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WE WISH READERS A HAPPY  
GURU NANAK PRAKASH DIVAS

**9 dead in stampede at Venkateswara Swamy temple in Andhra Pradesh**  
President Murmu condoles loss of life; PM Modi announces ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the deceased



People gather at Venkateswara temple, at Kasibugga in Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh, November 1, 2025. -Credit / PTI

**NOVEMBER 1, 2025**  
**KASIBUGGA, AP (TIP):** At least nine people-eight women and a boy-were killed and many others injured in a temple stampede here in Srikakulam district on Saturday, said an official, according to a PTI report.  
However, Srikakulam District Collector Swapnil Dinkar Pundkar earlier put the toll at 10.  
The stampede occurred at Venkateswara temple in Kasibugga town at around 11.30 am, said Kasibugga sub-division in-charge DSP Lakshman Rao.  
"Nine (deaths). Nine only, (Condition of) one person is bit serious. He is not dead. Total nine people. One child is there, a 12-year-old child; the remaining (victims) are all female. And it is a private temple. It is not a government temple. It was constructed recently," Srikakulam Superintendent of Police KV Maheswara Reddy told PTI.  
**CONTD ON PAGE 56**

# Indian Parliamentary Delegation Engages with Indian Diaspora at the Consulate



**OCTOBER 31, 2025**  
**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** A visiting Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by BJP MP Daggubati Purandeswari, held an engaging interaction with members of the Indian-American community at the Consulate General of India in New

York on Thursday, October 30. The event, hosted by Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, brought together members of the Indian diaspora and lawmakers representing a broad political spectrum from India. New York State Assemblyman Anil Beephan, the

first Indian-American Republican elected to the New York Assembly, also addressed the gathering, lauding the strong and ever-growing ties between the two largest democracies.  
**CONTD ON PAGE 13**

## Usha has no plans to convert: US VP Vance amid row over interfaith marriage remarks



US Vice President JD Vance and his wife Usha Vance. -File photo / Reuters

**OCTOBER 31, 2025**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Amid criticism over comments about his interfaith marriage, Vice President J D Vance said on Friday, October 31, that his wife Second Lady Usha Vance has no plans to convert to Christianity but

added that he hoped "she may one day see things as I do", a Reuter report says. Vance is facing flak over his comments regarding his interfaith marriage after saying he eventually hopes that Usha, who grew up in a Hindu household, "is somehow moved by the same thing that I was moved in by church."  
A post on social media said, "It's weird to throw your wife's religion under the bus, in public, for a moment's acceptance by groypers."  
"First off, the question was from a person seemingly to my left, about my interfaith marriage. I'm a public figure, and people are curious, and I wasn't going to avoid the question," he said in the response posted on X.  
"Second, my Christian faith tells me the Gospel is true and is good for human beings. My wife-as I said at the TPUSA-is the most amazing blessing I have in my life.  
**CONTD ON PAGE 56**

## US flights in chaos: Major airports hit by shortage of air traffic controllers amid government shutdown

FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS			
	BREEZE AIRWAYS	AMERICAN AIRLINES	UNITED AIRLINES
TO TAMPA	1 CANCELLED	20 DISRUPTED	UNKNOWN
FROM TAMPA	1 CANCELLED	20 DISRUPTED	UNKNOWN
TO ORLANDO	1 CANCELLED	20 DISRUPTED	UNKNOWN
FROM ORLANDO	1 CANCELLED	20 DISRUPTED	UNKNOWN

Flight disruptions are order of the day  
**OCTOBER 31, 2025**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Nearly 50 per cent of the 30 busiest US airports faced shortages of air traffic controllers, the Federal Aviation Administration said on Friday, leading to flight delays nationwide as a federal government shutdown hit its 31st day, a Reuters report said.  
The absence of controllers on Friday is by far the most widespread since the shutdown began, with one of the  
**CONTD ON PAGE 56**

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



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

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## COMMENT

## Guru Nanak: The Eternal Voice of Oneness and Compassion

By Indrajit Saluja



As the world celebrates the 556th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism, we are invited once more to pause and reflect on the luminous life of a man who sought not to establish a religion, but to awaken humanity to its divine essence. Guru Nanak was born on April 15, 1469, in Rai Bhoi di Talwandi-now Nankana Sahib in Pakistan-and passed away on September 22, 1539, at Kartarpur, in present-day Pakistani Punjab. In those seventy years, he journeyed farther-geographically and spiritually-than most saints in history.

At a time when India was riven by caste hierarchies, religious divisions, and social inequalities, Nanak's voice rose like dawn after a long night of ignorance. His message was disarmingly simple: "There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim-only the One." It was a call to transcend narrow identities and realize the oneness of humanity under one Creator.

**A LIFE BEYOND BORDERS**

Guru Nanak's life was a spiritual odyssey. Between 1499 and 1521, he undertook four great journeys-known as Udasis- that took him across the Indian subcontinent, Tibet, the Arabian Peninsula, Persia, and even parts of the Far East. Modern scholars estimate that he covered more than 28,000 kilometers, traveling on foot, accompanied by his faithful companion Bhai Mardana, a Muslim minstrel.

In Mecca, it is said that when a qazi reprimanded him for pointing his feet toward the Kaaba, Nanak replied serenely, "Turn my feet in a direction where God is not." In Tibet and Assam, he spoke to Buddhist monks; in Sri Lanka, to Hindu sages; in Baghdad and Basra, to Sufi masters. Everywhere he went, he found truth shimmering in every heart and falsehood lurking in every pride. His discourses were dialogues of understanding, not debates of superiority.

Dr. Bhai Vir Singh, the celebrated scholar of Sikhism, once wrote: "Guru Nanak was not a reformer in the conventional sense. He was a revealer-he unveiled the divine light hidden in man."

**THE MESSAGE**

The philosophy of Guru Nanak rests on three pillars that remain the foundation of Sikh life even today:

Naam Japo (Meditate on the Name): Constant remembrance of the Divine through meditation and

mindfulness.

Kirat Karo (Earn by honest labor): To live a life of integrity and self-reliance, rejecting idleness and deceit.

Vand Chhako (Share with others): To share one's earnings, wealth, and resources with the needy-a principle that gave rise to the Sikh tradition of Langar, the free community kitchen open to all, regardless of caste, creed, or gender.

Through these principles, Nanak democratized spirituality. He moved religion from the exclusive domain of the priestly class to the collective experience of the people. In the words of Rabindranath Tagore, who once reflected on Nanak's universality: "Guru Nanak's voice was the voice of the awakened soul of India-speaking not of dogma but of divine communion."

**A RADICAL IN HIS TIMES**

To appreciate the depth of Guru Nanak's vision, one must remember the context in which he lived. Fifteenth-century India was fractured-Hindus and Muslims eyed each other with suspicion; women were confined by patriarchy; caste discrimination was rampant. Nanak challenged all three.

**HE PROCLAIMED:**

"So kyo manda aakhiye, jit jamme raajan."  
("Why call her inferior, from whom kings are born?")

Centuries before the language of feminism entered public discourse, Nanak affirmed the dignity and equality of women. He opened the doors of spiritual pursuit equally to men and women, breaking rigid boundaries.

Similarly, his establishment of Sangat (community) and Pangat (collective dining) in Kartarpur was a silent revolution. In the Langar, the lowest and the highest sat side by side, eating from the same kitchen. The British historian Max Arthur Macauliffe, who chronicled Sikh history in the early 20th century, wrote: "The Guru swept away the pretensions of caste and status with one stroke of equality, giving India the first truly democratic religious institution."

**A SPIRITUAL DEMOCRAT**

Guru Nanak's hymns, preserved in the Guru Granth Sahib, number 974 and form the first and foundational layer of Sikh scripture. They are not dogmatic commandments but songs of love, unity, and wonder. His verses-written in Punjabi, Persian, Sanskrit, and other tongues-reflect the plural spirit of India itself.

"Ek Onkar Satnam Karta Purakh."

("There is One God, whose Name is Truth, the Creator of all.")

These opening words of the Japji Sahib-the first composition of the Guru Granth Sahib-are both a prayer and a philosophy. In them, Nanak defined God not as a distant ruler, but as Ik (One), present in every atom, and accessible to all.

Noted scholar Khushwant Singh once observed: "Guru Nanak brought God out of the temple and mosque into the human heart. He taught that holiness lies not in rituals, but in right living."

This insistence on ethical spirituality-rather than ritualistic religiosity-made Nanak a bridge between the spiritual and the social, between the personal and the political.

**THE LEGACY: A LIVING FAITH**

Today, more than 30 million Sikhs around the world carry forward his legacy. They are found in every corner of the globe-from Punjab to Toronto, from Nairobi to New York. Wherever they go, they build Gurdwaras not merely as places of worship but as centers of service (seva). The free meals served in

these gurdwaras feed millions daily, a living embodiment of Vand Chhako.

