before the first fir tree displays hit busy sidewalks in the five boroughs. There is the competition for sources and locations—not to mention strategizing to stretch the proceeds of five scant weeks into a living for the rest of the year. Celia Aniskovich's delightful peek behind the curtain of a holiday tradition captures a truly singular cast of characters, among them NYC's seasonal stand workers, who add extra spice to every sale.

The first screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Celia Aniskovich.

All in-person screening venues provide sound amplification headphones upon request with venue management. IFC Center can also provide a T-Coil loop for compatible devices. dialtonefilms.com/merchantssofjoy

Director: Celia Aniskovich

Producer: Celia Aniskovich, Zoe Vock, Arthur Spector, Joshua Davis, Joshua Bearman

Executive Producer: Todd Lubin, Ivan Schneeberg, David Fortier, Douglas Banker, Gillian Brown, Ben Affleck, Dani Bernfeld

Cinematographer: Carrie Cheek

Editor: Brett Banks, Samuel Kun

Composer: Jackson Greenberg

Language: English

Year: 2025

Duration: 90 m

Accessibility: Sound-Amplification Headphones upon request

CLOSING NIGHT

ASK E JEAN - NYC PREMIERE

In-Person Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025 6:30 PM;

Venue: SVA Theatre

CONTD ON PAGE 22

GRAMMY NOM FADO ICON MARIZA BRINGS HER UNIQUE PROWESS TO NEW YORK CITY

BY MABEL PAIS

MARIZA, Portugal's Fado star, will touch our souls with a night of breathtaking music at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's (BAM - bam.org) Howard Gilman Opera House, Peter Jay Sharp Building at 30 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn. This performance will take place on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 8 PM. Doors open at 7 PM. This is a World Music Institute (WMI) presentation.

There's no singer who embodies the sound of fado more completely than Mariza.

Portugal's most distinctive music by observers has been described as "dramatic, melancholy, full of longing." Mariza's ability to draw the deepest emotions from a song made her an instant star in Portugal, where she's beloved as an icon. Across her three-decade career, she has stretched fado's limits, combining it with jazz, flamenco, Latin jazz, and influences from her mother's home country of Mozambique. Her "dark, rich, commanding contralto" (Washington Post) has led to collaborations with everyone from Lenny Kravitz to Gilberto Gil.

Described as "A dazzling, captivating force to behold" by The Telegraph, the Portuguese artist will mesmerize the audience with her vocal prowess, performing favorite songs from her GRAMMY®-nominated career and 30+ platinum albums.

Born in Mozambique and raised in Lisbon's working-class district of Mouraria, Mariza was immersed in the rich fado musical culture that resonates throughout Portugal. Inspired by iconic artists and influential voices, Mariza has achieved world heritage status, and her global impact is evident in over 30



Mariza. -Credit: Eduardo Ramos.

platinum albums and a multitude of national and international awards, as well as high-profile collaborations with Sting, Lenny Kravitz, Gilberto Gil, and the late Cesaria Evora.

Although she has taken the world's stages by storm with her "dark, rich, commanding contralto" (Washington Post), Mariza remains a national treasure, and Portugal embraces her as part of its cultural fabric, continually celebrating every note, song, and concert she delivers. In 2024, Mariza unveiled her

most recent album entitled "Amor," celebrating a quarter-century career of honoring the rich history and traditions of fado while still allowing her singular talent to shine through. WMI is proud to have presented Mariza three times over its 40 years, most recently in 2017 in partnership with Pioneer Works.

FADO

The word "Fado" means fate or destiny and the music is inextricably linked to the streets of Lisbon. Portugal's most

distinctive music that has been described as dramatic, melancholy, full of longing. Fado speaks of love and longing. It's like a soundtrack to the city. The story of Fado began in the early 19th century. The first gramophone recording of Fado was made in 1902.

WMI'S WOMEN'S VOICES

WMI's Women's Voices series celebrates female artists' role in preserving and promoting their respective cultures and traditions.

WORLD MUSIC INSTITUTE

Founded in 1985, World Music Institute (WMI) has served as one of the leading presenters of world music and dance within the United States. WMI is committed to presenting the best in traditional and contemporary music and dance from around the world to enrich lives through the arts, promote awareness and appreciation for the world's rich cultural traditions, and encourage cross-cultural dialogue and exchange. WMI presents at venues throughout the city and depends on both public and private funding to accomplish its mission. Learn more at worldmusicinstitute.org, info@worldmusicinstitute.org or (212) 545-7536.

FOLLOW WORLD MUSIC INSTITUTE!

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Linktree: @wmi

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

NYC'S DOCUMENTARY FILM FEST RETURNS FOR SIXTEENTH YEAR

CONTD FROM PAGE 21

Over a five-decade career, the journalist, author, and talk show host E. Jean Carroll has been revered for her brass-tacks style. In 2019, galvanized by the #MeToo movement, Carroll went public with something she had buried for years: She had been sexually assaulted by Donald Trump. When the president accused her of lying, Carroll fought back with two lawsuits. In documenting Carroll's story, filmmaker Ivy Meeropol juxtaposes the advice Carroll gave — encouraging women to stand up for themselves, to press charges, to never remain silent — with what she did not do herself at the time. Ask E. Jean examines the societal hurdles women face when confronting predatory men and their lies, highlighting the power of truth to combat gaslighting.

The screening will be followed by a Q&A with director Ivy Meeropol.

All in-person screening venues provide sound amplification headphones upon request with venue management. IFC Center can also provide a T-Coil loop for compatible devices. askejeanfilm.com

Director: Ivy Meeropol

Producer: Laura Bickford, Annabelle Dunne, Ivy

Meeropol

Executive Producer: Graydon Carter, Ruth Ann Harnisch - The Harnisch Foundation, Geralyn White Dreyfous, Katrina Vanden Heuvel, Sheila Nevins, Jenny Warburg, Alexia Blaze, Jenny Raskin, Mitch Solomon, Emily Lansbury

Cinematographer: Martina Radwan

Editor: Ferne Pearlstein, Leah Goudsmit

Composer: Laura Karpman, Amelia Allen, Elena Pinderhughes

Language: English

Year: 2025

Duration: 91 m

Accessibility: Sound-Amplification Headphones upon request

Special Presentation

THE TRIAL OF ALEC BALDWIN - World Premiere
Thursday, Nov 13 at SVA Theatre

A provocative examination of celebrity spectacle and public vitriol surrounding the prosecution of Alec Baldwin over the tragic accidental death of Halyna Hutchins.

Special Presentation

WE MET AT GROSSINGER'S - World Premiere
Thursday, Nov 13 at IFC Center

A nostalgic, immersive journey through the Jewish Catskills, known as the Borscht Belt, told through the rise and fall of its beloved Grossinger's Resort and Hotel.

Special Presentation

BENITA - World Premiere

Friday, Nov 14 at IFC Center

An unplanned collaboration between two filmmakers that transcends mortality, exploring whimsical and existential questions as well as the intersection of mental health and creativity.

TICKETS

Get access to all 200+ films in the 2025 program with the All Film Pass (docnyc.net/2025-festival/2025-all-film-pass)

Ticket packs and individual film tickets (docnyc.net/2025-festival/2025-all-film-pass) for in-person and online screenings are also now available.

DOC NYC

Learn more at docnyc.net.

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



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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD 2025



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INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ARTISTS

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SITARIST: SUPRATIK SENGUPTA SAROD: SOUMYA CHAKRAVERTY

HARMONIUM: ANIRBAN CHAKROBORTY TABLA: MIR NAQIBUL ISLAM

TIME: 5:30: – 7:30 P.M.

ADMISSION: FREE

DONATIONS WELCOME

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FOR CHAITANYA- JAGRUTI (AWARENESS & PURE CONSCIOUSNESS)



HEALTH IS WEALTH



Katrina Kaif, Vicky Kaushal welcome baby boy

Bollywood couple Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal have welcomed their first child, a baby boy. The couple shared the news on Friday, Nov 7.

"Our bundle of joy has arrived. With immense love and gratitude, we welcome our baby boy," the actors wrote in a joint statement posted on their respective Instagram accounts.

Katrina and Vicky, who tied the knot in Rajasthan in December 2021, have largely kept their relationship private.

Fans and celebrities have flooded social media with congratulatory messages for the new parents.

Actress Kareena Kapoor commented, "Katttttt welcome to the boy Mamma club... so happy for you and Vicky," while actor Arjun Kapoor dropped heart emojis. Fashion designer Manish Malhotra also joined in, writing "Congratulations".

Janhvi Kapoor turns Achiyyamma for Ram Charan's Peddi

The first-look poster of actor Janhvi Kapoor for the much-anticipated film 'Peddi' was released on Saturday. The action-entertainer, directed by Buchi Babu Sana, features Ram Charan in the lead. The release of the first poster comes as anticipation continues to build for the film's release next year.

The makers shared two posters depicting Janhvi in her role as Achiyyamma. In the first, the actor is seen standing on a jeep with her hands over her head and her palms joined together. The second poster shows her with her left hand placed on her head. Both images highlight a strong, confident look that has quickly caught public attention. Announcing her character, the film's team posted a message on X that read, "Our #Peddi's love with a firebrand attitude. Presenting the gorgeous #JanhviKapoor as #Achiyyamma. #Peddi global release on March 27th, 2026 (sic)."

Production for 'Peddi' is currently underway in Sri Lanka, where the cast and crew are reportedly filming major portions of the movie.

Mastiii 4 trailer slammed for vulgarity, director Milap Zaveri responds

The release of the trailer for the upcoming film 'Mastiii 4' has ignited a wave of reactions on social media, with many users expressing disappointment over its content. Dropped on Tuesday, November 4, after a brief delay, the trailer features returning cast members Vivek Oberoi, Aftab Shivdasani, and Riteish Deshmukh, along with franchise newcomers Nargis Fakhri, Arshad Warsi, and Tusshar Kapoor. While some fans welcomed the return of the popular comedy series, others criticised the tone and humour displayed in the trailer, sparking a debate online.

A section of viewers expressed their dissatisfaction with the trailer, labeling it as "cheap" and "vulgar." The discussion gained further traction when a woman posted her thoughts on X, stating, "How do they face the females in their house after doing such films, you will never know (sic)."

Director Milap Zaveri responded to these concerns directly on social media, encouraging viewers to withhold judgment until seeing the full film. Zaveri replied, "Mam pls do see the film. You may be pleasantly surprised. Women have a v strong role and POV (sic)." His response aimed to address allegations regarding the portrayal of women.

'Mastiii 4' is directed by Milap Zaveri and features an ensemble cast, including Ruhii Singh, Shreya Sharma, Elnaaz Norouzi, Shaad Randhawa, Nishant Singh Malkani, and Natalia Janoszek. The film is scheduled for release on November 21, 2025, and marks the fourth entry in the long-running franchise that began in 2004.



Yami backs Deepika Padukone's 8-hour shift



Actor Yami Gautam has supported Deepika Padukone's ask for an 8-hour shift demand, saying that it has been 'happening for decades.' Speaking with Times Now News, Yami said that there are actors who shoot for "only eight hours a day, shoot five days a week, they don't do night shoots". She added that it is "pre-decided among the director, producer and the actor."

Yami said that whether a woman is "working or a homemaker, every mother is special and does everything she can for her child." She said, "As much as we would like a time cap like any other field, but ours is a little different. Locations, permissions, permutations, combinations, other actors, technicians, there are so many things. So this whole concept of time cap, for me is very subjective to an actor, a producer and a director collaboration and the understanding." The actor said that actors have been following the time cap for years and asked why a female actor is being questioned. "This is something that has been happening for decades. There are actors who shoot for only eight hours a day, shoot five days a week, they don't do night shoots. This is pre-decided among the director, producer and the actor. So why is it that if a female actor has said, it has become an issue. At the end of the day we are human beings making art and emotions in very odd circumstances. So I don't think there is anything wrong on asking about time if it suits the production. If it suits, they go ahead with it, if it doesn't, they don't," she added.

Recently, Deepika Padukone exited from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit due to her alleged demand for an eight-hour workday.

Jennifer Lawrence says trust made intimate scenes with Pattinson easy

Trust and comfort took centre stage for Jennifer Lawrence on the set of her upcoming film 'Die My Love', where she stars opposite Robert Pattinson. The Oscar-winning actor recently revealed that she chose not to work with an intimacy coordinator for the film's more vulnerable scenes – not out of disregard, but because she felt “completely safe” with her co-star.

Speaking on the Las Culturistas podcast during her press tour, Lawrence recalled how naturally the process unfolded. “We did not have [an intimacy coordinator]—or maybe we did, but we didn't really. I felt really safe with Rob,” she said, crediting the ease between them for making the experience comfortable.

The 'No Hard Feelings' star further praised Pattinson's professionalism, adding, “He is not pervy and very in love with [his partner] Suki Waterhouse. We mostly talked about our kids and relationships. There was never any weird, like, ‘Does he think I like him?’ If there was even a bit of that, I'd probably have an intimacy coordinator. But he was not like that.” Lawrence, who also appears nude in the film, shot 'Die My Love' while pregnant with her second child – a fact that, she says, stripped away any insecurities. “I don't care about nudity. I'm not sensitive about it,” she said, emphasising a sense of creative freedom on set. Reflecting on her collaboration with Ramsay, the actor shared, “I wanted Lynne to have total artistic freedom. Being pregnant took away a lot of vanity anxiety. Before No Hard Feelings, I was dieting and not eating carbs, working out all the time. But for 'Die My Love', I was like – what was I gonna do, not eat? I was working 15 hours a day and just tired. They once sent me a close-up of cellulite asking if I wanted it touched up, and I said, ‘No. That's an ass.’” Early screenings of 'Die My Love' have drawn glowing reviews, with critics praising Lawrence's raw and fearless performance – one already tipped for Oscar contention. The film will be released by Mubi.

Directed by Lynne Ramsay, 'Die My Love' releases on November 7 and follows a woman's descent into psychological turmoil after childbirth, with Pattinson playing her husband.



