




The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a special edition in commemoration of the birthday of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus, on October 31. The actual birthday this year falls on November 5



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Trump celebrates Diwali with the Indian American community at the White House



President Trump addresses the gathering. To his right is India's Ambassador Vinay Kwatra. To his left is Prem Parameswaran, a former member of Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

BY STAFF REPORTER OCTOBER 21, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Donald Trump hosted a Diwali reception to India's Ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra and a few members of the Indian American community that included prominent Indian American business figures, IBM CEO Arvind Krishna, Palo Alto Networks CEO Nikesh Arora, Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen, Micron Technology CEO Sanjay Mehrotra, and Prem Parameswaran, Managing Director and member of the Capital Markets team at Stone Point Capital, and a former member of the Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

A number of Trump administration officials attended the event, including FBI Director Kash Patel, Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard and White House Deputy Press Secretary Kush Desai.

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The Bolla Charity Foundation Gala 2025: A Celebration of Empathy and American Success

"I am American first," says philanthropist Harry Bolla, whose journey from cab driver to business magnate embodies the American Dream.



Elected officials, led by Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman (4th from the left) pose for a photograph with Harry Singh Bolla (4th from the right) at the Bolla Charity Foundation Gala 2025, held at The Lannin, Eisenhower Park

TIP Photo

BY I.S. SALUJA OCTOBER 22, 2025

EAST MEADOW, NY (TIP): The 2025 Gala of the Bolla Charity Foundation, held on October 22 at The Lannin in Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, was an evening of emotion, gratitude, and giving. Attended by elected officials, business leaders, and community members, the event honored

philanthropist Harry Singh Bolla, celebrating his remarkable journey from humble beginnings to becoming a respected entrepreneur and benefactor.

A JOURNEY ROOTED IN GRATITUDE

In his moving address, Harry Singh Bolla shared his personal story - one that began with long days behind the wheel of

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Bihar battle: Tejashwi CM face, Mukesh Sahni to be one of his two deputies, announces INDIA bloc



RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, with Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot (extreme right) and VIP founder Mukesh Sahni, addresses a press conference, in Patna on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

Photo credit / ANI

OCTOBER 23, 2025

PATNA (TIP): The Opposition INDIA bloc on Thursday, October 23, declared Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav as its Chief Ministerial candidate for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections. The announcement was made at a joint press conference in Patna, which was attended by all coalition partners.

Senior Congress leader Ashok Gehlot,

who is also the senior observer for the Bihar polls, made the announcement. "I have talked to everyone, and we have agreed to make Tejashwi Yadav as the CM face," Gehlot said.

"Tejashwi Yadav has a long political career ahead of him, and he will get the approval of the people," he added. Gehlot also announced that VIP founder Mukesh Sahni would be the Deputy Chief Ministerial face of the alliance,

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Prime Minister of Canada, Marc Carney Official portrait/ www.pm.gc.ca

Mark Carney may embark upon a visit to India in early 2026

BY PRABHJOT SINGH OCTOBER 23, 2025

TORONTO (TIP): After Foreign Minister Anita Indira Anand broke the ice by visiting India early this month, the decks are now being cleared for the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, to accept an invitation from his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, to participate in the AI summit in New Delhi next February. The move is being described as a sincere effort on the part of both Mark Carney and Narendra Modi to repair fractured diplomatic relations and

CONTD ON PAGE 34



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COMMENT

Government Shutdown: When Politicians Play Games, Citizens Pay the Price**Two million federal employees left unpaid as political egos paralyze America's government**

"Politicians' power games starve two million workers - governance reduced to cruel sport."

That one line sums up the tragedy now unfolding across the United States as the federal government shutdown enters its fourth week. What began as a budget dispute has devolved into a national disgrace - a self-inflicted crisis that punishes those who serve the country, not those who caused the gridlock.

A Nation Held Hostage

The United States - the world's richest democracy, a global symbol of stability - now finds itself in paralysis. Because its leaders cannot agree on a budget, large portions of the federal government remain unfunded and shuttered.

According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, more than 2.1 million federal employees have been affected. Roughly 800,000 workers are either furloughed or compelled to work without pay. Departments from Homeland Security to the Food and Drug Administration, from the National Parks Service to the IRS, are operating on fumes.

This shutdown, among the longest in U.S. history, is not just a bureaucratic failure; it is a moral failure. For every politician holding press conferences in Washington, there is a security officer at an airport wondering how to feed her children. For every strategist talking about "leverage," there is a Coast Guard family struggling to keep the heat on.

The Human Cost of Political Stubbornness

Government employees are not elites living in luxury. They are ordinary Americans - mail carriers, food inspectors, scientists, park rangers, data clerks. They live in the same neighborhoods, shop in the same stores, send their children to the same schools. Most live paycheck to paycheck, a fragile section of the middle class that cannot afford to miss a month's salary.

Paychecks have stopped. Bills have not. Mortgages, car loans, student fees - they all continue. Food banks across the country report a surge in demand from federal workers, many of whom have never before needed help.

A furloughed TSA worker told reporters, "I never thought I'd have to choose between rent and groceries." Another said, "We're being punished for a fight we didn't start."

Meanwhile, members of Congress and senior officials continue to draw full salaries, insulated from the chaos they created. Each side blames the other; each claims moral high ground. But if this is political courage, it is built on the suffering of millions.

Why These Shutdowns?

This is not the first time governance has collapsed under political arrogance. Since 1976, the United States has experienced over 20 shutdowns - brief or prolonged - whenever Congress and the White House failed to agree on spending.



The reasons vary: immigration, healthcare, taxation, social spending. The pattern does not. Every time, ordinary citizens become collateral damage in a war of egos.

Shutdowns are uniquely American; no other major democracy halts government operations to settle political disputes. In most parliamentary systems, governments may fall, but services continue. In Washington, however, gridlock is treated as performance art.

The Butterfly Game

This entire spectacle brings to mind an old metaphor: a cruel game children play with butterflies, catching them for amusement only to crush their fragile wings. That is what our leaders are doing today - turning governance into a game where real people get hurt.

Each furlough, each unpaid hour, each shuttered office is a broken wing. The shutdown serves no noble purpose, achieves no lasting reform. It is simply a byproduct of pride and partisanship - the refusal to compromise, the addiction to conflict, the obsession with "winning."

One must ask: have our leaders forgotten the oath they took? To "faithfully discharge the duties" of their office, to "preserve, protect and defend" the Constitution, to serve all citizens regardless of faith, race, or political leaning?

Governance was never meant to be a hostage in partisan warfare. The federal budget is not a toy. The livelihoods of millions are not bargaining chips.

Beyond Politics - A Question of Character

This shutdown is not merely a policy failure; it is a failure of character. True leadership demands empathy, humility, and the willingness to find common ground.

A responsible government does not seek victory over its own citizens. It seeks solutions, compromise, and the welfare of the people. But today's politics rewards confrontation, not cooperation. Each side casts the other as villain while the public suffers in silence.

The effects extend beyond federal employees. Small businesses waiting for government loans are stranded. Food safety inspections are delayed. Visa and passport applications pile up. National parks are closed. Millions of tourists and workers alike face disruption.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, previous shutdowns have cost the U.S. economy billions in lost productivity. The current one is already eroding consumer confidence, slowing

growth, and tarnishing America's image of stability.

Moral Bankruptcy in a Prosperous Nation

There is profound irony in a country that spends trillions abroad promoting democracy but cannot keep its own government open. There is something grotesque about legislators preaching fiscal responsibility while denying workers their wages.

A nation's greatness lies not in its wealth or military might, but in how it treats its citizens - especially those who serve it faithfully. Federal employees uphold the silent machinery of American life: they secure airports, inspect food, guard monuments, issue benefits, enforce laws.

To treat them as disposable pawns in a political chess match is not only unjust - it is un-American.

The Call for Accountability

Who is to blame? The lazy answer is "both sides." The honest one is: any leader who puts personal ambition above public duty.

Accountability cannot be an empty word. The President, Congress, and Senate must all share responsibility for this moral debacle. Governance is not a zero-sum game. Those who hold power must also bear its burden.

Voters too must remember: the ballot is not just a right; it is a tool for correction. Leaders who treat citizens as bargaining chips must be held to account. Democracy dies not only when leaders abuse power, but also when people tolerate it.

This shutdown must remain a stain on the conscience of the nation - a lesson, not a footnote.

A Plea to Conscience

The American people are exhausted - not only by this shutdown, but by the political cynicism that fuels it. They want governance, not grandstanding. They crave compassion, not confrontation.

It is time our leaders rose above partisanship and remembered the solemn oath they took - to serve all Americans, regardless of race, color, or creed.

This shutdown must end, yes. But beyond that, the mindset that allows shutdowns must end - the mindset that treats government as a theater of war and citizens as collateral damage.

To those in power, this is not just an editorial rebuke. It is a moral reminder:

Stop your nefarious games.

Stop the cruelty disguised as courage.

Stop breaking the wings of the butterflies who make this nation fly.

America deserves better. Her workers deserve better.

And history will not be kind to those who mistook power for purpose.

(Comments and responses may be addressed to editor@theindianpanorama.news)



By Indrajit Saluja

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Former Governor of New York Andrew Cuomo Celebrates Diwali with South Asians of New York



Diwali Diya lighting: L to R : Mrs. Kirti Shukla, Dr. Hari Shukla, Governor Cuomo, Assemblyman Weprin, Margarette, G.S. Narula.

enlighten oneself from within. Once you illuminate from within there will be no hatred, no discrepancies, no gun violence but peace and brotherhood.

New York Governor Cuomo, Assemblyman Weprin and other speakers mentioned that New York City of 8.5 million population and GDP of



South Asians Supporting Governor Cuomo for Mayoral Race



Governor Andrew Cuomo Addressing the Gathering

OCTOBER 20, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): South Asians of New York Celebrated Diwali with Former Governor of New York Andrew Cuomo and Assemblyman David Weprin. The event was Organized by Democratic district leader Dr Dilip Nath and Dr. Hari Shukla at Dr Shukla's residence in Jamaica Estate. Dr. Shukla mentioned during ceremony that Lighting Diya is physically symbolic of eliminating darkness, and the spiritual meaning is to

about 2.5 trillion needs an experience, a proven leader and a proven administrator to run the city.

The small gathering of fifty people consisted of representatives of the Hindu, the Sikh, the Muslims and the Jains.

During gathering, South Asians showed their support to Governor Cuomo for New York Mayor's Race by raising campaign fund for his mayoral election.

The Bolla Charity Foundation Gala 2025: A Celebration of Empathy and American Success

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a taxi in New York City and led to ownership of more than 300 gas stations.

"I am American first," he said, reflecting his deep gratitude to the nation that gave him opportunity and recognition. He spoke of the struggles and determination that shaped his life, and of his commitment to give back to the community that supported him.

Bolla emphasized the Foundation's work for veterans and their families, recalling the story of a mother struggling to support her sons in the military. "Those who protect us deserve our support," he said. "We must never forget the sacrifices of our servicemen and women."

"Empathy and generosity define who we are as Americans. Let us continue to uplift those who serve and protect us", said Harry Singh Bolla.

Tributes from Officials and Law Enforcement

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman lauded Bolla's inspiring story as "the embodiment of the American spirit." He praised his contributions to public welfare, especially his generosity toward veterans, police, and first responders.

Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder commended Bolla for his \$1 million donation toward the Police Training Village, a cutting-edge facility that provides realistic, scenario-based training to law enforcement officers.

"Harry Bolla's contribution has made possible a state-of-the-art center that

enhances the safety of our residents," Ryder said. He also spoke of the challenges faced by police departments - from recruiting officers to navigating policies like no-cash bail - and stressed the importance of community trust and diversity in policing.

A DAY AT THE POLICE TRAINING VILLAGE

Earlier in the day, guests toured the Nassau County Police Training Village, where Commissioner Ryder demonstrated the technological advances made in crime prevention and community safety.



Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick J. Ryder (left) and Harry Singh Bolla inside the Commissioner Patrick J. Ryder Intelligence Unit, speak about the facility.

He noted that the facility's development

was made possible in large part through Bolla's \$1 million contribution, an act that stands as a model of private-public partnership in community service.

AN EVENING OF GRATITUDE AND GIVING

The Gala also featured heartfelt testimonials from veterans, police officials, and community leaders, all acknowledging the Foundation's far-reaching work.

A silent auction brought the evening to a close, with funds raised to expand the Foundation's ongoing programs for veterans, first responders, and underprivileged families.

Harry Bolla thanked guests, volunteers, and organizers for their efforts, saying, "This event is not about me - it's about all of us, coming together to make life better for others."

THE FOUNDATION'S MISSION AND MILESTONES

Founded in 2013 by Harry and Kamaljit Singh Bolla, the Bolla Charity Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to serving needy families, veterans, and first responders across Nassau County.

Closely connected to the Bolla Market chain of convenience stores, the Foundation has built a strong reputation for transparency, compassion, and sustained community engagement.

MAJOR INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

Police Training Village: Over \$1 million donated to establish the Harry

Singh Bolla Charity Foundation Training Village for the Nassau County Police Department.

Support for Veterans: Renovations of group homes for formerly homeless veterans and funding for programs pairing veterans with service dogs.

Community Aid: Food, clothing, and financial assistance distributed to families in need; educational support for children.

Support for First Responders: Assistance, recognition, and the creation of a memorial recreational field.

Youth Development: Funding youth programs, including a year of free gas for the Girl Scouts mobile STEM unit.

RECOGNITION AND IMPACT

As of October 2025, the Bolla Charity Foundation holds a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator, scoring 94% for Accountability and Financial Transparency - a reflection of its efficiency and ethical management.

A VISION OF COMPASSION

The evening's spirit was best captured in Bolla's closing words:

"Empathy and generosity define us. Let's keep building bridges of kindness and continue to serve those who serve us."

With its unwavering focus on compassion and community service, the Bolla Charity Foundation stands today as a shining example of how success, when paired with empathy, can become a force for lasting good.

INDIAN AMERICAN
FINANCE EXECUTIVE
PRIYAL PATEL WINS
TRUMAN STATE
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD



Truman State University is honoring seasoned Indian American finance executive Priyal Patel with this year's Distinguished Service Award as part of the Truman Alumni Association Homecoming Celebration.

OCTOBER 18, 2025

KIRKSVILLE, MO (TIP) : Truman State University is honoring seasoned Indian American finance executive Priyal Patel with this year's Distinguished Service Award as part of the Truman Alumni Association Homecoming Celebration.

The award recognizes the alumni, faculty and staff's generous commitment to the Kirksville, Missouri-based university and its students through outstanding volunteer and philanthropic service, according to a university release.

The Homecoming Celebration will be at 5 p.m. Oct. 17 in the Student Union Building.

"A proud Truman homecoming tradition is the recognition of alumni and friends who have made their mark on campus and in the world," the release stated.

With over 15 years of experience, Patel has held various leadership roles at Monsanto and Bayer, since joining in 2008.

Her career includes key positions such as Finance Business Partner for the Crop Science division, Director of Investor Relations and most recently, Vice President of Treasury for Bayer's North America operations.

Before joining Bayer, Patel gained valuable experience as an accountant and external reporting manager in the telecommunications industry. She holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in accounting from Truman State University.

Beyond her corporate responsibilities, Patel actively serves on several boards, including the Bayer Fund Board, the PAC Board and the Bayer U.S. Patient Assistance Foundation Board.

She also holds board member roles with external organizations, including Gateway180 and the KIPP St. Louis Board.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin professor and historian Sunil Amrith wins British Academy Book Prize

OCT. 23, 2025

LONDON (TIP): 'The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years' by Indian-origin historian Sunil Amrith has been named the winner of this year's British Academy Book Prize, a prestigious 25,000-pound award that celebrates the world's best works of non-fiction.

Amrith, a Professor of History at Yale University in the US, was born in Kenya to South Indian parents, grew up in Singapore and graduated from the University of Cambridge in England.

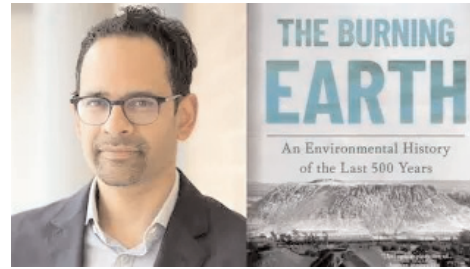
The 46-year-old's latest book, described by judges as "important reading" in the context of the climate crisis, received the coveted prize at a ceremony at the British Academy in London on Wednesday evening.

"I've sometimes been asked whether 'The Burning Earth' is a bleak book," said Amrith, via live video link from the US.

"There's no doubt it details a great deal of harm and suffering, both human and environmental, and it shows that the two were almost always interlinked. But in the end, what I'd like to read from the book is a sense that many parts brought us to this point of time. So there were also many paths not taken, ideas that have been forgotten, movements that may have failed but have left a lasting legacy, technologies that were humbler and more sustainable.

"And perhaps we can find, in returning to those paths not taken, seeds of inspiration for a more hopeful and less violent way of living together on this planet, which we share with each other and with so much other life that we depend on," he said.

The announcement was made by the chair of the judges, UK-based historian



Sunil Amrith has been named the winner of this year's British Academy Book Prize, a prestigious 25,000-pound award that celebrates the world's best works of non-fiction.

Professor Rebecca Earle, who described the winning work as a magisterial account of the interconnections between human history and environmental transformation.

"It is vivid in detail and beautifully written - important reading for anyone seeking to understand the origins of today's climate crisis," said Earle.

"Amrith is a remarkable scholar whose global perspective reveals the impact of the environment on human history, as well as our impact on the environment. In fact, as he shows, it's not really possible to separate these two."

"It is never an easy task to choose one winner from an exceptional shortlist of six, but our panel agreed that 'The Burning Earth' exemplified the spirit of the prize: to deepen understanding of our world," she said.

The British Academy, the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences, notes that Amrith's "ground-breaking work of global environmental history" draws on decades of meticulous and eye-opening research to reveal how colonization, industrialization and the shifting patterns of human settlement have not only shaped the modern world but also

fueled the climate crisis we are now faced with.

Spanning continents and centuries - from the conquest of the Americas to British gold mining in South Africa, from the Black Death to the Second World War, Amrith takes the reader on an epic journey, offering a new perspective on humanity's impact on the planet.

"This fresh look at the interplay of human history with the shape of the earth combines rigorous research with page-turning prose. It is precisely the combination of evidence-informed insight, well-honed ideas, and great writing that we are proud to celebrate through our annual international book prize," said Professor Susan J Smith, President of the British Academy.

The other five shortlisted works, which each receive 1,000 pounds, included 'The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World' by William Dalrymple, 'The Baton and The Cross: Russia's Church from Pagans to Putin' by Lucy Ash, 'Africonomics: A History of Western Ignorance' by Bronwen Everill, 'Sick of It: The Global Fight for Women's Health' by Sophie Harman, and 'Sound Tracks: A Musical Detective Story' by Graeme Lawson.

The British Academy Book Prize was established in 2013 to reward writing grounded in exceptional research in the fields of the humanities and social sciences.

To be eligible for the prize, books must be works of non-fiction published in the UK, with authors of any nationality, based anywhere in the world and working in any language, provided that the nominated work is available in the English language.

Indian-origin MBBS student suffers brain stroke in Russia, airlifted to Jaipur

OCT 22, 2025

JAIPUR (TIP): A 22-year-old MBBS Indian-origin student from Rajasthan, who was battling for life in Kazakhstan after suffering a brain stroke, was airlifted to Jaipur on Monday evening.



Rahul Ghosalya who suffered a brain stroke in Kazakhstan, was airlifted to his hometown of Jaipur

Rahul Ghosalya, a resident of Jaipur's Shahpura and a medical student in Astana since 2021, suffered a brain stroke on October 8 and had been on ventilator support in a hospital there.

He was brought to Jaipur in an air ambulance and taken to the SMS Hospital under the supervision of medical and district administration teams. He has been admitted to the

Medical ICU, officials said.

A team of doctors led by SMS Medical College Principal Dr Deepak Maheshwari has started his treatment. The hospital has formed a four-member panel for his care.

A special critical care ambulance and medical team from SMS Hospital were deployed for the transfer.

Rahul's parents had earlier appealed to the Central and state governments through social media to help bring him back to India for advanced treatment. Several social organizations had joined the family's efforts to facilitate his evacuation.

Indian-origin student dies of cardiac arrest during Diwali celebrations in Dubai

OCT 23, 2025

DUBAI (TIP): An 18-year-old Indian student, recipient of the UAE Golden Visa, died of cardiac arrest in Dubai during Diwali celebrations, local media reported.

Vaishnav Krishnakumar, a first-year BBA Marketing student at Middlesex University Dubai, reportedly collapsed during a Diwali celebration on Tuesday, October 21, at Dubai International Academic City, the Gulf News reported on Wednesday, October 22.

He was rushed to hospital, but the doctors declared him "brought dead due to cardiac arrest", the report added.

According to the family, the Dubai Police Forensic Department is conducting further investigations, adding that Vaishnav had no known heart problems.

"His parents want to take his body to Kerala for the final rites, so we are getting the paperwork sorted. We hope everything will be done and they can fly home on Friday," Vaishnav's uncle and Dubai resident told local media.

"We still don't have a clear picture of exactly what happened," the Uncle added.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Vaishnav Krishnakumar, a first-year BBA Marketing student at Middlesex University Dubai, reportedly collapsed during a Diwali celebration on Tuesday, October 21, at Dubai International Academic City, the Gulf News reported on Wednesday, October 22.



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Long Island congressional delegation fills campaign accounts in anticipation of 2026 races

OCTOBER 23, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Long Island's two Democratic U.S. House members are raising millions of dollars to fuel their 2026 campaigns in competitive districts, while the latest campaign finance reports show little activity by any foes, says a Newsday report

With more than a year to go before the next elections, the Island's two Republican congressmen also have been building their war chests since January, new Federal Election Commission filings show.

"Raising in the off year is an integral part of campaigning. Now is the time where members can stockpile cash without spending heavily, and that's especially true in such an expensive media market," said Jacob Rubashkin, deputy editor of Inside Elections, a nonpartisan political handicapper of races for House and Senate seats.

Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-Glen Cove) has hauled in the most so far among Long Islanders in the House. His campaign committee collected \$2.4 million from January through Sept. 30, the 46th

highest incumbent dollar total in the 435-seat House this year.

Overall, more than \$3.8 million now sits in Suozzi's campaign coffers, including money he already had, and after spending or disbursing more than \$585,000 this year. That cash-on-hand amount also is the highest among the Long Island House members.

No reports have been filed outlining fundraising amounts by any potential challengers for New York's 3rd Congressional District, from either party.

Freshman Rep. Laura Gillen (D-Rockville Centre) is viewed by several nonpartisan political handicappers as among the most vulnerable House incumbents from either party, nationally. She has raised more than \$2 million since January - the 66th highest amount in the House.

More than \$1.54 million now sits in her campaign coffers, after spending or distributing \$480,485 this year.