During global crises-whether it was the pandemic, natural disasters, or refugee crises-Sikhs have stood at the forefront of humanitarian aid. This spirit of compassion traces directly to Guru Nanak's teaching that "Service to humanity is service to God."

In 2019, the world marked 550 years of Guru Nanak's birth with celebrations across continents. The Kartarpur Corridor, connecting Dera Baba Nanak in India with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, was opened as a corridor of peace, fulfilling Nanak's lifelong message of unity beyond borders.

**A VOICE FOR THE MODERN WORLD**

What makes Guru Nanak timeless is the relevance of his message to the 21st century. In an age of polarization, inequality, and ecological crisis, his call for balance, compassion, and truth sounds as urgent as ever.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARS OFTEN QUOTE NANAK'S VERSE:**

"Pavan Guru, Pani Pita, Mata Dharat Mahat."  
("Air is the Guru, Water the Father, and Earth the Great Mother.")

Long before the age of climate awareness, Nanak declared the sacred interdependence of all life. His vision offers a spiritual framework for environmental ethics today.

Swami Vivekananda once said, "The greatest men of religion the world over have been those who have declared the oneness of humanity. Guru Nanak stands pre-eminent among them."

**THE UNIVERSAL MAN**

Guru Nanak belonged to no sect, and yet he belonged to all. His teachings found resonance among Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, and even those who followed no organized religion. His simplicity attracted peasants and kings alike.

The historian Arnold Toynbee once reflected, "If the world is to avoid self-destruction, it must listen to the voice of teachers like Guru Nanak, who taught the unity of man and the supremacy of spiritual life over material power."

Indeed, his message transcends centuries and civilizations. The essence of Nanak's faith lies not in conversion but in transformation-of heart, of consciousness, of the world around us.

**KEEPING NANAK ALIVE IN OURSELVES**

As we light candles and sing hymns on his 556th Prakash Purab, let us remember that celebrating Guru Nanak is not about ritual observance but about inner renewal. His words still echo through time:

"As long as there is breath in the body, remember the Name."

In an age where divisions seem sharper than ever, his call for unity and humility can heal much of our wounded world.

Let us keep a part of Nanak within us-his compassion, his courage, his serenity-and let it guide our steps. If each of us were to live by even a fraction of his teaching-to meditate on truth, to work honestly, and to share selflessly-the world would indeed become a happier, fairer, and more peaceful place to live in.

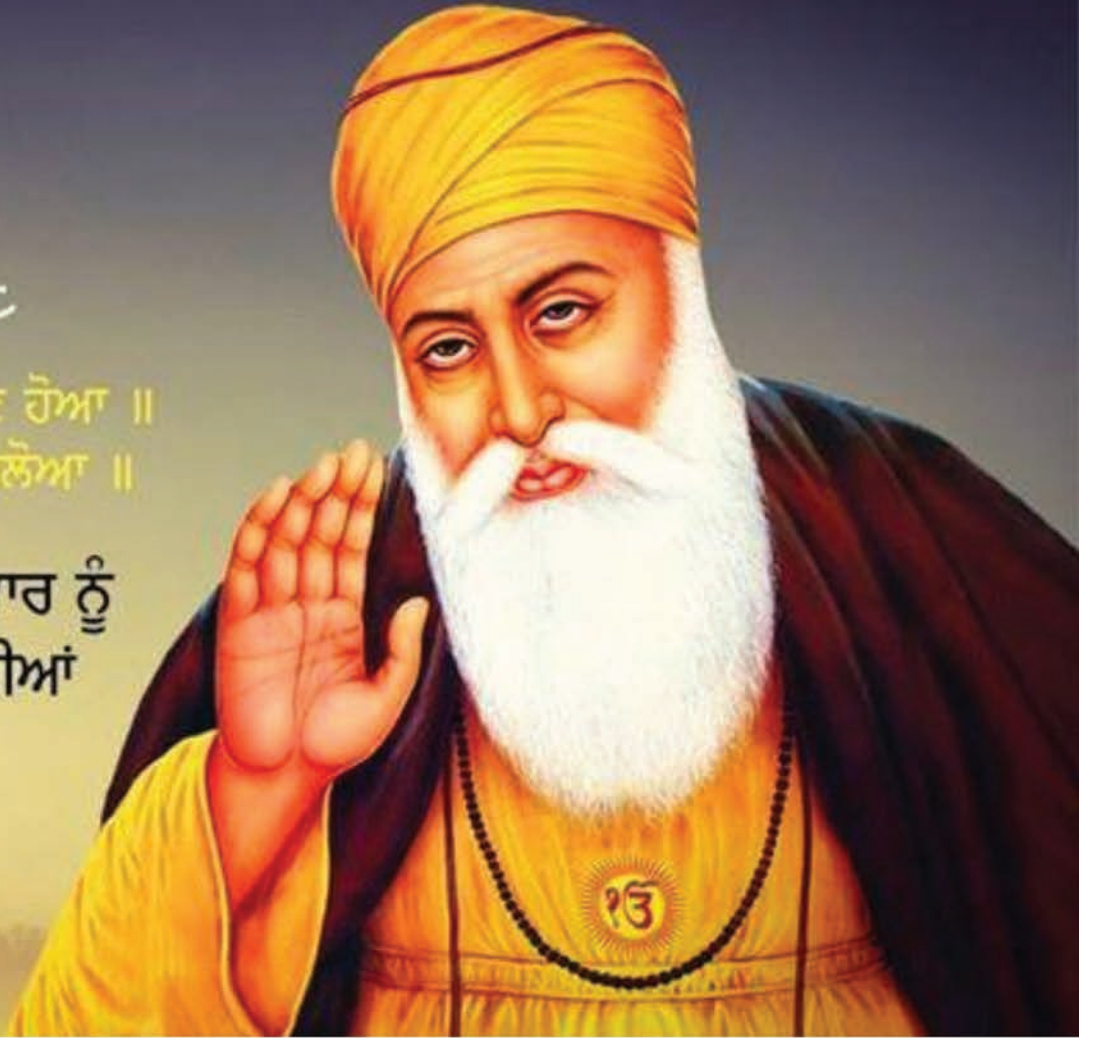
For in the end, as Guru Nanak taught more than five centuries ago, "Truth is high-but higher still is truthful living."

Happy Guru Nanak Dev ji  
Prakash Purab!

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰਗ੍ਰੰਥ

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਿਆ ਮਿਟੀ ਯੁੱਧ ਜਗ ਚਾਨਣ ਹੋਆ ॥  
ਜਿਉ ਕਰ ਸੁਰਜੁ ਨਿਕਲਿਆ ਤਾਰੇ ਛਪਿ ਅੰਧੋਰ ਪਲੋਆ ॥

ਆਪ ਜੀ ਨੂੰ ਅਤੇ ਆਪ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਸਾਰੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰ ਨੂੰ  
ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਜੀ ਦੇ ਗੁਰਪੁਰਬ ਦੀਆਂ  
ਲੱਖ ਲੱਖ ਵਧਾਈਆਂ ਹੋਣ ਜੀ



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Chairman



Balbeer Singh Pahwa  
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## INDIAN AMERICAN KRUTI PATEL GOYAL NAMED NEXT CEO OF ETSY



Kruti Patel Goyal has been named the next Chief Executive Officer of Etsy, Inc.

**OCTOBER 30, 2025**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Kruti Patel Goyal has been named the next Chief Executive Officer of Etsy, Inc., the global online marketplace known for handmade and vintage goods. She will officially assume the role on January 1, 2026, succeeding Josh Silverman, who will transition to the position of Executive Chair through the end of 2026.

Goyal, currently serving as President and Chief Growth Officer at Etsy, has been with the company for over a decade, holding several key leadership roles including Chief Product Officer, Head of Seller Services, and Head of Marketplace Integrity and Trust & Safety. She also served as CEO of Depop Ltd., Etsy's resale fashion subsidiary, where she focused on expanding the platform's reach among Gen Z consumers and promoting sustainable resale practices.

Before joining Etsy, Goyal worked in mergers and acquisitions at Morgan Stanley and later in growth equity at General Atlantic.

Etsy's leadership transition comes amid a period of declining gross merchandise sales (GMS) and a slowdown in active buyers and sellers. The company's stock dropped nearly nine percent following the announcement, reflecting investor uncertainty about Etsy's growth trajectory.

According to Reuters, the leadership change signals Etsy's effort to bring in the "next generation" of leadership as it faces increasing competition and economic headwinds. Goyal's appointment is seen as a strategic move to reinvigorate growth, given her strong track record in product development, marketplace expansion, and community engagement.