Angelina Jolie visits Ukraine border, 'rescues' bodyguard

Hollywood star and humanitarian Angelina Jolie made a surprise visit to Kherson, a southern Ukrainian frontline city, Ukrainian media reported on Wednesday. This is the actor's second visit to the country since Russia launched its invasion, and was made right after the recent drone strikes on Kherson.

Pictures of the actor wearing a bulletproof vest with Ukrainian insignia and visiting children's hospitals and maternity wards were posted on social media on Wednesday. One picture showed the Hollywood star with armour and a helmet outdoors, and another had her posing with a Ukrainian soldier whose face was blurred.

Reports in Ukrainian media also claimed that Angelina was flanked by local bodyguards during her visit, one of whom was drafted by the Ukrainian Army mid-trip. The reports state that Angelina had to go to the conscription office to get him released.

Kherson is a city which was briefly occupied by Moscow in 2022 and still comes under daily Russian bombardment.

Neither Angelina nor the Ukrainian government has confirmed the visit to Kherson, which lies on the other side of the Dnieper River from the Russian army.

Meghan, Duchess of Sussex set to make Hollywood comeback

Prince Harry's wife, former actor Meghan Markle, is to make her return to the big screen, media reported Wednesday, with a small cameo role in a film being shot around Los Angeles. The Duchess of Sussex was reportedly shooting scenes for Close Personal Friends, which features Emily in Paris star Lily Collins, alongside Jack Quaid, Brie Larson and Henry Golding.

Entertainment title Variety said the comedy “revolves around a 'regular' couple that meets a celebrity couple while on a trip to Santa Barbara.”

Markle starred in legal romp Suits for seven seasons before her fairytale wedding to the second son of Britain's King Charles. But she has not acted in seven years, after indicating she was giving up the profession.

The couple, who live in California after a bust-up with the British royal family, no longer have access to the public purse, relying instead on a pricey deal with Netflix and Markle's nascent lifestyle brand. The Netflix deal has spawned the

popular, if much-mocked, series With Love, Meghan, which features Markle as a thriving domestic maven in a fictionalised home, hosting guests, harvesting honey and mixing bath salts.

Despite being blasted by critics as “pointless,” it has been extended for a second season, and a holiday special is due in December.

The couple have struggled to capture the public's imagination since Harry & Meghan, a six-episode tell-all about their relationship and exit from the House of Windsor, which drew 23 million views in its first four days -- a record for a Netflix documentary.

Harry and his wife stepped away from royal duties in 2020 as relations with his family -- especially his brother William -- spiralled.

His blockbuster memoir Spare, published in January 2023, upset Buckingham Palace with its criticism of family members, including William's wife, Catherine and his stepmother, Queen Camilla.



Israel declares Egypt border area closed military zone due to weapon-smuggling drones

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz on Thursday said he instructed the army to turn the area at the border with Egypt into a closed military zone to combat weapons smuggling via drones. "I instructed the IDF (military) to turn the area adjacent to the Israel-Egypt border into a closed military zone and to amend the rules of engagement accordingly in order to combat the drone threat that endangers the country's security," Katz said in a statement.

"Weapon smuggling via drones is part of the war in Gaza and is intended to arm our enemies, and all possible measures must be taken to stop it," he added. Israel and Egypt share a border that spans approximately 200 kilometers (124 miles).

On Sunday, the Israeli military said it identified a drone that "crossed from the west into Israeli territory in an attempt to smuggle weapons."

It said troops intercepted the drone, which was carrying eight guns.

On Tuesday, it said it thwarted another smuggling attempt after intercepting a drone carrying 10 pistols which had "crossed from the eastern border" into Israeli territory.

Israel is bordered by Jordan to the east. "Today we declare war on those involved in the smuggling — and anyone who breaches the forbidden area will be targeted," Katz said Thursday. In a post on X, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir praised Katz for taking the decision and for "recognizing that the trafficking that takes place there serves terrorist objectives."

Israel strikes Hezbollah targets across southern Lebanon after evacuation orders

BEIRUT (TIP)

Israeli jets struck several towns in southern Lebanon on Thursday, Nov 6, after urging residents to leave, marking an escalation in their near-daily strikes on the country.

The airstrikes came hours after militant group Hezbollah urged the Lebanese government not to enter negotiations with Israel.

Israeli Arabic spokesperson Avichay Adraee warned residents in Tayba near the border, Teir Debba located just east of the coastal city of Tyre, and Aita al-Jabal in southern Lebanon, to flee 500 meters (about 1,600 feet) away from residential buildings they are targeting, which they say have been used by Hezbollah. It later issued more warnings for the towns of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Kfar Dounin.

The Israeli military said it targeted military infrastructure for Hezbollah in those areas, including "weapons storage facilities... constructed in the center of civilian-populated areas."

It accused the group of rebuilding its capabilities almost a year after a US-brokered ceasefire went into effect that ended a monthslong war. While most residents evacuated the threatened areas ahead of the strikes, Lebanon's health ministry reported one person wounded.

"We will not allow Hezbollah to rearm themselves, to recover, build back up its strength to threaten the state of Israel," Israeli government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian said at a briefing Thursday.

The strikes came as Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam and his government met in Beirut to follow up on



The airstrikes came hours after Hezbollah urged the Lebanese government not to enter negotiations with Israel. (Photo: AP)

a plan drafted by the Lebanese military to disarm Hezbollah and other non-state armed groups in the country. Information Minister Paul Morcos said, following the meeting, that the cabinet "commended the progress (the army) has made... despite continued obstacles, foremost among which is the continuation of Israeli hostilities."

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun has been critical of Israel's strikes and ongoing occupation of five hilltop points on Lebanese territory but has said he is open to negotiations with Israel to end the tensions.

Aoun said in a statement after Thursday's strikes that "every time Lebanon expresses its openness to peaceful negotiations... Israel intensifies its aggression."

"Nearly a year has passed since the

ceasefire came into effect, and during that time, Israel has spared no effort to demonstrate its rejection of any negotiated settlement between the two countries," he said. "Your message has been received."

Israel says its near-daily strikes have targeted Hezbollah officials and military infrastructure, while the Lebanese government that has backed disarming Hezbollah say the strikes have targeted civilians and infrastructure unrelated to the Iran-backed group.

The powerful group's military capabilities were severely damaged in Israel's intense air campaign over the tiny country in 2024, but Hezbollah have yet to disarm and its leader Sheikh Naim Kassem has said that the group will be ready to fight no matter how limited their capabilities might be.

Pope meets Palestinian Prez; discuss urgent need for Gaza aid, 2-state solution

VATICAN CITY (TIP)

Pope Leo XIV met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas for the first time on Thursday, Nov 6, and the two men discussed the urgent need to provide assistance to civilians in Gaza and to pursue a two-state solution to end the conflict in the region.

The meeting, which lasted about an hour and was described as "cordial" in a brief Vatican statement, comes nearly a month after the U.S.-brokered ceasefire agreement came into effect in the Gaza Strip.

The pope and Abbas had not met in person previously. They had spoken over the phone in July to talk about developments in the conflict in Gaza and violence in the West Bank.

"During the cordial talks, it was recognized that there is an urgent need to provide assistance to the

civilian population in Gaza and to end the conflict by pursuing a two-State solution," the Holy See said.

In September, Pope Leo and his top diplomats told Israel's president that a two-state solution was the "only way out of the war," as the Vatican called for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Abbas was visiting the Vatican to mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the "Comprehensive Agreement between the Holy See and the State of Palestine."

He arrived in Rome on Wednesday afternoon, and visited the Basilica of St. Mary Major to pay his respects to late Pope Francis' tomb.

Over the years, Abbas had met the late Pope Francis several times, maintaining frequent phone contacts after Hamas' attacks on Oct. 7, 2023, and Israel's strikes on Gaza.



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, left, is welcomed by Monsignor Leonardo Sapienza as he arrives in the St. Damasus Courtyard at the Vatican for a meeting with Pope Leo XIV, Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025. Photo | AP

Collapse at power plant in South Korea leaves at least three dead

A 60-meter (196-foot) tower collapsed during demolition work at a decommissioned thermal power plant in the South Korean city of Ulsan, killing three people and leaving at least two others presumed dead, officials said Friday, Nov 7.

Five people remain trapped under the rubble, including two whom officials have yet to locate.

Nine people were working at the site when the boiler tower collapsed Thursday afternoon. Rescue workers pulled two to safety shortly after responding, but another worker rescued later was pronounced dead at a hospital early Friday. Hours later, they pulled out another worker who was pronounced dead, and a doctor at the site confirmed the death of another worker who was among three people in the rubble. Fire officials believe the other two are also dead, according to Kim Jeong-shik, an official with Ulsan's fire department.

The search was temporarily halted Friday morning due to concerns over unstable rubble, and officials postponed planned stabilization work before resuming the search after spotting additional workers.

More than 340 rescue workers and dozens of vehicles had been deployed to the site for search and rescue efforts, along with search dogs, thermal cameras, endoscopes and other detection equipment, Kim said.

"The rescue site is currently covered with large amounts of asbestos and glass fibers ... and the space is extremely cramped, forcing rescue workers to manually clear the debris by hand in order to carry out the rescue operations," Kim said in a briefing.

Ukraine says it has hit Russian oil refinery with long-range drones

KYIV (TIP)

Ukrainian drones struck a major oil refinery in Russia's Volgograd region for the second time in almost three months, Ukraine's general staff said Thursday. Russian officials did not confirm the attack, although the local governor said drones started a fire at an unspecified industrial facility in the region.

Ukraine's general staff said in a statement that the attack took place the previous day. The refinery is the largest producer of fuel and lubricants in Russia's Southern Federal District, processing more than 15 million tonnes of crude annually — about 5.6 per cent of the country's total refining capacity, according to Ukrainian officials.

Russia and Ukraine have traded almost daily assaults on each other's energy infrastructure as US-led diplomatic efforts to stop the nearly four-year war make no impact on the battlefield.

Ukraine's long-range drone strikes on Russian refineries aim to deprive Moscow of the oil export revenue it needs to pursue its full-scale invasion.

Russia wants to cripple the Ukrainian power grid, seeking to deny civilians access to heat, light and running water in what Kyiv officials say is an attempt to "weaponize winter."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said foreign countries are helping Kyiv in its efforts to keep the power grid operating amid Russia's onslaught.

"Practically every day, our power engineers, repair brigades, and the State Emergency Service of Ukraine are carrying out restorations on-site after attacks: hits keep occurring across various points, especially in our



communities, and especially near the Russian border and close to the front," Zelenskyy said late Wednesday.

Also, saboteurs inside Russia burned dozens of locomotives in a bid to hamper the logistics of Russia's armed forces, Ukraine's military intelligence said Thursday.

The Freedom of Russia group used Molotov cocktails to set fire to the control and power supply systems of dozens of locomotives that transported military cargo, according to a statement from GUR, as the intelligence agency is known.

It was not possible to independently verify the claim, nor did the statement say whether the GUR was involved in the operation. Russian officials offered no immediate comment.

Ukraine, meanwhile, has attempted to strike targets on Russian soil with domestically developed long-range drones.

Ukrainian forces also struck three fuel lubricants facilities in the Russian-occupied Crimean peninsula and a

storage and assembly base for Russia's Shahed drones in an occupied area of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, the general staff statement said.

In the Kostroma region northeast of Moscow, a Ukrainian aerial attack hit unidentified "energy infrastructure facilities," Gov. Sergei Sitnikov said. There were no casualties and power supplies were not disrupted, he said.

Unconfirmed media reports said the attack targeted a hydroelectric power plant in the Kostroma region, one of the biggest in Russia.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Thursday its air defences shot down 75 drones overnight over multiple Russian regions and annexed Crimea.

Russia, meantime, attacked the city of Kamianske in Ukraine's eastern Dnipropetrovsk region with drones overnight, killing one person and injuring eight others, the head of the regional military administration, Vladyslav Haivanenko, said on his official Telegram channel.

Philippine death toll tops 140 as typhoon Kalmaegi heads towards Vietnam

HANOI (TIP)

Typhoon Kalmaegi has killed at least 142 people and left another 127 missing after unleashing devastating flooding across the central Philippines, official figures showed Thursday, Nov 6, as the storm headed towards Vietnam.

The typhoon is so far the globe's deadliest of 2025, according to disaster database EM-DAT. Trami, also in the Philippines, was last year's third-deadliest typhoon with 191 fatalities.

Floodwaters described as unprecedented rushed through Cebu province's towns and cities this week, sweeping away cars, riverside shanties and even massive shipping containers.

The national civil defence office on Thursday confirmed 114 deaths, though that tally did not include an additional 28 recorded by Cebu provincial authorities. More than 500,000 Filipinos remain displaced.

In Liloan, a town near Cebu City where 35 bodies have been recovered, AFP reporters saw cars piled atop each other by floodwaters and roofs torn off buildings as residents attempted to dig out of the



An aerial view shows Liloan town, in the province of Cebu on November 6, 2025, in the aftermath of Typhoon Kalmaegi. Photo: AFP/SUPPLIED

mud. Christine Aton's sister Michelle, who has a disability, was among Liloan's victims, trapped in her bedroom as the floodwaters rose inside their house.

"We tried to pry open (her bedroom door) with a kitchen knife and a crowbar but it wouldn't budge... Then the refrigerator started to float," Aton, 29, said.

"I opened a window and my father and I swam out.

We were crying because we wanted to save my older sister.

"But my father told me we couldn't do anything for her, that all three of us might end up dead."

Chyros Roa, a 42-year-old father of two, said his family was saved by his dog's barking when water rushed into their home in the early hours, giving them just enough time to reach their roof.

"The current was really strong. We tried to call for rescue, but no one came. We were told the rescuers were swept away by the current," he said.

On Thursday, Nov 6, President Ferdinand Marcos declared a "state of national calamity", a move allowing the government to release funding for aid and impose price ceilings on basic necessities.