Another Democrat running for Gillen's 4th Congressional District seat, Gian Jones, reported no

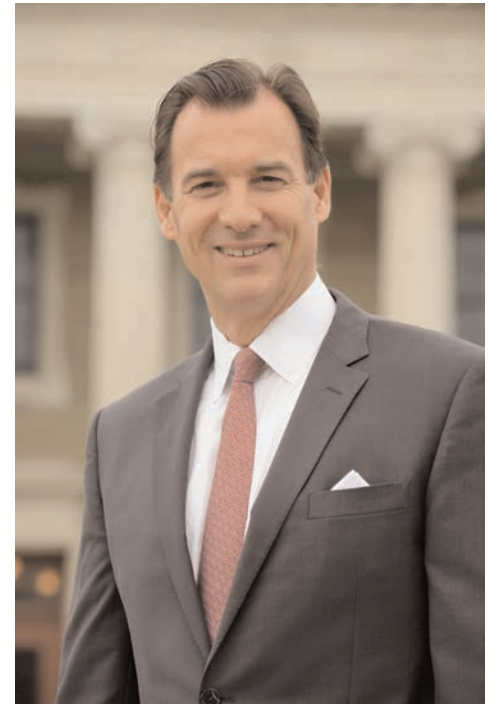
fundraising since January but showed \$9,582 in his war chest and \$2,348 in loans owed. A third Democrat, Nicholas Jude Sciretta, reported collecting \$7. The FEC did not immediately have fundraising information posted or processed from two others, Brian Miller and Dennis Joseph McGrath, both Republicans.

Across the aisle, Rep. Nick LaLota (R-Amityville) reported raising \$1.73 million this year through Sept. 30, the 91st highest amount in the House. LaLota's main campaign committee spent or disbursed \$350,250, and he reported having \$2.05 million on hand.

Two Democrats running for New York's 1st Congressional District seat held by LaLota also filed reports. Christopher Gallant reported raising \$222,832 and has \$134,950 cash on hand. Democrat Lukas Ventouras reported taking in \$19,312, including in a loan of \$3,800.

Rep. Andrew Garbarino (R-Bayport) reported raising \$1.27 million this year - the 145th highest total in the House. His committee reported having \$1.9 million in the bank, after expenditures.

Former Suffolk County Executive Patrick Halpin, a Democrat who is running to seize New York's 2nd Congressional District seat, reported raising \$218,948 and having \$171,797



The campaign committee of Rep. Tom Suozzi collected \$2.4 million from January through September 30.

on hand. Another Democrat, Josh Taveras, reported raising \$1,105 and having \$187 on hand.

While neither Suozzi nor Gillen have significant GOP opposition yet, Rubashkin said both eventually will.

(Source: Newsday)



RE-ELECT

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India Reaffirms Support for Two-State Solution, Lauds Peace Agreement at UNSC Debate



Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, thanked Russia for convening the debate and welcomed the diplomatic breakthrough achieved at the Gaza Peace Summit held in Sharm el-Sheikh on October 13.

OCTOBER 23, 2025

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): At the United Nations Security Council's quarterly open debate on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, India reiterated its unwavering support for the two-state solution and called on all parties to uphold their commitments under the recently signed Gaza Peace Agreement.

Addressing the Council, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Parvathaneni

Harish, thanked Russia for convening the debate and welcomed the diplomatic breakthrough achieved at the Gaza Peace Summit held in Sharm el-Sheikh on October 13. The summit, which led to the signing of a landmark peace accord, was hailed by India as "a positive step toward lasting peace in the region."

Ambassador Harish commended the United States, particularly President Donald Trump, for his "instrumental role" in facilitating the agreement, and also praised Egypt and Qatar for their contributions to the peace process. He emphasized that "dialogue and diplomacy remain the only viable path to achieve peace" and cautioned against any unilateral moves that could derail ongoing efforts.

"Now is the time for all parties to support peace, not to derail it," Harish stated, adding that the diplomatic momentum generated must be sustained through collective commitment and adherence to obligations under the accord.

Reiterating India's long-standing stance on the Palestinian question, Ambassador Harish recalled that New Delhi has consistently condemned terrorism, called for an end to civilian suffering, demanded the release of hostages, and urged unimpeded flow of humanitarian aid-including food, fuel, and medical supplies-into Gaza. He said India viewed the Peace Agreement as a "catalyst" for achieving these humanitarian and political goals.

India, which recognized the State of

Palestine in 1988, reaffirmed its support for the creation of "a sovereign, independent, and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel, within secure and recognized borders." Harish said that the High-level Conference on the Implementation of the Two-State Solution held at the UN in September 2025 had underlined this path as the only pragmatic way forward.

A major component of India's approach, the envoy noted, was support for the economic viability of the future Palestinian state. India has extended assistance worth over USD 170 million to the Palestinian people, including USD 40 million in ongoing projects, and has supplied 135 metric tons of medicines and relief materials over the past two years. "Aid is essential for rehabilitation and reconstruction, but it must be coupled with economic frameworks that foster investment, employment, and social development," Harish observed.

Turning to the broader regional context, the Ambassador said peace and stability in Palestine would have "positive implications for the entire Middle East." He urged all sides to ensure that the ceasefire holds and that negotiations continue in good faith.

Addressing developments in Syria, Harish underscored India's support for a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political

process and noted the country's recent dispatch of five metric tons of essential medicines to Syria in July 2025. He also paid tribute to Brigadier General Amitabh Jha, India's Acting Force Commander in UNDOF, who made the supreme sacrifice in December 2024 while serving under the UN flag. India, he said, remains the third-largest contributor to UNDOF and the second-largest contributor to UNIFIL in Lebanon, reiterating the importance of ensuring the safety and security of UN peacekeepers.

On Yemen, Ambassador Harish expressed deep concern over the continuing humanitarian crisis, emphasizing that "assistance must be above politics" and reach civilians irrespective of affiliations. He called for an immediate cessation of hostilities to facilitate humanitarian relief and reaffirmed India's commitment to the safety of its nationals in Yemen.

Concluding his statement, Ambassador Harish said India's vision for the Middle East rests on fundamental human principles - that "all people have the right to live normal lives, free from deprivation, indignity, and fear."

"India stands fully ready," he declared, "to contribute to the collective endeavor of realizing a stable, peaceful, and prosperous Middle East."

Judge Orders Feds to Send MTA \$34M in Counterterrorism Funds

Funds have been used to purchase equipment like security cameras, improve cybersecurity, among other things.



U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to send over the funds to the MTA

OCTOBER 23, 2025

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): A federal judge has ordered the Trump administration to send \$34 million in counterterrorism funds to the MTA on Thursday, October 16.

U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan ordered the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to send over the funds to the MTA.

The new development was first reported by the New York Post.

In a statement, post on X, Governor Kathy Hochul said the ruling was a victory for "every New Yorker who rides

our subway, buses, and commuter rails."

"Once again, the court made it clear: The GOP can't punish New York by defunding our police or withholding critical safety funding," she added.

Kaplan ruled that withholding the funds was a "blatant violation of the law."

On Wednesday, Kaplan had extended a preliminary injunction blocking the federal government from withholding the counterterrorism funds.

The funds from the Transit Security Grant have historically been used to purchase equipment like security cameras, improve cybersecurity and support local law enforcement.

The Transit Security Grant was created in the wake of the Sept.11 attacks.

According to the report, FEMA withheld the funds due to New York City's sanctuary city status.

On Oct. 3, the Trump administration said it would reinstate \$187 million in separate counterterrorism funding grants for law enforcement in New York.

The federal funding supports a number of intelligence operations, bomb squads, security at sensitive targets like houses of worship and equipment purchases.

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What we misunderstand in the debate over free speech



By Avram Alpert

"Any attempts to undercut science, to spread propaganda, to diminish educational opportunities or to consolidate control over information systems run counter to the freedom of thought. And it is thus not particularly surprising that we are seeing scientific and educational institutions attacked, while a simultaneous curtailment of free thought is being mounted by billionaires attempting to own increasing shares of the media ecosystem - from the ongoing legacy of the Murdoch family, to Elon Musk's purchase of Twitter, and to the Ellison family's moves to consolidate media companies and TikTok."

For all the opinions about free speech and censorship that rage around us, there is remarkably little argument about what the "free" in free speech means. Most defenders of "free speech" only seem to care about the freedom to express themselves. They fight for the right to say anything, not whether the speech itself comes from a position of freedom.

Focusing on what makes free speech free is fundamental to our moral and political futures. Because free speech, properly conceived, is not just about the right to say what one wants. It is also about being the kind of person who has been so conscientious in their thinking, learning and discussion that they have become a free subject whose speech is directed toward the pursuit of truth. And there are serious threats today against the freedom of thought on which free speech relies.

John Stuart Mill makes the connection between free thought and free speech in his classic defense of speech, *On Liberty* (1859). The first chapter of Mill's book is not called "Of free speech", but rather "Of the liberty of thought and discussion". That's because speech for Mill is not an end in itself. It is rather one part of a broader freedom to find the truth that begins with a conscientious, trial-and-error attitude in which we are open to criticism and willing to learn from others and through experience. If we are beholden to prejudice, or hatred, or the pursuit of profit, or a desire to manipulate others, then our speech is constrained by these ulterior ends and not free.

Mill in fact criticizes those who "think it enough if a person assents undoubtingly to what they think true, though he has no knowledge whatever of the grounds of the opinion". For our speech to become free, we have to undertake "due study and preparation". We have to carefully compare what we believe with experience and reality and consult others with both humility and skepticism. We have to learn the best arguments from different points of view and then come to a considered conclusion.

Free speech is both part of this process as we try out ideas and engage with others, and the necessary end of the process when we express our findings. Starting out wrong or misguided is part of how we learn. This imperative to be considerate in how we come to our speech isn't about putting legal limits on what can be said. Instead, the goal is to change our cultural and political norms to encourage free speech as part of a process of becoming a freer thinker.

This process is not easy. There are many factors - both

benign and malign - that have incredible power to influence our thinking. Our minds, for example, tend to overemphasize negative and frightful information through what psychologists call "affect heuristics" and "availability heuristics" - shortcuts in our thinking bequeathed by evolution so that we quickly recall information and react immediately to danger.

But these same shortcuts can make us susceptible to manipulation - even when we know we're being manipulated. That's what makes a false idea like "immigrant crime" so powerful. Even though statistics show that migrants commit far less crime than others, these heuristics trick our minds into recalling recent news stories and becoming afraid. So when someone insists on their right to demonize immigrants, that is not free speech - it is fear speech. Again, we neither can nor should make fear speech illegal, but we can create cultural norms that promote genuine free speech.

Murdoch family, to Elon Musk's purchase of Twitter, and to the Ellison family's moves to consolidate media companies and TikTok.

While these assaults on institutions are the most wide-scale and pressing dangers to free thought, there are also interpersonal concerns. The truncation of free thought can happen on an individual level when we don't hear out dissenting views, however distasteful or even dangerous such views may be. Engaging with people we disagree with is fundamental to any robust system of free thinking and discussion.

To consider just one example: NPR reported a story in 2021 about a woman who turned against vaccines after the birth of her child. She had originally had her newborn vaccinated, and it appeared that her child had an abnormally bad reaction. The doctors didn't take her concerns seriously, but people online did. She



Freedom of speech requires freedom of thought - and the American political climate poses a serious threat to it

TRUE DEFENDERS OF FREE SPEECH ARE FIRST AND FOREMOST DEFENDERS OF FREE THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

This includes an open and engaged public sphere, an educational and scientific research system that expands knowledge, active public venues that encourage people to learn about each other's points of view, and public labors to produce and circulate factual information and counter propaganda and misinformation.

As this list implies, any attempts to undercut science, to spread propaganda, to diminish educational opportunities or to consolidate control over information systems run counter to the freedom of thought. And it is thus not particularly surprising that we are seeing scientific and educational institutions attacked, while a simultaneous curtailment of free thought is being mounted by billionaires attempting to own increasing shares of the media ecosystem - from the ongoing legacy of the

went down a rabbit hole and diminished her freedom of thought in exchange for a community of care.

Over time, she broke with the antivax movement because she found a doctor who listened to her concerns and explained the science without accusation. Free thought arises not only through experience and research, but also patience and listening. This is what Loretta J Ross speaks of as creating a "call-in" rather than a "call-out" culture.

True defenders of free speech are first and foremost defenders of free thought and discussion. They support not only education and scientific research, but also the kinds of caring engagements with their fellow humans that allow for the accurate transmission of ideas and shared pursuit of truth. To protect free speech, we should embody both these political and interpersonal ideals.

(Avram Alpert is a lecturer in the Princeton Writing Program. His most recent book is *The Good-Enough Life*)

"Can America Endure Without the Spirit That Built It?"



By George Abraham

A troubling reality unfolding across the United States today is the growing disillusionment of a large segment of the people, mostly young, who are politically and economically upset with the current status quo. Their concerns are justified to a large extent, as the so-called American dream, a promise of upward mobility through hard work, has already slipped away beyond their reach. What once was taken for granted - a stable job, home ownership, and financial security - now feels unattainable to millions, creating a certain uncertainty about the nation's future. As inequality widens, political polarizations intensify, creating populist movements on the left and right filled with emotions of anger and cynicism. This situation poses a potential threat to the very fabric of our society, raising the question: are we on the verge of a popular uprising that threatens the very foundations of social cohesion and democratic stability?

The primary election victory of Zohran Mamdani as the Democratic candidate is a clear sign that the political pendulum in America is shifting. His campaign, anchored in progressive policies such as rent freezes, free public transit, and higher taxes on the wealthy, has struck a powerful chord with younger voters weary of economic hardship and inequality. Yet, this shift raises profound questions about the nation's direction. Will these radical, left-wing reforms offer meaningful relief to a generation burdened by debt, stagnant wages, and unaffordable housing? Or will they usher in a social and economic transformation so sweeping that it could alter the very character of American society - perhaps beyond the point of return?

If history is any guide, socialist revolutions have consistently failed to deliver on their promises. The collapse of the Berlin Wall remains one of the clearest testaments to that truth. When the wall finally fell, the world watched as East Germans fled not toward the socialist East but toward the freedom and prosperity of the capitalist West. Despite being surrounded by barriers, West Berliners enjoyed a standard of living, political freedom, and economic vitality unmatched anywhere across the Eastern Bloc. Time and again, socialist systems have produced not equality and abundance but shortages, stagnation, and widespread hardship.

I had the rare opportunity to live in Communist Ethiopia during the rule of Mengistu Haile-Mariam, a dictator who held power through much of the early 1980s. Those years offered me a firsthand glimpse into the grim realities of life under a repressive regime. Beyond the absence of freedom of expression, the country suffered from severe shortages of essential goods, inadequate housing, and a collapsing healthcare system. Fear and silence gripped the population, while the privileged few in power thrived. Eventually, the people's patience ran out, and the regime was swept away by a popular uprising. It is a stark reminder that no system built on oppression and deprivation can endure indefinitely.

Right in our own backyard, Cuba and Venezuela stand as glaring examples of failed socialist experiments. Cuba remains trapped in the economics and ideology of the last century, its people burdened by stagnation and scarcity. Venezuela, once among the most affluent nations in Latin America and blessed with vast natural resources, has been reduced to chaos under socialist rule. What was once a prosperous society is now marked by poverty, hyperinflation, and mass migration, with millions fleeing their homeland in search of freedom and opportunity.

Some may argue that China, as a communist nation, has thrived under socialism. However, the truth is quite the opposite for those who look deeper. China began its remarkable transformation only after it loosened its centralized socialist controls and opened the door to private enterprise and market-driven reforms. Its leaders recognized the power of innovation and entrepreneurship while eagerly adopting Western

ideas, technologies, and management practices. In essence, China's success story is not the triumph of communism, but the outcome of its partial retreat from it.

However, capitalism became the driving force of the modern era, unleashing the power of individual liberty and human creativity. Capitalism paved the way for unprecedented scientific and technological progress by rewarding innovation and enterprise. It built the foundations of a prosperous society that lifted millions out of poverty and expanded opportunities for generations. In its best form, capitalism has proven that freedom and productivity can advance hand in hand, inspiring a hopeful vision for the future.

In the United States, capitalism does not operate unchecked. It functions within a framework of laws and regulations designed to ensure fairness and accountability. The government plays a crucial role in this, with oversight bodies and the judiciary curbing exploitation and corporate excesses. Robust anti-monopoly laws exist to prevent consumer fraud, price gouging, and the concentration of economic power in too few hands, preserving competition as the lifeblood of a healthy economy. This regulated form of capitalism, with the government as a watchdog, is a key factor in its success and the prosperity it has brought to the nation.



"Give me your tired, your poor/ Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

India too experienced an economic revival when the landmark reforms led by Dr. Manmohan Singh were introduced in the early 1990s. By dismantling the rigid controls of the license-raj system and opening the country to global trade and investment, these reforms unleashed the power of the market economy. The results were transformative while propelling India onto a path of sustained growth and helping it emerge as the world's fourth-largest economy today.

However, for a market economy to succeed, it requires more than policies and regulations. It demands a dedicated and disciplined workforce. Hard work, integrity, and perseverance remain its most essential ingredients. The early immigrants to America are a testament to this truth. They had no Medicare, Food stamps, or Government Safety Nets. Yet, they toiled in the fields and factories, built families, and laid the

foundation of a thriving society where effort was rewarded and success celebrated.

The recent generations of immigrants are the actual beneficiaries of that legacy of hard work and perseverance. America became a magnet for talent and ambition and a beacon of freedom and prosperity, a shining city on a hill that drew millions from across the world, from every culture, language, and faith. Such massive movements occur only toward nations that uphold liberty and reward merit. These immigrants joined vibrant, market-driven economies and thrived and many becoming trailblazers in their own right, creating immense wealth, generating opportunities for others, and leading multinational companies that have guided society into a new era of innovation and sustained growth. Their success stories are a testament to the opportunities that a capitalist system can provide, and the social mobility it can enable.

Capitalism and the market economy are not without their flaws. They move in cycles of expansion and recession, and in times of crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the wheels of the economy can come to a grinding halt. Reckless spending by undisciplined politicians can fuel runaway inflation, while excessive regulation can stifle innovation and prevent industries from realizing their full potential. Similarly, a shortage of skilled workers can dampen productivity and slow growth. Yet, these challenges are not insurmountable - they demand dynamic leadership, sound policymaking, and the courage to innovate and adapt to changing realities.

However, the sad reality is that many of today's immigrants appear intent on challenging or undoing the very experiment that made the United States a beacon of opportunity. One is left to wonder why anyone would come to a country only to disparage the system that built the most powerful economy in history. Unlike the immigrants of earlier generations who valued self-reliance, hard work, and personal responsibility, some now advocate for a culture of dependence, believing that wealth redistribution can solve all social ills. They overlook a fundamental truth: in every system, it is the innovators, the risk-takers, and the diligent workers who drive progress and ultimately reap the rewards of their labor.

New Yorkers face a crucial test in the coming elections. The city already carries roughly \$300 billion in debt, and new taxes will disproportionately hurt the middle class. The very wealthy have options to relocate. The city budget has ballooned to some \$112 billion, with excessive and wasteful spending in many corners. We should ask ourselves: do we want leaders whose primary goal is to redistribute the wealth and who speak openly about "de-commodifying" housing - a euphemism, some fear, for eroding private property rights or even about "seizing the means of production", a term Karl Marx used to describe the capital or wealth of those he painted as villains? Do we really want to upend the very system that built New York, entrusting it to those who had no stake in building it?

History has shown that no nation can thrive by undermining the very principles that built its success. Although imperfect, capitalism has proven to be the most effective engine for innovation, progress, and human advancement, provided it is guided by integrity, discipline, and a sense of shared responsibility. The challenges America faces today, from debt and division to disillusionment, call for leadership rooted in vision, prudence, and respect for the hard-won values that shaped this great nation. Let us remember that freedom and prosperity are not entitlements, but trusts handed down by generations who toiled and sacrificed. Preserving them requires courage, wisdom, and faith in the enduring promise of the American spirit.

(George Abraham is a regular contributor to The Indian Panorama. He served as a Chief Technology Officer with the United Nations. He is Vice-Chair of the IOC. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)

80 years on, UN remains humanity's best hope

WE STILL HAVE ONLY ONE UN -INDISPENSABLE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY



By Bharat H Desai

In the face of global challenges, the UN system has sought to address the gigantic task within very limited resources against heavy odds, including the periodic "shooting of the messenger" (UNSG). It is no wonder that whenever the UNSG has sought to translate into action "mandates" and other Charter-ordained tasks that go against the narrow interests of some member states, those states stop funds or withdraw from the UN agencies (such as WHO and UNICEF) and even declare the UNSG persona non grata!

On October 24, the United Nations (UN) reaches the milestone of 80 years even as it faces an uphill task in this increasingly difficult world, wherein 2 billion people live in conflict zones, 1.1 billion face multidimensional poverty, 887 million face climate hazards, 667 million go hungry, 100 economies will take at least 123 years to close the global gender gap and one in three women face physical/sexual violence at least once in their lifetime. Yet, this beleaguered political organization of 193 member states always remains ready to address each of the present-day challenges in this era of a planetary-level crisis.

Despite facing various kinds of smear campaigns, the UN has tried its best to live up to the expectations of the original 50 founding members (including India) who solemnly resolved to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war."

The year 2025 has brought the "race to bankruptcy" for the UN and its chief administrative officer, the Secretary-General, in view of the refusal by some countries to provide their contributions based on the UN scale of assessments. By September 2025, only 136 of the 193 member states had paid their assessments in full. Several contributors, including the US, China, Russia and Mexico, had yet to complete their payments. As a result, the UN has been forced to bring down its regular budget for 2026 by 15.1 per cent - from \$3.715 billion to \$3.238 billion. This will adversely affect the "UN80 Initiative", including 11 peacekeeping operations, started by UNSG Antonio Guterres to create a stronger organization that is more agile, responsive, resilient and better equipped to deliver on all its "mandates".

Built on the ashes of the League of Nations at the end of World War II, the UN has survived four times (1945-2025) the life of its predecessor which lasted from 1920 to 1939. Like human beings, the UN is not infallible. It was not designed to take the UN "peoples" to heaven but to try to save them from falling into a hell on earth. Hence, the UN seems to have learned vital survival skills, adaptability and resilience amidst the pitfalls of "how nations behave." There is no other general political organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact as the UN, which is genuinely working towards securing a better world for humankind.

The UN Charter was adopted on June 26, 1945 at Opera House in San Francisco after a series of confabulations held from 1941 to 45 in places such as London, the Atlantic, Moscow, Tehran, Dumbarton Oaks, Yalta and San Francisco. "The Charter of the United Nations which you have just signed is a solid structure upon

which we can build a better world," said US President Harry Truman in his closing address at the San Francisco conference.

The UN provides us vital lessons for the realization of the idealism to eliminate war. It provides a pathway to stop UN-bashing, to enable it to realize the cherished purposes and principles of

world, the UN has been the most important whistleblower that has sought to hammer on the principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and the resolution of international disputes by peaceful means through the principal judicial organ of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

In the face of global challenges, the UN system has sought to address the gigantic task within very limited resources against heavy odds, including the periodic "shooting of the messenger" (UNSG). It is no wonder that whenever the UNSG has sought to translate into action "mandates" and other Charter-ordained tasks that go against the



The UN membership today stands at 193 - up from the original 50. -Credit / Sandeep Joshi

the UN Charter, making international law work effectively to deter the lawlessness of powerful nations to protect the "peoples" of the UN.

Notwithstanding the trend of UN-bashing, its proverbial bureaucracy and some of its failings, we still have only one UN and it is indispensable for the maintenance of international peace and security.

WHY UN MATTERS

It is only a truism to state that the UN Charter is the cornerstone of international law. It has emphatically declared the principle of sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity, political independence and the right to self-determination of peoples. Without the historic battles fought in the UNGA, the elimination of apartheid and the liberation of colonies would not have been possible. As a consequence, the UN membership today stands at 193 - up from the original 50.

Even though there have been numerous conflicts raging around the

he UN Charter provides a concrete blueprint in Article 2 (4) for the prohibition of threat or use of force, along with the right of self-defense under Article 51. Ironically, this core Charter blueprint has been eroded, as seen in conflicts raging around the world. However, that is due to the self-serving interests of the member states.