Under her leadership, Etsy is expected to sharpen its focus on innovation, sustainability, and global growth - areas that have been central to Goyal's career.

Etsy, headquartered in Brooklyn, New York, operates one of the world's largest online marketplaces connecting millions of independent sellers with customers worldwide.

## Indian American sophomores at Macon Uji Patel and Arya Prajapati named Sullivan Fellows

**OCTOBER 30, 2025**

**ATLANTA (TIP):** Uji Patel and Arya Prajapati, two Indian American sophomores at Macon, Georgia-based Mercer University, were selected for the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation's Sullivan Fellows program, which aims to cultivate leaders committed to positive social change.

The program, open to any rising sophomore from a college campus, provides fellows with a unique opportunity to engage in immersive experiences, rigorous coursework and community-based projects focused on addressing pressing societal challenges, according to a university release.

Sullivan Fellows participate in a three-year program that teaches them how to become leaders and changemakers alongside a cohort of like-minded students from colleges across the South.

Patel, from Tifton, is a biochemistry and molecular biology major with minors in global health, psychology and biomedical physics.

She plans to attend medical school and hopes to continue finding ways to bridge research and service, making a meaningful difference in people's lives when they need it most.

"I'm incredibly honored to have been nominated by Mercer and selected for the Sullivan Fellowship," said Patel. "I'm so grateful that the University is supporting my participation. I'm excited



Uji Patel and Arya Prajapati, sophomores at Macon, Georgia-based Mercer University, were selected for the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation's Sullivan Fellows program, which aims to cultivate leaders committed to positive social change.

to grow through this opportunity and find new ways to make a positive impact."

At Mercer, Patel is a Presidential Scholar in the Honors Program and was honored with the Spright Dowell Award. She serves on the executive boards of MerServe, MU Miracle and the Global Health Association and works as a biology teaching assistant.

She is also involved in two student-led initiatives - one that raises addiction awareness among middle schoolers in the Macon-Bibb community and another that works to make campus a more welcoming and supportive space for commuters. She is also conducting neuroscience research focusing on addiction and motivation.

"Uji is an excellent example of a Mercerian who intends to change the world, and participating in the Sullivan Fellows program will provide her with development opportunities and a network of support that will help her achieve her goals," said Dr. David A. Davis, director of University Honors.

Prajapati, a neuroscience major with a minor in chemistry from Columbus, plans to attend medical school and said he hopes to continue combining community service, research and health care outreach to make a positive difference in people's lives.

Prajapati said he was excited to continue growing his Visionary Student Panel project initiative through the fellowship and to make the most of the support and mentorship Mercer has provided.

At Mercer, Prajapati is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma honor society, volunteers with MU Miracle as a miracle maker and is an officer in the Student National Medical Association-Minority Association of Premed Students, Mercer Masala and the American Chemical Society.

"Arya was always asking questions, and I believe that curiosity will be an asset for him as he develops over the next three years as a Sullivan Fellow," said Dr. Jennifer Crawford, associate director of the Center for Career and Professional Development.

## Indian American Sonia Raman Makes WNBA History as Head Coach

**OCTOBER 28, 2025**

**SEATTLE, WA (TIP):** In a groundbreaking moment for Indian American representation in professional sports, Sonia Raman has been named the new head coach of the Seattle Storm, becoming the first person of Indian descent to lead a team in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA).



Photo caption: Sonia Raman has been named the new head coach of the Seattle Storm, becoming the first person of Indian descent to lead a team in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA).

generation of athletes.

Her coaching path began at Wellesley College, where she served as an assistant from 2002 to 2008, before taking over as head coach of the MIT women's basketball program. Over 12 seasons at MIT, Raman became the program's winningest coach and twice earned the NEWMAC Coach of the Year title.

In 2020, Raman broke into the NBA ranks as an assistant coach with the Memphis Grizzlies, where she focused on scouting, analytics, and player development - skills that quickly set her apart in a league increasingly driven by data and innovation. Earlier this year, she joined the New York Liberty as an assistant coach before accepting the Seattle Storm's head coaching position.

Raman's journey to the top of women's basketball is anything but ordinary. Born in Framingham, Massachusetts, to Indian immigrant parents, she played college basketball as a walk-on at Tufts University before earning a law degree from Boston College Law School. She briefly worked in finance and government before turning her focus entirely to coaching - a decision that would ultimately redefine her career and inspire a new

## Indian-origin Jagdeep 'Jagga' Singh, former member of Lawrence Bishnoi gang, detained in the US

**OCTOBER 28, 2025**

**SEATTLE, WA (TIP) :** The Rajasthan Police's Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) played a key role in apprehending gangster Jagdeep Singh alias Jagga in the US. Jagga, a former active member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang and currently associated with the Rohit Godara gang, was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) near the Canada-USA border.

The AGTF confirmed this and said that the legal process for Jagga's extradition to India has been initiated.

Official sources said that Jagga, a resident of Dhurkot, Punjab, had been absconding for a long time and AGTF teams were actively searching for him.

Jagga's gang is primarily active in Punjab and Rajasthan. He has more than a dozen cases registered against him in Punjab and is a proclaimed offender by the court.

In March 2017, Jagga was jailed with Lawrence Bishnoi and Anmol Bishnoi in connection with the firing and death threats against Dr Sunil Chandak in Jodhpur's Pratap Nagar police station area. He was also found involved in the murder of Vasudev Asrani in Jodhpur's Sardarpura police station area in September 2017. After getting bail, he fled to Dubai about three years ago and illegally travelled to the States.

This is the second major achievement of the Rajasthan AGTF this month. Earlier, Amit Sharma alias Jack Pandit, a key member of the Lawrence Bishnoi-Rohit Godara-Goldy Brar gang network, was detained in the US following an international operation coordinated by AGTF and CBI's Interpol branch. Sharma, a resident of village 15Z, Matili Rathan, district Sriganganagar, was wanted in several high-profile cases, including extortion, firing, illegal arms supply and conspiracy to murder.

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



Jagdeep Singh alias Jagga in the US. Jagga, a former active member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang and currently associated with the Rohit Godara gang, was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) near the Canada-USA border.

# Times Square Durga Utsav Celebrations-Aesthetics and Reverence Enthuse the Audience

Sumit Roy & Band from Kolkata, India and Rimli Roy and Surati charm with Spectacular performances

OCTOBER 30, 2025

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** The Times Square Durga Utsav Association brought the vibrancy of Indian culture to the crossroads of the world with a spectacular Durga Utsav celebration held on October 2, 2025 at Father Duffy Square, Times Square. The event drew an enthusiastic and diverse crowd, uniting communities through music, dance, and storytelling in honor of the Goddess Durga, on the auspicious occasion of Durga Puja and Navratri.



Sumit Roy & Band (from Kolkata) energized audiences with a mix of Agomoni, Bangla Folk, Pop, and Fusion, including his viral hit Hilsa Fish

Sumit Roy & Band (from Kolkata) energized audiences with a mix of Agomoni, Bangla Folk, Pop, and Fusion, including his viral hit Hilsa Fish. The set opened with Sonia on vocals performing Roy's original Agomoni, and included a unique Charkha folk piece. At one point, Roy stepped offstage to join the crowd as they danced to his rhythmic compositions.

Rimli Roy & Surati for Performing Arts presented Okal Bodhon, a dance-theatre excerpt from the acclaimed off-Broadway musical Ramaavan. Rooted in the story of Lord Rama invoking Goddess Durga before his battle with Ravana, Okal Bodhon highlighted themes of courage, righteousness, and devotion, performed with powerful choreography and narration.

Surati for Performing Arts holds a deeply personal legacy in its very name - It was named after Founder & Artistic Director Rimli Roy's parents, Sumit and Arati Roy, whose love for the arts continues to inspire her work. Her father, Sumit Roy, also composed original music for Ramaavan - A Musical, which was performed at Times Square Durga Utsav 2025, symbolizing the powerful intergenerational legacy at Surati's core.



Blending Indian classical, folk, and contemporary dance with Western theatre, Surati's ensemble brought mythology to life in Times Square. Choreographed by Rimli Roy with narration by Priyanjali Sen, the cast - including Paulina Yeung (Broadway's King & I), Harsha Harikumar, Jonathan Power, Madison Halla, Kijana Lewis, Vidhya Dinesh, Reba Browne, and Rimli Roy - transformed the square into a stage of storytelling and reverence. The audience was especially captivated by Yeung's operatic rendition of Lascia Ch'io Pianga, accompanied by dancers Harsha Harikumar and Kijana Lewis.

"Times Square became a canvas for cultural exchange and artistic excellence," said Rimli Roy, Founder & Artistic Director of Surati. "It was inspiring to share Okal Bodhon on the occasion of Durga Puja and Navratri - moments that remind us of the enduring power of art, storytelling, and community."