"Unfortunately, there's another (typhoon) coming with the potential to become an even stronger one," he said at an afternoon press briefing.

Still more than 1,500 kilometres to the country's east, tropical storm Fung-wong is slowly building strength as it heads towards the Philippines' main island of Luzon.

It could reach super typhoon status before it makes landfall on Monday, Nov 10.

Afghanistan and Pakistan exchange fire as ceasefire talks resume in Turkiye

ISTANBUL (TIP)

Pakistan and Afghanistan have traded blame for brief cross-border fighting, as delegations from both countries met in Turkiye for talks aimed at securing a ceasefire following deadly clashes last month.

Thursday's (Nov 6) talks in Istanbul are intended to finalise a truce approved on October 19 in Qatar that ended a week of deadly clashes between the South Asian neighbours, which killed dozens of people, including soldiers and civilians, and wounded hundreds of others.

Security issues are at the heart of their dispute, with Islamabad accusing Kabul of harbouring groups such as the Pakistan Taliban (TTP), which is accused of launching attacks in Pakistan. The Taliban government in Afghanistan denies these allegations.

"While the third round of negotiations with the Pakistani side has begun in Istanbul, unfortunately, this afternoon Pakistani forces once again opened fire on Spin Boldak, causing concern among the local population," Afghan government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on Thursday, Nov 6.

The city of Spin Boldak is located in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar.

"The Islamic Emirate's forces, out of



A Taliban security personnel stands guard along a road near the Ghulam Khan zero-point border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Gurbuz district.

respect for the negotiation team and to prevent civilian casualties, have so far shown no reaction," Mujahid said on X.

Pakistan denied the accusation, pinning the blame on Afghanistan.

"We strongly reject claims circulated by the Afghan side regarding today's incident at the Pak-Afghan border at Chaman," Pakistan's Ministry of Information & Broadcasting posted on

X. "Firing was initiated from the Afghan side, to which our security forces responded immediately in a measured and responsible manner."

Hamdullah Fitrat, deputy spokesman for the Taliban authorities, told the AFP news agency that "we don't know the reason" for the Pakistani fire.

Ali Mohammed Haqmal, head of

Kandahar's information department, said the firing was brief. Residents told AFP it lasted 10-15 minutes.

Pakistan confirmed that calm had been restored.

Negotiations in Istanbul reached an impasse last week when it came to finalising ceasefire details, with each side accusing the other of not being willing to cooperate.

Both sides also warned of a resumption of hostilities in case of failure.

Despite the ceasefire, all important border crossings between Pakistan and Afghanistan remain closed to trade and civilian movement. The crossings were shut on October 12, though Pakistan has partially reopened two of those to allow Afghan refugees to return home.

Host Turkiye said at the conclusion of last week's talks that the parties had agreed to establish a monitoring and verification mechanism to maintain peace and penalise violators.

Fifty civilians were killed and 447 others wounded on the Afghan side of the border during clashes that began on October 9, according to the United Nations. At least five people died in explosions in Kabul that the Taliban government blamed on Pakistan.

The Pakistani army reported 23 of its soldiers were killed and 29 others wounded, without mentioning civilian casualties.

Bangladesh temporarily bars entry of Zakir Naik

Bangladesh has decided to temporarily bar Indian-born Islamic preacher Zakir Naik from entering the country. The decision was made on Tuesday during a meeting of the Law and Order Core Committee at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Dhaka.

According to officials from the Home Ministry in Dhaka, a local organisation had invited Naik to attend a two-day event scheduled for November 28 and 29 in Dhaka, with plans for him to travel to other parts of the country as well.

His potential visit, however, has been under review for several days amid strong reactions by a section of the society. During the meeting, officials concluded that Naik's presence would likely attract massive crowds, requiring a significant deployment of law enforcement personnel. Given the current pre-election situation, security forces are already heavily engaged in ensuring a peaceful national poll. As a result, authorities decided that Naik's visit could only be considered after the elections are over.

India's support indispensable for Sri Lanka's revival, says opposition leader Sajith Premadasa

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Sri Lanka's Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa has called for a deeper and more dynamic partnership with India, stressing that New Delhi's support is crucial for his country's recovery from what he described as a triple tragedy, the Easter Sunday terror attacks, the COVID-19 pandemic, and a severe economic collapse.

Premadasa, who is on a visit to New Delhi, held a series of meetings with Indian ministers, political leaders, and business representatives to discuss economic cooperation, investment opportunities, and regional stability.

Addressing an audience at the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), he said Sri Lanka's relationship with India is "indispensable" to steering the island nation out of its ongoing crisis.

"It is indispensable that our relationship with India functions in a manner that facilitates Sri Lanka extracting itself from its quagmire," Premadasa said. "We have faced triple tragedies -- the Easter Sunday terror



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman meets Sri Lanka's Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa during his visit to New Delhi.

Photo | PTI

attacks, COVID-19, and economic bankruptcy. At a time when Sri Lanka is facing economic, social, political, and cultural challenges, India's role in our recovery is crucial."

During his visit, Premadasa met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The discussions, officials said, focused on enhancing bilateral ties, promoting democratic cooperation, and identifying

new areas for economic engagement.

Speaker Birla described the talks as "warm and productive," noting that both sides reaffirmed their shared democratic values and cultural ties. "Our discussions focused on the shared democratic values, deep cultural connect, and mutual trust that form the foundation of India-Sri Lanka relations. We also discussed strengthening parliamentary cooperation and advancing our partnership for the prosperity of both nations," Birla said.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar echoed similar sentiments, reaffirming India's continued support for Sri Lanka's progress under the "Neighbourhood First" policy. "Discussed India-Sri Lanka relations and our Neighbourhood First policy. India will always be supportive of progress and development in Sri Lanka," Jaishankar said in a post on X.

Premadasa's outreach comes at a time when Sri Lanka is working to stabilise its economy following financial turmoil that led to a sovereign debt default in 2022.

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Hydration heroes: Best ingredients to rescue dry skin

Dry, flaky, or tight-feeling skin can often be a cry for help from your skin's moisture barrier. Whether it's harsh weather, dehydration, or the wrong skincare products, dryness dulls your complexion and accelerates aging. The secret to restoring that soft, supple glow lies in using the right hydrating ingredients - ones that nourish, repair, and lock in moisture from deep within. Here's a look at the best ingredients your skincare should include if your skin tends to be dry.

Hyaluronic Acid

A trending ingredient in the skincare sphere, hyaluronic acid actually occurs naturally in the body. Popularly called HA, it hydrates the skin so it appears plump with diminished lines. As it is a humectant, it draws moisture from its surroundings to deliver it to the cells. Hence one must use it in tandem with a nourishing moisturiser or an emollient like a facial oil to create a barrier on the skin.

Glycerin

Glycerin is a colourless and odourless humectant which lends itself beautifully to skincare products, especially those which promise to moisturise. It secures moisture within the cells to keep it hydrated. It is also a great ingredient to heal wounds and soothe inflammation.



Shea Butter

Shea butter has found fame in the skincare sphere for being particularly rich and nourishing. Even in its raw form, shea butter can tame frizz and calm skin. It is an emollient which gets absorbed very easily into the skin and helps skin retain moisture so that it stays smooth and hydrated.

Vitamin E

Vitamin E is present in many different substances such as almond oil, sunflower seeds and avocados. Hence consuming them is another great way to get more benefit of it. Vitamin E is also present in skincare products because of how it protects from the drying effects of free radicals and boosts moisture levels of the skin.

Jojoba Oil

Jojoba oil makes it to our list because of how unique it is. Dry

skin may bear majority of the brunt of winter skincare problems but that doesn't mean every skin type doesn't. Jojoba oil mimics naturally produced sebum so it suits even oily and combination skin types. It nourishes naturally and is lightweight on the skin's surface without any residual greasiness.

Ceramides

Ceramides are fatty molecules located within the skin itself. They form part of the barrier so as to prevent transepidermal water loss. Hence adding ceramides to your beauty routine can do a world of good. Ceramides make skin supple and soft by keeping hydration securely within itself. They also reduce the effect of inflammation and irritation seen in conditions like eczema, flaking and peeling.

What women truly want in a relationship: Real foundations of lasting love

Every woman dreams of a relationship that feels safe, nurturing, and deeply fulfilling - one that brings out her best self. While love forms the foundation, a truly meaningful bond requires much more than sweet words or grand gestures. It's about emotional understanding, respect, and partnership that grows with time. Here's what women truly need in a relationship to feel valued, seen, and loved.

To Feel Loved

When women feel loved, they relax and open to us. The arguments dissipate, the sex is abundant, and their nurturing feminine energy flows throughout our lives. Not feeling loved is the subtext of every argument that you and your partner have. If she is unhappy that you are going out with your friends, or she's



upset about her day at work, or she is only responding to you with brief snippets of sentences, then the cause is most likely her not feeling loved enough.

To Feel Safe

There is a war being waged on women's self-esteem, sexuality, and safety from a very young age. Because of the barrage of disempowering messages being sent to women regarding their sexuality, women

need to have a safe space where they feel that they can trust their partners. She wants to trust your strength. She wants to feel like you can handle whatever she shows you. Especially the more vulnerable things. She wants to feel like you will not judge her if she asks for something risqué. She wants to know you won't collapse in defeat if she tells you to do it "This way" instead.

To Feel Seen

Women want to feel seen. She wants to feel you hearing her, and being aware of her emotional state. She doesn't necessarily want you to be affected by her emotional state, but she does want you to be witness to it. If she is sitting across the room from you and you aren't picking up on the fact that she is suffering emotionally and on the verge of tears, she will begin to trust you less.

FOOD CORNER

Malai Kofta

Ingredients

For Kofta (Dumplings)

Paneer (cottage cheese) - 200 g, grated, Potatoes - 2 medium, boiled and mashed, Cornflour - 2 tbsp (or as needed for binding), Green chilli - 1, finely chopped, Cashews - 6-8, finely chopped, Raisins - 1 tbsp (optional, for sweetness), Salt - to taste, Garam masala - ½ tsp, Oil - for deep frying

For Gravy

Onions - 2 medium, roughly chopped, Tomatoes - 3 medium, roughly chopped, Cashews - 10-12, Ginger-garlic paste - 1 tbsp, Green chillies - 1-2 (optional), Fresh cream - 3 tbsp, Milk - ½ cup (or water, as needed), Turmeric powder - ¼ tsp, Red chilli powder - 1 tsp, Coriander powder - 1 tsp, Cumin powder - ½ tsp, Garam masala - ½ tsp, Kasuri methi (dried fenugreek leaves) - 1 tsp, crushed, Butter or oil - 2 tbsp, Salt - to taste

Method

Step 1: Prepare the Kofta

- In a bowl, mix grated paneer, mashed potatoes, green chilli, garam masala, and salt.
- Add cornflour gradually to bind the mixture.
- Shape into small balls. You can insert a few chopped cashews and raisins inside each for a rich center.
- Heat oil and deep-fry the koftas on medium flame until golden brown.
- Drain on paper towel and set aside.

Step 2: Make the Gravy Base

- Boil chopped onions, tomatoes, and cashews together in a little water for 8-10 minutes.
- Let it cool, then blend into a smooth paste.
- Heat butter or oil in a pan, add ginger-garlic paste, and sauté until fragrant.
- Add the prepared puree and cook for 7-8 minutes till the oil starts separating.
- Add turmeric, red chilli, coriander, and cumin powders; mix well.
- Pour in milk and simmer for 2-3 minutes.
- Add cream, salt, garam masala, and crushed kasuri methi. Mix and cook for 2-3 more minutes until the gravy thickens.

Step 3: Assemble

- Just before serving, place koftas in the serving bowl.
- Pour the hot gravy over them (do not simmer koftas in gravy or they may break).
- Garnish with cream and a sprinkle of kasuri methi or chopped coriander.



The many benefits of walking: Add low Alzheimer's risk to the list

If you ever needed another reason to lace up those sneakers and head out for a walk, science just gave you one. Walking, it turns out, doesn't just help you burn calories or clear your mind after a long day or help with cardio health. It actually help keeps your memory sharp and your brain young, too.

A new study published in Nature Medicine by researchers at Mass General Brigham, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School, found that increasing your daily steps, even by a modest amount, could slow down the progression of Alzheimer's disease in people at higher risk.

So if your fitness tracker has been collecting dust, consider this your gentle nudge from both science and your future self.

Researchers analysed data from nearly 300 adults aged 50 to 90 who were part of the Harvard Aging Brain Study. All participants were cognitively healthy when the study began and were followed for up to 14 years.

Using brain scans, researchers tracked two key Alzheimer's proteins (amyloid-beta and tau) and measured participants' daily steps using pedometers.

Here's where things get interesting:

People who walked 3,000–5,000 steps per day experienced a delay of three years in cognitive decline.

Those who managed 5,000–7,500 steps per day slowed their decline by an impressive seven years.

The couch potatoes? They had faster buildup of tau proteins and a quicker decline in memory and thinking skills.

That's right: your brisk evening walk might just be giving your brain a much-needed tune-up.

"This sheds light on why some people who appear to be on an Alzheimer's disease trajectory don't decline as quickly as others," said Dr. Jasmeer Chhatwal, senior author of the study.



Lifestyle factors appear to impact the earliest stages of Alzheimer's disease, suggesting that lifestyle changes may slow the emergence of cognitive symptoms if we act early.

WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE THE BRAIN

To understand why walking helps, think of your brain like a well-tuned machine. The proteins amyloid-beta and tau are naturally present in everyone's brain, but in Alzheimer's disease, they start clumping together, disrupting normal brain function.

The researchers found that participants who were more physically active had a slower buildup of tau proteins, the very tangles associated with memory loss.

Essentially, walking helped keep their brains cleaner and their neurons happier.

As Dr. Reisa Sperling, a neurologist and co-principal investigator of the Harvard Aging Brain Study, put it: "These findings show us that it's possible to build cognitive resilience and resistance to tau pathology in the setting of preclinical Alzheimer's disease. This is particularly encouraging for our quest to ultimately prevent Alzheimer's disease dementia."