Some member states have also tried to stonewall the quest for the UN's restructuring, including the expansion of the Security Council and the "repurposing" of the Trusteeship Council, to reflect the realities of the 21st century. A layperson needs to understand that the UN can act only when member states allow it.

Most of the member states have been looking to the UN system that comprises commissions, programs, funds and 16 'specialized agencies' (functional organizations). These agencies do commendable jobs in fields such as civil aviation (ICAO), health (World Health Organisation), education and culture (UNESCO), food and agriculture (FAO) and meteorology (WMO).

narrow interests of some member states, those states stop funds or withdraw from the UN agencies (such as WHO and UNICEF) and even declare the UNSG persona non grata!

LIFE BEYOND 80 YEARS

On September 29, 2025, at the conclusion of the high-level segment of the UNGA, President Annalena Baerbock underscored that "this organization was created to tackle the problems no country alone can solve...for a better future that is better together." The institutionalization of "multilateralism" by the UN, on the bedrock of international law, would still be relevant in the remaining three quarters of the 21st century.

Hence, the task is cut out for such founding members of the UN as India, which is aspiring for a rightful seat on the UNSC's horse-shoe table - to stand by the UN in its hour of existential crisis.

(Bharat H Desai is a professor of international law at the University of Bonn, Germany)



From Abhishek Mishra,
25 Lavender Drive,
Edison, New Jersey



How Lord Shiva strengthened New Jersey family's faith

Lakhs of pilgrims undertake the Amarnath Yatra every year to pray at the snow Shivaling in the sacred cave. Faith for one family in Edison, NJ, was strengthened by mysterious events unfolding in their home.

Abhishek Mishra, who has enjoyed a successful corporate career, shared with the press naturally formed (Swayambhu) images of Shiva appearing in their home without any human involvement. "Shankar Bhagwan has blessed us and we feel his divine presence all the time," he said.



Among the astonishing phenomena at the Mishra house on Lavender Drive was a Shivaling that formed in ice during the winter, while a 50-foot image of Lord Shiva holding a trident appeared in the backyard snow. Inside, an image of Shiva with Nandi was seen on the bathroom tiles, and another meditative form of Shiva emerged from ice.

Many people have been eager to witness this remarkable event, calling it a spiritual wonder. Abhishek Mishra, an intuitive, tells all to believe in Divine Power, called by different names in various religions, adding that aligning with it will make our life happy, peaceful, and prosperous.

Abhishek Mishra can be reached at 732.690.0404 for more details.

Trump's Kill at Will: Says no need for a declaration of war

OCTOBER 23, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Donald Trump on Thursday, October 23, insisted that he could continue to launch strikes against alleged drug traffickers abroad without Congress first passing an official declaration of war.

"I'm not going to necessarily ask for a declaration of war," he said. "I think we're just doing to kill people that are bringing drugs into our country. Okay? We're going to kill them, you know, they're going to be like, dead."

Trump's dismissal came as he suggested his administration would soon begin targeting those deemed as cartel members within countries like Venezuela, in addition to continuing to strike alleged drug boats in international waters.

The president said he would notify Congress first before beginning any operations on "land," but contended that the plan would not face any pushback from lawmakers.

"We going to go. I don't see any loss in going" to Congress, Trump said. "We're going to tell them what we're going to do and I think they'll probably like it, except for the radical left lunatics."

The lethal strikes on vessels in the Caribbean and east Pacific have unnerved some lawmakers, given the little evidence the administration has presented proving



President Donald Trump insists he can strike alleged drug traffickers without Congress declaring war. Also seen in the picture are Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth (left), and US Attorney General Pam Bondi -File photo

that the targets were so-called narco-terrorists. On Thursday, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth insisted that the military has confirmed that each targeted boat is trafficking drugs. Still, he defended the decision to return two survivors of a recent strike as "standard" practice in war.

"Compared to Iraq and Afghanistan, the vast majority of people that we captured on the battlefield we handed over to the home country," he said, referencing the US' wars in the Middle East. "So in this case, those two, they were treated by American medics and handed immediately over to their countries where they came from."

Trump's remarks come as an American B-1 Lancer bomber flew near the coast of Venezuela on Thursday, although the president denied that the US sent the B-1 bomber. "No, it's not accurate. No. It's false. But we're not happy with Venezuela for a lot of reasons. Drugs being one of them, but also they've been sending their prisoners into our country for years under the Biden administration, not anymore, we have a closed border," Trump said.

The aircraft first appeared on flight-tracking dashboards southwest of the Dallas Fort Worth area around 4:30 a.m. ET on Thursday and at its closest point was a

little more than 50 miles from the Venezuelan mainland.

About nine hours later, open-source flight data showed the bomber reappearing for around 15 minutes within Venezuela's flight information region (FIR) - an area where air traffic control is provided by Venezuelan authorities.

However, it was not immediately clear whether the plane - which was accompanied by a second aircraft during its appearance in the FIR - entered Venezuelan airspace.

CNN has reached out to the Defense Department for comment.

The flight comes as tensions continue to rise between the two countries following the deployment of US warships to the Caribbean on what Washington has said is part of a counter-drug trafficking campaign but Caracas fears is a cover for regime change.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Wednesday, October 22, claimed his country had 5,000 Russian-made Iglu-S anti-aircraft missiles in "key air defense positions." The missiles are short-range, low-altitude systems that can shoot down small aerial targets such as cruise missiles, drones and low-flying planes. While B-1s can fly at altitudes as high as 60,000 feet they can also operate as low as 200 feet above the ground. (Source: CNN)

AAPI Launches Groundbreaking Ayurveda & Wellness Retreat in the U.S.: A Transformative Experience for Physicians and Their Families

OCTOBER 23, 2025

MADISON, AL (TIP): In a landmark initiative blending ancient wisdom with modern science, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) has announced its inaugural Ayurveda & Wellness Retreat, set to take place November 12-16, 2025, at The Raj, America's premier Ayurveda Health Center and Wellness Spa. This first-of-its-kind event, meticulously curated for AAPI members, promises a sanctuary of healing, learning, and renewal amid the growing stresses of professional and personal life.

A UNIQUE COLLABORATION FOR HOLISTIC HEALTH : The retreat is organized by the AAPI Ayurveda Consortium in partnership with the Maharishi International University Fellowship MS in Integrative Medicine and Ayurveda. Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President of AAPI, expressed his excitement: "We're thrilled to share an extraordinary opportunity—a handcrafted Ayurveda retreat designed to rejuvenate body, mind, and spirit."

Led by Dr. Chakrabarty, Dr. Amit Shah, and Dr. Arti Prasad, the collaboration aims to offer participants a deep dive into the evidence-based practices of Ayurveda, integrating traditional therapies with contemporary medical insights.

IMMERSIVE WELLNESS EXPERIENCE : Limited to just 25 couples, the retreat is intentionally intimate, fostering meaningful connections and personalized care. Attendees will enjoy authentic Ayurvedic treatments and massages, traditional therapies, and daily yoga and meditation



Dr. Amit Chakrabarty



Dr. Amit Shah



Dr. Arti Prasad

sessions to restore balance. Renowned experts in complementary medicine will deliver CME-accredited lectures, ensuring that participants not only relax but also expand their professional knowledge.

The culinary experience is equally impressive, with exquisite delicacies prepared by dedicated Indian chefs. Evenings will be enlivened by soulful performances from classical Indian dancers and musicians, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of India.

SCIENCE MEETS SPIRITUALITY : A highlight of the retreat is its blend of science, spirituality, and serenity. The program includes consultations with Ayurveda Vaidyas (traditional doctors), Panchakarma spa treatments such as Abhyanga and Shirodhara, and demonstrations of Pranayama (breathwork). Special presentations will offer practical Ayurveda tips for health, longevity, and youthful vitality, while a session on Transcendental Meditation (TM)-recently recommended by the American Heart Association and American Medical Association for managing high blood pressure-will introduce participants

to this powerful technique.

CME SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS AND EVIDENCE-BASED AYURVEDA : On November 15-16, the retreat will feature CME scientific sessions led by faculty from the Maharishi International University Fellowship MS in Integrative Medicine and Ayurveda. Topics include:

Ayurveda as a consciousness-based approach, exploring correlations between modern physics and ancient wisdom

Evidence basis of traditional Ayurveda physiology-Vata, Pitta, and Kapha

Dietary recommendations and health-promoting routines rooted in Ayurveda

Integrative approaches to inflammation and chronic disorders

These sessions are designed to empower physicians with practical tools and knowledge to integrate Ayurveda into their clinical practice.

EXCLUSIVE ACCESS AND SPECIAL OFFERS : AAPI has negotiated an all-inclusive price for the retreat, less than half the usual rate, making this transformative experience accessible to its members. With about 15 spots already reserved, the retreat is expected to fill

quickly, underscoring the growing interest in holistic health among medical professionals.

BEYOND THE RETREAT: TOURS AND CULTURAL IMMERSION : Participants will have the opportunity to tour The Raj Panchakarma facility and Maharishi International University (MIU), a fully accredited institution offering consciousness-based education through the PhD level. The retreat also includes a visit to the Golden Domes at MIU, where hundreds of TM meditators gather twice daily, radiating a scientifically measurable positive influence. Shopping tours to the Maharishi Ayurveda Products and Gift Store add a delightful touch, allowing guests to bring home wellness products and gifts.

A LEGACY OF WELLNESS : The Raj, which opened its doors 33 years ago, has pioneered the use of Ayurvedic medicine in the West. Built according to Vedic architecture (Vastu), the facility offers refined décor and the comfort of a residential home. The retreat's organizers, including The Raj owners Candace and Rogers Badgett and the MIU Fellowship Faculty, look forward to welcoming AAPI members for a relaxing, enjoyable, and informative experience.

AAPI's Ayurveda & Wellness Retreat represents a pioneering step in integrating ancient healing traditions with modern medical practice. By offering a blend of education, rejuvenation, and cultural celebration, the retreat sets a new standard for physician wellness initiatives in the United States. For more details or to reserve a spot, interested members are encouraged to visit www.aapiusa.org.

Trump says he's ending trade talks with Canada over TV ad

OCTOBER 23, 2025

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): An Associated Press report quoted US President Donald Trump as saying late Thursday, October 23, that he was ending "all trade negotiations" with Canada because of a television ad opposing U.S. tariffs that he said misstated the facts and called "egregious behavior" aimed at influencing U.S. court decisions.

The post on Trump's social media site came after Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said he aims to double his country's exports to countries outside the U.S. because of the threat posed by Trump's tariffs.

Trump posted, "The Ronald Reagan Foundation has just announced that Canada has fraudulently used an advertisement, which is FAKE, featuring Ronald Reagan speaking negatively about Tariffs."

"The ad was for \$75,000. They only did this to interfere with the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, and other courts," Trump wrote on his social media site. "TARIFFS ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY, AND ECONOMY, OF THE U.S.A. Based on their egregious behavior, ALL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA ARE HEREBY TERMINATED."

Carney's office didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday night.

Earlier Thursday, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute posted on X that the ad created by the government of Ontario "misrepresents the 'Presidential Radio Address to the Nation on Free and Fair Trade' dated April 25, 1987." It added that Ontario did not receive foundation permission "to use and edit the remarks."

The foundation said it is "reviewing

legal options in this matter" and invited the public to watch the unedited video of Reagan's address.

Carney met with Trump earlier this month to try to ease trade tensions as the two countries and Mexico prepare for a review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, a trade deal Trump negotiated in his first term, but has since soured on.

More than three-quarters of Canadian exports go to the U.S., and nearly \$3.6 billion Canadian (US\$2.7 billion) worth of goods and services cross the border daily.

In his own post on X last week, Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario, posted a link to the ad and the message: "It's official: Ontario's new advertising campaign in the U.S. has launched."

He continued, "Using every tool we have, we'll never stop making the case against American tariffs on Canada. The



President Donald Trump
Photo / The White House

way to prosperity is by working together."

Georgia Governor Henry McMaster celebrates Diwali with CG Atlanta and Indian American community



Gov Henry McMaster congratulated the gathering

OCTOBER 23, 2025

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): Georgia Gov Henry McMaster hosted a Diwali reception to India's Consul General in Atlanta Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan and members of the Indian-American community. Speaking on the occasion, the Gov described Diwali as an event reminding us of the victory of good over evil. He congratulated the Consul General and the Indian American community on the occasion and said he was pleased to host the Diwali celebration.



Indian Consul General Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan thanked the Governor for hosting the Diwali celebrations



Presentation of a Memento



The gathering at the Diwali celebration at the Governor's

Consul General Lakshmanan spoke about the importance and popularity of Diwali and thanked the Gov for hosting it. The governor wrote on X: "A pleasure

to host Indian Consul General Ramesh Babu Lakshmanan and members of the Indian-American community this evening as we celebrated Diwali."

JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon says America has allowed itself to become too reliant on unreliable sources for critical minerals, products, and manufacturing

OCTOBER 23, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon has announced a \$1.5 trillion investment plan which is aimed at revitalizing America's industrial backbone and reducing dependence on foreign supply chains. As reported by Business Insider, the decade-long initiative called the Security and Resiliency Initiative will majorly target important sectors such as defense, frontier technologies, energy and advanced manufacturing. "It has become painfully clear that the United States has allowed itself to become too reliant on unreliable sources of critical minerals, products, and manufacturing—all of which are essential for our national security," Dimon said.

As reported by Business Insider, Jamie Dimon revealed that the bank will commit \$10 billion of its own capital to jumpstart the efforts with the remainder facilitated via financing, strategic investments and partnerships.

As per the Business Insider report, Dimon also outlined four key sectors which will get focused investment. The industries include:

1. DEFENSE AND AEROSPACE

Command & Control Tech
Space Launch & Spacecraft
Unmanned Systems
Munitions, Missiles & Hypersonics
Secure Communication & Mesh Networks
G Infrastructure
Critical Components

2. FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES

Cybersecurity
Quantum Computing
Artificial Intelligence
Edge Computing
Sensor Hardware



JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon has a plan to revitalize America's industrial backbone and reduce dependence on foreign supply chains

3. ENERGY TECHNOLOGY

Nuclear Energy
Grid Resilience
Distributed Energy Systems
Battery Storage
Solar Power

4. SUPPLY CHAIN AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

Nanomaterials & Microelectronics
Critical Minerals Mining & Processing
Pharmaceutical Precursors
Autonomous Mobile Robots
Shipbuilding
Mission-Critical Real Estate
Advanced Bulk Materials

A CALL FOR UNITY AND URGENCY

Jamie Dimon also stressed the fact that this initiative is not only about economic growth but it is about safeguarding the future of America. Hopefully, once again, as America has in the past, we will all come together to address these immense challenges," he said. "We need to act now."

The announcement from Dimon comes at a time when concerns over global instability, supply chain vulnerabilities, and the race for technological dominance are growing. JPMorgan's move signals a bold private-sector push to reinforce U.S. resilience in the face of mounting geopolitical and economic pressures.

Canada introduces sweeping reforms to make bail laws stricter and toughen sentencing laws



--->By Prabhjot Singh

OCTOBER 23, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): Bowing before unabated criticism from the Opposition for laxity in bail laws and massive increase in crime by repeated offenders, the Liberal Government led by Mark Carney introduced sweeping reforms to make bail laws stricter, besides toughening sentencing laws.

Presenting before the House of Commons, the new laws, the Liberals have proposed 80 clauses of targeted changes to bail and sentencing laws after extensive consultations.

Also read: <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csjsjc/pl/c14/index.html>

The Liberal proposals come weeks after a similar Bill, "Jail not Bail", was rejected by the House of Commons.

Ever since the new House of Commons began its sitting, the deterioration in law and order situation, especially a multiple increase in extortions, crime against children and women, auto thefts, and home invasions, has been the subject of animated discussions.

While the national police-reported crime rate decreased between 1998 and 2014 (-37%), an upward trend (+12%) between 2014 and 2024. While there has been a 4% decrease in 2024 compared to 2023, everyone in Canada, alongside the Government, is deeply concerned with the overall rise in crime over the past decade.

Since 2014, police-reported crime rates have increased, particularly for homicide, sexual assault, extortion, child sexual offending, violent firearm offences and various other property crimes. Canada's Violent Crime Severity Index was 41% higher in 2024 than it was in 2014.

Recidivism (i.e., reoffending) rates have generally declined over the past 10 years. However, offenders with 10 or more prior convictions were much more likely to be reconvicted within 3 years than those with 9 or fewer prior convictions.

Those released from custody are more likely to reoffend as compared to those who were subject to some form of community supervision. Reoffending frequently involves a breach of conditions associated with previous criminal justice system involvement.

Canada's criminal justice system is a shared responsibility of the provinces, territories and the federal government. The federal government is responsible for enacting criminal law, while provincial and territorial governments are responsible for the administration of justice. Provinces are responsible for conducting most bail hearings and enforcing bail conditions, as well as operating most remand facilities. Several provinces have recently taken steps to address the issue of repeat violent offenders.

Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, before introducing the Bill, said: "Canada's new government is moving ahead with sweeping reforms to keep Canadians safe. We're proposing over 80 clauses of targeted changes that will make bail harder to get while also toughening sentencing laws for repeat and violent offenders. We are supporting police on the front lines, and we are investing in long-term prevention, like housing, mental health, and youth programs, so communities are safer over time. In the coming months, we will also bring forward additional measures to better protect people facing sexual and intimate partner violence, and to keep children safe from horrific crimes."

As the criticism of the Government refused to die down, Canada's new Liberal government, led by Mark Carney, introduced sweeping reforms to make bail laws stricter and sentencing laws tougher for repeat and violent offending, to support the front



Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

"A STRONG CANADA MEANS STRONG PROTECTIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES AND A CRIMINAL CODE THAT RESPONDS TO EMERGING THREATS, PROTECTS VICTIMS OF CRIME, AND KEEPS OUR KIDS SAFE. THIS IS THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CANADA'S JUSTICE SYSTEM. IN THE COMING MONTHS, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WILL BRING FORWARD FURTHER CHANGES TO ADDRESS COURT DELAYS, STRENGTHEN VICTIMS' RIGHTS, BETTER PROTECT PEOPLE FACING SEXUAL AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, AND KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM HORRIFIC CRIMES": SEAN FRASER, MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CANADA.

lines, and to invest in long-term prevention.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada announced on Thursday the introduction of the Bail and Sentencing Reform Act. The reforms would introduce over 80 clauses of targeted changes to the bail and sentencing framework in the Criminal Code, informed by extensive consultations. They would also make amendments to improve the youth justice system.

The Act would make bail stricter and harder to get, including in cases of repeat and violent offending. It would create new reverse onuses, meaning the starting point is detention and the accused would have to prove why they should be released on bail.

When considering whether to grant bail, the amendments would direct police not to release an accused when it is against the public interest or when detention is needed to protect victims or witnesses. Courts would be required to consider specific factors, including whether the allegations involved random or unprovoked violence and if the accused has any outstanding charges, and to set stricter conditions, including weapons bans. Changes would make clear that in reverse onus cases, courts must closely scrutinize the bail plan of the accused, who would be required to clearly demonstrate that their plan is reliable and credible, to be released on bail.

The Act would also toughen sentencing laws for repeat and violent crime, including car theft and extortion, meaning those found guilty can spend more time in prison. Proposed amendments would require consecutive sentences for violent auto theft and break, and extortion and arson, and allow them for repeat violent offending. This means serving one sentence after another instead of serving sentences for multiple offences at the same time.

New aggravating factors would apply to crimes against first responders, retail theft, and theft or mischief that harms essential infrastructure. The Act would also end house arrest for certain sexual assault and child sexual offences, restore driving prohibitions for criminal negligence causing bodily harm and death and manslaughter, and strengthen fine enforcement.

These changes to the Criminal Code by the federal government will only be effective if provincial and territorial governments do their part in supporting their implementation. This includes properly managing and resourcing the administration of justice, including police and prosecution services under their jurisdiction, bail courts, bail supervision programs, provincial courts, jails and victim services. The federal government looks forward to continuing to work with provincial and territorial governments to ensure the proper functioning of the criminal justice system.

A strong Canada means strong protections for our communities and a Criminal Code that responds to emerging threats, protects victims of crime, and keeps our kids safe. This is the latest in a series of reforms to strengthen community safety and Canada's justice system. In the coming months, the Government of Canada will bring forward further changes to address court delays, strengthen victims' rights, better protect people facing sexual and intimate partner violence, and keep children safe from horrific crimes, the Minister said.

(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.)

Congress questions PM Modi on caste and reservation ahead of Bihar visit

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the ancestral village of former Bihar chief minister and social justice leader Karpoori Thakur, the Congress on Friday, Oct 24, posed three direct questions to him over his party's past actions and current policies on caste and reservation.

Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, said, "Today the Prime Minister is going to the ancestral village of Jannayak Karpoori Thakur ji. Here are our three straight questions to him."

Ramesh asked whether it was not an "acknowledged fact" that the Jan Sangh, from which the BJP later emerged, had brought down Karpoori Thakur's government in Bihar in April 1979 after he introduced reservations for Other Backward Classes. He said Thakur was subjected to the "vilest abuse" by RSS and Jan Sangh leaders at the time.

He further questioned whether it was not true that on April 28, 2024, the Prime Minister had called those demanding a caste census "urban Naxals", and that his government had categorically rejected the idea both in Parliament on July 20, 2021, and before the Supreme Court on September 21, 2021.

Ramesh also asked whether the Prime Minister and the state government had done anything to protect Bihar's 65 per cent reservation law for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and Extremely Backward Classes under the Constitution.

He said the Congress government had provided such protection to a similar law in Tamil Nadu in September 1994.

PM Modi would kick off his campaign for Bihar polls by paying tributes to late CM Karpoori Thakur at his native village Karpoori Gram in Samastipur district on Friday. After paying tributes to the late leader, he would address his first public meeting in Samastipur and then address another meeting at Begusarai the same day.

On Oct 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi fired multiple salvos at the Opposition alliance in Bihar, calling it "lathbandhan" and invoking RJD's erstwhile rule as "jungle raj". The PM will start his Bihar campaign on Friday with rallies in Samastipur and Begusarai.

Speaking to the BJP booth workers virtually hours after RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav was named the chief ministerial face of the opposition, Modi said the people of Bihar will not forget "jungle raj" for 100 years.

After a woman booth worker cited Bihar's journey "from the era of corruption under the RJD to the era of development under the NDA regime", the PM said the opposition Mahagathbandhan was actually a "lathbandhan" alliance.

No bilateral with Trump as Modi to skip ASEAN meet, will join summit virtually

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not travel to Kuala Lumpur for the 47th ASEAN Summit later this week and will instead join the proceedings virtually.

The decision, announced by the Prime Minister after a phone conversation with his Malaysian counterpart Anwar Ibrahim, has sparked intense speculation in both diplomatic and political circles.

"Had a warm conversation with my dear friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia. Congratulated him on Malaysia's ASEAN chairmanship and conveyed best wishes for the success of the upcoming summits. Look forward to joining the ASEAN-India Summit virtually and to further deepening the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Modi posted on X.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent India at the summit in person, officials said. With Modi opting for a virtual presence, prospects of a possible bilateral meeting with US President Donald Trump on the sidelines now stand ruled out.



"The East Asia Summit will provide an opportunity to deliberate on the challenges to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and also exchange views on regional and international developments," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

In his post, Anwar Ibrahim said Modi had informed him of his decision to attend the summit virtually due to the ongoing Diwali celebrations in India. "I respect his decision and extended my greetings for a happy Diwali to him and the people of India," Anwar said, adding that Malaysia remained committed to strengthening ASEAN-India cooperation "towards a more peaceful

and prosperous region". However, political observers say domestic and diplomatic factors may also have played a role. The upcoming Assembly elections in Bihar—a politically crucial state for the BJP—are expected to command much of the Prime Minister's attention in the coming weeks.