Ramaavan-A Musical is an original production based on the Indian epic the Ramayana that unravels the story of Diwali. Conceived, created and directed By Rimli Roy, with original music by Sumit Roy and Rajesh Roy, lyrics, verses and dialogues by Arati Roy, the musical has been staged in NY and NYC since 2018, and even toured cities in India with seven U.S artists who collaborated with artists from India invited by the Govt of India.

The program was made possible through the support of Times Square Durga Utsav Association, ConnX SmartMS, Scient Enterprise AI, AVP Global and Surati's generous donors and supporters, and highlighted the collaborative power of community, art, and tradition in one of the world's most iconic public spaces.

#### ABOUT SURATI FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Surati for Performing Arts is an award-winning Jersey City-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded by Rimli Roy, dedicated to educating, entertaining, and engaging communities in New Jersey and globally through the performing arts of India and their cross-cultural



Rimli Roy & Surati for Performing Arts presented Okal Bodhon, a dance-theatre excerpt from the acclaimed off-Broadway musical Ramaavan

intersections. Surati produces world-class productions, festivals, and educational programs that celebrate diversity and inclusivity.

Rimli and the Surati team have performed at prestigious venues including the United Nations, Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Library of Congress, and NY City Hall, and have been featured in Vogue, CNN, and NBC News.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.SURATIPA.ORG**

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# Honoring the Founding Management Team of Asamai Hindu Temple

Celebrating a Legacy of Devotion, Leadership, and Service Since 1997

OCTOBER 31, 2025

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Since its founding in 1997, the Asamai Hindu Temple has blossomed into a spiritual and cultural cornerstone of the Hindu community. This remarkable transformation is the result of the tireless efforts and unwavering dedication of its founding management team and trustees—individuals whose expertise, integrity, and devotion have guided the temple's growth for nearly three decades.

Today, we are proud to honor a few distinguished individuals from this foundational group, representing the collective spirit and contributions of the entire first generation of trustees and founders.

Among these remarkable leaders is Balram Kakkar, who has served as the temple's legal advisor since its inception. A graduate of the University of Virginia, Mr. Kakkar is a successful attorney, hotelier, and real estate magnate with ownership of multiple properties. As the temple's legal counsel, he has overseen all legal matters with precision and care—ensuring compliance, safeguarding the temple's interests, and navigating



Balram Kakkar



Gobind bathija



Radhu Bathija



Harbans Kochar

complex regulatory landscapes with steadfast commitment.

Equally vital is Gobind Bathija, who holds a Master's degree in Accounting from Queens College (CUNY). A successful real estate developer and property owner, Mr. Bathija also operates over a dozen Dunkin' and Dairy Queen franchise locations. His disciplined financial stewardship has laid a strong foundation for the temple's long-term sustainability and growth.

The spiritual and cultural vibrancy of

the temple owes much to Radhu Bathija, who holds a BA from Queens College and is a licensed real estate broker and accomplished businessman. His leadership in religious programming and scheduling has enriched the temple's spiritual calendar—from coordinating visits by revered swamis and pandits to organizing major festivals and daily rituals with grace and dedication.

A defining feature of the Asamai Hindu Temple is its weekly recitation of the Hanuman Chalisa—a cherished tradition lovingly upheld by Harbans Kochar. A successful entrepreneur in the fabric import-export industry and a respected real estate owner, Mr. Kochar's devotion to leading these recitations has made them a spiritual hallmark of the temple, bringing peace, strength, and unity to countless devotees week after week.

Together, this founding team has not only built a temple—they have built a legacy. Their combined expertise in law,

finance, religious programming, and spiritual leadership has created a sanctuary that continues to uplift, inspire, and unite the community. Their service stands as a powerful testament to what can be achieved when devotion meets discipline and leadership is guided by love.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the founding management team of Asamai Hindu Temple for their extraordinary contributions and enduring commitment. Their legacy will continue to shine for generations to come.

In addition to these pioneering leaders, we also recognize and appreciate the dedicated trustees and second-generation community members who continue to play a vital role in the temple's ongoing success and growth. Individuals such as Senapati Lund, Sunder Luthra, Arjen Bathija, Priyanka Kakkar, Anju Kakkar, Anil Khanna, Jinder Busri, Sunder Bajaj, and many others are proudly carrying the torch forward—with pride, passion, and purpose.

## Labor, DSA, Tenant Organizations Launch People's Majority Alliance to Win the General - and Mamdani's Affordability Agenda

**GROUPS THAT WON MAMDANI PRIMARY FORM COALITION TO FIGHT FOR HIS PLATFORM**

**FINAL GET OUT THE VOTE PUSH IN SWING NEIGHBORHOODS AS BILLIONAIRE-BACKED SUPER PACS FLOOD AIRWAVES**

NOVEMBER 1, 2025

**NEW YORK (TIP):** On Sunday, Nov. 2, hundreds of thousands of working class and immigrant New Yorkers will launch the People's Majority Alliance ahead of the general election on November 4 to win Zohran Mamdani's affordability platform and beat back Cuomo's billionaire super PAC donors. Working class New Yorkers will get out the vote for mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani, rallying at Sunset Park before canvassing in the neighborhood. The rally will be joined by electeds including CM Alexa Avilés and AM Marcela Mitaynes; and will be hosted by labor unions, DSA, tenant and immigrant groups, and other working-class organizations that delivered Mamdani a historic 13-point victory over Cuomo in June. Community leaders and members will speak in support of Mamdani and commit to winning a rent freeze, fast and free buses, and universal childcare, in

the face of a deepening affordability crisis and escalating ICE deportations. Canvassers will then get out the vote in Sunset Park, a hotly contested neighborhood that turned out for Cuomo but made gains with Mamdani during the June primary.

**WHEN: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025 AT 3PM**

**WHERE: SUNSET PARK (FLAGPOLE NEAR 41ST ST. AND 6TH AVE. ENTRANCE)**

**WHY: RALLY AND MARCH TO GET OUT THE WORKING CLASS VOTE FOR MAMDANI IN THE LAST TWO DAYS OF EARLY VOTING**

**3PM RALLY STARTS**

**4PM GOTV CANVASSING IN SUNSET PARK**

RSVP: Email Irene Hsu (ihsu@caaavoice.org) for full details to attend, and to speak with organizers



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# NYCD Desi Society and LiveOnNY Illuminate Queens with Grand Diwali Celebration



Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja lighting the lamp. Seen among others are Dr. Mariam Singh (in the front), New York State Senator John Liu (in the center) and NYS Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (extreme right).



NYS Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar presenting a NYS Assembly Proclamation to Dr. Mariam Singh and Dunes Kaur, South Asian Community Liaison for LiveOnNY.

**OCTOBER 31, 2025**

**NEW YORK, NY (TIP):** The NYC Department of Correction (NYCD) Desi Society and the LiveOnNY organization partnered to host a vibrant and successful Diwali celebration on Friday, October 24, 2025, bringing together city officials, esteemed community leaders, essential workers, families and friends from all over New York to celebrate the Festival of Lights.

Councilmember Sandra Ung, Judge Frances Wang and Deputy Consul General from Indian Consulate all came out to support the Diwali Celebration.

The evening served as a vital opportunity to connect and honor community heroes, their families, and as well as it highlighted the impact of organ and tissue donation, especially in the South Asian Communities. It was powerful and emotional to hear stories

Samaj to bring this beautiful celebration to life," said Dr. Mariam Singh.

Attendees enjoyed a festive atmosphere, which included traditional music and a magnificent spread of authentic Indian cuisine.

The collaboration with **\*\*LiveOnNY\*\***, an organization dedicated to organ and tissue donation awareness, underscored the theme of generosity and giving back to the community.

"We were honored to join the NYCD Desi Society for such a meaningful

celebration," said Dunes Kaur, South Asian Community Liaison for LiveOnNY. "Diwali's message of hope and life aligns perfectly with our mission. We thank the Desi community for their incredible hospitality and for helping us share our message of saving lives through organ donation."

The event successfully created a platform for professional networking and cultural exchange, setting a positive precedent for future collaborations between the organizations.



Harpreet Singh Toor, a community leader and a politician of a long standing was honored on the occasion. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Mr. Singh, Mr. Toor, Dr. Mariam Singh, and Consul, Community Affairs, Consulate General of India, Mr. Tsewang Gyaltsen

The festive event, held at the iconic Gujarati Samaj Hindu Community Center in Fresh Meadows, Queens, celebrated the spirit of Diwali-the triumph of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance-with over 250 guests in attendance.

NYS Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, NYS Assemblyman Ed Braunstein, NY Senator John Liu, NYC

from families impacted by organ donation.