AI helps infertile couple conceive after 19 years with two sperm cells

Artificial Intelligence is slowly changing the landscape of healthcare. Columbia University researchers developed an AI-powered system that can find even the rarest sperm cells in men who were previously thought to have none.

The new technology, called Sperm Tracking and Recovery (STAR), has already helped achieve its first confirmed pregnancy, marking a major step forward in treating severe cases of male infertility.

The couple, a 39-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman in the US, had undergone multiple in vitro fertilisation (IVF) cycles -- procedures that involved manual search for sperm along with two surgical procedures to extract sperm.

The AI algorithm scanned 25 lakh images of the man's semen sample for over two hours to identify two viable sperm cells, enabling the couple to conceive after 19 years. "A semen sample can appear totally normal, but when you look under the microscope you discover just a sea of cellular debris, with no sperm visible," senior author Zev Williams, director of the Columbia University Fertility Center, said. The study was published in The Lancet.

Male infertility is responsible for up to 40% of all infertility cases. In some men, a condition called azoospermia means there are no sperm in their semen.

Others have cryptozoospermia, where sperm are so rare that even experienced embryologists may not find them after hours of searching under a microscope.

These men often go through painful and expensive treatments like testicular surgeries or repeated failed lab attempts only to be told to use donor sperm or consider adoption. The STAR system is an AI-guided, non-invasive device that can scan semen samples at an incredibly high speed, processing over a million microscopic images every hour.

As the sample flows through a specially designed chip, the AI scans it in real time, detecting and tracking potential sperm cells. When it spots one, it automatically separates that sperm safely into a small compartment, ready for use in fertility treatments such as intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) — where a single sperm is injected directly into an egg.

Health benefits of pomegranate juice

Pomegranate is one of the healthiest fruits you should not miss. It is a bright red coloured fruit with tiny seeds. This fruit is loaded with fibre, potassium, vitamin C and much more. It is also rich in powerful plant components. Not just the fruit, pomegranate juice is also loaded with multiple health benefits. It can be a refreshing treat which is beneficial for your health as well. Packed juices often contain added sugar, salt and preservatives. Fresh pomegranate juice can be easily extracted at home from the fruits. According to studies, it can also help prevent the risk of certain cancers. In this article, here are some amazing health benefits of sipping this nutritious juice.

Loaded with antioxidants

Pomegranate juice is loaded with strong antioxidant properties. According to research, this juice contains three times more antioxidants than green tea. Antioxidants protect your cells from free radicals and reduce oxidative stress.

Offers vitamin C

This juice is also loaded with vitamin C which can offer multiple benefits to your body. Vitamin C boosts skin health, supports immune function, helps in wound healing and much more. Other than pomegranate juice, citrus fruits are loaded with vitamin C.

Lowers blood pressure

High blood pressure can significantly increase the risk of heart disease. Diet plays a significant role in controlling blood pressure. According to the findings at



Phytotherapy Research, drinking 150 ml of this juice for two weeks can significantly reduce blood pressure.

Beneficial in arthritis

Living with arthritis means, inflammation in joints with pain. Anti-inflammatory properties of pomegranate juice can help combat inflammation. But more intensive research is needed to elaborate on the effect.

Improves memory

As per findings, pomegranate juice can help boost memory and may also help fight Alzheimer's disease. This study was published in the Journal Neurobiol Dis.

It is important to seek expert advice to understand the quantity of pomegranate juice you can consume in a day especially those suffering from pre-existing conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes or others.

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India's first electric rocket Vayuputhra could change space forever

Chennai-based Space Kidz India is set to launch an electricity-powered eco-friendly rocket named 'Vayuputhra,' marking a significant breakthrough in green space technology with a focus on zero emissions, affordability, and accessibility.

Space Kidz India, an aerospace and defense organisation dedicated to making space exploration accessible and educational for children, has been credited with several successful launches. The latest initiative, led by Srimathy Kesan, aims to develop a rocket powered by electricity rather than traditional solid fuels that produce high emissions.

"When it comes to rockets, we predominantly use solid fuel which emits a large amount of pollution. Our start-up, filled with young brains, was able to come up with this innovative idea. Rocketry is a passion for many, and following our success with KalamSat, numerous students across India now view space as something accessible," said Srimathy Kesan.

Vayuputhra was mainly crafted using 3D printing with carbon fiber and biodegradable plastic, making it lightweight and precise. "3D printing is a boon. It allows us to produce parts, both metal and plastic, with better precision. Mass production can reduce costs by at least 2% annually, which is significant. Our main goal remains providing easy access to space technology for children," Kesan added.

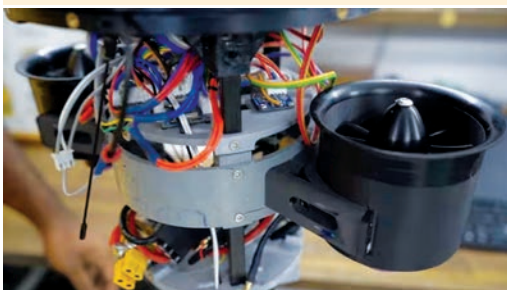
This electric rocket is reusable and can be charged, making it unlike conventional rockets that require extensive infrastructure.

Mechanical lead Gokul elaborated on the design, "The e-rocket is modular and customizable, and our in-house designed brushless DC motors provide effective propulsion. It is ideal for low-altitude research up to 6 km, and the battery cost per launch is just Rs 25. Since it uses no combustion, it doesn't need a launchpad, simplifying the launch process."

Srimathy Kesan, recently honoured with the Brand Laureate award, emphasised the mission's core aim: to democratise space technology for Indian children.

The next big mission will involve girls worldwide in the creation and launch of ShakthiSat, a satellite to be sent to the Moon, promoting inclusion and inspiring the next generation of space explorers.

With Vayuputhra, Space Kidz India not only pioneers eco-friendly rocket technology but also opens avenues for educational and affordable space access for youth across India and beyond.



Google may soon phase out Assistant, making Gemini the only option

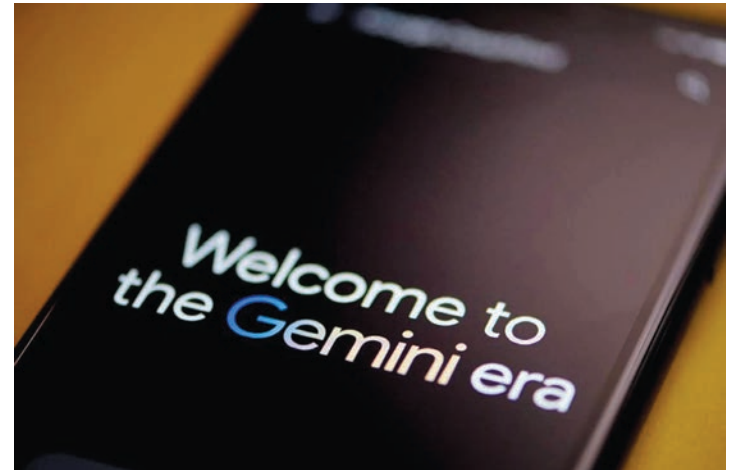
For nearly a decade, Google Assistant has been the ever-present digital companion of Android users - setting alarms, answering trivia, and helping millions navigate daily life with a simple "Hey Google." But that familiar voice may soon fade into history. Reports suggest that Google is preparing to phase out its iconic Assistant in favor of Gemini, its next-generation, generative AI-powered model that represents the company's boldest reimagining of personal assistance yet. This transition marks not just the end of an app, but the beginning of a new technological philosophy - one where assistants evolve from reactive helpers to intelligent collaborators.

From Commands to Conversations: The Rise of Gemini

When Google Assistant debuted in 2016, it was revolutionary. It could parse natural language, respond contextually, and integrate seamlessly with Google's apps. But the technology landscape has changed dramatically since then. The rise of large language models (LLMs) - capable of understanding nuance, reasoning through context, and even generating creative responses - has reshaped what users expect from digital assistants. Today, people want more than reminders and weather updates; they want conversation, analysis, and creativity.

Enter Gemini, Google's multimodal AI platform designed to handle text, images, and soon even video. It can write essays, explain code, summarize meetings, or analyze a photo - all within the same conversation. With Gemini, Google envisions a single AI interface that integrates across every corner of its ecosystem, from Gmail to Docs, Maps to Android Auto.

"Generative AI is transforming the way we interact with technology," Google noted earlier this year. The message is



clear: Gemini is not just an upgrade - it's the future.

Why Google Is Retiring Its Old Assistant

While it might sound abrupt, the decision to replace Google Assistant with Gemini stems from both technological necessity and strategic foresight.

Evolution of AI: Assistant was built for an earlier era of natural-language processing, where responses were scripted and tasks pre-defined. Gemini's large-language model architecture allows far greater flexibility - it can think, reason, and generate on the fly.

Unified Ecosystem: Over the years, Google's AI efforts had splintered - from Assistant on phones to Bard in search to Duet AI in Workspace. By consolidating under the Gemini brand, Google aims to offer a single, coherent AI experience across all platforms.

Apple is coming to eat Google and Microsoft's lunch with new low-cost MacBook: Report

Apple is said to be working on an affordable MacBook for some time now. The Cupertino giant has seen a rise in MacBook sales recently, but its devices remain at the higher end, including the base M4 MacBook Air. Now, the company is planning to fill the gap in the lineup, with the low-cost MacBook targeting students and users on a budget.

According to Bloomberg, Apple will use less-advanced components to keep the price of the affordable MacBook under \$1,000 (roughly Rs 88,740) in the US. The report states that the device will be powered by an iPhone chipset. Previously, it was believed that the low-cost MacBook would use the A18 Pro chipset from the iPhone 16 Pro.

On the surface, the iPhone chip may raise doubts over performance. However, the report suggests that it would perform better than the M1 chipset.

Additionally, the new MacBook is expected to pack a lower-end LCD compared to the 13.6-inch unit in the MacBook Air.

Apple wants to target students with new MacBook

Apple is planning to target students with its low-cost MacBook. The



company wants to cater to users who would normally use a Windows laptop or a Chromebook at around \$600 (roughly Rs 53,000) in price. As per IDC, Apple stood in fourth place in terms of global PC market share in the third quarter of 2025 with 9 per cent. The company trailed behind Lenovo, HP and Dell.

Though some do opt for an iPad with a Magic Keyboard, the new MacBook would provide better battery life and greater flexibility at the same price

range.

Apple low-cost MacBook launch and expected price

The report states that the device is already in early production and is being tested with the codename J700. Apple is expected to launch the device in the first half of 2026. The low-cost MacBook is likely to be priced at \$600 (roughly Rs 53,000) in the US. There is no information available on pricing for the Indian market yet.

US orders 10% flights cut at major US airports due to shutdown

WASHINGTON/CHICAGO (TIP)

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on Wednesday that he would order a 10% cut in flights at 40 major U.S. airports, citing air traffic control safety concerns as a government shutdown hit a record 36th day.

The drastic plan sent airlines scrambling to make significant reductions in flights in just 36 hours and passengers flooded airline customer service hotlines with concerns about air travel in the coming days.

Duffy said the cuts could be reversed if Democrats agreed to reopen the government.

The shutdown, the longest in U.S. history, has forced 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 Transportation Security Administration agents to work without pay.

The Trump administration has sought to ramp up pressure on Democrats to end the shutdown and has increasingly raised the specter of dramatic aviation disruptions to force them to vote to reopen the government. Democrats contend Republicans are to blame for refusing to negotiate over key health care subsidies.

SHUTDOWN AMPLIFIES STAFFING SHORTAGES

Tens of thousands of flights have been delayed since the shutdown began because of widespread air traffic control shortages. Airlines say at least 3.2 million travelers have already been impacted by air traffic control shortages.

"We had a gut check of what is our job," Duffy told reporters, citing a confidential safety assessment of the impact of the shutdown on controllers that raises concerns about their performance. "Our job is to make sure we make the hard decisions to continue



to keep the airspace safe."

In a call with major U.S. carriers, the FAA said capacity reductions at the airports would start at 4%, rising to 5% Saturday and 6% Sunday, before hitting 10% next week, industry sources told Reuters. The FAA also plans to exempt international flights from the cuts.

"When we see pressures building in these 40 markets, we just can't ignore it," FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford said at a press conference. "We can take action today to prevent things from deteriorating so the system is extremely safe today, will be extremely safe tomorrow."

While the government did not name the 40 airports affected, the cuts were expected to hit the 30 busiest airports including those serving New York City, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles and Dallas. This would reduce as many as 1,800 flights and over 268,000 airline seats, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium.

Government officials said nothing

would be final until the FAA published an order on Thursday.

The move is aimed at taking pressure off air traffic controllers. The FAA is about 3,500 air traffic controllers short of targeted staffing levels and many had been working mandatory overtime and six-day weeks even before the shutdown.

AIRLINES EVALUATE THE IMPACT

The FAA also warned that it could add more flight restrictions after Friday if further air traffic issues emerge.

CEO Scott Kirby outlined the carrier's strategy for flight reductions, assuring staff and customers that long-haul international and hub-to-hub operations will remain unchanged. The cuts will target regional flying and non-hub domestic routes instead.

Kirby emphasized a flexible refund policy, telling employees, "any customer traveling during this period is eligible for a refund if they do not wish to fly - even if their flight isn't impacted."

More trouble for Anil Ambani's Reliance Group as govt launches probe

The regulatory net has tightened further around Anil Ambani's Reliance Group. After ongoing scrutiny by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has initiated a fresh probe into alleged diversion of funds across multiple group companies, including Reliance Infrastructure, Reliance Communications, Reliance Commercial Finance and CLE Pvt Ltd.

According to sources, the case has now been transferred to the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) after the MCA's preliminary findings indicated large-scale siphoning of funds and major violations under the Companies Act. The SFIO is expected to investigate the flow of money across group entities and pinpoint responsibility at the senior management level. Action will follow based on the outcome of the probe.