At the same time, New Delhi's relations with Washington have faced turbulence after the Donald Trump administration's recent steep tariff hikes on Indian goods. Diplomatic sources say the leadership may have preferred to avoid an awkward public encounter between the two leaders amid the ongoing trade friction.

Despite his absence, Modi is expected to address the ASEAN-India Summit virtually, while Jaishankar will take part in the broader deliberations and bilateral meetings.

The 47th ASEAN Summit, to be held in Kuala Lumpur on October 26-27, will bring together leaders from Southeast Asia and key dialogue partners, including India, the US, China, Japan and Australia, to discuss regional security, trade and strategic cooperation.

India working for fair & equitable trade pact with US: Goyal in Berlin

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India is fully engaged with the US on the trade issue and is working towards a fair and equitable agreement, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday, Oct 23.

Speaking in Berlin, where he is visiting to enhance bilateral trade cooperation with Germany, Goyal said India was in talks with the US for a trade deal.

"We are in a dialogue with the US. Our teams are engaged. We recently had the Commerce Secretary visit the US and he met his counterpart. We continue to engage with them and the talks are progressing," Goyal said.

The minister added that India was hoping to work towards a fair and equitable agreement in the near future.

He refrained from setting timelines to the trade talks, maintaining the government's official position on the issue. The government is assessing the impact of the 50 per cent US tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump on the Indian textile and fisheries sectors and is exploring alternative markets to offset potential losses.

Sources told The Tribune that the European Union recently opened up to imports of Indian shrimp, a sector that had earlier faced significant restrictions.

Internally, the major sectors are still assessing the impact of Trump tariffs and no concrete data has been shared by these sectors with the government, which



Union Minister Piyush Goyal with German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Katherina Reiche in Berlin. PTI

remains engaged with exporters on the way forward.

Meanwhile, Goyal today held a productive meeting in Berlin with German Federal Minister of Economy and Energy Katherina Reiche. This engagement followed their video conference on August 7.

"The discussions focussed on enhancing cooperation in trade, investment, technology, green energy and skilling," the Indian side said.

Goyal also met Levin Holle, Economic and Financial Policy Adviser at the Federal Chancellery and Germany's G7 & G20 Sherpa, and discussed ways to further deepen the bilateral economic relationship.

Later, the minister chaired a Roundtable with CEOs and leaders of German Mittelstand companies at the Indian Embassy, who conveyed their keenness to do business in India and expand existing investments. Source: TNS

Centre moves to appoint new CJI

With barely a month left for the retirement of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, the Centre on Thursday initiated the process for the appointment of his successor.

The government has formally written to CJI Gavai, who is due to retire on November 23 on attaining the age of 65, to name his successor, sources said.

According to the memorandum of procedure on the appointment and transfer of Supreme Court and High Court judges, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office should be appointed as the CJI. CJI Gavai is expected to recommend Justice Surya Kant — the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court — as his successor. Born in a middle-class family on February 10, 1962, in Hisar district of Haryana, he obtained a bachelor's degree in law in 1984 from Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, and earned the distinction of being appointed the youngest Advocate General of Haryana on July 7, 2000, at the age of 38. He was appointed as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court on January 9, 2004, and assumed charge of the office of the Chief Justice of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh with effect from October 5, 2018.

Justice Surya Kant was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24, 2019. Once appointed, Justice Kant will become the 53rd CJI on November 24 and hold the office for nearly 15 months till February 9, 2027.



Friendship does not give licence to rape: Delhi HC

The Delhi High Court has denied anticipatory bail to a man accused of raping a 17-year old girl, while rejecting his contention that the victim and accused were friends, saying friendship does not give licence to rape the victim repeatedly, confine her or beat her mercilessly.

Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma dismissed the application of the man in the case lodged under the Prevention of Child from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, noting that the accused had still not joined the investigation, despite his anticipatory bail plea having been either withdrawn or rejected on four occasions in the past.

"The contention on behalf of the applicant that the applicant and the complainant were friends and therefore, it could be a case of consensual relationship, cannot be accepted by this court. Even if the parties concerned were friends, friendship does not give any licence to the applicant to rape the victim repeatedly, confine her in his friend's house and beat her mercilessly, as prima facie disclosed by the complainant in her statement...duly corroborated by the medical records," the judge said in an order passed on October 17.

According to the FIR lodged on the basis of a complaint by the minor girl, she had known the accused for several years as a neighbour.

She alleged that he took her to his friend's house, where he beat her and sexually assaulted her repeatedly, and threatened to kill her if she disclosed the incident to anyone.

The accused had sought the bail on the ground that there was a delay of 11 days in filing of the FIR, adding that the relationship between him and the victim was consensual.

While rejecting the accused's contention of delay, Justice Sharma said, "Quite naturally, it was owing to the fear and trauma of the said incident that the complainant had initially resisted from disclosing about the incident to her parents."

"Therefore, in view of the foregoing circumstances, coupled with the serious nature of allegations levelled in the present case, prima facie corroborated by the material on record, this court finds that no case for grant of anticipatory bail is made out. Accordingly, the present application stands dismissed," the judge said.

EC to launch nationwide SIR in 2 phases; schedule next week

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Election Commission (EC) intends to launch the nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter lists in November in phases. As per reports, SIR will be conducted first where assembly elections are going to be held early next year. The EC is prepping for the exercise at a two-day conference that begun on Wednesday, 22nd October, with the Chief Election Officers of all states and UTs in India, apart from other ECI officials.

The EC plan is to implement the SIR of the voters in phases, rather than all at once. The initial states to go through this will be those with elections coming up in 2026, like Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.

However, on 15th July, authorities of Assam have informed the EC that they would prefer to complete their state's National Register of Citizens (NRC) first before starting this voter update. Assam is the only state that has been preparing an NRC, so the EC has not reached a decision yet on whether Assam will be among the first group.

Here's how this new verification process will work, which is based on the exercise already done in Bihar. For the upcoming nationwide exercise, all registered voters will need to fill out new forms to remain on the list. However, there's a key difference



depending on when a voter was first registered. The Election Commission is using a "cut-off year" (like 2003 for Bihar) to set the rules.

If a voter registered before the specified cut-off date, they will likely just need to submit the form. However, if one registered after that cut-off year, the voter must also provide documents proving the date or place of birth to confirm eligibility and citizenship.

There is also some good news, particularly for individuals who have shifted from one state to another for work. The EC is introducing a new regulation that's very beneficial. While

voters were allowed to only use old proof from inside Bihar during the Bihar trial, that's being relaxed for this national rollout.

For instance, if a person was born in West Bengal and were registered there on their 2002 electoral roll, but now resides and votes in Mumbai, that person can utilise that old West Bengal proof to remain registered to vote in Mumbai. This helps migrant workers a great deal. The ongoing two-day conference is the second such meeting that the EC is having over nationwide SIR, after the first conference in September this year.

Bengaluru-bound private bus catches fire after bike crash in Kurnool; 20 dead

HYDERABAD (TIP)

A Bengaluru-bound private bus from Hyderabad caught fire in this district on Friday, Oct 24, after colliding with a two-wheeler, leaving 20 people dead, a senior police official said.

Official sources indicated that the toll may rise. Among the deceased was the biker. According to initial reports, the motorcycle collided with the bus near Chinnatekur in Kurnool and got dragged underneath with its fuel cap open, triggering the blaze.

"So far, 19 passengers and a biker have died. Police are entering the bus to assess the situation, and the fate of nine other passengers is yet to be ascertained," Kurnool Range DIG Koya Praveen told PTI.

He added that a complete picture of casualties and survivors would emerge only after thorough investigation and identification of all those involved in the accident.

The bus door got jammed due to a short circuit and the vehicle was completely gutted within minutes. Most survivors were aged between 25 and 35 years, police further said. District Collector A Siri said 41 people were travelling in the bus, and this included the driver.

Of the 41 onboard, 21 have been traced. Those who escaped the accident are stable and out of danger, she said.

Many passengers could not escape the tragedy as it occurred during the night when they were asleep, she said.

She said the bus door did not open immediately as some wires got cut which increased the severity of the tragedy.

Most of the passengers belonged to Hyderabad, Siri added.



Officials had initially said that the bus was bound for Hyderabad in neighbouring Telangana.

Police are taking safety precautions and emptying the diesel tank of the bus. Meanwhile, a team of medical experts reached the spot to collect DNA samples of the charred bodies, said Praveen.

The Road Traffic Association should enforce stringent action if bus operators fail to follow safety measures and use proper materials to prevent similar devastating incidents in the future. The DIG noted that no fire control measures were present in the bus that caught fire, highlighting lapses in safety compliance and emergency preparedness during travel.

India in history this Week

OCTOBER 24 TO OCTOBER 30

24 OCTOBER

1914 Freedom fighter and philanthropist Laxmi Sehgal was born.

1991 Famous Hindi writer Ismat Chugatai passed away.

1851 First telegraph line started between Calcutta and Diamond Harbor.

1579 Jesuit pastor SJ Thomas was the first Englishman to visit India. He arrived in Goa by Portuguese boat.

1975 An ordinance was brought to end the bonded labor system and came into effect from the next day.

1982 Sudha Madhavan became the first Indian female athlete to run in a marathon.



2013 Renowned playback singer Manna Dey passed away.

25 OCTOBER

1924 The British arrested Subhash Chandra Bose and sent him to jail for two years.

2005 Hindi writer Nirmal Verma passed away.

1951 The first general election began in India.

1964 The first indigenous tank 'Vijayanta' was built at the Avadi factory.

1995 The then Prime Minister of India, Narasimha Rao addressed the 50th anniversary session of the United Nations.

1955 For the first time, a company called Microwave Oven was started by Tappan Oven for domestic use.

26 OCTOBER



1947 After the partition of India and Pakistan, after the attack from Pakistan, the Hindu king of the Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir Raja Hari Singh decided to go with India on this day.

1934 All India Rural Industries Association was established under the patronage of Mahatma Gandhi.

1947 Raja Hari Singh agreed to merge Jammu and Kashmir with India.

1969 The first astronauts to step on the moon, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, came to Mumbai.

1775 Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last emperor of the Mughals was born in India.

1890 Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, who participated in the freedom struggle, was born.

1943 The cholera epidemic in Calcutta (erstwhile Kolkata) killed 2155 people in the third week of October.

1962 After the Chinese attack on India, the then President declared Emergency for the first time.

27 OCTOBER



1920 The 10th and first Dalit President of the country, K.K. R. Narayan was born in 1920.

1952 Anuradha Paudwal, who created a special identity with the hymns along with the film world, was born in 1952.



2008 The Central Government issued a notification of interim relief to journalists and non-journalists of the newspaper industry.

1947 Raja Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir accepted the accession of Jammu and Kashmir into India.

28 OCTOBER



1867 Birth of Swami Vivekananda's disciple Bhagini Nivedita in Ireland

1913 Jain Shwetambar Terapanthi Sabha was established

1851 The British Indian Association was established

in Bengal.

29 OCTOBER



1985 Boxer Vijendra Singh, who won India's first Olympic medal in boxing, was born.

1999 About 150 people died and five lakh people were affected by the Mahatufan, which came at a speed of 250 km on the east coast of India.



2005 Two days before Deepawali in Delhi, 62 people died in the serial blasts in busy areas Paharganj and Sarojini Nagar.

1920 Jamia Millia Islamia was established by the efforts of former President Zakir Hussain.



2008 Assam bombings killed 69 people and injured 350 people.

30 OCTOBER

1945 India joined the United Nations.

1909 Famous scientist Homi Jahangir Bhabha was born.

1883 The great thinker and social reformer Swami Dayanand Saraswati died.

1956 India's first five-star hotel 'Ashoka' opened.

HARIHARAN, INDIA'S LEGENDARY SINGER, PERFORMS AT NJPAC

BY MABEL PAIS

HARIHARAN, legendary singer from India, for a rare and memorable performance, is welcomed by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), New Jersey's anchor cultural institution and one of America's foremost presenters of arts and entertainment, to perform on Saturday, November 1, 2025, at 8:00 PM.

Bindu Kohli Entertainment presents this highly anticipated concert bringing one of India's most revered musical icons to Newark for an evening that celebrates the emotion, melody, and spirit of Indian music.

HARIHARAN ANANTHA SUBRAMANI is an Indian playback, bhajan and ghazal singer who predominantly sings in Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi, Kannada and Telugu languages. He has also sung over 15,000 notable songs in 10+ languages including Marathi, Sinhala, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Odia, Bengali, Sanskrit, Gujarati and English. He is an established ghazal singer and one of the pioneers of Indian fusion music. Hariharan is widely regarded as one of the greatest playback singers in Indian cinema.

In 2004, he was honored with the Padma Shri (the 4th highest civilian award) by the Government of India and is a two-time National Award winner in 1998 for best male singer for 'Mere Dushman,' in the film 'Border' and in 2009 for 'Jeev Danga Gungla Rangla,' in the film 'Jogwa.'

Known for his collaborations with A. R. Rahman, Hariharan's music bridges generations and genres, blending classical influences with modern arrangements.

Hariharan, collaborating with Leslee Lewis, formed the duo Colonial Cousins creating groundbreaking fusion work. They have cut many private music albums and also scored music for few feature films in Tamil and Hindi. In 1992, Hariharan and the late Gulshan Kumar's Hanuman Chalisa recorded under the label of T-Series crossed the 3-billion views mark on YouTube, making it the first devotional song in the world to do so.

NJPAC PERFORMANCE

The NJPAC performance will feature beloved songs such as 'Tu Hi Re,' 'Bahon Ke Darmiyan,' 'Hai Rama,' and 'Roja Jaaneman,' along with selections from his acclaimed ghazal and South Indian repertoire. With a career spanning over four decades, Hariharan built a deep connection with audiences through songs that connect audiences worldwide. His music embodies the emotion, melody, and soul of Indian culture, uniting people of all ages in a shared appreciation for its beauty.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025
Doors Open: 7:00 PM EST
Showtime: 8:00 PM EST
Venue: Prudential Hall, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark, NJ
Genre: World Music



Hariharan.

Credit: Courtesy, njpac.org



(left) Hariharan with Leslee Lewis (the duo 'Colonial Cousins.')

Credit: facebook.com/lesleewisofficial

Link to the curated Hariharan Playlist - Sanskar Savvy

TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased at [ticketmaster.com/hariharan-live-in-concert-newark-new-jersey-11-01-2025/event/0000632147989EBA](https://www.ticketmaster.com/hariharan-live-in-concert-newark-new-jersey-11-01-2025/event/0000632147989EBA)

Exclusive Offer: Sanskar Savvy, a cultural media partner for the tour, is

offering readers 15% off Tier 1 and Floor Tickets with the Ticketmaster UNLOCK code SANSKAR, available through NJPAC.org.

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC, located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is one of the largest performing arts centers in the United

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

BINDU KOHLI ENTERTAINMENT

Bindu Kohli Entertainment Group is a premier South Asian event organizer with nearly three decades of experience presenting world-class Bollywood concerts and cultural productions across the Tri-State area. Known as "The Ultimate in Entertainment," the company has successfully brought legendary artists, chart-topping singers, and beloved film stars to live audiences. With a commitment to quality, creativity, and community, Bindu Kohli Entertainment continues to elevate South Asian entertainment in the United States.

SANSKAR SAVVY

Sanskar Savvy is a diverse cultural media hub that celebrates, explores, and connects the rich narrative of Indian American life. Its platform is a source of trending news for Indian Americans and is deeply dedicated to the unique experiences, heritage, and aspirations of the South Asian diaspora in North America offering its subscribers a curated blend of informative, relevant, and engaging content. Follow along at [SanskarSavvy.com](https://www.SanskarSavvy.com).

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

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[njpac.org](https://www.njpac.org) or 888.GO.NJPAC
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Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand
Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

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

JAZZ FEST AIMS TO SHOWCASE JAZZ AS POWERFUL FORCE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

BY MABEL PAIS

The 14th Annual TD JAMES MOODY FESTIVAL, presented by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) and co-curated by NJPAC's Jazz Advisor CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE, will take place November 8-23, 2025. It aims to showcase jazz as a powerful cultural force for social justice.

From groundbreaking jazz masters Arturo Sandoval and Stanley Clarke to the censored "Poet of Havana" singer-songwriter Carlos Varela and hip-hop stars Chuck D, Rakim and Slick Rick baring their souls in the annual Represent! show, this year's Festival is rooted in jazz history. Presented at various accessible locations throughout Newark, the citywide Festival offers a diverse program of several acts fusing jazz with poetry, spoken word, dance, blues, pop, African-Caribbean music, and more — making it a destination for all arts lovers. New for this year, eligible TD Bank cardholders will receive special perks at the TD James Moody Jazz Festival.

NJPAC President and CEO, John Schreiber explains "Jazz has always been an art form that's strengthened by artists collaborating, crossing boundaries, finding new inspiration in the counterpoint of different rhythms coming together. You'll hear that in almost every show at the 'TD James Moody Jazz Festival' this year, and especially in this year's 'Represent!' concert that will bring together leading voices in hip hop, jazz and spoken word poetry."

Christian McBride, TD James Moody Jazz Festival Advisor and multiple GRAMMY® Award-Winning Jazz Bassist, said "This is going to be another all-star, can't-miss 'TD James Moody Jazz Festival.' I can't wait to groove with my Big Band and the incredible vocalists Andra Day, José James and Ledisi. But as always, I'm proud that we've put together a festival that has something for everyone: You'll hear inspiring words from Dodge Poets, witness the tap dance magic of Savion Glover, hear Rachael Price of Lake Street Dive sing new tunes inspired by the music of the 1940s with her friend Vilray, and move to Cuban rhythms from Carlos Varela, Diana Fuentes, Arturo Sandoval and Omar Sosa. Plus, we'll welcome two legendary players — my fellow bassist Stanley Clarke, and guitarist Stanley Jordan — to the NJPAC stage this season. This is a rare treat, and I know fans will be looking forward to their appearances as much as I am. Our goal with the 'Moody' festival is to ensure you'll always hear some of your favorites — and always discover new music to fall in love with."

Martin Melilli, TD Bank Commercial Market President explains, "TD Bank has been an active supporter of the festival since it began, sponsoring free community performances and educational events, as well as mainstage concerts



Christian McBride.
Credit: Evelyn Freja

ARTURO SANDOVAL * BEN WILLIAMS * CARLOS VARELA with JACKSON BROWNE, DIANA FUENTES * RODRIGO TOSCANO * CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE with LEDISI, ANDRA DAY, JOSÉ JAMES * DIANA FUENTES * DJ SPINNA * GEORGE CABLES * CHUCK D · JEROME JENNINGS * KING GEORGE * LA BRUJA * LENNY WILLIAMS * LUISITO ROSARIO ORCHESTRA * NAT ADDERLEY JR. * NJMEA ALL-STATE JAZZ BAND AND CHOIR * NUYORICAN POETS CAFÉ SLAM TEAM * OMAR SOSA * POKEY BEAR * RAKIM * RACHAEL PRICE * RAINA SIMONE * RODRIGO TOSCANO * SAVION GLOVER * SLICK RICK * STANLEY CLARKE * STANLEY JORDAN * THEODIS EALEY * TUCKA JAMES * TYEHIMBA JESS * TYREEK MCDOLE * VILRAY BOLLES * WEST LOVE

Plus surprise special guests to be added.

2025 TD JAMES MOODY FESTIVAL LINE-UP (events subject to change):

When: November 8 - 23, 2025

Where: Multiple venues in Newark, New Jersey, including NJPAC (One

George Cables – piano
Alexander Claffy – bass
Jerome Jennings – drums
Location: Bethany Baptist Church
"Anyone serious about jazz will tell you that George Cables belongs in the pantheon of the greatest jazz pianists." – All About Jazz

Co-presented by the Bethany Baptist Church Jazz Vespers, NJPAC begins its season-long FREE concert series at Newark's Bethany Baptist Church with legendary pianist George Cables. Since 2000, Newark's historic Bethany Baptist Church has hosted free concerts that combine jazz and worship.

Recently named an inaugural recipient of the 2025 Jazz Legacy Fellowship by the Mellon Foundation and the Jazz Foundation of America, Cables is described as a "humble keyboard genius with impeccable technique and a unique songbook." "The New York City Jazz Record" hails him as "a piano giant," while National Public Radio notes that his solos "reveal a deep sense of groove and pacing and a mind at work."

Learn more at georgecables.com.

SAT 11.08 @ 7:30 P.M. OMAR SOSA QUARTETO AMERICANOS

Omar Sosa – piano
Sheldon Brown –



George Cables. -Credit: njpac.org/jazz.

showcasing jazz superstars. We are very proud to continue our relationship with NJPAC and the TD James Moody Jazz Festival as they work to educate and inspire through jazz. At TD, we believe music and the arts are a universal language we all speak, and they both have a special way of inspiring positive change and connecting diverse communities."

2025 TD JAMES MOODY JAZZ FESTIVAL PERFORMERS

ALEXANDER CLAFFY *

Center Street), Bethany Baptist Church (275 West Market Street), Feldman Middleton Community Center (92 Thomas Carmichael Drive), Newark Public Library (50 Hayes Street) and Clement's Place (15 Washington Street)

Tickets: Some are free, others paid. To purchase tickets, contact NJPAC at 1.888.466.5722 or visit NJPAC.org/jazz.

SAT 11.08 @ 6:00 P.M. BETHANY BAPTIST JAZZ VESPERS: GEORGE CABLES TRIO FEATURING ALEXANDER CLAFFY AND JEROME JENNINGS

saxophone/clarinet/flute
Ernesto Mazar Kindelán – bass
Josh Jones – drums
Location: NJPAC's Victoria Theater

"Omar Sosa has carved out a place for himself in the musical landscape that's equal parts musical and spiritual. If the spirit speaks to anyone, it's Omar Sosa." – NPR Radio

It's Latin jazz — plus pizzazz — with

CONTD ON PAGE 20



NJMEA singers & musicians -Credit: njpac.org/jazz.



Savion Glover. Credit: njpac.org/jazz

CONTD FROM PAGE 19

multi-GRAMMY® nominee Omar Sosa and his Quarteto Americanos. Playing with boundless energy, the Cuban-born composer, pianist and bandleader is “one of those rare birds whose keyboard skills are near those of Chick Corea and Chuco Valdes” (The New York Times).

Learn more at omarsosa.com

SUN 11.09 @ 3:00 P.M. STANLEY CLARKE N•4EVER WITH SPECIAL GUEST BEN WILLIAMS

Stanley Clarke – bass
Ben Williams – bass
Julius Rodriguez – piano/keyboard
Jeremiah Collier – drums
Wallace Rooney Jr. – saxophone
Colin Cook – guitar

Location: NJPAC's Victoria Theater.
“In the truest sense of the word, Stanley Clarke is a legend.” – *NPR Radio*

An evening of bass! Four-time GRAMMY®-winning film composer, bassist and NEA Jazz Master Stanley Clarke is one of the most celebrated acoustic and electric bass players in the world. Opening the show is fellow bassist Ben Williams – one of the most acclaimed and versatile bassists in modern jazz. A GRAMMY® Award winner, he won the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition in 2009 and has been landing impressive accolades ever since.

Learn more about Ben Williams at benwilliams.com.

WED 11.12 @ 4:30 P.M. JAZZ IN THE

STACKS/BOOKS ON THE MOVE

TD Jazz for Teens

Location: Newark Public Library Springfield Branch.