The event honored the dedication of Desi public servants while fostering stronger ties between law enforcement and the South Asian population in New York City.

"Diwali is a time for family and community. We are incredibly proud to partner with LiveOnNY and the Gujarati



Honorees and organizers pose for a photograph

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## Whose America is it? In US, Indians face the heat

"Suddenly, a community once celebrated as a shining example of immigrant success finds itself caught in the crossfire of America's immigration wars. On social media, questions about loyalty to the US are raised with increasing frequency.

Recently, a Florida city councilman posted on X: "There's not a single Indian that cares about the United States" and "Deport every Indian immediately." Even public celebrations of Indian festivals - long encouraged by cities and states as symbols of cultural diversity - are now being recast by critics as signs of "otherness."

Resentment against immigrants, particularly those from poorer parts of the world, has long shaped Western politics

In the wake of Trump's H-1B visa crackdown, a troubling backlash against the Indian American community is gaining momentum. What began as anonymous grumbling online has now spilled into the open, with racist comments voiced publicly and unapologetically.

The Indian American community has risen in political influence too. With six members of Congress, numerous statewide officeholders, and even a former vice president of Indian descent, Indian Americans are more visible than ever before. (AFP)

The Indian American community has risen in political influence too. With six members of Congress, numerous statewide officeholders, and even a former vice president of Indian descent, Indian Americans are more visible than ever before. (AFP)

Suddenly, a community once celebrated as a shining example of immigrant success finds itself caught in the crossfire of America's immigration wars. On social media, questions about loyalty to the US are raised with increasing frequency. Recently, a Florida city councilman posted on X: "There's not a single Indian that cares about the United States" and "Deport every Indian immediately." Even public celebrations of Indian festivals - long encouraged by cities and states as symbols of cultural diversity - are now being recast by critics as signs of "otherness".

For decades, Indian Americans were widely regarded as a model minority. Both Democratic and Republican leaders regularly extolled the

community's achievements. Addressing a rally of more than 100,000 people in Ahmedabad in 2020, President Donald Trump declared: "In America, we have come to know the splendor of Indian culture personally, through the four million Indian Americans living in the United States as our wonderful friends, colleagues, and neighbors... They are truly spectacular people. Indian Americans enrich every aspect of our national life. They are titans of business; the biggest, the best pioneers of science; masters of the art; and innovators of technology like few

visible than ever before in US public life.

Yet, because of recent initiatives and events, as the community's visibility and success have grown, so too has resentment. The same H-1B visa programme that created pathways for thousands of Indian engineers and scientists is now being cast as a symbol of unfair competition. More than 70% of H-1B visas go to Indian nationals. As a result, attacks on the programme have become shorthand for attacks on Indian immigrants themselves.

This hostility is not new. Resentment



By Frank F Islam

Indian immigrants, more than any other group, are caught in the line of fire.

The shift is stark and startling. Within just a few years, Indian Americans have gone from being praised for enriching "every aspect of national life" to being cast as disloyal outsiders. Sadly, at its core, this backlash is about more than visas or economics. It reflects a broader struggle over identity, over what it means to be



Trump hosted Diwali at the White House

people have been able to see anywhere in this universe."

Five years earlier, President Barack Obama was equally effusive. In his 2015 "Address to the People of India" at Siri Fort Auditorium in New Delhi, he reminded the audience: "The United States has the largest Indian diaspora in the world, including some three million proud Indian Americans. They make America stronger, and they tie us together - bonds of family and friendship that allow us to share in each other's success."

For decades, Indian Americans have been among the most successful immigrant groups in the US. Since the introduction of the H-1B visa programme in 1992, Indian professionals - particularly in technology - have powered Silicon Valley, driven innovation, and transformed industries. Today, Indian American households have a median income nearly twice that of the national average, reflecting not only their prominence in technology and science but also growing success in hospitality, health care, and entrepreneurship. The community has risen in political influence too. With six members of Congress, numerous statewide officeholders, and even a former vice president of Indian descent, Indian Americans are more

against immigrants, particularly those from poorer parts of the world, has long shaped Western politics. In Europe, refugees and immigrants are often accused of diluting local cultures or draining welfare systems. In the US, the narrative has shifted with each wave of arrivals - Irish, Italians, Chinese, Mexicans, and now Indians. What makes today's climate distinct is the political machinery amplifying these sentiments. The "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) movement, created and led by Trump, has tapped into economic anxieties to paint immigrants as scapegoats.

While the US macro economy has grown strongly post-Covid, inflation, high interest rates, and soaring housing costs have left many Americans struggling. In addition, the disruptive effects of artificial intelligence (AI) and other transformative technologies are causing unemployment among recent graduates and young professionals, broadening and increasing economic insecurity. In this atmosphere, restrictions on H-1B visas are not only tolerated but endorsed by many.

Even some Silicon Valley leaders, long reliant on immigrant talent, have cautiously supported calls to rethink the H-1B programme. Their alleged concern is framed as protecting American jobs, but the subtext is clear:

American in an era of evolving demographic change.

Old-fashioned nationalism has re-emerged, and the idea of America as a diverse pluralistic society is being openly challenged. For MAGA loyalists, "taking America back" means rolling back diversity and inclusion and reinstating a restrictive definition of who belongs.

Indian Americans today occupy a paradoxical place in American society - celebrated for their success, yet targeted for the very same reason. Their story highlights both the promise and precariousness of immigrant life in the US today in which a community that has scaled great heights has become vulnerable to shifting political winds.

The attacks on Indian Americans, framed through the H-1B debate, are not just about visas. They are about belonging, about whether a nation built by immigrants will continue to see newcomers as contributors or as threats. For Indian Americans, the challenge now is to push back against this narrowing vision of America by continuing to lead, to innovate, and to demonstrate that they do indeed enrich every aspect of American life.

(Frank F Islam is an entrepreneur, civic leader and thought leader based in Washington DC.)

# LONG ROAD TO JUSTICE IN '84 RIOTS CASES

Sajjan serves a life term, Tytler faces trial - proof of victims' relentless fight against power



By HS Phoolka

**F**orty-one years after the 1984 Sikh genocide, in which 2,733 Sikhs were brutally killed in Delhi (as per official figures), justice continues to elude the victims. The cases against two key masterminds - former Union Minister Jagdish Tytler and former MP Sajjan Kumar - have drawn national attention. Bringing these political leaders to trial was a long, uphill struggle: Sajjan Kumar has been in jail for seven years, and Jagdish Tytler now faces a murder trial.

On September 28, 2007, a journalist informed me that the CBI had given Jagdish Tytler a "clean chit." When she asked how to obtain the report, I advised her to request it directly from the judge's chamber. Hours later, she returned with a critical piece of information: the CBI had filed a charge sheet against one Suresh Paniwala but had inserted an exoneration of Tytler within it.

By filing a charge sheet instead of a closure report, the CBI avoided the legal requirement of notifying the complainant before exonerating an accused. This was a clear attempt to surreptitiously clear Tytler without scrutiny. The report also claimed the agency could not trace Jasbir Singh, a key eyewitness.

The case against Tytler - accused of leading a mob that killed three Sikhs at Gurdwara Pul Bangash in 1984 - was registered in 2005 on the Nanavati Commission's recommendation and assigned to the CBI. When the case came up the next day, I appeared for the victims and argued that the court must treat it as a closure report, not a charge sheet, and give us time to locate Jasbir Singh. The court agreed and issued notice to the complainant. In December 2007, we filed a protest petition, and advocate Navkiran Singh submitted Jasbir Singh's affidavit offering to testify. The court rejected the CBI's report and ordered further investigation.

In March 2010, the CBI again gave Tytler a clean chit. Simultaneously, the Congress announced his candidature for the Lok Sabha. The same day, I filed a new protest petition. Tytler's supporters attacked me in the Karkardooma court complex. Two days later, journalist Jarnail Singh threw a shoe at Home Minister P Chidambaram in protest. Under massive public pressure, the Congress withdrew Tytler's ticket.

In April 2013, the court again rejected the second closure report, ordering fresh investigation. Yet, in December 2014, the CBI filed a third closure report, again clearing Tytler. On December 4, 2015, the court not only rejected this report but also ordered court-monitored investigation. In 2023, the CBI finally filed a charge sheet for murder against Tytler for leading the mob that killed three Sikhs at Gurdwara Pul Bangash. The trial is now



Milestone: Sajjan Kumar, a powerful figure, has been convicted for the murder of a Sikh father and son.

Credit / PTI

underway.

In January 2010, the CBI filed two charge sheets against Sajjan Kumar - one for the murder of five Sikhs in Delhi Cantt and another for one Sikh in Sultanpuri. Both were registered in 2005 after the Nanavati Commission's findings. Co-accused included ex-MLA Mahinder Yadav and ex-councilor Balwan Khokhar.