The move comes at a time when ED has stepped up enforcement against the debt-ridden conglomerate. Earlier this week, the agency attached assets worth nearly Rs 7,500 crore belonging to Reliance Group firms.

ED officials said the attached properties include 30 assets of Reliance Infrastructure, along with properties linked to Adhar Property Consultancy, Mohanbir Hi-tech Build, Gamesa Investment Management, Vihaan43 Realty and Campion Properties. These attachments are connected to what authorities describe as a multi-crore bank fraud case involving Reliance Infrastructure. The ED's case centres around loans raised by Reliance Communications (RCOM) and its group companies between 2010 and 2012. As per the agency, the outstanding dues stand at Rs 40,185 crore, with five banks declaring the loan accounts fraudulent.

What rising demand for gold says about global economy

Gold has been on a winning run, climbing to record highs as investors search for safety in an increasingly unpredictable world. Prices have nearly doubled in the last two years, with the metal averaging 3,665 dollars per ounce in September 2025, before touching 4,000 dollars in October.

According to a new analysis by CareEdge Global Ratings, the rise reflects mounting economic, currency and geopolitical concerns rather than a short-term market swing. Gold is shifting from a consumer product to a financial shield. CareEdge says investment demand in the first half of 2025 has already matched the entire demand recorded in 2024, driven by concerns over inflation and market volatility. "Gold continues to play a



multifaceted role in the global economy as a trusted investment asset and a strategic reserve for central banks," the report notes. By contrast, jewellery demand has started to moderate as prices remain elevated.

WEAKER DOLLAR, STRONGER GOLD

The US Dollar Index has weakened by

around 8.6% this year, pressured by fiscal concerns, economic slowdown fears and shifting trade policies.

The dollar's share in global foreign exchange reserves has declined from 71.1% in 2000 to 57.8% in 2024, as central banks gradually diversify. CareEdge says this trend has reinforced gold's appeal as a "politically neutral, inflation-resistant store of value." Even with recent rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve, policy rates remain elevated, keeping financial conditions tight.

CENTRAL BANKS REASSESS RESERVES

Official sector gold demand in 2024 surged to about 1,089 tonnes, more than double the long-term annual average. Policymakers are clearly reassessing how

vulnerable dollar-denominated assets can be during geopolitical disputes. The seizure of Russian reserves after its invasion of Ukraine highlighted the risk. Gold held domestically is shielded from such actions, making it a preferred choice for emerging economies seeking strategic security.

BRICS AND RESERVE DIVERSIFICATION

Six of the ten largest official gold buyers in recent periods are BRICS members, highlighting the bloc's push for financial independence. However, gold still accounts for only 17% of BRICS reserves, compared with more than 50% for G7 economies, showing there is still a long way to go before balance shifts meaningfully.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES

Ganesha says your overall experience this week may be somewhat challenging. There will be tension and conflict around you, which may cause mental distress. This is a time for introspection, where you need to pay attention to your thoughts and feelings. You may also face difficulties in your relationships, which can impact your energy. It's important to communicate openly and honestly with loved ones. You'll need positive energy to avoid anxiety and nervousness. This is a time for you to recognize and work on your inner strength. Find inner stability and calm yourself through meditation or yoga. This week can be an opportunity for learning and growth, which will help you improve your relationships and overall situation. Be patient and prepare for good times ahead.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week will be very good for everyone. This period will bring positive energy, boosting your confidence. You'll be able to express your thoughts clearly, which will bring a new spark to your personality. This week, try to strengthen your relationships with those around you. This is a great time for you to better understand and share your feelings. Spending time with friends and family will bring you joy and satisfaction. Your sensitivity and emotional depth will add a new dimension to your relationships this week. Communication with loved ones will prove to be life-saving. Move forward with positivity and see what small things can strengthen your relationships. This combination of health and happiness will help you make lifestyle changes. Listen to your heart and make this week inspiring for relationships.



GEMINI

Ganesha says this week is a bright time for you, with an overall positive impact. Your curiosity and communication skills will improve during this time, allowing you to establish deep and meaningful connections with those around you. This will not only help you understand others but will also increase your social activities. Your intuition and intelligence will allow you to make many new friends this week. This is a good time for you to share your

thoughts and feelings with clarity. You may embark on a new and exciting journey with your partner, which will give your relationship a new dimension. Existing relationships will offer opportunities to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation. If you're facing a challenge, take it as an opportunity to strengthen your relationship. This week will be filled with positivity and happiness.

CANCER



Ganesha says this week will be a bit challenging. You'll be emotionally sensitive, which may cause you to worry over small things. This anxiety can also affect your relationships, so be careful. Use creativity when communicating with loved ones and seek their support during difficult times. During this time, your mind will be filled with excessive worries and apprehensions, which can impact your mental health. This is the right time to face your fears and phobias. It's important to understand that challenges also make you stronger. This time is crucial in your journey of personal growth. By understanding your emotions and accepting your fears, you can recognize your inner strength. This week, practice self-reliance and patience. Spending time with those close to you and sharing your feelings can bring you relief. Meditation and therapy can also be helpful.



LEO

Ganesha says Leo natives may face emotional turmoil. Your inner beliefs and concerns may trouble you. This week don't be discouraged by the negativity of circumstances; instead, see it as an opportunity. Recognize your inner strength and self-confidence. Tensions and misunderstandings may arise in relationships, so be careful in your interactions. Try to connect emotionally with loved ones; this will bring stability to your society. We must remember that every challenge teaches us to move forward. Even if some moments seem difficult, consider them part of your self-development. This week, try to bring out your hidden creativity; this will maintain peace of mind. Rely on meditation and positive thinking to reduce your worries. Overall, this week will be average for you, but you can work towards improving the situation with your attitude and efforts.



VIRGO

Ganesha says from a general perspective, this week will be very good for Virgo natives. The environment around you will be filled with positive energy, allowing you to easily deal with various situations. Relationships will

be full of energy and enthusiasm. You'll enjoy spending time with loved ones and be able to understand their feelings. This week will inspire you to expand your social circle and make new connections. This is a good time to rekindle relationships that have drifted apart. You'll share deep thoughts and feelings during conversations with your partner or friends, strengthening your bonds. Overall, this week will be excellent for you in terms of love and relationships. You'll feel love and support around you, which will bring positive changes to your life. Simply use this time wisely and infuse new energy into your relationships.



LIBRA

Ganesha says this week is a time for Libras to experience fulfillment. Your relationships are now strengthening, and you'll be able to maintain harmony and balance with everyone. This time will allow you to communicate with those close to you and deepen your relationships. If you're looking to start a new relationship, this is the perfect time, as you're full of charm and charisma. Your understanding and communication skills will create positive energy around you, helping you strengthen your relationships. This week is great for spending time with friends and family, which will not only bring you happiness but also sweeten your relationships. This week, you will realize how important all relationships are. Your awareness and compassionate approach will open new doors to love and friendship. Simply keep your heart open and strengthen the bonds of affection.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week can be challenging for Scorpions, as uncertainty and anxiety are likely. Some tension may arise in your relationships, leaving you confused. It's important to communicate with those close to you. Speak openly to resolve any misunderstandings. Try to remain calm, as your inner emotions may flare up. This is a time to be honest with yourself and listen to your inner voice. If you want to strengthen your relationships, you will need to exercise patience and understanding. You may find it difficult to control your emotions, but accept that change is inevitable and improvement is possible. This week can be a good time for introspection for Scorpions. Meditation and positive thinking will give you the strength to move forward during this time. Maintain your positive energy and try to work together with others.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week will be a very good one overall for

Sagittarius. Your positive energy and enthusiasm will be of great benefit. People around you will feel your energy and be drawn to connect with you. This time is also favorable for friendship and collaboration. New friendships and old relationships will flourish. Your social life will be dynamic. Sharing fun moments and spending time with loved ones will be important this week. If you want to strengthen a special relationship, express your thoughts openly. Positive conversations and the exchange of ideas will deepen your relationships. This week is also excellent for personal growth, so take time for introspection and listen to your inner voice. Overall, this week is a time to reach new heights in love and relationships. Channel your energy in a positive direction, as you will experience many joys.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week, your circumstances may be particularly challenging, requiring you to pay attention to your emotional aspects. This week is likely to be a little less positive than usual for Capricorns. Some tension may arise in your relationships, causing you to experience anxiety and restlessness. During this time, you are advised to be careful in your communication with loved ones. The words and feelings you express can have a profound impact. While trying to explain yourself, you may find yourself caught in some misunderstandings. On the positive side, facing these challenges may provide you with an opportunity to recognize your inner strength. View this week's events as an opportunity to strengthen yourself personally and in relationships. Try meditating and clarifying your thoughts; this will help you achieve greater clarity and peace.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week is expected to be extremely positive and inspiring. This time will bring new energy and enthusiasm to your personal relationships and social life. Relationships with friends and family will become sweeter, making you feel even happier. Your freedom of thought and creativity will attract not only you but also those around you this week. This is a time when you can share your ideas and connect with others. This week, you will recognize opportunities that will help you advance your personality in new directions. This is a beneficial time for self-improvement and progress. Listening to and understanding your ideas will generate positive feedback from others, strengthening your confidence. Overall, this week will be excellent for your personal growth and relationships.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : NOV 10 TO NOV 16 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

NOVEMBER 10

Ganesha says you will notice that you're overly excited today. Your extrovert behavior and your cheerful disposition are highly appreciated in the social circle. Your strong leadership qualities will make you confident enough that you will be able to do all the work very well. Success will come your way if you work hard. Today will bring some good fortune as the planets align in your favor.

NOVEMBER 11

Ganesha says today your day will be very kind. Today, you will be able to complete the remaining tasks in the projects. You may complete your work early, due to which you will be able to enjoy your time with your family. You may plan a trip with your partner. Your business will go great today. Today things will turn out the way you want, as you have a lot of luck. One new opportunity will arise which will come immediately today itself and make you a lot of profit. Stars are in your favor, which will help you navigate through any problems easily regarding this new opportunity.

NOVEMBER 12

Ganesha says you will notice that

things are working out for you without much effort. Little good things will keep happening throughout the day. It is great that everything will work out for you today, but do not get lazy and focus on what you need to do today. You are very lucky today because you will get what you wish for. Make sure you use the luck you have today to benefit yourself and not others. After all, only then will it remain a positive thing for you.

NOVEMBER 13

Ganesha says to wake up and meditate the first thing in the morning; it will be beneficial for your personal as well as professional life. You will make great profits in your business, hence you will have a good day today. You will lean more towards altruism today, considering the spiritual awakening in your sign. Ensure that you do not drift away from your dreams & ambitions as you might encounter a few distractions today. Ensure that you're ethical both in your personal & professional life.

NOVEMBER 14

Ganesha says you will feel a lot of love and care coming towards you from family, friends, as well as your partner.

Your day will be a tough one today, but you will feel supported and cared for in all ways. At the end of the day, you will feel very satisfied with where you are in your life currently. Your partner's loving and caring nature will make you fall in love with your partner a lot today. You will experience firsthand how beautiful it is to be loved and cared for by someone you trust and love with all your heart.

NOVEMBER 15

Ganesha says your love life has been on a roller coaster, but you will experience stability today. Try to say what you have been thinking. Expressing your feelings will help you better your love life. Venus will bring love, and the moon will bring fortune to your face today. You are entering a new phase that marks the start of a lane named success. Along with your old commitments, you will be taking on additional responsibilities today, but it won't seem like hard work as you will enjoy doing it thoroughly.

NOVEMBER 16

Ganesha says you are very lucky today because you will get what you



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

wish for; make sure you use the luck you have today to benefit yourself and not others, because only then will it remain a positive thing for you. You will tend to focus more on your financial issues, hence your love life will be on the back burner. Immense support from your partner might surprise you a little bit. Try to have patience and understanding. You are extremely close to finding that person who will support you in everything, do not annoy that person.

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PISCES



Ganesha says this week, your emotions will be superficial, but you may also experience feelings of anxiety. The environment around you will be seeking harmony and stability, yet you may find it difficult to maintain your balance. In any situation, try to understand and share your feelings, as communication can be an important way for you to find solutions. This is a time to exercise some caution in relationships. To avoid any negative situations, try to maintain positive communication while maintaining confidence in yourself. Unknown worries may create turmoil in your mind, so try to fill yourself with positivity. Recognize your inner creativity, even if it feels like nervousness. It is important to

understand the depth of your thoughts and express them appropriately.

Remember, every challenge presents a new opportunity. Move forward with

love and support to bring stability to your relationships.

AUTHOR BIO

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website chiragdaruwalla.com. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Indian-origin Zohran Mamdani scripts history, first South Asian to be New York mayor

anthropologist Mahmood Mamdani as well as his wife, the artist Rama Duwaji of Syrian descent, stood proudly in the crowd, a first family of immigrants who must have taken seriously the words inscribed beneath the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..."

"Together," Zohran said, the first Muslim mayor-designate of Indian origin, to thunderous cheer, "we will usher in a generation of change".

The 34-year-old Democratic Socialist was also pointing towards Donald Trump, whose contemptuous dismissal of him through the campaign and endorsement of Mamdani's opponent, the scandal-hit former Democrat Andrew Cuomo, as well as his other opponents, gave the campaign a definite edge.

"They and their ilk should turn the volume up to the sound of change.... New York, tonight you have delivered a mandate for change, a mandate for a new kind of politics, a mandate for a city we can afford."

Mamdani secured over 50 per cent of the vote, defeating Cuomo with 40 per cent and Republican nominee Curtis Silwa, who garnered a mere 7 per cent of the vote.

According to the New York Board of Elections, two million votes were cast for the first time in this election since 1969. He will be inaugurated as the 111th mayor of New York in January.

Mamdani's historic victory to run the city of more than 8.4 million people is seen as a comeback of progressive politics, with Mamdani vowing to prioritize working-class issues as he proposed initiatives like free childcare, rent-freeze, free bus services and government-run grocery stores to make New York affordable to live.