Enjoy a FREE performance by TD Jazz for Teens at local Newark Public Libraries! Kicking off NJPAC's monthly series in each of the NPL branches, it will host a Jazz in the Stacks performance preceded by a free engaged reading of 'Playing at the Border,' Yo-Yo Ma's children's book as part of the 'Books on the Move' series.

THU 11.13 @ 7:30 P.M. ARTURO SANDOVAL

Arturo Sandoval – trumpet
Location: NJPAC's Victoria Theater.
“a consummate musician, a true virtuoso” – *Omaha World-Herald*

At 75 years old, jazz trumpet virtuoso Arturo Sandoval still practices every day. Even after receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Kennedy Center Honors and 10 GRAMMYs®, he's never let the acclaim distract him from the most important thing: the music. As a child growing up in Cuba, he found freedom in jazz, Latin jazz and Afro-Cuban jazz. And “freedom,” he says, “is the most important word in any dictionary in any language in the world.”

Learn more at arturosandoval.com.

FRI 11.14 @ 7:00 P.M. NJMEA / ALL-STATE JAZZ BAND AND JAZZ CHOIR

Location: NJPAC's Chase Room.

Catch the next generation of great jazz artists from New Jersey. This

annual concert event, co-presented by NJPAC's Arts Education Department and the New Jersey Music Educators Association, brings together some of the very best young musicians and vocalists from across the state for a dynamic group performance. Performers include NJMEA All-State Jazz Band and NJMEA All-State Jazz Choir.

Learn more at NJMEA.org.

SAT 11.15 @ 3:00 + 7:00 P.M. SAVION GLOVER: PROJECT.9

Savion Glover – tap dance + percussion

PROJECt.9 – band + vocalist

Location: NJPAC's Victoria Theater.
“Savion is to tap when Charles Parker is to jazz.” – *Herb Alpert*

Boldly breaking ground for over a quarter century, Savion Glover brings his drum set and tap shoes to NJPAC. In his latest production PROJECt.9, Savion is lead percussionist as well as tap dancer in an illustrious celebration of sound. The group comprises a vocalist and three other musicians (names TBA) performing original dance compositions and instrumental score written by Savion. In addition to presenting his award-winning tap dancing, Savion also displays his musicianship as percussionist.

What makes PROJECt.9 particularly unique is Savion's emphasis on the collaboration of sound and improvisation. His performances evoke themes of identity, community and resilience, reflecting the struggles and triumphs of Afrocentric culture. Learn

more at instagram.com/the_savionglover

Watch Savion perform at the Apollo Theater, New York City - youtu.be/dZcqD-m4ng4

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Visit njpac.org for more information.
TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®

For the 14th consecutive year, the Festival is sponsored by the TD Bank is the title sponsor of all jazz programming during NJPAC's season, including free community performances and educational events, as well as mainstage concerts showcasing jazz superstars. TD Bank, a subsidiary of the Toronto Dominion Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is one of the 10 largest banks in the U.S. by assets, providing over 10 million customers with a full range of retail, small business and commercial banking products and services at more than 1,100 convenient locations throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Metro D.C., the Carolinas and Florida. To learn more, visit td.com/us.

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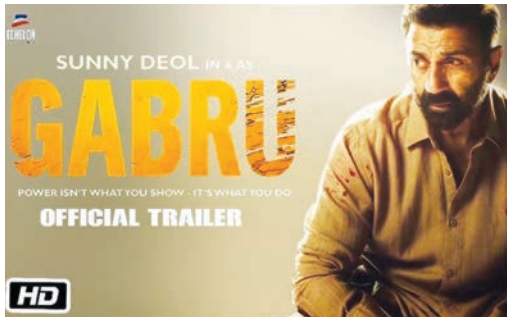
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Sunny Deol marks 68th birthday with new film Gabru

Actor Sunny Deol marked his 68th birthday with a special announcement, revealing his new film 'Gabru' via social media on October 19. The 'Gadar 2' star shared a video offering a glimpse into his midnight celebrations, which featured fireworks and vibrant festive lighting. Surrounded by his team, Deol was greeted enthusiastically as they cheered, "Happy Birthday!" Deol expressed his appreciation to fans and followers on Instagram, sharing the first official look of 'Gabru'. In his caption, he stated, "Power isn't what you show, it's what you do! Thank you everyone for your love and blessings, here's something for you all who have been waiting #Gabru IN CINEMAS 13th March 2026. A story of courage, conscience, and compassion. From my heart to the world! (sic)" The announcement quickly generated excitement among his followers.

His brother Bobby Deol posted a cheerful photograph and wrote, "Love you Bhaiya. Happy Birthday." Fans also joined in, extending their best wishes and sharing their anticipation for the new film.

Priyanka Chopra calls Parineeti's baby boy 'the most precious gift'

As Parineeti Chopra turned a year older on October 22, she received a warm birthday wish from her cousin and actress Priyanka Chopra.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, Priyanka shared a collage of pictures with Parineeti along with a special message, "Happy Birthday Tisha! This birthday month brought you the most precious gift, and I can't wait to see all the joy and love he brings into your life!"

As Parineeti Chopra turned a year older today, October 22, she received a warm birthday wish from her cousin and actress Priyanka Chopra.

Taking to her Instagram Stories, Priyanka shared a collage of pictures with Parineeti along with a special message, "Happy Birthday Tisha! This birthday month brought you the most precious gift, and I can't wait to see all the joy and love he brings into your life!"

On October 19, Parineeti and Raghav announced the arrival of their baby boy via a joint note.

They posted a heartfelt message that read, "He's finally here! Our baby boy. And we literally can't remember life before! Arms full, our hearts are fuller. First, we had each other; now, we have everything." The couple signed off with, "With gratitude, Parineeti & Raghav."

As soon as they shared the good news, fans and members of the film industry and political fraternity flooded the comments section with congratulatory messages for the new parents in town.



Her husband, politician Raghav Chadha, also took to Instagram to pen a sweet birthday wish for Parineeti.

"Happy birthday to the newest and best mummy in town! What an incredible journey it's been - from girlfriend to wife to mother of our little boy @parineetichopra," he wrote.

Raghav also shared a few pictures in which Parineeti can be seen proudly flaunting her baby bump.

Parineeti married Raghav in September 2023 at The Leela Palace Hotel in Udaipur, Rajasthan, in the presence of their close friends and family members.

Asrani, the man who made us laugh, takes his final bow

The curtains have fallen on one of Indian cinema's brightest and most beloved performers. Govardhan Asrani, fondly known to millions simply as 'Asrani' passed away at the age of 84 leaving behind a legacy filled with laughter and unforgettable characters.

On Monday, October 20, the veteran actor's final rites were held at the Santacruz Crematorium in Mumbai. According to his manager and close friend, Asrani breathed his last around 3 PM on October 20 following a chest infection. The official statement shared on his Instagram account confirmed the heartbreaking news, describing him as "the king of comedy who ruled over millions of hearts."

The post read, "He gave Indian cinema a new identity with his unique acting, simplicity, and humor. The life he breathed into every character will forever live on in our memories. His passing is not just a loss for the film industry, but for everyone who ever smiled at his acting. May his soul rest in peace. Om Shanti."

What makes the loss even more



poignant is that just hours before his passing, Asrani had wished his fans a happy Diwali through a cheerful post on social media.

Asrani's Bollywood journey

Asrani's career was nothing short of extraordinary, truly. With over 350 films to his credit his journey spanned more than five decades from the black-and-white classics to the vibrant

blockbusters. He was a graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) Pune. In mid-1960s, Asrani entered the film industry with refined acting skills and a gift for comic timing. These qualities went on to make him a household name.

While he began with serious and supporting roles it was comedy that became his true calling. His expressive face coupled with impeccable timing and

ability to find humor in everyday mundane life made him one of the most reliable and endearing comedians in Hindi cinema. This is why, during the 1970s and 1980s, his presence in films became almost indispensable.

Among his many performances, his role as the eccentric jailor in 'Sholay' remains etched in Indian pop culture even today after so many decades. His Hitler-inspired mustache and unforgettable dialogue delivery were so catchy that people still call it one of the most iconic comedic characters ever on screen.

Even today, his "hum angrezon ke zamaane ke jailor hain" line continues to be quoted and celebrated.

But Asrani was not just about punchlines and parodies. He proved his range with roles in films like 'Aaj Ki Taaza Khabar' and 'Chala Murari Hero Banne'. The latter also marked his stint as a director.

His work extended beyond Hindi cinema too. He appeared in Gujarati and Rajasthani films, became a director and writer, and also remained active in the industry well into his later years.

Scarlett Johansson reacts to rumors of playing the villain in Disney's live-action 'Tangled'

Scarlett Johansson has finally spoken about the swirling rumours linking her to Disney's upcoming live-action remake of 'Tangled'. Reports have suggested that the actress and singer might play the cunning Mother Gothel, the villain who keeps Rapunzel locked away in a tower.

In a recent chat with 'People', they asked Johansson directly about the possibility of joining the film. With a smile, she replied, "Is there a real possibility?" before adding thoughtfully, "I think anything is possible."

While she didn't confirm her involvement, Johansson did express genuine excitement about the idea of working with Michael Gracey, the filmmaker behind 'The Greatest Showman', who is going to direct the project.

"What would excite me about it would be the opportunity to work with Michael Gracey because he is just an extraordinary visionary," she said. "Any actor would love to have that collaboration with him."

Disney first announced plans for a live-action version of 'Tangled' back in December 2024, with Gracey taking the director's chair. However, as 'Deadline' reported earlier this month, the studio put the project on hold in April 2025.

The pause came after Disney's 'Snow White' remake starring Rachel Zegler and Gal Gadot struggled to perform at the box office.

For now, the studio hasn't made any official casting announcements. Still, industry insiders suggest Johansson might play Mother Gothel, the manipulative woman who steals baby Rapunzel from her royal parents and raises her in isolation to exploit her magical hair. In the original 2010 animated film, that character got voice of Donna Murphy, whose performance remains one of the movie's highlights.

The original 'Tangled' loosely inspired by the Brothers Grimm's 19th-century 'Rapunzel' fairy tale was a major success for Disney, earning over \$590 million worldwide. It followed the story of Princess Rapunzel (voiced by Mandy Moore), who escapes her tower prison with the help of the charming thief Flynn Rider (voiced by Zachary Levi).

Meanwhile, the actress has had a busy year on the big screen. She appeared in 'Jurassic World: Rebirth' and 'The Phoenician Scheme', and made her directorial debut with 'Eleanor the Great', which is currently playing in theatres.



Tom Cruise-Ana de Armas parted ways after nine-month amid wedding buzz: Report

Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise and actor Ana de Armas have reportedly ended their relationship after less than nine months together. According to reports, the pair, who were first romantically linked in February, decided to part ways amicably after realising "the spark had gone."

A source close to the couple told The Sun, "Tom and Ana had a good time together, but their time as a couple has run its course. They are going to remain good friends, but they aren't dating anymore. They just realised they weren't going to go the distance and that they are better off as mates."

The news comes as a surprise to fans, especially since rumours of a possible wedding had been making the rounds. The two were also reportedly preparing to star in a film together. However, despite the breakup, both stars are said to be handling things maturely. "She's already been cast in his next film, so they will continue to work together," the insider added.

Cruise and de Armas were set to co-star in the upcoming supernatural thriller "Deeper," which is currently on hold, and were also expected to reunite for another project titled 'Pressure.'

Kim Kardashian celebrates 45th birthday in Paris with cast of All's Fair

Kim Kardashian turned 45 on October 21 and chose Paris as the backdrop for her birthday celebrations, coinciding with the promotion of Ryan Murphy's legal drama 'All's Fair'. The event brought together Kardashian's co-stars, family, and friends for a series of high-profile festivities, including a glamorous premiere and an exclusive after-party. Kardashian's social media provided glimpses of the evening, capturing both extravagant elements and personal touches that marked the milestone occasion.

The birthday festivities began with Kardashian attending the premiere of 'All's Fair' alongside co-stars Naomi Watts, Glenn Close, Niecy Nash-Betts, Sarah Paulson, and Teyana Taylor. Her mother, Kris Jenner, was also present, adding a familial note to the evening.

Following the premiere, Kardashian and her guests moved to Crazy Horse Paris for an after-party described as over-the-top. Designer Amina Muaddi shared clips of the group singing Stevie Wonder's 'Happy Birthday', surrounding

Kardashian with a tower of cakes.

During the after-party, Kardashian wore Look 28 from Givenchy by Alexander McQueen's Spring/Summer 1997 haute couture collection, known as 'Search for the Golden Fleece'. Earlier, she had appeared at the premiere in a powder-blue vintage Dior gown from John Galliano's 2000 collection.

Kardashian documented her birthday on Instagram, sharing images of a cake from her 'All's Fair' team and a notably large croissant, which surprised her upon discovery. "Wait, this is the biggest croissant I've ever seen in my life. I thought it was cake! Wow, it smells so good, and it's still hot," Kardashian remarked off-camera.

Among the shared moments were bouquets of flowers from Kardashian's children, North, Saint, Chicago, and Psalm. She described the gifts with the caption, "Flowers from my kids with cute handwritten notes from them," highlighting the personal side of the celebration.



Zelensky hails 'strong' message' of US sanctions on Russia

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Thursday, Oct 23, hailed the "strong and much-needed" message sent by US sanctions on Russia's energy sector, after President Donald Trump moved to ratchet up pressure on Moscow in step with the EU.

"We waited for this. God bless it will work and this is very important," Zelensky told journalists at an EU summit in Brussels, saying Washington had sent "a good signal to other countries in the world to join the sanctions."

Trump slapped sanctions on Russia's two largest oil companies Rosneft and Lukoil on Wednesday, complaining that his talks with Vladimir Putin to end the Ukraine war "don't go anywhere."

Posting on X as he arrived in Brussels, Zelensky thanked Trump for a "resolute and well-targeted decision."

He said the US sanctions were a "clear signal that prolonging the war and spreading terror come at a cost."

"It is a strong and much-needed message that aggression will not go unanswered," he said.

Meanwhile, Russia said that new US sanctions on its oil industry risked hurting diplomatic efforts to end the Ukraine war, and that it had developed a "strong immunity" to them.

"We view this step as being entirely counterproductive, including in terms of signalling the need to achieve meaningful negotiated solutions to the Ukrainian conflict," Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a weekly briefing.

"Our country has developed a strong immunity to Western restrictions and will continue to confidently develop its economic potential, including its energy potential," she added.

Russian drones attack Kyiv for second night, officials say

KYIV (TIP)

Russian drones attacked the Ukrainian capital for the second night, injuring four people, officials said early on Thursday, Oct 23. Tymur Tkachenko, head of Kyiv's military administration, said drones had damaged several dwellings and other buildings, including a kindergarten.

City officials warned residents of a possible missile attack on the capital. On Wednesday, Oct 22, missile and drone assaults throughout the country killed six people, including two children, and forced nationwide power outages.

"At 7:20 a.m. there was an explosion, and within a moment, I started to feel pain on my face. I immediately started screaming. When I swiped my face, I thought I felt tears on my hand, but I was bleeding," Nadiia Zinchuk, a 24-year-old shop employee, told Reuters near a building hit in Kyiv.

Officials described the assault as an attempt to destroy the country's energy system as winter approached in the more than 3-1/2-year-old war.

"Most regions of Ukraine were targeted," Energy Minister Svitlana Hrynychuk said. "This is the second such attack in a month, indicating a methodical campaign by the enemy to destroy Ukraine's energy sector ahead of winter."

Hrynychuk said Russia was also targeting repair teams working at energy facilities.

Russia's Defence Ministry said it had struck Ukrainian energy infrastructure in response to Ukrainian attacks on Russian civilian targets.

Ukraine's Energy Ministry said Hrynychuk spoke during the day to her U.S. counterpart Chris Wright,



describing the aftermath of the attack and the country's need for additional equipment.

The ministry said the U.S. Energy Secretary offered Hrynychuk support to ensure Ukraine would get through the winter.

Russia launched 405 drones and 28 missiles during Tuesday night's attacks, the Ukrainian Air Force said. Air defence units shot down 333 drones and 16 missiles.

Ten people were rescued from a fire in a high-rise building in Kyiv's district of Dniproviskyi, said Mayor Vitali Klitschko, with a child among the five people admitted to hospital on Tuesday.

Officials said fires broke out in the districts of Desnianskyi, Darnytskyi and Pecherskyi, the last home to the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra monastery, a symbol of Ukrainian spiritual and cultural history.

Most regions of Ukraine experienced

power outages as a result of the Russian attacks.

In the central region of Poltava, Russian attacks damaged oil and gas facilities in the Myrhorod district, the regional governor said.

In the frontline Southeastern region of Zaporizhzhia, which has been subjected to continued strikes and shelling by Russian forces, 13 people were wounded in overnight attacks, regional governor Ivan Fedorov said on Wednesday.

City and regional officials have again started to roll out help stations, called "points of invincibility", where residents facing outages of power, heating and water can warm up, charge their phones and get food and hot drinks.

Russia has consistently attacked Ukrainian energy facilities since launching a full-scale invasion of the country in 2022, maintaining they are a legitimate military target in the war.

Two killed as 16 Israeli strikes hit eastern Lebanon

BEIRUT (TIP)

Israel intensified its aerial assault on Lebanon's eastern regions on Thursday, Oct 23, striking what it claimed were Hezbollah military targets amid growing fears that cross-border hostilities could spiral into another full-scale war.

The Israeli army said its warplanes targeted "a camp and a precision missile production site belonging to Hezbollah" in the Jurd Baalbek-Hermel region — a rugged, mountainous area near the Syrian border long believed to be the site of Hezbollah infrastructure.

Lebanon's Health Ministry confirmed that two people were killed and several others wounded in the wave of strikes, which hit the outskirts of the towns of Taraya, Shmustar, Bednayel, and Nabi Sheet, as well as rural areas in Janta, Al-Gharbieh, and Sherbin.

The attacks caused panic at secondary schools in Shmustar and Taraya, where shattered glass injured students and teachers. Several pupils reportedly fainted amid the chaos.

The latest escalation comes as Israel continues to strike deeper into Lebanese territory, while tensions mount over Hezbollah's refusal to disarm — a



longstanding demand by domestic and international actors seeking to bolster state sovereignty.

Despite Lebanon's efforts to enforce disarmament measures and assert control over southern regions, Hezbollah maintains a parallel military presence, defying UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

In a statement, Minister of Education and Higher Education Rima Karami appealed to "the major and

influential countries of the world to exert pressure to halt the ongoing aggression that targets schools and civilians."

Israeli media reported that five fighter jets carried out strikes on 16 targets in eastern Lebanon, while army spokesman Avichay Adraee said the air force raided "several Hezbollah targets in the Bekaa region, including a camp used to train Hezbollah members, where members of the party were seen inside."

Adraee claimed that "Hezbollah used the camp to train and prepare its members to plan and oversee the execution of operations against Israel."

He said that "the Israeli army targeted military infrastructure within a Hezbollah precision missile production site, as well as infrastructure located at a military site belonging to the party in Sherbin."

Adraee added that "the storage of weapons and the presence of this infrastructure, along with Hezbollah members conducting military training, constitute a blatant violation of agreements between Israel and Lebanon and a threat to Israel that must be eliminated."

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun described the Israeli attacks as "unjustified and unacceptable."

France poised to define rape as lack of consent

France's lower house of parliament on Thursday approved a bill to define rape as any non-consensual sexual act, paving the way for its final adoption by the Senate next week.

The move comes after the shocking case of Frenchwoman Gisele Pelicot, drugged by her then-husband who invited dozens of strangers to rape her, reignited a debate over consent in the country.

"This text sends a signal... We are collectively moving from a culture of rape to a culture of consent," said centrist lawmaker Veronique Riotton, who co-sponsored the bill.

Parliament members in France's National Assembly voted 155 to 31 in favour of the measure, with only far-right lawmakers voting against it.

The bill defines rape as any "non-consensual act", bringing France in line with other European nations -- including Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden -- that have enacted consent-based rape legislation.

Consent, it says, must be "free and informed, specific, prior and revocable", and evaluated in light of the circumstances, noting that it cannot be inferred from "silence or lack of reaction".

"There is no consent if the sexual act is committed through violence, coercion, threat or surprise, whatever their nature," the text states, incorporating wording already used in France's current legal definition of rape.

The bill was opposed by far-right lawmakers, who criticised the changing definition of consent as "subjective, shifting and difficult to grasp".

China's new five-year plan sharpens industry, tech focus as US tensions mount

BEIJING (TIP)

China's Communist Party elite vowed on Thursday, Oct 23, to build a modern industrial system and make more efforts to achieve technological self-reliance, moves it sees as key to bolstering its position in its intensifying rivalry with the United States.

As expected, the Party's Central Committee also promised more efforts to expand domestic demand and improve people's livelihoods - long-standing goals that in recent years have been little more than an afterthought as China prioritised manufacturing and investment - without giving many details.

In addition to mapping out economic and other policy objectives for the next five years, Party leaders during the four-day closed door meeting also replaced 11 members - the highest personnel turnover since 2017 amid an ongoing military corruption purge.

The Chinese economy's overreliance on exports at a time of heightened trade tensions with Washington might push Beijing to find a better policy balance in coming years, although analysts expect efforts to be slow.

A communique reported by state news agency Xinhua after the meeting, known as a plenum, outlined China's priorities in its next five-year development plan. Details and an annual growth target, which will be closely watched by global investors, will only be released at a parliamentary meeting in March.

Building "a modern industrial system with advanced manufacturing as the backbone" and accelerating "high-level scientific and technological self-reliance" were listed ahead of the development of "a strong domestic market," the communique showed.



"The thinking is still focusing on the supply-side," said Tianchen Xu, senior economist at the Economist Intelligence Unit, referring to Beijing's traditional playbook of channeling resources to investment and manufacturing, bypassing households.

China's economic growth slowed to its weakest pace in a year in the third quarter and investment posted its first non-Covid decline as fragile domestic demand left it heavily reliant on the unexpected humming of its export factories despite U.S. tariffs, stoking concerns about government efforts to address long-standing and deepening structural imbalances.

The communique said Beijing will strive to improve people's welfare and the social security system, but did not provide details on how Beijing intends to achieve that or where the funds would come from.

Uncertainty over the timing, funding

and size of such medium and longer-term policies are adding to economists' and investors' worries over the government's ability to rebalance an economy in which household consumption lags global averages by about 20 percentage points of GDP.

One spotlight is they vowed to "invest in people", Xu said, expecting measures to better protect people's rights and interests and improve the social insurance system.

"Policymakers may increase the medical insurance and pension for the elderly in rural areas, but they may not have a clear idea on how to do that for now."

China's forceful industrial policies have built sophisticated supply chains in many manufacturing sectors but have also led to rampant overcapacity, feeding deflationary pressures as companies cut costs and jobs to stay afloat.

In a first after 5 centuries, King Charles, Pope Leo pray together in Vatican

VATICAN CITY (TIP)

Britain's King Charles and Pope Leo prayed together in the Vatican's Sistine Chapel on Thursday Oct 23, in the first joint worship including an English monarch and a Catholic pontiff since King Henry VIII broke away from Rome in 1534.

Latin chants and English prayers echoed through the chapel, where Leo was elected the first US pope by the world's Catholic cardinals six months ago in front of frescoes by Michelangelo depicting Christ delivering the Last Judgment.

Charles, supreme governor of the Church of England, was seated at the pope's left near the altar of the chapel as Leo and Anglican Archbishop Stephen Cottrell led a service that featured the Sistine Chapel Choir and two royal choirs.

Although Charles has met the last three popes, and Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI travelled to Britain, their previous encounters never included joint prayers.

The King and Queen Camilla are on a state visit to the Vatican marking the closing ties between the Catholic Church and Anglican Communion, five



centuries after their turbulent separation.