On February 2, 2010, when the cases came up in court, I appeared for the victims and requested warrants against the accused, but the public prosecutor sided with Sajjan Kumar's lawyer in seeking summons instead. Concerned about the prosecutor's bias, we approached the Delhi HC for a special public prosecutor. The then Chief Justice AP Shah ordered that the CBI and I agree on a name. We nominated Senior Advocate RS Cheema and DP Singh as special public prosecutors. Their appointment was a turning point.

When Sajjan applied for anticipatory bail, Sessions Judge PS Teji rejected it, after which Sajjan went underground and approached the HC. Several judges recused from hearing the matter. When one judge hinted at granting interim protection, I objected, reminding the court that "when 3,000 Sikhs were killed, heavens had already fallen." Ultimately, no relief was granted that day, though another judge later granted bail.

The case was transferred to Karkardooma Court. Putting aside my other court work for three years, I focused on this trial. Charges were framed in April 2010 and evidence began soon. Sajjan's men tried to influence witnesses, especially

Nirpreet Kaur, who had lost her father in the massacre. Working with Punjab CM Parkash S Badal and ADGP Suresh Arora, we arranged a house in Mohali guarded by Punjab Police Commandos, ensuring witness safety.

We even attempted a sting operation on Sajjan Kumar through Nirpreet, but his men grew suspicious and she narrowly escaped. The witnesses later testified from secure accommodations arranged through a CBI request to Punjab.

**T**he main witness, Jagdish Kaur, whose husband and two sons were killed, testified first. Her harrowing account shook everyone in court. The defense cross-examined her for 17 days, until suddenly the SC stayed the trial. I argued that such a stay would destroy the witnesses' morale. The court relented, listing the case again within two weeks - a rare move. Later, the stay was vacated, and the trial resumed.

In April 2013, the trial court acquitted Sajjan Kumar but convicted Mahinder Yadav, Balwan Khokhar and three others. The verdict provoked public outrage. Nirpreet Kaur launched a fast-unto-death at Jantar Mantar, demanding an appeal. Supported alternately by AAP, BJP and Akali Dal, her protest forced the government to file an appeal in the Delhi HC after seven days.

While the appeal was pending, I entered politics and became Leader of Opposition in Punjab, which barred me from practicing law. Torn between public office and my commitment to the 1984 victims, I resigned in July 2017 to continue pursuing these cases.

My resignation drew judicial attention to the victims' continued pain.

Soon after, the SC, led by Justice Dipak Misra, appointed a supervisory committee to re-examine 199 closed cases. In January 2018, it formed a new SIT, headed by Justice SN Dhingra, to reopen investigations. This revived hope for justice after three decades of impunity. The renewed momentum produced tangible results. In September 2018, a Delhi court awarded death penalty to one accused and life imprisonment to another. Then, on December 17, 2018, the Delhi HC convicted Sajjan Kumar and sentenced him to life imprisonment. He has been in jail since, with repeated bail pleas rejected. His final appeal is scheduled in the SC on November 12.

In another case, on February 25, 2025, ASJ Kaveri Baweja sentenced Sajjan Kumar to two life terms for the murder of a Sikh father and son. A third case against him is in its final argument stage.

The pursuit of justice for the 1984 genocide victims has been a decades-long struggle marked by political interference, threats and institutional apathy. Yet, persistent legal battles, courageous witnesses and judicial oversight have finally begun to deliver accountability. While many wounds remain unhealed, the conviction of powerful figures like Sajjan Kumar and the ongoing trial of Jagdish Tytler stand as milestones in India's fight for justice.

(HS Phoolka is Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India)

# India and the US: India must negotiate a favorable FTA for giving up Russian oil



By Happymon Jacob

INDIA MUST MAKE A VIRTUE OUT OF NECESSITY BY PROPOSING THAT IT WILL COMPLY WITH US SANCTIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE LATTER ADDRESSING ITS KEY STRATEGIC INTERESTS

"INDIA FACES A DILEMMA: SHOULD IT CONTINUE BUYING RUSSIAN OIL ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, OR CEASE ITS IMPORTS ALTOGETHER? FOR SURE, THE US HAS NO RIGHT TO DICTATE HOW TWO SOVEREIGN NATIONS CONDUCT THEIR BILATERAL TRADE. WHILE RUSSIAN COMPANIES HAVE BEEN SANCTIONED BY THE US, MOSCOW HAS NO INTENTION OF STOPPING ITS OIL EXPORTS. IT IS FOR THE IMPORTING COUNTRIES, SUCH AS INDIA AND CHINA, TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY ARE WILLING TO RISK POTENTIAL SECONDARY SANCTIONS FROM THE US FOR DOING BUSINESS WITH THE SANCTIONED RUSSIAN ENTITIES."

The American decision on October 22 to blacklist Russia's energy giants Rosneft and Lukoil marks a significant escalation in economic sanctions targeted at Russia, as these two companies together account for 57% of Russia's crude oil output and export revenue. While smaller Russian firms, responsible for the remaining 43%, remain unsanctioned by the US for now, the impact of this move is profound for major oil purchasing countries such as India. Indian oil companies have already announced that they will cease purchasing Russian oil to avoid potential sanctions. This shift is especially notable given that Russia's share in India's crude imports surged from a mere 1% to an all-time high of 38% following the Ukraine war. While the Donald Trump administration claimed that India was indirectly supporting Putin's war efforts by buying Russian oil, New Delhi's stance was simply driven by the pursuit of affordable energy sources available at the time.

India faces a dilemma: Should it continue buying Russian oil one way or another, or cease its imports altogether? For sure, the US has no right to dictate how two sovereign nations conduct their bilateral trade. While Russian



The key criterion for India's decision on buying Russian oil should not be whether it is done under US pressure or not.

Credit / Reuters

companies have been sanctioned by the US, Moscow has no intention of stopping its oil exports. It is for the importing countries, such as India and China, to decide whether they are willing to risk potential secondary sanctions from the US for doing business with the sanctioned Russian entities.

That said, India currently has two options. The first is to continue purchasing Russian oil, which will be available despite American sanctions. In doing so, Indian buyers could attempt to bypass US sanction by sourcing oil through middlemen, avoiding direct dealings that could draw attention and attendant sanctions. India could also leverage the existing shadow fleets to bring Russian oil covertly to its refineries. While these strategies could help maintain energy supply, they also risk provoking Trump's ire and potential sanctions.

Equally importantly, defying American sanctions, especially those imposed by a mercurial Trump may not be the smartest course of action. Pushing against Trump is akin to banging one's head against a stone wall - it is neither effective nor prudent. Even China, which has considerably more leverage over the US than India, has so far indicated it is likely to halt purchases from the sanctioned Russian firms as well.

If picking a fight with Trump makes little sense, India would be better served by adopting a pragmatic approach to its Russian oil purchases: One that is able to balance diplomatic considerations, energy needs, and economic interests without engaging in unnecessary confrontations that could harm its broader strategic goals. That is option number two. This option relates to

operating within the constraints of the Trump administration's sanctions on Russia. In geopolitics, you play with the cards you are dealt, not with the ones you wish for, which may never be made available to you.

In a world of geopolitical pragmatism, the key criterion for India's decision on buying Russian oil should not be whether it is done under US pressure or not, rather which of the available choices will deliver the maximum benefit to India. A pragmatic strategy to balance US sanctions and India's national interests would involve a series of calculated measures. Let's consider some of them.

One, New Delhi can still buy oil from non-sanctioned Russian energy companies. Besides Rosneft and Lukoil, the two sanctioned Russian oil majors, there are still other non-sanctioned entities who India can buy oil from without attracting American secondary sanctions. It's the two Russian firms that are sanctioned, not Russian oil per se. This is however easier said than done.

Two, viewing the issue of Russian oil in isolation would be short-sighted. India's decision to purchase Russian oil or not must be considered in the broader context of its ability to push back against US sanctions, the likelihood of the success of such pushback, and the impact on India's larger strategic interests vis-à-vis the US.

In other words, New Delhi must consider its broader interests vis-à-vis the US when deciding whether to abide by the American sanctions on Russia. For India, the priority is securing a favorable trade agreement with Washington and ensuring the US removes the additional 25% tariff imposed by the Trump administration

for buying Russian oil. If Delhi negotiates cleverly, a trade deal could trim the 25% tariff imposed on Indian products under Trump's first tariff decision, while ceasing Russian oil purchases might reduce to remove the additional 25% imposed later. Put differently, India should consider halting its Russian oil purchases in exchange for a favorable trade deal with the US.