The road ahead, however, will be far from easy as Republicans have long questioned Mamdani's ability to actuate on change, whether it's tax hike or free buses. But the Mayor-elect is aware this idealism doesn't exist in a vacuum, and it requires tireless advocacy and action to shift a perspective that has lost its way to convenience. Certainly, real listening will come into play.

What we do now know is that the world is trembling itself into a new existence, and as Zohran said, "In this moment of political darkness, New York will be the light."

(Also read on page 2 : Stop Rhetoric, Start Action)

(Source: The Tribune)

Nassau County Elections: Republicans Make a Clean Sweep

victory party in Mineola, praising police unions and law-enforcement endorsements that buoyed his re-election bid. Local GOP leaders hailed the results as proof that voters in Nassau - one of the most closely watched suburban counties in the state - remain supportive of a more conservative approach to crime and fiscal policy.

In the DA's race, incumbent Anne Donnelly cruised to a second term, defeating Democratic prosecutor Nicole Aloise. Donnelly, who emphasized prosecutions of gun crimes and a tougher stance on violent offenders, won with a comfortable margin in unofficial returns that put her vote share in the mid-50s percentage range. Her victory ensures continuity in the county's prosecutorial approach during a period when public safety was a dominant campaign theme.

Democratic campaigns had hoped high-profile local and statewide issues - housing costs, property taxes and the national political climate - would help flip Nassau back toward the Democrats this year. Instead, Republican turnout edged Democrats in early voting and election day participation in several key precincts, a pattern that analysts say tilted tight contests in the GOP's favor. The Nassau County Board of Elections reported roughly 313,184 ballots cast countywide in the general election.

The Democratic candidates conceded reluctantly in

several races. Seth Koslow - who ran on a platform of government transparency, property-tax relief for homeowners and investments in county services - called his loss "disappointing" but urged his supporters to keep organizing locally. Koslow's campaign had sought to tie some county-level fiscal pressures to the executive administration, but the margin was not enough to unseat the incumbent.

Local political observers said the results reflected a blend of incumbency advantage, effective local GOP messaging on public safety and endorsements from law-enforcement groups that resonated with suburban voters worried about crime. Nassau Republicans also benefited from a well-funded ground game and a string of advertising that framed the election as a choice between stability and change - an argument that, in the end, played better for the incumbents.

Beyond the headline countywide races, Republicans held onto other crucial local posts, including several town supervisor seats and legislative districts that Democrats had targeted earlier in the year. The sweep extends the GOP's control over the county's administrative apparatus and gives Blakeman and allied officials a clearer runway to pursue priorities next year.

Democrats and progressive activists - still celebrating some high-profile wins elsewhere in the state, including in New York City - warned against reading the Nassau results as a wholesale rejection of their agenda. They pointed to structural factors such as turnout differences, local issue salience and the power of incumbency. "We'll be back," said a senior county Democrat, noting that Nassau's voter rolls still show a Democratic registration advantage, and promising a reorganized strategy aimed at next year's cycles.

What the sweep means in practical terms: expect an immediate focus on stricter enforcement priorities from the DA's office and proposals from the executive's office that prioritize law enforcement budgets and oppose any local moves that would limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities. Blakeman's re-election also revives questions about his political future; local media and party operatives have already speculated about higher-profile runs, though the county executive said he was focused on governing.

Voters who backed Democrats expressed concern about rising costs and housing pressures, issues that will likely remain central in Nassau for the foreseeable future. For Democrats, the task now is to translate criticism about local conditions into a winning message that can overcome the incumbents' law-and-order advantage. For Republicans, the challenge is to deliver on promises while keeping suburban swing voters engaged through the next cycles.

Officials on both sides stressed the importance of looking beyond the immediate headlines. County Board of Elections staff emphasized that the posted results were unofficial until certification, and canvassing and audits planned in the coming weeks will finalize vote counts and close the books on the Nov. 4 contests. Still, with every precinct now tallied and margins clear in most countywide races, the outcome is unlikely to change dramatically.

As night fell on a high-turnout Tuesday in Nassau County, Republicans toasted a clean sweep that will shape county policy for the next four years. Democrats pledged to regroup and keep fighting in local towns and legislative districts where they see openings. For residents of Nassau, the result closes one chapter of a closely watched political tug-of-war on Long Island - and opens another in which local government, budgets and public-safety debates will move to the fore.

(Reporting compiled from Nassau County Board of Elections data and coverage by Newsday, Long Island Press, WSHU, local outlets, and official campaign statements.)

'PM Modi a great man': Trump says he 'could' visit India next year

Now it is eight, because the one that was sort of shot down is now abandoned. Eight planes were shot down.

"And I said, 'Listen, if you guys are going to fight, I'm gonna put tariffs on you'. And they both went, you know, they were not happy about that. And within 24 hours, I

settled the war. If I didn't have tariffs, I wouldn't have been able to settle that war," Trump said.

The president also termed tariffs a "great national defense". (Source: PTI)

Trump's advice to Mamdani after stunning NYC win: "He should be nice to me"

"Yeah, I thought it was a very angry speech, certainly angry toward me, and I think he should be very nice to me. You know, I'm the one that sort of has to approve a lot of things coming to him. So he's off to a bad start," Trump said in an interview to Fox News in Miami on Wednesday, November 5, when asked about Mamdani's victory speech.

In his fiery address, Mamdani challenged Trump and heralded the toppling of "political dynasty".

Amid Trump's crackdown on immigration, Mamdani said New York will be powered by immigrants and after his historic victory, it will be "led by an immigrant".

"After all, if anyone can show a nation betrayed by Donald Trump how to defeat him, it is the city that gave rise to him. And if there is any way to terrify a despot, it is by dismantling the very conditions that allowed him to accumulate power," Mamdani said to thunderous applause.

"This is not only how we stop Trump; it's how we stop the next one. So, Donald Trump, since I know you're watching, I have four words for you: Turn the volume up.

"We will hold bad landlords to account because the Donald Trumps of our city have grown far too comfortable taking advantage of their tenants. We will put an end to the culture of corruption that has allowed billionaires like Trump to evade taxation and exploit tax breaks.

"We will stand alongside unions and expand labor protection because we know, just as Donald Trump does, that when working people have ironclad rights, the bosses who seek to extort them become very small indeed.

"New York will remain a city of immigrants: a city built by immigrants, powered by immigrants and, as of tonight, led by an immigrant," Mamdani said.

"So hear me, President Trump, when I say this: To get to any of us, you will have to get through all of us," he added.

When asked how he would respond to Mamdani's tirade against him, Trump said it is a "very dangerous statement for him to make actually".

"And you know, you talk about danger, I think it's a very dangerous statement for him to make. He has to be a little bit respectful of Washington, because if he's not, he doesn't have a chance of succeeding," the president said.

Trump added that he doesn't want to make Mamdani succeed but "I want to make the city succeed, and we'll see what happens".

When asked if he would reach out to him, Trump said that Mamdani "should reach out to us really".

"I think he should reach out. I'm here. We'll see what happens. But I would think that it would be more appropriate for him to reach out to us."

Trump added that he is "so torn, because I would like to see the new mayor do well, because I love New York. I really love New York".

Trump, who calls Mamdani a "communist", said that for thousands of years, communism has not worked. "Communism or the concept of communism has not worked. I tend to doubt it's going to work this time," he said.



Sikh History This Week

NOVEMBER 7 TO NOVEMBER 13

7th November



1675 Guru Tegh Bahadur was presented to Aurangzeb, after his arrest near Roper on July 12. Aurangzeb did all in his power to coax Guru Tegh Bahadur to embrace Islam. He offered him wealth, women, power, and reign. The Guru did not accept any one of them. He asked the Emperor for the Royal justice. He opposed the Emperor's policy of forced conversion. He said that the Emperor's coercive plan to proselytization was against God's laws. The Emperor was not in a mood to accept defeat. When the dialogue broke down he sentenced the Guru and his companions to death by torture. In the next three days, all the companions of the Guru were brutally tortured to death in front of the Guru's eyes. Bhai Mati Das was sawed into two pieces from head to lions. Bhai Dayal Das was thrown into a cauldron of boiling water and Bhai Sati Das was hacked to pieces, limb by limb.

1921 The keys to Sri Harimandir Sahib's "ToshaKhana" (Panthic treasury) were seized by the Deputy Commissioner of Amritsar, to forestall SGPC's decision to acquire them. The clamping of seditious meetings Act as well as the arrest of 103 leading Akalais failed to cow them down. The committee declared that the surrender of the keys to S Kharak Singh, the uncrowned King of the Sikhs, would alone give them satisfaction. An agitation resulted for their returned on Jan. 19, 1922. The keys were returned to Baba Kharak Singh, President of SGPC, during active diwan in front of the Akal Takhat, by District Authorities, Amritsar. Mahatma Gandhi hailed this event as the "first decisive battle for India's freedom won".

8th November

1899 "Khalsa Samachar", a weekly punjabi newsletter, was started by Vir Singh.

9th November

1821 Maharaja Ranjit Singh invaded Mankera, territory annexed and Nawab Haji Ahmad Khan given some jagir elsewhere. All his territories of Bannu, Tonk, Liya and Kundian came under Sikh occupation.

1840 Sher Singh proclaimed the successor.

1840 Rani Chand Kaur, mother of Nau Nihal Singh, announced the pregnancy of Gilwani, wife of prince Nau Nihal Singh.

10th November

1880 First ever Punjabi weekly, "Gurumukhi Akhbar," was started by Singh Sabha, to popularise the Sikh ideals.

1955 Sri Bhim Saen, then Chief Minister, visited Sri Darbar Sahib and sought forgiveness of Sikh Sangats for the July 4, 1955 incident.

11th November



1534 Bhai Mardana passed away at Kurram in Afghanistan. Bhai Mardana was born at Talwandhi to mother Lakho and father Badro in Sanmat 1516. After becoming a Sikh of Guru Nanak, he righteously earned the status of "Bhai". He accompanied Guru Nanak Dev Ji on his world trip and served as a key participant in Kirtan. He dies in 1591 in Karam Nagar on the banks of Karam river in Afghanistan. Guru Nanak, personally conducted the last rights for Mardana. As per his wishes no monument was erected in his remembrance. Since Mardana was a "Rabab" player, hence all his descendants came to be known as Rababis. Mardana's writings are included in Guru Granth Sahib. He is recalled in two Saloks by Guru Nanak Dev Ji in Rag Bihagda, see Paudhi 12. His role during Guru Nanak's travels is well illustrated by the popular phrase "Mardana, Jagat Nu Taran Da Bahana" - Mardana, a reason to save this world.

1675 Patshahi ninth, Guru Teg Bahadur Ji was beheaded in public at Chandni Chowk, Delhi by orders of the Mughal Emperor. He was brought into the open place of execution in Chandni Chowk, Delhi and beheaded around 11am. Guru Ji's dead body was cremated by Lakhi at Rakab Ganj around 8pm. While Guru's severed head was smuggled to Anandpur Sahib by Bhai Jaita, a distance of 350 kilometers that was covered in 5 days. Today is the actual date of Guru Sahib's martyrdom, although it is observed on a different date by Guru Khalsa Panth. Kashmiri Pandits, led by Kirpa Das of Mattan (Martand), reached Chak Nanki, Kahlur (old name of Anandpur Sahib). He appealed to Guru Teg Bahadur for his help in against the prosecution of Kashmiri Pandits by Aurangzeb's forces and resulting extinction of Hindu dharma. After appointing Gobind Rai as the next Guru, Guru Teg Bahadur left for Delhi on July 11, 1675. After Guruji's martyrdom, Pandit Kirpa Das stayed back and became Kirpa Singh after taking amrit in 1699 and died fighting at Chamkaur along with the two elder sahibjadas of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

When Guru Teg Bahadur sacrificed himself to save the Kashmiri Pandits from extinction in 1675, Guru Gobind Singh put his stamp on this truth by proclaiming "The Lord (Guru Teg Bahadur) protected the sacred thread and the frontal mark of the Hindus: He performed a great deed in the age of Kalyug." However, it is strange that the Kashmiri Pandits did not build any memorial in honour of Guruji. On the other hand the present generation had started doubting the veracity of this event.

1675 Guru Gadhi was bestowed on Tenth Patshah, Guru Gobind Singh Ji. He became Guru at the age of 9

when his father was tortured to death by the ruling Mughals. From the age of 9 to 42 when he breathed his last, life had been occupied fighting the Moghuls against injustice and tyranny. Today is the actual date when Guru Sahib was bestowed Guruship, though Guru Khalsa Panth observes it on a different date.

1710 Fort of Rahon was conquered by Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur).



1757 Bada Deep Singh Ji accepted Shahadat in Amritsar. The Sikh's attack on returning Afghan forces from Ahmad Shah's 4th invasion infuriated Ahmed Shah. He sent an expedition against the Sikhs that resulted in the destruction of Sri Harimandir Sahib. Subsequently, the Sikhs collected at Amritsar in Oct. 1757 to celebrate Diwali. They were attacked repeatedly by Jaham Khan, Governor of Punjab. It is during these battles Baba Deep Singh Ji accepted Shahadat reclaiming and preserving the sanctity of Sri Harimandir Sahib.

12th November

1675 A day after the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the bodies of Bhai Mati Das, Sati Das, and Dayal Das were handed over to the Sikhs who cremated the bodies by the site of Jammu. This is the same site where Guru Har Krishan's body was cremated earlier.

1708 Guru Gadhi was bestowed upon Sri Guru Granth Sahib. This is the actual date of this event, though it is observed on a different date by Guru Khalsa Panth.

13th November



1862 Maharaja Narinder Singh of Patiala passed away. He was noted for his zeal in establishing and propagating the Punjabi language as well as his respect for the Punjabi writers.

1923 Jawala Singh of Kotli Bawa Dass was murdered by the Babbaras.

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Every year, as the waning moon of the Hindu month of Margashirsha (November-December) casts its dark shadow across the sky, devotees of Lord Shiva observe a powerful and mysterious night - Kaal Bhairav Jayanti, the divine appearance day of Lord Kaal Bhairav, the ferocious manifestation of Mahadev himself.