"There is a strong sense that this moment in the extraordinary setting of the Sistine Chapel offers a kind of healing of history," Anglican Rev. James Hawkey, canon theologian of Westminster Abbey, told Reuters.

"This would have been impossible just a generation ago," he said. "It represents how far our churches have come over the last 60 years of dialogue."

Cottrell, the Anglican Archbishop of York, stood in at the Sistine Chapel service for Sarah Mullally. She

was recently announced as the first woman to serve as Archbishop of Canterbury, the spiritual head of the Anglican Communion, but will not take the role until next year.

The split between the Catholic Church and the Church of England was formalised in 1534, after Pope Clement VII refused to annul King Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon.

Henry's desire for a male heir - and a new wife who might provide one - was the immediate catalyst, but other factors were also at play, involving the English crown's seizure of church assets and the growth of Protestant ideas in England.

As England swung between Catholicism and Protestantism during the reigns of Henry's daughters Mary I and Elizabeth I, hundreds of Catholics and Protestants were executed for their faith, often burned at the stake.

Charles and Camilla, who visited the Vatican earlier this year to see Pope Francis, also had a private meeting with Leo on Thursday morning. At home in Britain, Charles' disgraced brother Prince Andrew is engulfed in a deepening crisis over abuse allegations and his ties with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

After India, Afghanistan set to restrict river water to Pakistan

Taliban-ruled Afghanistan is planning to build dams and restrict water to Pakistan, according to the Afghan Information Ministry. The order to build a dam on the River Kunar "as fast as possible" came from Taliban Supreme Leader Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada. This public assertion about the "right to water" came just weeks after Afghanistan and Pakistan fought a war that left hundreds dead.

Afghanistan's decision follows India's decision of water-sharing with Pakistan. India kept the Indus Waters Treaty, under which it shared water of three western rivers, in abeyance after Pakistani and Pakistan-backed terrorists killed 26 civilians in Pahalgam on April 22.

The Afghan Ministry of Water and Energy said that Supreme Leader Akhundzada had instructed the ministry to begin construction of dams on the Kunar River as soon as possible and to sign contracts with domestic companies, Muhajer Farahi, the Deputy Minister of Information, posted on X on Thursday.

London-based Afghan journalist Sami Yousafzai said, "After India, it may now be Afghanistan's turn to restrict Pakistan's water supply...". The Supreme Leader, according to Sami Yousafzai, "ordered the [water and energy] ministry to sign contracts with domestic Afghan companies rather than wait for foreign firms".

The 480-km-long Kunar River originates in the Hindu Kush mountains of northeastern Afghanistan, near the Broghil Pass close to the Pakistan border. It flows southward through Kunar and Nangarhar provinces before crossing into Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where it joins the Kabul River near the city of Jalalabad. The Kunar is called the Chitral River in Pakistan.

The Kabul River, into which the Kunar flows, is the largest and most voluminous transboundary river between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Kabul River joins the Indus near Attock and is crucial for the irrigation and other water needs of Pakistan, especially its Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. A reduction in the water flow of the Kunar River would have a cascading effect on the Indus, thereby, would hit Punjab as well.

This move by Afghanistan follows weeks-long deadly clashes along the Durand Line, its de-facto border with Pakistan, which Kabul calls illegitimate. The Durand Line, drawn by the colonial British, divided the Pashtun homeland into two.

Shehbaz Sharif cabinet bans Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan under terror law

ISLAMABAD (TIP)

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's cabinet on Thursday, Oct 23, approved the Punjab government's decision, under the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), to ban the extremist Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) party, which recently staged violent protests that killed 16 people, including policemen.

The cabinet meeting, chaired by the prime minister, discussed the Punjab government's proposal to outlaw the religious group under the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997.

According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the cabinet unanimously approved the ban after the interior ministry presented a summary of the Punjab government's request and briefed members on the "violent and terrorist activities of the TLP in the country." The statement noted that the TLP has a history of violent protests since 2017, news agency PTI reported.

"The meeting was informed that this organisation (TLP), established in 2016, has repeatedly incited violence across the country, leading to unrest in several regions," the PMO said.

The statement also pointed out that the organisation had been banned in 2021, a decision lifted six months later on the condition that the party would refrain from violence and unrest. Officials said the new ban was prompted by the group's



violation of those guarantees.

"In the past, security personnel and innocent bystanders have been killed in violent protests and rallies by the TLP. The federal cabinet, after a detailed briefing and the recommendation of the Punjab government, unanimously concluded that the TLP has been involved in terrorism and violent acts," the statement said.

After the ban, the TLP will be entered into the list of proscribed organisations maintained by the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA). That list already includes militant groups such as the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Baloch Liberation Army (BLA),

Lashkar-e-Taiba, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

According to procedure, the federal government must refer the matter to the Supreme Court within 15 days of its decision for endorsement. The group will be officially added to the list of proscribed organisations once confirmed by the top court.

The Punjab government had earlier decided on October 16, in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, to ban the TLP. The move came five days after the religious-political party launched a "Gaza solidarity" march, pledging to reach Islamabad and protest outside the US Embassy.

Bangladesh court to deliver verdict on Sheikh Hasina's alleged crimes on Nov 13

DHAKA (TIP)

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has concluded its trial proceedings against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, allegedly of crimes against humanity, and has scheduled the announcement of its verdict on November 13, Dhaka Tribune reported.

Former PM Sheikh Hasina is facing trial for crimes against humanity for allegedly being part of torturing multiple people and orchestrating disappearances during the Awami League regime. Hasina was forced to flee after the student-led uprising in August 2024 ousted her. Afterwards, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took over as head of an interim government.

The Dhaka Tribune reported earlier on Thursday, Oct 23, that Hasina's state-appointed lawyer, Md Amir Hossain, said the former PM did not

flee in connection with the case over crimes against humanity committed during the anti-discrimination student movement in 2024; instead, she was forced to leave. Following her ouster, she stayed in India, at least for a while.

"In the context of the statement given today by the Attorney General, I have provided two answers. He wants to say that my accused has fled. I have said, my accused did not flee. She (Sheikh Hasina) did not want to leave this country--it has been reported in various newspapers and everywhere. Sheikh Hasina also said, 'If necessary, give me the soil here, kill me, still I will not go.' But the situation became such that she was forced to go. She left by helicopter. The people of the country saw it. She did not leave, hiding like a thief. However, I have defended this issue of leaving," he said, as quoted by Dhaka Tribune.

"It has been claimed that my accuser

wanted to destroy a generation. For an act to be considered a crime against humanity, there must be an intent or effort to annihilate a community, nation, or group; in such a case, people must be killed, as Hitler did. In the case of Jews, both genocide and crimes against humanity apply. But here, that does not apply. This is my main point. So, just as the plaintiff side seeks justice, the accused side also seeks justice. But the responsibility to ensure justice lies with the tribunal. They will ensure it, which I hope the people of the country and the world will witness," he added.

Earlier, on October 8, Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) issued warrants against 30 accused, including former PM Hasina, in two separate cases related to crimes against humanity committed through enforced disappearances during the Awami League regime.

Sikh History This Week

OCTOBER 24 TO OCTOBER 30

24th October

1605 Jahagir was throned the Mughal emperer.

1781 Khalsa Dal attacked Anup-Shehar (UP) and arrested the British Commander, Lt. Col. Stuart as a prisoner of war.

1953 Punjabi Suba Convention at Amritsar inaugurated by Dr. Lanka Sundram.

1974 The "Khalsa Council" was established.

25th October



1708 Jotti Jot, Tenth Patshah, Guru Gobind Singh Ji. GURU GOBIND SINGH JI (1666-1708), tenth Patshah of the Sikh faith, was born on Saturday, Dec. 22, 1666 at Patna Sahib to father Guru Tegh Bahadur Patshah and Matta Gujri. On, Nov. 11, 1675, he assumed Guruship at Anandpur Sahib.

Since early childhood, Guru Sahib was keen on weapons and their use. It is for this reason, that Guru Sahib became a scholar on weapons and mastered their usage, at a very early age. Guru Sahib continually emphasized scholarly works throughout his life. As a results, scholars around the world traveled long distances to participate and receive honors in his courts. He was always surrounded by renowned scholars. One of Guru Sahib's objective was to translate all scholarly works in Gurmukhi and commissioned several such translations. His vision of Sikh Kaum included a communion of scholars. In an attempt to turn Anandpur Sahib as the center of knowledge, Guru Sahib actively encouraged and sent Sikhs to study at various renowned institutions in the world.

To uplift the suppressed people, Guru Sahib instituted the tradition of Amrit during Vaisakhi diwan of sunmat 1756 at KeshGadh Sahib. Further he established a communion of Amritdharis (who received Amrit) and called it "Khalsa". Guru Sahib, himself was the sixth member of the Khalsa order. Witnessing the false practices and prevalent injustices, Guru Sahib propagated the message of Guru Nanak so vigorously that the neighboring hill rulers felt threatened. Without understanding either his message or appreciating his objectives, these rulers suddenly turned enemies and attacked on several occasions. Each time Guru Sahib had to fight for his defense.

In sunmat 1761, the Turk forces sought Guru Sahib to leave Anandpur Sahib under promises that were proven false through subsequent events. Once Guru Sahib was out of Anandpur Sahib, he was attacked and suffered heavy losses. The hard work of 52 poets, accumulated over the years, along with several commissioned translations was burned by the enemies of knowledge. However, Guru Sahib patiently but bravely faced the enemy and escaped into the neighboring forest. Here with his influence, Guru Sahib turned this ghost land into Saint land and the forest into civilized Malwa. With his message of patience and valor, Guru Sahib preached the importance of sacrifice and true knowledge.

He had four sons from Mata Jeeto and Sundari, namely, Baba Ajit Singh, Baba Zujar Singh, Baba Zorawar Singh, and Baba Fateh Singh Ji. All four sacrificed their lives to protect and further the growth of the institutional plant sown by Guru Sahib.

After bestowing Guruship to Guru Granth Sahib, Guru Sahib left this earth on Oct. 7, 1708, near the banks of Godawari river in Nanded, Guru Gobind Singh bravely fulfilled the responsibilities of Guruship and guided the Sikh Panth for 32 years, 10 months, and 26 days. He spent a total of 41 years, 9 months, and 15 days during his visit to this earth.

1710 Bahadur Shah received news, of Khalsa army's advances, at Sonapat.

1922 Babbar Amar Singh of Dhaliwal, Kapurthala, led the first Jatha of military pensioners firing Guru Ka Bagh morcha. He was arrested on July 22, 1923 and tried for his connection with Babbar Akali movement but was acquitted on Feb. 28, 1925.

1923 Dhanna Singh Behbalpuri, a Babbar Akali revolutionary, exploded a bomb and died while fighting the police at Mannanhana.

27th October



1676 A GurSikh flung two bricks at Aurangzeb. This was one of first acts of militancy at people's level after Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom. The atmpmts by common man to punish the imperious ruler of Delhi blazed a new trail of committment to an open struggle against organised opression of the state.

1761 Sikhs gathered ion Amritsar for Diwali celebration and decided to attack Lahore. Khawaja Abed Khan was the then Governor of Lahore.

1969 Sardar Darshan Singh Pheruman died after fasting for 74 days. The objective of his fast was to seek Chandigarh for Punjab. Even after his death and numerous other sacrifices Punjab has not been given her capital city, Chandigarh which was explicitly constructed for her. During all these years a deliberate discrimination campaign against the Sikhs has been the cause of several agitations which resulted in destruction of the holiest of the holy shrine Sri Akal Takhat Sahib and the desecration of the holy Harmandir Sahib, besides the massacre of thousands of Sikhs in Punjab and elsewhere throughout India. This fast was undertaken to tell the world that a Sikh never falters after he has once taken a vow to accomplish a deed. Sant Fateh Singh and Master Tara Singh before him, had broken their vows.

1972 Sant Fateh Singh Ji passed away.

1995 Human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra was killed around 8 pm at the Chhabal police station of Amritsar district, India and his body was thrown into the Harike canal. This was disclosed by Kuldip Singh, special police officer and prime witness in the sensational Khalra disappearance case. The entire operation at the Chhabal police station where Khalra had been kept after being kidnapped by the police under orders from SSP Ajit Singh Sandhu, was supervised by

Deputy Superintendent of Police Jaspal Singh. Ajit Singh Sandhu had later committed suicide. Jaswant Singh Khalra had been collecting information on extra-judicial killings by the poilce. He was kidnapped and kept under illegal police custody despite order to the contrary by the Spreme Court of India. Kuldip Singh narrated the scene before Khalra was killed. "He was made to stand, thrashed and pushed onto the ground. His legs were stretched apart, more than 180 degrees. Seven policemen kicked him in the abdomen and chest. Save me. Please give me some water, he cried. As I was about to fetch some water, I heard two shots. I ran back into the room and found him bleeding profusely. He had stopped breathing."

28th October

1688 Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji visited Jagadhri near Delhi.

1708 Emporer Bahadur Shah confers a "khillat", robe of honour, on Guru Gobind Singh's family. Surprisingly, he had bestowed the same honor upon Jamshed Khan, Guru Gobind Singh's assassin, only two days earlier. By treating the assailant and the victim at par, Bahadur Shah lend credence to the theory that he, apart from the Subedar of Sirhind, was involved in the surreptitious attack on Guru Sahib.

1978 The 18th All India Akali Dal Conference was held in Ludhiana. At this conference, the Anandpur Sahib resolution was adopted by the Akali Dal.

1979 Gurdwara at Merrut was sealed.

29th October

1921 SGPC asked the Sarbrah of the Golden Temple to hand over the keys to its President. Instead, the Deputy commissioner of Amritsar seized them to forestall the SGPC's decision. This led to the popular agitation known as the "Key's affair".

1922 GurSikhs arrested during Guru Kae Bagh morcha were moved from Amritsar to Attock jail.

1977 Prof. Sahib Singh, an eminent scholar of GurSikhism passed away.

October 30

1748 Mir Mannu and Adina Begh seized Amritsar fort, Ram Rehni on the observence day of Diwali, with 2,000 Sikh inside. The seize went on for 4 months. All the Sikhs inside died of hunger.

1902 Chief Khalsa Diwan was established at Amritsar, with Bhai Sahib Arjan Singh, Chief of Bagarian, as President and Sunder Singh Majithia as Secretary.



1902 Chief Khalsa Diwan launched at Lahore
1922 The Panja Sahib incident took place.

Coloring your hair can be one of the quickest ways to refresh your look, but maintaining that fresh-from-the-salon vibrancy requires careful post-color care. One of the most important—and often misunderstood—steps is washing your hair after coloring. The timing, products, and technique all play crucial roles in how long your color lasts and how healthy your hair feels afterward. Here's everything you need to know.

Wait Before You Wash

After a coloring session, your hair cuticles remain slightly open, making it easier for pigment molecules to escape. Washing your hair too soon can cause your color to fade before it has a chance to set.

- The golden rule: Wait at least 48 to 72 hours before your first shampoo.
- This waiting period allows the hair's cuticle layer to close properly, locking in the color.
- If you absolutely must rinse your hair earlier (for instance, if it feels sticky or has residual dye), use cool or lukewarm water and skip shampoo.

Choose a Color-Safe Shampoo

The products you use post-coloring make a big difference. Regular shampoos often contain sulfates—strong detergents that can strip away natural oils and pigment.

- Look for labels that say sulfate-free, color-safe, or for color-treated hair.
- Moisturizing formulas help restore hydration lost during the coloring process.

Post-color care: Wash your hair without fading your hue



- Use a conditioner or mask designed for colored hair to maintain softness and shine.

Professional stylists often recommend brands with UV filters and antioxidants to protect against sun damage and oxidation, which can dull color over time.

Water Temperature Matters

Hot water might feel relaxing, but it's the enemy of hair color. It opens up the hair cuticles, allowing color molecules to escape.

- Always use lukewarm or cool water when washing or rinsing your hair.
- Finish your wash with a cool rinse to help seal the cuticle and boost shine. This small habit can significantly extend the vibrancy of your color.

Shampoo Less Frequently

- Frequent washing fades color faster, especially for vivid tones like red, copper, or fashion shades.
- Try to wash your hair two to three times a week instead of daily.

- On off days, use a dry shampoo to absorb excess oil and maintain freshness.
- When you do wash, massage gently—avoid rough scrubbing that can damage both the scalp and hair shaft.

Deep Conditioning Is Essential

Coloring can make hair more porous and dry. Weekly deep-conditioning treatments or hair masks help replenish lost moisture, strengthen strands, and prevent breakage.

- Choose masks rich in keratin, argan oil, shea butter, or coconut oil.
- For extra nourishment, wrap your hair in a warm towel after applying the mask to help it penetrate deeper.

Protect from Heat and Sun

Freshly colored hair is especially sensitive to heat and UV rays.

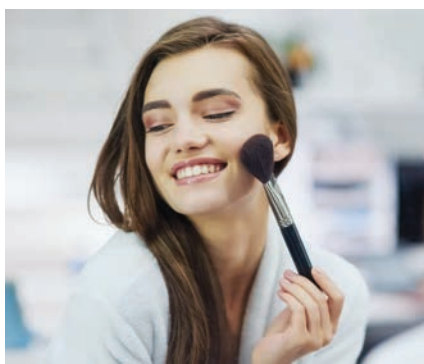
- Always apply a heat protectant spray or serum before using styling tools like straighteners or blow dryers.
- When outdoors, use a scarf, hat, or UV-protective leave-in spray to prevent sun-induced fading.
- Limit heat styling to maintain your hair's natural luster and elasticity.

Quick ways to look fresh and radiant

Modern women are constantly on the move—balancing work, family, and personal responsibilities, often leaving little time for beauty routines. Yet, looking fresh and confident doesn't have to be time-consuming. With a few simple habits, smart product choices, and consistency, you can maintain a polished appearance even on your busiest days.

Start with a quick and effective morning routine. A five-minute regimen can make all the difference. Begin by cleansing and moisturizing your face to hydrate and prep your skin. Replace heavy foundation with a tinted moisturizer or BB cream that combines hydration, sun protection, and coverage in one step. Dab on a bit of concealer to hide dark circles, apply mascara to open up your eyes, and finish with a lip and cheek tint for instant freshness. This minimal effort leaves you looking radiant without eating into your schedule.

When time is short, skincare should always come before makeup. Healthy, well-nourished skin naturally glows and requires less cosmetic coverage. Always remove



makeup before bed to prevent clogged pores and breakouts, and consider using an overnight serum or mask to repair and rejuvenate your skin while you sleep. Hydration is another essential—drink plenty of water throughout the day, and never skip sunscreen, even when indoors or on cloudy days, as UV exposure accelerates skin aging and dullness.

For hair care, choose low-maintenance styles that complement your natural texture. A good haircut that works with your hair type saves you hours of styling time. Dry shampoo can be a lifesaver for refreshing oily roots and adding volume between washes. Simple hairstyles like messy buns, sleek ponytails, or soft braids can look chic and effortless. Sleeping on

a silk pillowcase can also help reduce frizz and keep your hair smoother overnight.

Multitasking beauty products can significantly simplify your routine. Opt for tinted lip balms that add color while moisturizing, BB or CC creams that combine skincare and makeup benefits, and cleansing wipes or micellar water for quick cleansing and makeup removal. All-in-one palettes for blush, eyeshadow, and highlighter make it easy to create a complete look in minutes without cluttering your vanity or bag.

Keep a small beauty kit handy at work or in your handbag for quick touch-ups during the day. A compact powder or blotting paper helps control shine, a neutral lipstick can double up as blush, and a mini perfume or body mist can freshen you up instantly. Toss in hair ties, a comb, and a small hand cream for on-the-go grooming. Just a few minutes of touch-up during lunch or before a meeting can instantly lift your look and mood.

Even if your mornings are rushed, make time for a night-time beauty ritual. Cleanse your face thoroughly to remove dirt, sweat, and makeup residue.

FOOD CORNER

Vermicelli Pulao

Ingredients

1 cup roasted vermicelli, 2 tbsp oil or ghee, ½ tsp mustard seeds, ½ tsp cumin seeds, 1 sliced onion, 1 tsp ginger-garlic paste, 1 green chili, 1 cup mixed veggies (carrot, beans, peas), 1 chopped tomato, ¼ tsp turmeric, salt to taste, 2 cups water, lemon juice, and coriander leaves for garnish.

Method

Heat oil, add mustard and cumin seeds. Sauté onions, green chili, and ginger-garlic paste until golden. Add vegetables, tomato, turmeric, and salt; cook till veggies soften. Pour in water and bring to a boil. Add roasted vermicelli, stir well, and cook covered on low flame till the water is absorbed. Fluff with a fork, drizzle lemon juice, and garnish with coriander.

Tip: Add a few cashews, curry leaves, or a pinch of garam masala for extra flavor. Serve hot with curd or pickle for a comforting, homely meal.



Premenopausal women ignoring warning signs of bone loss

Bone health is often thought of as a concern that arises after menopause, but the reality is that bone loss can begin much earlier - sometimes quietly, during the premenopausal years. Many women in their 30s and 40s, caught up in the demands of work, family, and daily stress, tend to overlook early warning signs that their bones may be losing density. By the time symptoms become obvious, significant damage may already have occurred. Understanding the risks and recognizing the subtle indicators early can help prevent future osteoporosis and fractures.



increasing the risk of osteoporosis later in life.

Warning Signs Often Missed

Although bone loss itself doesn't cause obvious symptoms, certain signs and patterns can serve as red flags:

- Frequent fractures or minor injuries that result in cracks or breaks.
- Reduced height or a slight stoop in posture, which may indicate vertebral bone weakening.
- Back pain due to collapsed vertebrae or spinal stress.
- Brittle nails, receding gums, or weak grip strength, which can sometimes reflect lower bone density.
- Fatigue or general weakness, often linked to low vitamin D

or calcium levels.

Many women dismiss these symptoms as effects of aging or overwork, but they could be the body's subtle call for attention.

Why the risk

Several factors can accelerate bone loss before menopause:

- **Hormonal Imbalances:** Low estrogen - due to irregular periods, excessive exercise, eating disorders, or certain medical conditions - weakens bones.
- **Nutritional Deficiencies:** Insufficient calcium, vitamin D, and protein intake affects bone strength.
- **Sedentary Lifestyle:** Lack of weight-bearing activity reduces bone stimulation and density.
- **Excessive Caffeine, Alcohol, or Smoking:** These habits interfere with calcium absorption and bone metabolism.
- **Certain Medications:** Long-term use of steroids, thyroid medications, or anticonvulsants can also impact bone health.

Even stress plays a role; high cortisol levels can affect calcium balance and bone remodeling.



No sugar after 12 pm: Simple change that can transform your health in 14 days

Ever wondered what would happen if you stopped consuming all forms of sugar after noon? Experts say making this small change can lead to noticeable improvements in energy, sleep, mood and even weight management — all within just two weeks.

According to Dr Gulnaaz Shaikh, Chief Dietitian at KIMS Hospitals, Thane, consuming sugar later in the day often leads to sharp spikes and crashes in blood sugar levels.

These fluctuations can cause fatigue, cravings and disrupted sleep.

“By avoiding late-day sugar, you support more stable energy levels and reduce the likelihood of evening sluggishness,” she explains.

Dr. Rajiv Kovil, diabetologist and co-founder of the Rang De Neela Initiative, adds that cutting sugar after noon may help improve glycemic control — particularly beneficial for those with insulin resistance or diabetes.

“High glucose levels in the evening can interfere with melatonin and circadian rhythms, making it harder to fall and stay asleep,” he says. Patients often report deeper, more restful sleep after just a couple of weeks.