New Delhi also has other medium-term interests vis-à-vis the US. While pushing back against Trump's unilateral sanctions might surely boost our national pride, tangible benefits of national pride are generally limited, and the risks far outweigh the gains. Instead, Delhi should consider offering to cease buying sanctioned Russian oil in exchange for a shift in US policy, i.e., an end to Trump's adverse geopolitical stance towards India in South Asia. India should seek US cooperation to restore a favorable regional balance of power in the Indo-Pacific, ensuring that their strategic interests are aligned in the broader regional context.

To be clear, New Delhi has limited options when it comes to defying American sanctions on Russian oil companies. So, it must make a virtue out of necessity by engaging with the Trump administration and proposing that India will comply with US sanctions in exchange for the US addressing India's key strategic interests. Geopolitics and national interests require pragmatic, realist approaches rather than efforts to massage national egos.

(Happymon Jacob is distinguished visiting professor, Shiv Nadar University, founder-director, Council for Strategic and Defense Research, and editor, INDIA'S WORLD magazine.)

# THE KERALA CENTER HONORS 7 INDIVIDUALS AT THE 2025 ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

OCTOBER 31, 2025

ELMONT, NY (TIP): Indian American Kerala Cultural and Civic Center, Inc. (The Kerala Center) celebrated its 33rd Annual Awards Dinner at the Center's auditorium in Elmont, NY on Saturday, October 25, 2025. The Center honored seven individuals who made notable contributions in their professions and to society with their selfless dedication.



Kerala Center Awardees, From l. to r.: Koshy O. Thomas, Joharath Kutty, Diya Mathew Esq., Dr. Nandini Menon, Dr. Priscilla Samuel and Jayan Varghese.

This year's honorees and their categories of recognition were: Inspector Shibu Madhu - Govt. and Public Service; Diya Mathews - Legal Service; Priscilla Samuel - Nursing; Jayan Varghese - Pravasi Malayalam Literature; Koshy O. Thomas - Community Service; Nandini Menon - Education; and Joharath Kutty - Engineering. The keynote speaker was Dr. Suresh U. Kumar.

The program commenced with introductory remarks and welcoming of the MC, Daisy Stephen Pallippambil, by G. Mathai, Trustee and Program Chairman. Following the remarks by the MC, American National anthem was sung by Bailey Stephen and Indian National Anthem by Amisha Jaimon. President Alex K. Esthappan welcomed everyone and provided a brief description of the activities and goals of the Kerala Center. New York Senator John Liu, Assemblymembers Michaelle Solages & Edward Braunstein, former Senator Kevin Thomas and Ragini Srivastava, North Hempstead Town Clerk were the dignitaries present to say felicitations and present awards.

After president's welcome, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman of the Trustee Board and Award Committee member made his remarks and introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. Suresh Kumar. In his speech Dr. Kumar talked about the concept of Indian Civilizational Intelligence that has the potential to propel India to be a number one or two economy of the world.

The Board and Award Committee chairman Dr. Madhu Bhaskaran explained the process of selecting the awardees prior to the award presentation. In addition to the Kerala Center awards, Assembly members presented their own certificates and proclamations honoring the awardees.

The award for excellence in community service went to Koshy O. Thomas. He was introduced by Samuel Joseph, youth forum secretary of the Kerala Center, and Assemblyman Braunstein presented the award in the presence of Sen. John Liu and Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages. Koshy currently serves as Special Assistant and Community Liaison to New York State Assemblyman Edward Braunstein and also serves as the Chairman of the India Day Parade Committee in Queens.

The award for excellence in Nursing leadership went to Priscilla Samuel. Priscilla was introduced by Baily Stephen, and Varkey Abraham presented the award in the presence of Assemblywoman Solages. Dr. Priscilla Samuel is a nationally recognized leader in advanced



New York State legislators with Awardee Koshy O. Thomas. From l. to r.: Assemblyman Edward Braunstein, Sen. John Liu, Koshy Thomas and Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages

practice nursing, currently serving as Vice President of Advanced Practice Nursing at the Mount Sinai Health System. With a career spanning clinical practice, academic leadership, and health system innovation, Dr. Samuel remains committed to advancing the role of nurse practitioners and shaping the future of healthcare delivery.

The award for notable contribution to Pravasi Malayalam Literature went to Jayan Varghese. He was introduced by Raju Thomas, General Secretary of Kerala Center, and Ragini Srivastava, North Hempstead Town Clerk presented the award. Jayan is the author of ten books published in various genres of literature, like poetry and drama.

The award for excellence in legal service went to Diya Mathews. Diya was introduced by Dr. Anna George, and Attorney Appen Menon, Kerala Center Trustee, presented the award. Diya is a trailblazing attorney, business leader, and community advocate whose career bridges law, entrepreneurship, and service. As Partner in Charge of Chugh LLP's New York and New Jersey offices, she leads a thriving practice focused on business immigration law and corporate compliance. She is widely recognized for her expertise in the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA). As she is admitted to practice law in both New York and India, she brings a truly global perspective to her work. She is the incoming President of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) - New Jersey Chapter.



Dancers at the Kerala Center Awards Banquet

The award for excellence in engineering went to Joharath Kutty. She was introduced by Nazeem Beena, and former Sen. Kevin Thomas presented the award. Joharath is a Senior Director of System Engineering at New York Power Authority (NYPA) with over 20 years of experience in the electric utility industry. Her career spans Power Generation & High Voltage Transmission, Substation design, Grid Modernization, Power System Operation & Control, Transmission Operations Planning, and has been involved in every aspect of transmission expansion projects. In her current role, she provides overall leadership and technical direction as "Chief Engineer", for the Long Island transmission expansion project (Propel NY Energy).



Kerala Center Awardees with Kerala Center officials and Past Awardees

The award for excellence in education went to Dr. Nandini Ambat Menon. She was introduced by Jose Stephen, Kerala Center member and NYC school teacher, and Dilip Varghese, Kerala Center Founder Grand Patron, presented the award. Nandini is the Founder and Chief Education Officer of Cedar Hill Preparatory School in Somerset, New Jersey. She also contributes to the broader education and entrepreneurial community through her service on the Board of the NJ Academy of Sciences, the Indian American Women Entrepreneur Association, and as Co-Chair of TiE NJ Next Gen and a committee member of TiE Global Next Gen.

The awardee for excellence in Govt. and public service, Inspector Shibu Madhu, could not attend the ceremony due to family emergency.



A view of the gathering in the packed room

The ceremony was attended by leaders of several community organizations including Pioneer Club, Sarga Vedi, INANY, GOPIO, FOMAA, and FOKANA. As part of the Award Ceremony, a souvenir was released by the souvenir committee that consisted of Jose Cheripuram, Jose Kadapuram and Dr. Teresa Antony, by giving a copy to Susamma Abraham, a Grand Patron of the Center.

The Kerala Center Executive and Board members Raju Thomas, Abraham Thomas, Mathew Vazhappally and John Paul coordinated the event. The MC of the program, Daisy Stephen Pallippambil, impressed everybody with her outstanding performance. Indian classical dances performed by Chandrika Kurup's Noopura School of Dance made the awards night a colorful one. Associate Secretary Mary Philip concluded the ceremony with a vote of thanks to honored guests, awardees, sponsors, photographers, audience and everyone worked so hard to make it a successful event. With dinner catered by Spice Gardens, the 2025 Award Night came to an end.

(Based on a press release issued by Dr. Thomas Abraham)

# "Wall of Unity" honoring Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel unveiled in Seattle



Unveiling ceremony of Wall of Unity as part of Ekta Diwas celebrations in Seattle

**OCTOBER 31, 2025**

**SEATTLE (TIP):** On the occasion of Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), a special wall installation honoring the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was unveiled today at the new Chancery premises of the Indian Consulate in Seattle.

The special installation features a scenic pictorial view of the world's tallest statue, set against the backdrop of the Narmada River Valley in Kevadia, Gujarat. In addition to sending a strong message of



Participants at the unveiling ceremony of Wall of Unity as part of Ekta Diwas celebrations in Seattle

India's strength of unity in diversity, the "Wall of Unity" installation is also expected to promote India's tourism potential, especially in Kevadia, Gujarat amongst travelers from US Pacific Northwest. Measuring 30 feet by 14 feet, and located inside the visitors / public dealing area, it is placed next to an exhibit that showcases "One District One Product (ODOP)" products from all 28 States of India, welcoming visitors to the Consulate, with a wholesome experience of India's tourism and cultural diversity.



Consulate officials take a Pledge as part of Ekta Diwas celebrations in Seattle

The recently opened Consulate's multipurpose hall facility, draws a monthly footfall of nearly 200 visitors per month, including local dignitaries, community organizations, business leaders, consular applicants, along with members of the Indian American community. As part of the unveiling ceremony, the Wall of Unity was opened today for public viewing.

Consul General also administered the "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge" to all officials attending the unveiling ceremony.