It is believed that on this night, the cosmic energies vibrate with heightened intensity, and Shiva, in his most awe-inspiring form as the Lord of Time and Death, emerges to remind creation that even time has its master.

The Legend: When Shiva Became Bhairav

According to the Shiva Purana, the story of Kaal Bhairav's birth begins in the heavenly city of Kashi, when the Trimurti - Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva - were engaged in a cosmic discussion about supremacy. In a moment of arrogance, Lord Brahma proclaimed himself the supreme creator, claiming that all beings and even time itself flowed from him.

Displeased by Brahma's pride, Shiva manifested a fierce energy from his own being - a blinding flame that took the form of Kaal Bhairav, dark as a storm cloud, adorned with serpents, and carrying a trident, drum, and skull-bowl.

When Brahma continued to ignore Shiva's warnings, Kaal Bhairav swiftly severed one of Brahma's five heads - the symbol of ego and false knowledge. But for the act of taking a divine life, even Bhairav had to bear the burden of sin. With the skull of Brahma stuck to his hand, he roamed the three worlds as a penitent, until he reached Kashi, where the skull fell off - freeing him of the curse.

From that moment, Kashi (Varanasi) became known as the city of liberation, and Kaal Bhairav its eternal Kotwal (guardian or protector). Even today, devotees believe that one cannot reside in Kashi or achieve moksha there without the permission of Kaal Bhairav.

The Philosophy of Kaal Bhairav

The name Bhairav comes from the Sanskrit roots bh? (fear) and rava (sound) - yet, paradoxically, Kaal Bhairav is not to be feared, but to be revered. He represents the destruction of fear itself - the courage to face mortality, time, and illusion.

Kaal means "Time," and Bhairav is "the transcendental energy beyond it." Together, they symbolize the understanding that time devours all, and only awareness (Shiva) remains eternal.

In Shaiva philosophy, Kaal Bhairav is the force that cuts through ignorance and ego, awakening the seeker to the impermanence of worldly existence. His ferocity is not malice - it is the cosmic compassion that destroys falsehood, illusion, and arrogance, leaving only truth behind.

Worshipping Kaal Bhairav, therefore, is not an act of appeasement but of self-confrontation - the acceptance that birth and death are illusions in the cycle of time, and that the spirit remains untouched by both.

The Festival of the Fearless

Kaal Bhairav Jayanti: The night when time stands before the timeless

The fierce guardian of Shiva's mysteries is honored - not with fear, but with devotion, faith, and the understanding that time itself



Important information

Kaal Bhairava Jayanti 2025

Wednesday, 12 November 2025

Ashtami Date Start : 11 November 2025 at 11:08 pm

Ashtami Date ends : 12 November 2025 at 10:58 pm

Kaal Bhairav Jayanti, also known as Kalashtami, falls on the Krishna Paksha Ashtami (the eighth day of the waning moon) in the month of Margashirsha. On this sacred night, devotees observe fasts, night-long vigils, and rituals dedicated to Lord Bhairav.

Rituals and Observances

Fasting and purification: Devotees wake before sunrise, take a holy bath, and observe a strict fast throughout the day. The fast is believed to purify the body and mind, preparing one to receive Bhairav's blessings.

Worship of Bhairav idols: At dusk, elaborate pujas are performed with offerings of mustard oil, black sesame, flowers, and black cloth - all symbolic of his dark and protective energy.

Offering of alcohol to the deity: In certain Shaiva traditions, a few drops of liquor (particularly country-made or

desi) are ritually offered to Bhairav, signifying the offering of one's delusion and attachment rather than indulgence.

Recitation of Bhairav Chalisa and Stotra: Devotees chant the Kaal Bhairav Ashtakam composed by Adi Shankaracharya, an eight-verse hymn extolling the deity as the supreme destroyer of fear and ignorance.

Night vigil (jagran): Throughout the night, temples resound with chants of "Jai Kaal Bhairav!" as devotees meditate, light lamps, and reflect upon the transient nature of existence.

Sacred Abodes

Among all his shrines, Kaal Bhairav Temple in Varanasi holds the highest reverence. Built in the ancient city that Bhairav guards, the temple remains open late into the night on Jayanti, drawing thousands of devotees. The deity here is depicted holding a trident and a severed head - a stark reminder of his cosmic role as the remover of ego.

Other important shrines include:

- Annapoorneshwari Temple Complex, Kashi: Where Kaal Bhairav stands as the guardian of the city's spiritual energy.
- Kala Bhairava Temple, Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh): One of the eight Bhairavas of the Ashta Bhairava

tradition, worshipped with offerings of alcohol and red flowers.

- Kashi Vishwanath Corridor: Where Bhairav is venerated as a protector deity of Shiva's Jyotirlinga.

In many Himalayan and South Indian temples, Bhairav is also regarded as the protector of tantric knowledge, and his Jayanti becomes a night of deep meditation, mantra sadhana, and introspection.

Symbolism: The Eternal Dance of Time

Every symbol associated with Kaal Bhairav is profoundly spiritual:

- The dog (Shvan) that accompanies him represents loyalty, humility, and the control of instincts.
- The trident (Trishul) symbolizes mastery over the three aspects of existence - creation, preservation, and destruction.
- The skull bowl (Kapala) signifies detachment from ego and the acceptance of life's impermanence.
- His necklace of skulls represents the cycle of time - where every birth is followed by death, and every end leads to a new beginning.

In a deeper philosophical sense, Bhairav's terrifying form reflects the inner energy of Kundalini Shakti, which when awakened, annihilates the ignorance that binds the soul to illusion.

Cultural Diplomacy and Creative Exchange: My Reflections on the Study Visit to Poland



Murtaza in Warsaw

BY MURTAZA ALI KHAN

As a cultural journalist and critic, I have often believed that true diplomacy happens not only in embassies or conference halls but also in museums, art galleries, and over dinner tables where ideas flow freely. My recent visit to Warsaw, Poland from October 20 to 22, 2025, as part of a study program organized by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and supported by the Polish Institute New Delhi reaffirmed this belief.

I arrived in Warsaw on a bright autumn afternoon, greeted warmly at Chopin Airport by our coordinator and interpreter, whose effortless professionalism set the tone for the days ahead. After checking into my hotel, I headed to my first meeting-with the Director of the Department of Foreign Cooperation at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The Director of Polish Institute New Delhi also joined us on the occasion, adding a powerful Indo-Polish focus to the conversation.

The discussion largely touched on the growing cultural ties between India and Poland, emphasizing the need to facilitate not only governmental partnerships but also exchanges among artists, filmmakers, and cultural scholars. The ministry representative spoke passionately about her ministry's commitment to strengthening Poland's cultural presence in South Asia and exploring new avenues for cooperation in cinema, heritage conservation, and the performing arts.

Later that afternoon, I visited the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, one of Warsaw's most profound spaces of remembrance. Walking through its immersive exhibits, I was deeply moved by how Poland confronts its layered history with both honesty and empathy. For a country that has endured so much, the POLIN Museum stands as a symbol of reconciliation through education and art. The evening concluded with dinner at Pod Gigantami, a historic restaurant known for its Old Warsaw charm, where over plates of exquisite Polish cuisine, conversations with fellow participants and Polish hosts revolved around cross-cultural storytelling and the shared power of cinema to build empathy.

The second day began with a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where I interacted with the Deputy Director of the Department of Cultural Diplomacy. The Deputy Director outlined Poland's vision for cultural outreach, focusing on collaborations with media professionals and cultural commentators from Asia. I was particularly intrigued by her emphasis on soft power and the role of cultural narratives in shaping contemporary diplomacy-a theme that resonates deeply with my own work as a critic.

From there, I proceeded to the Museum of Modern Art, where the Museum Director Joanna Mytkowska shared insights into Poland's evolving contemporary art scene. The museum's emphasis on social engagement and public dialogue reminded me of similar movements in India's independent art spaces.

Later, at the Zacheta National Gallery of Art, I got to interact with Museum Director Agnieszka Pindera. At the gallery, I witnessed how modern Polish artists



Visiting Poland

reinterpret national identity in the face of globalization. The discussions with curators and art historians underscored how both India and Poland grapple with questions of memory, modernity, and identity through creative expression.

In the evening, I visited the National Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning (NIAiU), where I learnt about the institute's initiatives in documenting and preserving architectural heritage. Our conversation drifted toward sustainable design, urban regeneration, and the shared challenges of preserving history while embracing modernization.

Dinner that night capped an intellectually stimulating day with laughter, warmth, and cultural camaraderie thanks to the luminary presence of various stalwarts specialising in Indology.

My final day in Warsaw began with a visit to the National Museum, an architectural gem housing centuries of Polish artistic achievement. From Renaissance masters to avant-garde innovators, the collection offered a sweeping panorama of Poland's aesthetic evolution. I was particularly struck by the museum's commitment to accessibility and its efforts to engage younger audiences-a model worth emulating in India's museum culture.

Visiting the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), proved to be a masterclass in Public Diplomacy as he provided some key insights into his research methodology.

Before departing for Kraków, I reflected on the immense value of such cross-cultural study visits. Beyond formal meetings and museum tours, what stood out was the Polish hospitality, intellectual openness, and genuine curiosity about India's creative landscape. As someone who has spent years chronicling the intersections of cinema, culture, and identity, I found this journey deeply enriching. It reminded me that cultural diplomacy thrives when built upon shared



At the Museum of Modern Art

values, artistic respect, and the courage to engage with history.

Warsaw, buzzing with Chopin's music, resilient spirit and vibrant cultural energy, left an indelible impression on me. I now head to Krakow for the 2025 Conrad Festival with renewed inspiration and a conviction that art and dialogue still remain our most powerful bridges.

THE AUTHOR

Murtaza Ali Khan is an award-winning journalist who has been covering art, culture, music, and entertainment for a decade and a half. Khan regularly appears on radio and TV as a media historian and cultural commentator. Khan has also curated various cultural initiatives for various Embassies and Cultural Centers. He has also served on the jury of prestigious National Film Awards for 2023 and 2024. He has translated the bestselling book 'Hindujas and Bollywood,' launched in London by Bollywood Superstar Akshay Kumar, about the global journey of over 1200 Hindi films from 1950s to 1980s, into English. His education spans science & technology, mass communication, and management.

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Selected Articles

The Sunday Guardian | Firstpost

The Hindu | The Daily Guardian

The New Indian Express | The Patriot

The Quint | Newslandry | Huff Post India/ The Indian Panorama

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Rising proudly from the plains of Rajasthan, Chittorgarh stands as a living monument to India's most stirring tales of valor, devotion, and sacrifice. With its colossal fortifications, haunting legends, and exquisite architecture, Chittorgarh is more than just a destination - it's a journey through time. Here, every stone whispers the glory of Rajput pride, the elegance of bygone queens, and the timelessness of love and heroism.

The Legendary Chittorgarh Fort - A Fortress of Pride

The heart of the city is undoubtedly the Chittorgarh Fort, one of India's largest and most magnificent forts, spreading over 700 acres on a 180-meter-high hill. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it dominates the landscape with its seven massive gateways, intricate palaces, and evocative temples.

Stepping inside feels like entering an open-air museum of Rajputana heritage. The Victory Tower (Vijay Stambh), built by Rana Kumbha in the 15th century to celebrate his triumph over the Sultan of Malwa, stands tall as a symbol of resilience. Climb its 157 steps and you're rewarded with panoramic views of the fort and the plains beyond.

Nearby, the graceful Kirti Stambh, dedicated to the Jain Tirthankara Adinath, reflects the region's deep spiritual roots. Its carvings of Jain figures and celestial beings are miniature masterpieces in stone.

Palaces That Echo Royal Grace

The fort's palaces narrate stories of royal grandeur and tragedy. The Rana Kumbha Palace, once the royal residence, is a vast complex of courtyards, stables, and underground cellars - believed to be where Rani Padmini performed jauhar (self-immolation) to preserve her honor when Alauddin Khilji invaded Chittor in 1303.

Equally captivating is the Padmini Palace, set beside a lotus pool that reflects both the palace and its beauty - a symbol of the queen's grace that ignited one of history's most dramatic sieges. The palace's white pavilions and mirror-like waters still evoke a sense of romance and melancholy.

Temples of Faith and Serenity

Amid the tales of war and sacrifice, Chittorgarh also radiates deep spirituality. The Kalika Mata Temple, dedicated to the fierce goddess Kali, is one of the oldest temples in the fort. The Meera Bai Temple, meanwhile, celebrates the saint-poetess whose devotion to Lord Krishna transcended royal boundaries. Pilgrims and poetry lovers alike find solace in its tranquil courtyards, where bhajans are still sung in her praise.

Beyond the Fort - Exploring Around Chittorgarh

Chittorgarh isn't confined to its fort. The town and its surroundings offer a slower rhythm of Rajasthani life. Visit the Sita Mata Wildlife Sanctuary, about 50 km away, home to leopards, flying squirrels, and rare birds - a haven for nature enthusiasts.

Chittorgarh: The eternal citadel of courage and romance



For history lovers, the Nagari ruins nearby date back to the Mauryan period, offering glimpses into an even older civilization. And for those seeking calm, the Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary and Bassi Fort Palace provide a charming retreat amid nature and heritage.

Festivals and Local Life

Chittorgarh comes alive during the Jauhar Mela, held annually to honor the courage of the women who chose honor over defeat. The city also celebrates Meera Mahotsav with devotional songs, dance, and art that echo Meera Bai's spiritual legacy. The evenings glow with lamps, and local bazaars bustle with handicrafts, miniature paintings, and colorful fabrics - perfect souvenirs of Rajasthan's artistry.

Flavors of Chittorgarh

No trip to Rajasthan is complete without indulging in its cuisine. Relish the earthy flavors of dal bati churma, gatte ki sabzi, laal maas, and ker sangri at local eateries. Don't miss the sweet malpua or a cup of steaming masala chai in clay cups while watching the sun dip behind the fort's massive walls.