As per a report by Indian Express, avoiding sugar later in the day can also aid in weight control. “Sugar consumed in the evening is less likely to be burned for energy and more likely to be stored as fat,” says Dr Kovil. In addition, more stable blood sugar can help reduce evening hunger and prevent unnecessary snacking.

Shaikh adds that this habit helps eliminate “empty calories” and reduces late-night cravings, making it easier to manage overall daily calorie intake — a key factor in gradual weight loss.

Source: TNS

Foods that may block your vitamin D absorption

Getting enough vitamin D is essential for bone health, immune function, and overall wellness. While sunlight exposure and supplements can help, certain everyday foods may actually interfere with your body's absorption of this crucial nutrient. Understanding these interactions can make a real difference in maintaining adequate vitamin D levels.

When we consume foods that hinder vitamin D absorption, even a diet rich in the nutrient or proper supplementation may not be as effective. Factors like fat content, certain minerals, or compounds in some foods can reduce the bioavailability of vitamin D, leaving many unaware that their intake isn't fully utilised by the body.

Ashlesha Joshi, fitness dietician and nutritionist at Tone 30 Pilates, tells indianexpress.com, “Certain foods can affect how efficiently the body absorbs or utilises vitamin D.”

According to her, these are:

- Top among them are foods high in phytates, such as whole grains and legumes, which can bind to vitamin D and minerals, making absorption more difficult.
- Excessive caffeine from coffee or tea may also interfere by reducing vitamin D receptor expression in the intestines.
- Alcohol, when consumed regularly, impairs liver function, which is essential for converting vitamin D into its active form.
- Processed foods rich in trans fats and hydrogenated oils can reduce the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins, including vitamin D.



- Finally, very high-fibre diets, though generally healthy, can sometimes reduce absorption efficiency because vitamin D is fat-soluble and requires dietary fats for proper uptake.

Joshi mentions, “Since vitamin D is fat-soluble, pairing it with healthy fats can significantly improve absorption. For instance, having vitamin D-rich foods like eggs, salmon, or fortified cereals along with sources of good fats such as avocado, olive oil, or nuts can enhance uptake. Including vitamin K2-rich foods like fermented soy or cheese also helps, as it supports calcium metabolism and works synergistically with vitamin D.”

Timing also plays a role, she adds, taking vitamin D supplements or having vitamin D-fortified foods during your main meal of the day, when fat intake is higher, can optimise absorption. Consistent sun exposure, even for a few minutes daily, further boosts vitamin D levels naturally.

Source: The Indian Express

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Meta expands safety tools to help older adults stay safe from online scams

Meta has introduced new safety measures and awareness programmes designed to help users, particularly older adults, stay safe from online scams and cyber fraud. The company announced the updates as part of its ongoing global effort to make its platforms safer and more secure.

On WhatsApp, users will now receive warnings if they attempt to share their screens with unknown contacts during video calls. This aims to prevent scammers from tricking people into revealing sensitive information such as bank details or verification codes.

Messenger is testing a more advanced scam detection system that identifies potentially suspicious messages from new contacts. When triggered, users can choose to send recent chats for AI-powered scam review. If a possible scam is detected, users are informed about common fraud tactics and offered options to block or report the sender.

Additionally, users across Facebook, Messenger, and WhatsApp can now set up Passkeys, allowing them to log in securely using their device's fingerprint, face, or PIN. On Facebook and Instagram, Security Checkup guides users through key account protection steps, while WhatsApp's Privacy Checkup helps people customise settings like who can add them to groups.

Meta is also strengthening partnerships with government and industry stakeholders. In India, it has collaborated with the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to expand the Scams Se Bacho campaign, which includes multilingual video content aimed at helping senior citizens identify and report scams.

The company continues to support Saksham Senior, an initiative that empowers older adults to navigate the digital world confidently through learning resources on technology use, scam prevention, and misinformation awareness. The programme operates across major Indian cities, with workshops held at senior living communities, clubs, and online platforms.

Meta reported disrupting approximately 8 million accounts linked to scam centres across Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, the UAE, and the Philippines in the first half of 2025. The company also took down over 21,000 pages and fake customer support accounts attempting to deceive users into sharing personal data.

Scientists may have come closer to confirming dark matter's existence

Dark matter is something that we can't see. According to NASA, it is an "invisible glue" that holds the universe together. Some scientists are convinced that this mysterious material exists, making up most of the matter in the universe. But no one knows what exactly it is.

Meanwhile, scientists are curious about a mysterious glow of gamma rays near the centre of the Milky Way, and they think it could be evidence of dark matter.

The glow, which was detected by NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope shortly after it was launched in 2008, continues to puzzle scientists even today.

There are two main theories about this glow. One suggests that dark matter particles might be colliding and destroying each other, producing gamma rays as a byproduct.

Another theory suggests that the glow could be caused by thousands of unobserved millisecond pulsars, which are neutron stars that emit gamma rays as they spin rapidly.

Both theories have been supported by scientists. But as per CNN, the gamma ray glow was in the shape of the galactic bulge, which is a crowded and bulbous region at the centre of the Milky Way, mostly made up of old stars.

Now, a new paper that has been published in the journal Physical Review Letters reveals new findings about the glow and dark matter.

Based on simulations which are made using supercomputers, for the first time shows that dark matter collisions could also have created the bulge-shaped glow.

"Dark matter dominates the universe and holds galaxies together. It's extremely consequential and we're desperately thinking all the time of ideas as to how we could detect it," said co-author Joseph Silk, a professor of physics and astronomy at Johns Hopkins and a researcher at the Institut



d'Astrophysique de Paris and Sorbonne University.

"Gamma rays, and specifically the excess light we're observing at the center of our galaxy, could be our first clue."

The study notes that if excess gamma light is not from dying stars, it could become the first proof that dark matter exists.

The Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope has mapped this excess gamma-ray emission, and scientists are confident that dark matter exists due to its gravitational effects on visible matter. However, detecting it directly has proven challenging.

The key findings of the dark matter fit the gamma-ray data as well as the millisecond pulsar hypothesis.

Scientists say that the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory might provide an answer by differentiating the gamma-ray emissions from these two sources.

Samsung unveils Galaxy XR, the first Android XR headset built for the AI era

Samsung has officially introduced Galaxy XR, a next-generation AI-native headset designed to redefine immersive experiences across work, play and discovery. Announced in Seoul, the device marks the beginning of the Android XR ecosystem, developed in collaboration with Google and Qualcomm Technologies.

As the first product built on the new Android XR platform, Galaxy XR merges advanced AI and extended reality (XR) to offer natural interactions through voice, vision and gestures. The launch signals the start of Samsung's long-term XR journey, which will eventually include AI-powered glasses and other form factors.

"With Galaxy XR, Samsung is introducing a brand-new ecosystem of mobile devices," said Won-Joon Choi, Chief Operating Officer of Mobile eXperience (MX) Business at Samsung Electronics. "Built on Android XR, Galaxy XR expands the vision for mobile AI into a new frontier of immersive and meaningful possibilities, allowing XR to move from concept to everyday reality, for both the industry and users."

Sameer Samat, President of Android Ecosystem at Google, added, "Android XR is the first Android platform built entirely for the Gemini era, and we are incredibly excited to take a significant leap forward today with the launch of Galaxy XR. Through our partnership with Samsung, Android XR will unlock entirely new ways to explore, connect and create, building an open, unified platform for the next evolution of computing."

Alex Katouzian, Group GM of Mobile, Compute & XR at Qualcomm Technologies, said, "Galaxy XR embodies our vision for the future, where the synergy of AI and XR transforms the possibilities of personal computing. We're



thrilled to be collaborating on this initiative, as Galaxy XR will help to bring new use cases across various industries and pave the way for exciting multi-device experiences."

Galaxy XR is built around multimodal AI, enabling intuitive experiences that combine sight, sound and movement. Integrated with Gemini AI at the system level, the device can interpret the user's surroundings and respond naturally, creating fluid, human-like interactions.

The headset features advanced sensors and cameras that track head, hand and eye movements for precise control. A separate battery pack reduces weight and enhances comfort, while a detachable light shield allows users to switch between immersive and open viewing modes.

Oil prices surge nearly 3% after Trump slaps sanctions on top Russian oil firms

NEW YORK (TIP)

Oil prices rose sharply in early Asian trade on Thursday, Oct 23, after U.S. President Donald Trump announced sanctions on Russia's largest oil companies, a move that stands to potentially crimp global supplies.

The development helped crude prices recover further from five-month lows hit earlier this week, with positive U.S. inventory data also providing support.

Brent oil futures for December jumped as much as 3% to \$64.44 a barrel, while West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose 3% to \$60.26 a barrel.

Both contracts were trading up about 2.8% by 23:38 ET (03:38 GMT).

Trump hits Russia's Lukoil, Rosneft with sanctions

Trump's Treasury Department on Wednesday unveiled sanctions against Lukoil and Rosneft, Russia's two biggest oil companies, and called for an immediate ceasefire with Ukraine.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the companies funded "the Kremlin's war machine," and that the Treasury was prepared to take more action against Moscow.

The sanctions now stand to block a chunk of global oil supplies, and helped ease concerns over a looming supply glut.

Wednesday's announcement also marks a pivot in Trump's stance on Russia, who had so far not imposed any direct sanctions on the country in his second term.

Trump had earlier this year attempted to pressure major buyers of Russian oil—India and China—and had slapped steep trade tariffs on New Delhi over its purchases of Russian oil.



Recent reports said India was displaying some willingness to end its Russian oil buying, and could seek crude from other sources.

The latest round of U.S. sanctions could also push flows of cheap Russian oil to Indian refiners to near zero, Bloomberg reported on Thursday, citing industry executives.

Separately, the European Union also imposed fresh sanctions on Russia, targeting Moscow's shadow fleet of tankers while also banning all Russian liquefied natural gas imports.

"We must wait and see if these latest sanctions are more effective or if Russia can circumvent them, as it did with curbs earlier this year," ING analysts wrote in a note.

But they noted that regardless, the latest sanctions represented a pivot in U.S. policy on Russia, and increased the risk of more sanctions on Moscow and

its oil customers, especially if little progress was made towards a Russia-Ukraine peace deal.

US inventory draw supports oil prices

Oil prices recovered from five-month lows hit earlier this week after data showed U.S. inventories unexpectedly shrank in the week to October 17.

Inventories shrank by 0.96 million barrels, against expectations for a 2.2 million barrel build. Draws in gasoline and distillate stockpiles also helped spur some optimism over demand in the world's largest fuel consumer.

Markets are now seeking more cues on the U.S. economy from key consumer inflation data for September.

Concerns over the U.S. economy and fuel demand were a key weight on oil prices in recent weeks. Simmering U.S.-China trade tensions and a strong dollar had also weighed on oil.

Sensex, Nifty extend festive rally amid reports of India-US trade deal progress

Domestic equities extended their festive gains on Thursday, Oct 23, with benchmark indices rising amid reports of progress on a potential India-US trade agreement.

The S&P BSE Sensex climbed 571 points to 84,997.82 around 9:25 am, while the NSE Nifty50 traded comfortably above 26,000. Broader sentiment stayed upbeat, supported by steady global cues and renewed optimism at home.

According to a report, India and the United States are close to finalising a long-awaited trade pact that could see Washington reduce tariffs on Indian goods to around 15-16% from the current 50%.

The proposed deal is said to focus on the energy and agriculture sectors, and may also involve India gradually cutting crude oil imports from Russia—a move that aligns with Washington's push to limit global reliance on Russian energy supplies.

Dr. V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said market optimism reflects growing expectations of an early breakthrough. The Nifty's implied open, he noted, suggests traders are pricing in the likelihood of a deal.

"If the reported 15-16% tariff structure on Indian exports to the U.S. materialises, it would be a major positive for the economy and for equities," he said, adding that festive sales momentum, renewed FII buying, and short-covering are further fuelling the rally. Textile stocks, which were hit hardest by U.S. tariffs earlier, are likely to see renewed interest, he added.

Anand James, Chief Market Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said momentum indicators remain strong, keeping Nifty close to the upper Bollinger Band.

India's exports to US dip 11.93%, imports up 11.78% in September

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's merchandise exports to the US declined by 11.93 per cent to USD 5.46 billion in September due to the high tariffs imposed by Washington while imports increased by 11.78 per cent to USD 3.98 billion during the month, according to the commerce ministry data.

During the April-September period of this fiscal, the country's exports to the US increased by 13.37 per cent to USD 45.82 billion, while imports rose 9 per cent to USD 25.6 billion, the data showed.

The US has imposed a sweeping 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods entering American markets from August 27. The two countries are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement to boost two way

commerce. The Indian team is in Washington for the trade talks.

According to think tank GTRI, shipments to the United States plunged in September, down 17.9 per cent from USD 6.87 billion in August, the sharpest monthly fall of 2025 and the fourth consecutive decline.

"September was also the first full month in which Indian goods faced Washington's 50 per cent tariff on most products," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said. Exports to the US have been falling since June 2025 on a monthly basis. In May, exports rose by 4.8 per cent to USD 8.8 billion, marking the last month of growth before the duties took hold.

He added that between May and September, India's exports to the US

have dropped by almost 37.5 per cent, wiping out more than USD 3.3 billion in monthly shipment value.

"The data confirm that the United States has become India's most severely affected market since the tariff escalation began, with sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and chemicals suffering the heaviest losses," Srivastava said.

India and the US are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement.

China, another major trading partner of India, saw a 34.18 per cent jump in exports from India to USD 1.46 billion in September and a 21.96 per cent growth in April-September 2025-26 to USD 8.41 billion.

Imports from the neighbouring

country in September rose 16.35 per cent to USD 11.31 billion while during the first half of this fiscal, shipments rose by 11.25 per cent to USD 62.88 billion.

The UAE, the UK, Germany, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, and Italy were also among the countries, which saw positive growth in exports from India during the month under review.

However, exports to the Netherlands, Singapore, and France declined in September.

On the imports front, inbound shipments in September declined from nations, including Russia, Korea, Australia, Vietnam, Germany, and Taiwan. However, imports rose from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, the UK and Thailand.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - OCT 27, 2025 TO NOV 2, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES

Ganesha says this week will generally be positive for Aries. You will feel motivated to maintain balance in various aspects of your life, bringing peace and tranquility. You will strive to strengthen your position in society, which will give you a lot of energy and confidence. Your network will also expand, providing opportunities to make new friends and relationships. This is a time when positivity will surround you, and your ideas will be appreciated. Time spent with family will be particularly enjoyable, providing a good opportunity to strengthen bonds. This week, be open to sharing your thoughts, as your ideas can inspire others. Your artistic and creative abilities will also shine, motivating you to start new projects. Remain steadfast in your intentions and keep moving towards your goals. This week will be overall pleasant and successful.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week may be somewhat challenging. You may experience some instability in various aspects of your life. Some disagreements or misunderstandings in relationships are possible, which may increase tension between you and your partner. This is a time to show patience and understanding. Remember that communication is key. This week, try to understand your partner's feelings. Calm discussions can strengthen the relationship. However, maintaining honesty and transparency with each other is essential. This period may be difficult, but it is also an opportunity to further strengthen your relationship. Keep your expectations realistic and maintain a positive attitude towards each other. Focus on your personal growth to navigate this situation. With a positive mindset and dedication, you can achieve better results in your relationships.



GEMINI

Ganesha says this week will be full of growth and opportunities. Your charm and communication skills will attract those around you. Meeting and interacting with new people will add energy and enthusiasm to your social life. This week, your thoughts will be clear, and you will be able to express yourself easily. Your creativity will be

at its peak, allowing you to come up with new ideas. Furthermore, your intelligence and reasoning during interactions with others will be highly appreciated. Your relationships with those around you will become even stronger. While you may face some challenges, you will overcome them with patience and understanding. This week will be filled with meaningful and positive experiences, boosting your confidence. Since this period is very good for your overall well-being, you will have the confidence to face every challenge.



CANCER

Ganesha says this week may bring some challenges. Your personal life may experience some ups and downs. There could be some difficulties in relationships, which may cause you stress. Romantic relationships and friendships may face some issues when you expect everything to be fine. Open communication and sharing your feelings with your partner will be important. Maintaining emotional control is crucial this week; avoid unnecessary stress over minor matters. Talk openly with your loved ones to clear any misunderstandings. Patience and understanding are key in relationships right now. Even small efforts can bring great joy. Taking the right steps now can strengthen your relationships in the future. Remember that every challenge also presents an opportunity. Try to bring positivity to your love life and relationships this week.



LEO

Ganesha says this week will bring mixed results. You may face some instability and challenging situations in your life. Ups and downs in relationships are normal, but don't worry. This is a time to control your emotions. Be careful when communicating with others, as small things can escalate into big arguments. You need to be wise and patient to maintain harmony in your relationships. Try to spend time with your loved ones; this will bring you peace of mind. This week, try to channel your energy positively. Meditation and yoga can be very helpful. Try to express your feelings clearly to avoid any misunderstandings. The main message for this week is: Stay calm and try to strengthen your relationships with an open mind.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week will bring positive energy into your life, leading you towards new opportunities and possibilities. Overall, it's a great time for you. You will feel ease and love in

your relationships. You will be able to spend more time with your loved ones, which will strengthen your bonds. Your confidence will increase, and you will be able to express your feelings clearly. This is a time of cooperation and mutual understanding; if you feel any disagreements, this is the right time to resolve them. Note that your skills and work style will also improve, making you more attractive. Don't forget to focus on your personal development this week. It's also a time for introspection, where you can understand your priorities and desires. Overall, this week will be pleasant and positive, where you will feel happiness and satisfaction in your life.



LIBRA

Ganesha says this week is inspiring and positive. You will feel balance and harmony in your life, leading you towards your ideal state. You will feel renewed energy in social interactions, which will strengthen your relationships. Spending time with friends and family will bring you joy and satisfaction. Your communication skills will shine this week, allowing you to express your thoughts clearly. This will not only improve your existing relationships but can also lead to new connections. Express your feelings openly and try to maintain harmony with others. Honest communication will enrich your life at this time. Remember, your relationships are important, so strengthen them with small gestures. Be sensitive to those around you and cherish the moments you spend with them. This week is excellent for love and relationships; you will spend quality time with your loved ones.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week may bring a mix of positivity and challenges. Overall, the atmosphere may not be particularly favorable, making it difficult to understand the energy and situations around you. Challenges in relationships will persist, and you will need to address them. Communication may be strained, so patience and calmness are essential. Be cautious when talking to loved ones, as your mood may fluctuate this week. You might feel lonely, but remember that this is just a temporary phase, and things will improve. Listen to your heart and try to strengthen the relationships that matter to you. Overall, this week requires caution and understanding. Face the challenges and try to resolve problems gradually. This could be a time for experimentation and introspection, which will yield better results in the future.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week may be somewhat challenging. You might experience some instability and mental stress. This is an important time for your personal growth and self-discovery, but it will require patience and courage. Your social and personal relationships may see some ups and downs. There might be some hesitation or misunderstandings in your communication with loved ones. This is a time to bring clarity to your relationships so you can move forward in a positive direction. Practice meditation and yoga to manage stress and find inner peace. Try to strengthen relationships through good communication, as this can reduce negativity. Maintain a positive attitude and be prepared to face challenges. Rays of hope will gradually emerge, inspiring you to move forward. Remember, every difficulty offers an opportunity to learn something new from your experiences.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week will be very positive. Your positive energy and confidence will attract people around you. You will feel a new charm in your personality, which will further strengthen your relationships. Your social connections can bring new opportunities into your life. Spending time with friends and family will bring you joy and satisfaction. This is a good time for meaningful conversations with loved ones and strengthening emotional bonds. However, some minor challenges may arise, but your understanding and patience will help you resolve them easily. This week will bring a sense of harmony and balance. It is a great time to improve communication and understanding, which will make your relationships even better. The overall experience of this week will be pleasant for you and your loved ones. This is a great opportunity to strengthen your relationships.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week is very positive. You will experience new dimensions of sociability and friendship. You will have a special charm in your personality that will attract people to you. This is an ideal time to make new connections and strengthen existing relationships. Your communication skills will improve, allowing you to express your feelings more effectively. Spending time with friends and family and enjoying their company will bring you mental peace. Feelings of love and empathy will flow from your heart, bringing you

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : OCT 27 TO NOV 2 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

OCTOBER 27

Ganesha says today you can get many opportunities to prove yourself in the workplace, which can also lead to your promotion. Your hard work may pay off today. If you are looking for monetary gains then today you are likely to get a high-paying client. If you are planning a new business venture, a new important prospect is very likely to arise immediately as soon as you start your new venture.

OCTOBER 28

Ganesha says big opportunities may knock at your door today, be aware of them, and soon they may work in your favor. Try to worship Lord Shiva by chanting the Om Namah Shiva mantra; it can be beneficial for your personal and professional life. Today can be a satisfactory day for you. The chances of taking the next step in your relationship are high today. May your entire day be filled with doing the things you love and spending time with your favorite person in the lap of nature.

OCTOBER 29

Ganesha says you are doing amazing in terms of health. You can feel like a new person today with a day full of energy and enthusiasm. Your health has finally recovered, and you are doing great. A series of new opportunities may suddenly open up for you professionally. You need to think out of the box as well as go the extra mile to reap maximum benefits. Once you start being decisive, the results can be positive for you.

OCTOBER 30

Ganesha says your health is going to improve a lot. Today, you may feel more energetic and healthy, and ready to take on any task that comes your way. May your day be filled with love and surprises. You may attract a lot of attention from your favorite people, which may make you feel like you are on cloud nine today. If that is not enough, you are very likely to benefit from a new prospect.

OCTOBER 31

Ganesha says, today, you can feel

blessed to have found your partner. Because they can be your biggest support system through all the good and bad. You can feel today that they are saviors, and you can immediately start planning for your future. Today, you can get attracted to genuine people in your life as you are not influenced by people who show off today. Meeting old friends can increase your enthusiasm. New equations are created in the workplace. Beware of enemies who may try to defame you, as you are very outspoken today.

NOVEMBER 1

Ganesha says you can see the greatness in your day if you pay attention to the little good things that happen throughout the day. It is advised not to get into heated arguments with them as it can hurt the relationship, which can also hurt your health. May your entire day be filled with doing the things you love and spending time with your favorite people, i.e., your friends and family, in the lap of nature. Lots of exercise in the form of games can also make you happy.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

NOVEMBER 2

Ganesha says you may undergo a positive change in your mental and physical health. This positive change can help you participate and be more involved in social events. Overall, today your day can be spent in fun. You may make a lot of profit today in your business, which may set a positive tone for the day. You will no longer have to do the things you hate at work. You may have the time, space, and ability to follow your passion.

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closer to your loved ones. Positive energy and good thoughts around you will create a pleasant atmosphere. This positive influence will inspire you to move forward not only in personal relationships but also in your overall life. It seems that the people and relationships you cherish will bring a new light into your life. Simply embrace the energy of this week and spread joy around you.



PISCES

Ganesha says this week may be somewhat challenging. Some difficult situations may arise around you this week, which could affect your mood. Your relationships may experience some ups and downs. This is a time to communicate openly and share your feelings. Face the challenges, but maintain a positive outlook. People around you may find it difficult to understand your emotions. Therefore, patience and avoiding negativity are essential. Steer clear

of any arguments. The environment around you may present some challenges, so introspection and deep thinking will be necessary. This week

is about fostering open communication and understanding in relationships. Think about new ways to strengthen yourself and your

relationships. Remember that challenges can be overcome through unity and collaborative effort.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Trump celebrates Diwali with the Indian...

During his opening address, the president said: "On behalf of all Americans, let me also extend our warmest wishes to the people of India. I just spoke to your prime minister today. We had a great conversation. We talked about trade. We talked about a lot of things."

Earlier, President Trump lighted the ceremonial lamp.



President Trump lights the traditional Diwali lamp. Seen to Trump's right is India's Ambassador to the US, Vinay Kwatra

Ambassador Vinay Kwatra wrote on X that he was "deeply honoured to join President Donald J. Trump at the White House today to celebrate Diwali."

Wished him on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi a Happy Diwali and thanked him for this beautiful gesture. Warm Diwali greetings to all celebrating, especially the vibrant 5 million-strong Indian diaspora in the U.S."

Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, celebrates Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after a 14-year exile and his victory over the demon king Ravana, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. It also honors the goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth and prosperity, whom devotees worship for blessings in the coming year. The lighting of lamps and candles represents the victory of light over darkness and the renewal of spiritual faith.

Bihar battle: Tejashwi CM face, Mukesh...

with another Deputy CM to be announced later.

The decision to project Tejashwi Yadav as the Chief Ministerial candidate is seen as a significant boost for the Mahagathbandhan alliance, especially among youth and backward caste voters. However, rumblings were evident in the Congress over Rahul Gandhi's absence from the alliance's poster, which featured only Tejashwi Yadav's photo. Independent MP Pappu Yadav said, "The vote will happen in the face of Rahul Gandhi and no one else."

The seat-sharing issue, however, remains unresolved, with at least 11 Assembly seats witnessing contests between allies of the Mahagathbandhan.

Gehlot questioned the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for not announcing their Chief Ministerial candidate, citing the example of Maharashtra where Eknath Shinde was projected as the CM face before the elections, only to be replaced later. He also criticised the Election Commission, calling it "partial."

Tejashwi Yadav, while addressing the press conference, thanked everyone for making him the CM face and attacked the NDA for "using" CM Nitish Kumar. "Amit Shah is using a different language than he did in the last polls. This time, he is saying that the MLAs would elect the CM. I am worried as a fellow Bihari," he said, accusing the Nitish Government of rampant corruption and anarchy.

"A large number of scandals took place but no action was taken."

He said the NDA had not released any manifesto. "It is only stealing my announcements on old age pension, women empowerment, fee power, etc. They have no vision of their own. When I was in power, we did a caste survey and increased reservation to 65 per cent. But the anti-backward government at the Centre did not include it in Schedule 9 of the Constitution," he alleged.

Yadav Promises 'new Bihar'

Yadav promised a "new Bihar" if elected as the CM, vowing to create new job avenues in the state and ensuring that no one has to go out of the state to find a job. He also stuck to his promise of providing one government job for each family in Bihar. "The NDA talks about 'jungle raj'. Not a day passes when people are not

murdered and girls are not sexually assaulted. There is no action against the guilty."

"We will not make any compromise with corruption nor law and order," Yadav said. He added that despite ruling for 20 years, Nitish could not bring prosperity to the state and that it remains one of the poorest in the country. He alleged that the BJP was trying to divide the society on the line of caste and creed.

CPI-ML General Secretary Deepankar Bhattacharya also addressed the press conference, swearing to change the government in the upcoming elections. The announcement of Tejashwi as the Chief Ministerial candidate is considered a significant victory for him, given the Congress's earlier reluctance to acknowledge him as the CM face.

Mark Carney may embark upon a visit...

focus on trade and investment opportunities amid a tariff war with the United States.

Although India and Canada have missed several deadlines to reach the bilateral trade target of surpassing \$ 15 billion annually over the past couple of decades, the two countries, with a history of hot and cold relations, could now feel the \$50 billion mark attainable.

In an interview with a leading Canadian newspaper, the Indian High Commissioner to Canada, Dinesh Patnaik, revealed that India has invited Mark Carney for talks with Narendra Modi early in the New Year.

The visit of the Canadian PM to India could open doors to a comprehensive economic and free trade partnership. Incidentally, India and Canada have been in constant talks over signing a free trade agreement for more than 15 years now.

Two of his immediate predecessors - Stephen Harper (Conservative) and Justin Trudeau (Liberal) - visited India twice during their tenures as Prime Minister of Canada. Jean Chretien and Paul Martin (both Liberals), too, visited India as Prime Ministers of Canada.

DR Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi, too, visited Canada while the latter's second visit was only early this year during the G7 Leaders' summit in Alberta.

Until last year, the bilateral trade between India and Canada used to hover around \$11-12 billion annually. In 2024, it recorded a major jump by 12.7 billion to touch 23.6 billion.

In his interview with the Canadian newspaper, Dinesh Patnaik said: "If Canada wants to start negotiations, we would be more than happy to speed up things to do it in a fast way. You are looking at a minimum of \$50 billion if we allow the proper environment for it."

Dinesh Patnaik said in the interview that India wants an early visit of the PM to India, saying "it is a relationship we do not want to go downhill."

Free trade talks had reached the final stages before differences started cropping up. Canadians wanted security of investments, and India was promising fertile land for investments with all possible infrastructure.

Relations went sour in June 2023 following the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar outside a Sikh temple in Surrey, Nijjar, a Canadian national, was on the wanted list of India. After his killing outside a Sikh temple, the then Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused the Indian Government led by Narendra Modi of playing a role in the killing of a Canadian on Canadian soil.

Canada also expelled India's High Commissioner and five other diplomats. PM Justin Trudeau even made a statement in the House of Commons that there was a "credible allegation" of India's direct involvement in the spurt of terrorist crime on Canadian soil. The RCMP had said at that time that it had evidence that Indian government agents had been linked to homicides, extortion and other violent activities in Canada. The name of Larence Bishnoi figured prominently in the RCMP and Liberal Government statements.

Interestingly, the new Liberal Government of Mark Carney also declared Lawrence Bishnoi's outfit a terrorist outfit.

A diplomatic spat followed that saw both countries expelling the diplomats of each other, besides reducing the strength of diplomatic missions substantially. Allegations and counter-allegations flew freely, and a sense of uncertainty and fear gripped the large Indo-



Canadian community, with the Government of India blaming its counterpart for sheltering, supporting and siding with the pro-Khalistan elements.

Though India strongly denied the allegations and responded with tit-for-tat in diplomatic expulsions.

It is only during the past few weeks that both India and Canada have had in place their new High Commissioners.

Incidentally, where India-Canada relations started returning to normalcy, both India and Canada got involved in tough "tariff war" controversies with the US President, Donald Trump. While trade relations with the US were impacted, a new venue opened up for both Canada and India to further their bilateral relations and take them to new heights.

Dinesh Patnaik said in his interview that India is keen to buy Canadian oil and gas, nuclear power, battery storage, fertilizers, processed food and agricultural products. India, he says, is also open for increased cooperation on AI and quantum computing.

Besides India, Canada is also eyeing the Indo-Pacific for expanding its trade. Before visiting India next year, Mark Carney has confirmed his visit to India Pacific later this month.

Mark Carney announced that he will travel to Malaysia, Singapore, and the Republic of Korea from October 24 to November 1, 2025, to deepen trade relationships in the Indo-Pacific region, shore up defense partnerships, and unlock new opportunities for Canadian workers and businesses.

Canada is convinced that the global trade landscape is rapidly changing. In the face of this upheaval, Canada's new government is focused on "transforming our economy from one that is reliant on a single trade partner to one that is stronger and more resilient to global shocks. To that end, a core mission of the government is to diversify and strengthen Canada's trade partnerships."

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based senior journalist)

As the autumn sun dips low across the Gangetic plains, the air fills with devotional songs, the fragrance of incense, and the golden glow of thousands of earthen lamps flickering along riverbanks. Women draped in bright saris stand knee-deep in the water, holding bamboo baskets filled with fruits, sugarcane, and the traditional thekua in folded hands. This serene yet powerful image captures the spirit of Chhath Puja—a festival that celebrates life, gratitude, and the eternal bond between humankind and nature.

An Ancient Tradition Rooted in Vedic Reverence

Chhath Puja is one of the oldest and most spiritual festivals known to Indian civilization, with references tracing back to the Vedic era. In the Rigveda, Surya, the Sun God, is revered as the eternal source of light, energy, and vitality. The hymns invoke Surya for well-being, longevity, and prosperity—sentiments that continue to echo through the rituals of Chhath even today.

Unlike most Hindu festivals that revolve around mythological deities, Chhath worships Surya Dev (the Sun God) and Chhathi Maiya (believed to be the sister or manifestation of Surya, often identified with Usha, the goddess of dawn). This makes it unique in its focus on elemental divinity rather than anthropomorphic gods.

Mythological Narratives

Several legends are woven around Chhath Puja, adding depth and meaning to its rituals. One of the most widely accepted stories links the festival to Karna, the valiant warrior from the Mahabharata, who was the son of Surya and Kunti. It is said that Karna would offer daily prayers to the Sun while standing in the river, seeking strength and righteousness.

Another popular legend attributes the festival to Draupadi and the Pandavas, who observed Chhath Puja on the advice of sages to overcome obstacles and regain their lost kingdom. In the Ramayana, Sita Mata is believed to have performed Chhath Puja after returning to Ayodhya from exile, expressing gratitude to Surya Dev for guiding and protecting her family.

Through these stories, Chhath transcends regional and religious lines—it becomes a cosmic celebration of resilience, virtue, and gratitude.

The Four Sacred Days of Chhath Puja

The festival unfolds over four days of intense fasting, purity, and devotion, each carrying symbolic meaning and spiritual discipline.

Day 1 - Nahay Khay: The Ritual of Cleansing

The observance begins with Nahay Khay, a day of purification. Devotees take a dip in sacred rivers such as the Ganga, Kosi, or local ponds, symbolizing cleansing of the body and soul. The first meal of the ritual is prepared with utmost sanctity—often lauki-bhaat (bottle gourd and rice cooked in ghee)—and is consumed after offering it to the Sun. This act sets the tone for the days of austerity ahead, emphasizing self-control and purity.

Day 2 - Kharna: Fasting and Inner Strength

Chhath Puja: The festival of the Sun and gratitude to nature



Important information

Chhath Puja or Surya Shashthi 2025

25 October 2025 - Nahay-Khay First Day of Chhath Festival.

26 October 2025 - Kharna and Lohanda Second Day of Chhath Festival.

27 October 2025 - Sandhya Arghya Third Day of Chhath Festival.

28 October 2025 - Usha Arghya Foruth Day of Chhath Festival.

Sunrise on Chhath Puja Day : 28 October 2025 at 06:30 am

Sunset on Chhath Puja Day : 28 October 2025 at 05:39 pm

Chhath festival is also known by this name: Chhathi, Chhath Parv, Chhath Puja, Dala Chhath, Dala Puja, Surya Shashthi

Did you know : Ritual rules of the festival are very strict and are celebrated in a period of four days. They stay away from holy baths, fasting and drinking water; stand in water for long periods, and offering and praying for the sun and rising sun.

Kharna represents complete surrender and devotion. Devotees abstain from food and water throughout the day, breaking their fast in the evening after offering gur ki kheer (sweet porridge made from jaggery, milk, and rice), chapati, and fruits to the setting sun. The meal is shared with family and neighbors, symbolizing communal harmony. After this, a 36-hour nirjala vrat (fast without water) begins—an extraordinary test of willpower and faith.

Day 3 - Sandhya Arghya: Offering to the Setting Sun

This is the most visually enchanting day of Chhath Puja. As dusk paints the sky in hues of orange and crimson, devotees gather at water bodies to offer arghya (water offerings) to the setting sun. They hold bamboo baskets filled with thekua, bananas, coconuts, and

sugarcane—symbols of nature's bounty. Folk songs dedicated to Surya Dev and Chhathi Maiya fill the air, creating a deeply spiritual atmosphere.

The act of offering to the setting sun is symbolic of humility and gratitude. It teaches that one must revere not only the rising but also the fading phases of life—honoring both triumph and decline as divine manifestations.

Day 4 - Usha Arghya: Prayer to the Rising Sun

Before dawn, devotees return to the ghats to offer prayers to the rising sun—Usha Arghya. This marks the conclusion of Chhath Puja and symbolizes renewal, hope, and the triumph of light over darkness. After the offering, the fast is broken, and prasad—especially thekua and fruits—is distributed as a token of

divine blessing.

The Symbolism of Offerings

Every item used in Chhath Puja holds a deeper spiritual or ecological significance:

- Thekua: Made from wheat flour, jaggery, and ghee, it represents self-reliance and the agrarian essence of rural India.
- Sugarcane: A symbol of vitality, fertility, and prosperity.
- Coconut: Signifies purity and the continuity of life.
- Bananas and fruits: Offerings of gratitude to the earth for her abundance.
- Water and light: The two central elements of the ritual embody the life-giving and illuminating forces of nature.

These offerings are prepared using natural ingredients, keeping the festival free from artificiality and environmental harm—an aspect that aligns Chhath with sustainable living.

Chhathi Maiya: The Divine Feminine Energy

Devotees believe that Chhathi Maiya, the goddess worshipped alongside the Sun, embodies Shashthi Devi, the protector of children and granter of offspring. She is revered as a maternal figure who blesses families with health, prosperity, and happiness. The songs sung during Chhath are often directed to Chhathi Maiya, filled with emotion, gratitude, and maternal devotion—carrying echoes of women's collective faith across generations.

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Set against the shimmering backdrop of Rajasthan's Thar Desert, Jaisalmer - famously known as the Golden City - offers an adventure unlike any other. A desert safari here is not just a journey through sand dunes, but an unforgettable exploration of Rajasthan's culture, heritage, and natural beauty. From thrilling camel rides to mesmerizing sunsets, and from cultural performances to a night under the starry sky, a desert safari in Jaisalmer promises a once-in-a-lifetime experience that blends excitement, serenity, and tradition.

The Golden City and Its Desert Charm

Jaisalmer, located near the India-Pakistan border, is known for its golden sandstone architecture and the majestic Jaisalmer Fort that glows like molten gold in the desert sun. Beyond its architectural splendor lies the vast expanse of the Thar Desert - a landscape of rippling dunes, rustic villages, and an age-old nomadic spirit. The desert safari here captures the very soul of Rajasthan, where tradition meets adventure and nature whispers stories of time.

Camel Safari

The classic way to explore the desert, camel safaris offer a glimpse into the traditional lifestyle of desert dwellers. Riding atop the "ship of the desert," you traverse the undulating dunes, visit small villages, and experience the rustic rhythm of desert life. Short camel rides last an hour or two, while full-day or overnight safaris take you deep into the desert wilderness.

Jeep Safari

For thrill-seekers, jeep safaris are the perfect choice. A 4x4 ride through the shifting dunes delivers a rush of adrenaline as you speed over golden crests and sandy slopes. These safaris are perfect for those who want to cover more distance in less time while enjoying the panoramic beauty of the desert landscape.

Many visitors choose to combine both - a jeep ride for adventure and a camel trek for authenticity - for the ultimate desert experience.

The Magic of Sam and Khuri Dunes

Two of the most popular spots for desert safaris in Jaisalmer are Sam Sand Dunes and Khuri Sand Dunes.

Sam Sand Dunes, located about 40 km from Jaisalmer, are famous for their dramatic sunset views and lively desert camps. As the sun dips below the horizon, the sky turns shades of gold and crimson, offering a picture-perfect moment for photographers and romantics alike.

Khuri Dunes, on the other hand, offer a quieter, more serene experience. Here, you can truly absorb the stillness of the desert and enjoy the tranquil charm of rural Rajasthan.

Both locations have numerous camps offering camel and jeep safaris, along with traditional Rajasthani food, folk dance, and music.

Cultural Evenings Under the Stars

A desert safari in Jaisalmer isn't

Ride the golden dunes: The desert safari of Jaisalmer



complete without experiencing its vibrant cultural nights. After a day of adventure, most camps host evening performances featuring folk music, Kalbelia dance, and puppet shows around a glowing bonfire. Guests are treated to traditional Rajasthani cuisine - dal baati churma, gatte ki sabzi, and bajre ki roti - under the open sky, as the cool desert breeze and rhythmic beats create a magical atmosphere.

As the night deepens, you can choose to stay overnight in a luxurious tent or a simple thatched hut, far away from the chaos of the city. Falling asleep under a canopy of stars, with only the whisper of desert winds around you, is an experience that stays with you forever.

Best Time to Visit

The ideal time for a desert safari in Jaisalmer is from October to March, when the weather is pleasant and the desert comes alive with tourists, festivals, and events like the Jaisalmer Desert Festival, celebrated every February. The summer months (April to July) can be extremely hot, making safaris uncomfortable.



What to Keep in Mind

- Dress comfortably: Light cotton clothes during the day and warm layers for chilly evenings.
- Stay hydrated: Carry plenty of water, especially during long safaris.
- Protect yourself: Use sunscreen, sunglasses, and a scarf or hat to shield against the desert sun.
- Book with reputable operators: Choose certified desert camps that follow sustainable tourism practices.

Australia beat India by 2 wickets to clinch ODI series in Adelaide

ADELAIDE (TIP)

Australia continued their domination over India with a two-wicket victory in the second ODI at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday, Oct 23. The Aussies chased down the 265-run target with 22 balls to spare and two wickets in hand.

Though Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana dismissed Mitchell Marsh (11) and Travis Head (28) early in the run-chase, a 55-run stand between Matthew Short (74) and Matt Renshaw (30) kept the Aussies in the hunt. After their dismissals, Mitchell Owen, in his first ODI innings, hit 3 sixes and 2 fours in his 23-ball 36 before Washington Sundar had him caught by Arshdeep Singh at long-on. Owen put up a 59-run stand off 39 balls with Cooper Connolly to take the match away from India's grasp.

The dismissals of Xavier Bartlett and Mitchell Starc added a late twist in the innings but Connolly, who reached his maiden ODI fifty off 42 balls, stayed unbeaten on 61 off 53 balls, with a six and 5 fours, to take his team to victory and an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Earlier, Rohit Sharma combined a lot of grit with some grace to produce a potentially career-extending 73 on a spicy track that served as the foundation for India's total of 264/9.

Despite losing captain Shubman Gill (9) and Virat Kohli (0) in quick succession, India managed a respectable total thanks to Rohit's 97-ball effort and his 118-run partnership for the third wicket with Shreyas Iyer (61 off 77 balls).

Axar Patel (44 off 41 balls) also added some crucial runs before Arshdeep Singh (13) and Harshit Rana (24 not out) put up 37 off 29 balls for the ninth wicket, pushing the team total beyond 260.

Adam Zampa took 4 for 60 while most of the batters who attempted to attack him were dismissed. Additionally noteworthy was Xavier Bartlett (3/39 in 10 overs), who claimed a maiden over and the valuable scalp of Kohli.

In the Powerplay, Rohit had to weather many nerve-racking moments as Josh Hazlewood (0/29 in 10 overs, including two maidens) made the ball talk, thus the Indian innings was all about his tenacity. At one point, Rohit played 17 straight dot balls off Hazlewood, and the lateral movement and underlying dampness made both him and Iyer appear



Cooper Connolly and Mitch Owen's partnership was integral in Australia's win over India. (Getty Images)

extremely cautious.

While Kohli was preparing to play an outswinger, Bartlett's delivery caused one to move in swiftly, and the maestro was caught plumb in front. As he left the field, he said thanks to the fans in Adelaide, where he had amassed several Test hundreds and a World Cup century against Pakistan. Kohli departed the field, waving his gloves for the Adelaide fans who were most likely seeing his last moments, while Rohit was given much-needed breathing room.

Rohit focused on consolidation and keeping the bat close to his body throughout the first fifty or so balls. He tried to leave the deliveries on the length and took a few on the body. Mitchell Starc's flicked boundary over square leg was the only successful shot of that phase.

Playing back-to-back traditional pick-up pulls off Mitchell Owen's amiable medium pacers was the first time one saw Rohit getting into his zone. With Iyer rotating the strike and India scoring 17 from that over, the scoreboard began to move and gain pace.

The swivel he lost off his hips while attempting to put Starc over the square leg boundary proved to be his undoing, but there was still time for a 33rd ODI hundred.

Asian Youth Games 2025: India sweep gold medals in Kabaddi

India swept the gold medals in Kabaddi, as the boys' and girls' teams topped their respective podiums at Isa Sports City during the ongoing Asian Youth Games 2025 in Manama, Bahrain.

Both sides squared off against Iran in their respective finals and emerged triumphant, with contrasting victories. In the boys' gold medal fixture, India faced a stern challenge but managed to pip Iran 35-32. In the girls' gold medal contest, the Indian team reigned supreme, notching an imposing 75-21 victory.

The Indian girls' kabaddi team concluded the group stage at the summit on an unbeaten note, defeating Bangladesh 46-18, Thailand 70-23, Sri Lanka 73-10 and Iran 59-26. The top two position holders in the group standings after round-robin matches earned a shot at gold in the final.

Similarly, the Indian boys' Kabaddi team remained undefeated in the group phase, beating Bangladesh 83-19, Sri Lanka 89-16, Pakistan 81-26, Iran 46-29, hosts Bahrain 84-40 and Thailand 85-30 en route to a gold medal win.

Earlier in the tournament, India added a couple of bronze medals in taekwondo. Additionally, India won silver and bronze in athletics. Debasish Das stormed into the semi-finals of the boys' individual recognised poomsae event. He defeated Bangladesh's Tahib Hossan Osman and Mongolia's Amar Amgalan in the round of 16 and quarter-finals, respectively.

India storm into Women's World Cup semi-finals with win over NZ

MUMBAI (TIP)

Team India bounced back in style after three consecutive defeats, registering a commanding 53-run (DLS method) win over New Zealand in Navi Mumbai on Thursday, Oct 23, to seal their place in the semi-finals of the Women's World Cup.

It was a complete team effort from the Women in Blue as all the bowlers chipped in with crucial wickets to restrict New Zealand to 271/8 in 44 overs while chasing a revised target of 325. Renuka Singh (2/25) and Kranti Goud (2/48) were the leading wicket takers of the match for India.

Renuka also achieved a major career milestone during the game, completing 100 international wickets, 40 in ODIs, 58 in T20Is, and 2 in Tests, marking consistency across formats.

New Zealand's chase got off to a shaky start when veteran Suzie Bates was dismissed for just 1, leaving the team at 1/1 in 1.3 overs. Skipper Sophie Devine's early departure for 6 further dented the innings, with the scoreboard reading



59/3 in 11.3 overs.

Amelia Kerr and Brooke Halliday then steadied the ship with a 56-run stand, as Sneha Rana struck to remove Kerr for 45. Maddy Green tried to build on the

momentum but fell for 18 to Pratika Rawal, who earlier in the match had scored a century.

Brooke Halliday fought valiantly, scoring a fine 81 off 84 balls with nine

fours and a six, while Isabella Gaze played a resilient knock of 65* off 51 balls, laced with ten boundaries. The duo added 72 crucial runs together, but their efforts were not enough as India sealed the game comprehensively.

Earlier, India put up a commanding 340/3 in 49 overs against New Zealand. Centuries from Pratika Rawal (122) and Smriti Mandhana (109) laid the foundation for India's strong first win, while Jemimah Rodrigues (76*) added further momentum with a brisk knock to help India post their highest total of the tournament so far.

For New Zealand, Suzie Bates (1/40 in 7 overs), Amelia Kerr (1/69 in 10 overs) and Rosemary Mair (1/52 in 8 overs) claimed a wicket each. Still, India's top order proved too strong, helping the hosts reach a formidable total.

Brief Scores: India Women 340/3 in 49 overs (Pratika Rawal 122, Smriti Mandhana 109; Suzie Bates 1/40) vs New Zealand Women 271/8 in 44 overs (Brooke Halliday 81, Isabella Gaze 65*; Renuka Singh 2/25). Source: ANI



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



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