Getting There & Best Time to Visit

- By Air: The nearest airport is in Udaipur (90 km away).
- By Train: Chittorgarh is well connected by rail to Jaipur, Delhi, and Mumbai.
- By Road: Good highway connections make it easily accessible from Udaipur, Kota, and Ajmer.
- Best Time: October to March offers the most pleasant weather for sightseeing.

A Journey Through Time



Chittorgarh is not just a place - it's a feeling. It tells the story of courage that defied conquest, of devotion that transcended pain, and of love that became legend. As twilight falls over its

ancient ramparts and the fort's lamps begin to flicker, you realize that Chittorgarh is eternal - where every stone breathes the spirit of Rajasthan, proud and undying.

History This Week

NOV 07 - NOV 13

NOVEMBER 7



November 7, 1917 - Russian Bolsheviks overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky in Petrograd. The Council of People's Commissars was then established as the new government of Russia, with Nikolai Lenin as chairman, Leon Trotsky as foreign commissar and Josef Stalin as commissar of nationalities. This event was celebrated each year in the former USSR with parades, massive military displays and public appearances by top Soviet leaders.

November 7, 1944 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term, defeating Thomas E. Dewey. Roosevelt died less than a year later on April 12, 1945.

November 7, 1962 - Richard Nixon told news reporters in Los Angeles "...just think how much you're going to be missing. You won't have Nixon to kick around any more, because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference." Nixon's statement came the day after he lost the election for California governor to incumbent Edmund G. Brown. In 1968, Nixon re-entered politics and won the presidency, defeating Hubert H. Humphrey. Re-elected in 1972, he resigned in 1974 during impeachment proceedings resulting from the Watergate scandal.

November 7, 1967 - Carl Stokes became the first African American mayor in the U.S., elected mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.

November 7, 1989 - The East German government resigned after pro-democracy protests.

November 7, 1989 - L. Douglas Wilder became the first African American governor in U.S. history, elected governor of Virginia.

November 7, 1990 - Mary Robinson became Ireland's first female president.

Birthday - Polish chemist Marie Curie (1867-1934) was born in Warsaw, Poland. In 1903, she and her husband received the Nobel Prize for physics for their discovery of the element Radium.

Birthday - Christian evangelist Billy Graham was born near Charlotte, North Carolina, November 7, 1918. After his conversion at a revival meeting at age 16, he embarked on a career of preaching and has become known worldwide.

NOVEMBER 8

November 8, 1923 - Hitler's Beer Hall Putsch took place in the Buergerbraukeller in Munich. Hitler, Goering and armed Nazis attempted, but ultimately failed, to forcibly seize power and overthrow democracy in Germany.

November 8, 1939 - An assassination attempt on Hitler failed at the Buergerbraukeller in Munich. A bomb exploded soon after Hitler had exited following a speech commemorating the 1923 Beer Hall Putsch. Seven others were killed.

November 8, 1942 - Operation Torch, the Allied landings in North Africa, began as 400,000 soldiers under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower landed at Morocco and Algeria.



Birthday - Dracula author Bram Stoker (1847-1912) was born in Dublin, Ireland.

Birthday - Gone with the Wind author Margaret Mitchell (1900-1949) was born in Atlanta, Georgia. Her romantic novel about the American Civil War sold over 10 million copies, was translated into 30 languages, and was made into one of the most popular movies of all time. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 1937 for the novel, her only book. She died after being struck by an automobile in Atlanta.

Birthday - Pioneering heart surgeon Christiaan Barnard (1922-2001) was born in Beaufort West, Cape of Good Hope Province, South Africa. He headed the surgical team that achieved the first-ever human heart transplant in 1967.

NOVEMBER 9



November 9, 1918 - German Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicated his throne in the closing days of World War I and fled to Holland. In Germany, Philip Scheidemann, a Socialist leader, then proclaimed a democratic Republic and became its first Chancellor.

November 9-10, 1938 - Kristallnacht (the night of broken glass) occurred in Germany as Nazi mobs burned synagogues and vandalized Jewish shops and homes.

November 9, 1965 - At 5:16 p.m., the Great Blackout of the Northeast began as a tripped circuit breaker at a power

plant on the Niagara River caused a chain reaction sending power surges knocking out interconnected power companies down the East Coast. The blackout affected over 30 million persons, one-sixth of the entire U.S. population. Electricity also failed in Ontario and Quebec.

November 9, 1989 - The Berlin Wall was opened up after standing for 28 years as a symbol of the Cold War. The 27.9 mile wall had been constructed in 1961.

Birthday - Spiro Agnew (1918-1996) was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He served as Richard Nixon's vice-president from 1969-73. He resigned amid charges of income tax evasion on kickbacks received while he was governor of Maryland and after he became vice-president. As Nixon's vice-president, Agnew was known as an outspoken critic of the counter-culture and anti-war movements of the late 1960s and early 70s.

NOVEMBER 10



November 10, 1928 - Hirohito was crowned Emperor of Japan. He was Imperial Japan's Emperor during World War II. Following Japan's defeat, he was allowed to stay and remained Emperor until his death in 1989.

November 10, 1942 - Following the British victory at El Alamein in North Africa during World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

NOVEMBER 11

November 11, 1938 - Irving Berlin's God Bless America was first performed. He had written the song especially for radio entertainer Kate Smith who sang it during her regular radio broadcast. It soon became a patriotic favorite of Americans and was one of Smith's most requested songs.

November 11, 1972 - The U.S. turned over its military base at Long Binh to the South Vietnamese, symbolizing the end of direct American military participation in the Vietnam War.

November 11, 1973 - Egypt and Israel signed a cease-fire agreement sponsored by the U.S.



November 11, 1987 - In Russia, Boris Yeltsin was removed as Moscow

Communist Party chief for criticizing the slow pace of Soviet reform.

November 11, 1992 - The Church of England voted to allow women to become priests.

Birthday - Abigail Adams (1744-1818) was born in Weymouth, Massachusetts. She was the wife of John Adams, the 2nd U.S. President.

Birthday - Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881) was born in Moscow. Best known for The Brothers Karamazov, Crime and Punishment and The Idiot.

NOVEMBER 12

November 12, 1942 - During World War II in North Africa, The city of Tobruk was captured by the British Eighth Army under General Bernard Montgomery.

November 12, 1948 - Japanese General Hideki Tojo and six others were sentenced to death by an Allied war crimes tribunal.

November 12, 1974 - The U.N. General Assembly suspended South Africa over its policy of apartheid.

November 12, 1982 - In Russia, Yuri Andropov was elected First Secretary of the Soviet Communist party following the death of Leonid Brezhnev.

Birthday - Grace Kelly (1929-1982) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was an award-winning actress who left Hollywood in 1956 to marry Prince Rainier, becoming Princess Grace of Monaco. She died of injuries from an automobile accident, September 12, 1982.

NOVEMBER 13

November 13, 1927 - The Holland Tunnel was opened to traffic. The tunnel runs under the Hudson River between New York City and Jersey City and was the first underwater tunnel built in the U.S. It is comprised of two tubes, each large enough for two lanes of traffic.



November 13, 1942 - The five Sullivan Brothers from Waterloo, Iowa, were lost in the sinking of the cruiser USS Juneau by a Japanese torpedo off Guadalcanal during World War II in the Pacific. Following their deaths, the U.S. Navy changed regulations to prohibit close relatives from serving on the same ship.

November 13, 1945 - General Charles De Gaulle was appointed president of the French provisional government.

November 13, 1956 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

November 13, 1973 - A state of emergency was declared in Britain after power workers and coal miners began work slowdowns.

November 13, 1995 - Israel began pulling its troops out of the West Bank city of Jenin, ending 28 years of occupation.

Bowlers give India 2-1 series lead against Australia in Gold Coast

CARRARA (TIP)

India defended a modest total with a stifling bowling performance for a 48-run win over Australia in the fourth T20 International to grab an unassailable 2-1 lead in the five-match series here on Thursday, November 6.

The architects of India's win were Axar Patel and Shivam Dube who shared two wickets each to put Australia on the backfoot in the run chase.

Washington Sundar struck thrice towards the end as India comfortably defended 168 with Australia folding up for 119 in 18.2 overs after being 91/3 at one stage.

The final T20 will be played in Brisbane on November 8. The opening match of the series was washed out in Canberra.

Openers Matthew Short (30 off 24) and Mitchell Marsh (25 off 19) got Australia off the blocks smoothly in the run chase but a flurry of wickets in the middle overs pushed the hosts to a point of no return.

After Axar trapped Short in the powerplay, Dube removed Marsh and Tim David (14 off 9) in successive overs to make a telling impact on the game. The wicket of Marsh came off his second ball before he surprised David with a short ball in the following over.

Arshdeep Singh too picked a wicket in the middle overs and the game seemed done and dusted when Glenn Maxwell saw his exposed stumps disturbed off the last ball of Varun Chakaravathy's fourth over.

The stellar performance came after a middling batting effort. India never got the momentum they needed after a wicket-less powerplay to end with an underwhelming 167 for eight.

Abhishek Sharma (28 off 21) and Shubman Gill (46 off 39) put on 56 for the opening wicket before India lost their way.

Promoted to number three to counter Adam Zampa, Shivam Dube (22 off 18) could not make a big impact while skipper Suryakumar Yadav (20 off 10) departed after hitting a couple of sixes.

Pacer Nathan Ellis (3/21 in 4 overs) was the pick of the Australian bowlers, using his variations effectively.

Zampa leaked 45 runs in his four overs but more importantly, he got three wickets including the dangerous Abhishek.



Abhishek stepped out to Zampa in the second ball of his opening spell and dispatched it down the ground for a maximum.

The southpaw tried to hit another one out of the park two balls later but was caught at long on.

Abhishek could have been out off the game's second ball by left-arm pacer Ben Dwarshuis but Xavier Bartlett grassed the early opportunity.

Abhishek's friend and opening partner Gill, who is yet to make an impact in the series, had to work hard for his runs.

He released some pressure with a massive hit off Marcus Stonis in the cow corner region before falling to a back of the hand slower one from Ellis.

The wickets kept falling thereafter, robbing the innings of any flow. Axar Patel (21 not out off 11) got the much needed boundaries towards the end to push the total past 160.

India lost four wickets for 42 runs in the last five overs but a stellar bowling performance carried them over the line.

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav credited his players' tactical awareness with bat and ball

"I feel credit goes to all the batters. The way Shubman and Abhishek started, they knew this was not a 200-220 wicket. They batted very smartly. It was a complete team effort from the batters," Suryakumar said at the post-match presentation.

Foden inspires Man City to big win vs Borussia

Thomas Tuchel, are you watching? Phil Foden sent an emphatic reminder to England's head coach with two brilliantly taken goals in Manchester City's 4-1 win over Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League on Wednesday.

"He is back," City manager Pep Guardiola said. "He is a special player." Tuchel will name his latest England squad this week after overlooking Foden so far this season and with time running out before next year's World Cup.

But the City forward strengthened his case for a recall with an inspired performance against Dortmund. He scored in each half at the Etihad Stadium, with Erling Haaland — of course — smashing home his 27th of the season in between. Substitute Rayan Cherki got the other after Waldemar Anton scored for Dortmund.

Tuchel is set to announce his squad Friday for the final World Cup qualifiers against Serbia and Albania, with England having already secured qualification. Foden has rediscovered some of his best form this season after enduring a frustrating campaign last term as City relinquished the Premier League title. His goals on Tuesday — both swept low into the bottom corner — took his tally on the season to four and could have come at just the right time to capture Tuchel's attention.

"There's no person in this country or around the world that doesn't know his quality and ability, but England is so lucky to have this amount of good players," Guardiola said.

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Their remarkable World Cup-winning campaign was not the only topic covered when India's women cricketers sat down for a light-hearted conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence where tattoos and even skin care routine came up for discussion.

India defeated South Africa by 52 runs in the final to lift their first ever global title in Navi Mumbai last week, following which the squad, along with head coach Amol Muzumdar and BCCI president Mithun Manhas, met the Prime Minister here on Wednesday.

"I still remember when we met you in 2017. At that time, we did not come with a trophy. But it is a matter of great honor for us that this time, for something we have been working so hard for so many years, we have brought the trophy here," skipper Harmanpreet Kaur said in the video of the interaction shared by the PM on Thursday.

"Our aim is that we meet you again and again in the future and take photos with you and your team again and again."

In the Women's World Cup final in 2017, India had lost to England by a mere nine runs after which the squad had met the Prime Minister. PM Modi replied, "You have done a great job. In India, cricket is not just a game. In a way, it has become the life of the people of India. If there is good happening in cricket, India feels good and even if there is a little bit of wrong happening in cricket, the whole of India feels bad."

The PM then went on to ask Player of the

PM meets India's world cup winning stars



Tournament Deepti Sharma about her Lord Hanuman tattoo that has gone viral on social media.

"I believe in him more than I believe in myself. Whenever I am in a difficult situation, I take his name

and I feel like I can overcome it. I have so much belief in him," she responded.

"And you have written 'Jai Shree Ram' on your Instagram account (bio) as well?" Modi asked. "Yes, I do," the all-rounder replied.

But the moment which had the entire room in splits was when top-order batter Harleen Deol asked Modi about his skin care routine. "I do not think about all that," the PM responded with a hearty laugh.

Star batter Smriti Mandhana recalled the 2017 meeting and how it inspired them.

"When we came here in 2017, we couldn't get the trophy. But I remember we asked you a question about expectations and that answer still helps us a lot," Mandhana said.

Jemimah Rodrigues highlighted the team's unity and resilience. "The unity in this team is the best I have seen because whenever anyone was doing well, everyone was happy and everyone was clapping, as if they themselves had scored runs or taken wickets," she said.

President Murmu lauds world champion team

President Droupadi Murmu lauded the World Cup-winning Indian women's cricket team for its exemplary performance during a meeting with the players at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday and was presented a jersey signed by the entire squad.



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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