(Based on a press release issued by Soumith Raju K. Consul (Press, Information & Culture), +1 (206) 412-0448, pic.seattle@mea.gov.in)

## Foundation of Indian Americans (FIA) New England Donates Massive Food Supply to Newton Food Pantry in Collaboration with UIANE



Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller and children lead the ribbon cutting ceremony for Newton Food Pantry

**OCTOBER 26, 2025**

**NEWTON, MA (TIP):** In a remarkable act of community service and generosity, the Foundation of Indian Americans (FIA) - New England donated a large quantity of non-perishable food items to the Newton Food Pantry this October 26th.

The event featured a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended shutdown when Ruthanne Fuller, who praised FIA New England and the Indian-American community for their dedication to supporting local families and addressing food insecurity - especially during the ongoing government shutdown, when many were concerned about SNAP program funding.

Representing the Newton Food Pantry, Mr. Sean from the pantry administration graciously accepted the donation and emphasized its significant impact on local residents in need.

The ceremony was also graced by several distinguished guests and community leaders, including UIANE Past President Dr. Neela Gandhi, UIANE President Aanch Jain, Dr. Chander Kapasi, Businessman Vijay Salhi, FIA Board of Directors Member Jyoti Singh, Saheli Vice President Aditi Soni, Rakesh



Food Donation Drive

Soni, Ravi and Sudha Sarin, Jitendra Sharma, Dolly, and Anita Khetarpal. Their presence underscored the spirit of unity and collaboration that thrives within the Indian-American community.

This successful initiative was made possible through the unwavering commitment and teamwork of the FIA Executive Team. Special appreciation goes to FIA Vice Presidents Rakesh & Deepti Kavarsi, Amol Penshanwar, Santosh Thawani, Hiten Bhawsar, Mohan Krishna Sonti, Devesh Singh Raghwanishi, and Rakesh Soni, who played vital roles in organizing, collecting, and delivering the donations - many while balancing family and professional responsibilities.

The food drive was organized in conjunction with UIANE's Diwali Celebration, transforming the Festival of Lights into a Festival of Giving.

"We are immensely proud of our volunteers and supporters," said FIA President Abhishek Singh. "Their selfless dedication - spending weekdays and weekends collecting, loading, and delivering food - truly reflects the spirit of service and compassion that defines our community."

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

## Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson Hosts Grand Diwali Celebration at City Hall



Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and India's Consul General in Chicago, Somnath Ghosh with others lighting the lamp

**OCTOBER 30, 2025**

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** In the heart of the Windy City, where steel skyscrapers pierce the autumn sky like defiant sentinels, a different kind of light pierced through on October 20, 2025. At Chicago City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle Street, the grand Diwali Festival of Light Reception unfolded like a living tapestry, weaving tradition, triumph, and togetherness. Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, in partnership with the Indian American Business Council, hosted a grand Diwali Celebration Reception at City Hall. The event, illuminated by glowing lamps, vibrant hues, and harmonious melodies, affirmed amid global divisions that Diwali's enduring light prevails over darkness.

The festivities opened with a traditional Lamp Lighting Ceremony, embodying Diwali's spirit. Ajeet Singh, President of the Indian American Business Council, led the rite, joined by Mayor Johnson; Consul General of India Somnath Ghosh; City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Irvin; Alderwoman Shweta Baid of Aurora; Alderman David Moore; and community leaders Neil Khot, Sunil Shah, Harish Kolasani, Ganesh Kar, Harry Mohan, and Keerthi Ravoori.

The evening escalated into vibrant



Mayor Johnson with the young performers



Mayor Johnson was presented a bust of the Buddha

energy through music and interactive dance, guided by Ajanta Chakraborty and her team, diverging from tradition to foster communal exuberance.

In his address, Mayor Johnson stated, "As long as I'm mayor, we will always host the Diwali celebration at City Hall." This commitment underscores a vision for a city shaped by immigrants, dreamers, and innovators worldwide. He praised Chicago's diversity as a global strength and lauded Indian Americans' contributions to its essence. "Now more than ever, we require peace and joy" to establish Chicago as a beacon of inclusion, prosperity, and dignity.

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

# Indian Parliamentary Delegation Engages with Indian Diaspora at the Consulate

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

## A CROSS-PARTY REPRESENTATION FROM INDIA

The delegation accompanying Purandeswari included Rekha Sharma, Dilip Saikia, Bhola Singh, and Saumitra Khan from the BJP; Sandeep Pathak from the Aam Aadmi Party; P. Wilson and Thamizhachi Thangapandian from the DMK; G.K. Vasan from the Tamil Maanila Congress; Sajda Ahmed from the Trinamool Congress; Indra Hang Subba from the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha; and Joyanta Basumatary from the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL).

The multi-party delegation is currently in New York to participate in the ongoing United Nations General Assembly session, where they are articulating India's positions in various committees and engaging with UN officials and diplomats. This is the second such group of Indian MPs to attend this year's UNGA session.

## DIASPORA'S GROWING GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

In his welcome remarks, Consul General Pradhan highlighted the strength and influence of the Indian-American community, which now numbers 2.4 million in the U.S. - the largest Indian diaspora anywhere in the world.

He shared that Indian-Americans contribute 6% of total U.S. taxes, lead several Fortune 500 companies, and hold 10% of all U.S. patents. The community includes over 22,000 faculty members teaching in top universities across the country.

On the cultural front, Pradhan noted that Indian-Americans have inspired 10% of Americans to practice yoga, with 36,000 yoga studios and 2,200 Ayurveda clinics now operating nationwide. In 2024, the diaspora's philanthropic contributions



Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan in his welcome address apprised the delegation members of the tremendous contribution the Indian Diaspora is making in the US



Parliamentary delegation leader Daggubati Purandeswari spoke highly of the Indian Diaspora



The Delegation members with the Diaspora members for a photo session at the Consulate on October 30, 2025

-Photos / Ashish Chandratreya



A view of the gathering at the Consulate to interact with the delegation

topped \$1.5 billion, underscoring their growing social impact.

"The U.S. remains India's largest trade partner and investor," Pradhan added, citing the \$212 billion bilateral trade recorded last year as evidence of deepening economic ties.

## BUILDING BRIDGES FOR INDIA'S FUTURE

During the session, MPs acknowledged the diaspora's multifaceted contributions

in education, technology, healthcare, and entrepreneurship. They urged Indian-Americans to continue acting as cultural ambassadors and economic partners in India's growth story.

Daggubati Purandeswari emphasized that India is moving steadily toward its goal of becoming the third-largest economy by 2047, the centenary of independence, and that the diaspora's engagement will play a critical role in achieving that vision.

Lawmakers also touched upon domestic challenges such as drug addiction in Punjab, assuring the audience that the government is implementing targeted measures and collaborating with state authorities to address the issue comprehensively.

## A SHARED VISION

Several participants described the evening as both inspiring and thought-provoking. The MPs and diaspora members exchanged views on how to strengthen educational linkages, attract investment in India's innovation sectors, and promote youth exchanges to deepen mutual understanding between the two nations.

The meeting concluded with a shared call for unity - encouraging the Indian diaspora to remain deeply rooted in their culture and traditions while continuing to contribute to India's development and to the prosperity of their adopted homeland.

As Consul General Pradhan aptly summed up, "The Indian diaspora is not just India's pride abroad - it is India's bridge to the world."

## Diwali Mela 2025 Illuminates Hicksville with Joy, Culture, and Community Spirit



Enthusiastic crowds at the Mela



Dandiya performance by young girls



Mr. Harry Malhotra, Director South Asian Business & Development - Town of Oyster Bay, presented on behalf of the Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino, a citation to the organizers

OCTOBER 30, 2025

**HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP):** The 21st Annual Asamai Diwali Mela, held across from the Asamai Hindu Temple in Hicksville, Long Island, was a resounding success, drawing an enthusiastic crowd of over 1,500 attendees.

This grand celebration of light, unity, and cultural heritage transformed the outdoor venue into a vibrant tapestry of devotion, festivity, and community pride.

From the moment the festivities began, the atmosphere was electric with joy and reverence.

The event, organized by the dedicated Board of Directors of Asamai Mandir and the Diwali Mela Working Committee, showcased the strength and spirit of our community through a day filled with performances, honors, and heartfelt connections.

**CAPTIVATING STAGE PERFORMANCES :** The stage was a centerpiece of the celebration, brought to life by the incredible talents of Asamai School students and local cultural groups. Each performance was met with resounding applause, reflecting the audience's admiration for the dedication and artistry of our youth. Their vibrant expressions of tradition and creativity were a true highlight of the day.

**RECOGNITION AND HONORS :** In a moment of great pride, the Mela received official citations and awards from the offices of Congressman Tom Suozzi, Senator Charles Schumer, and Legislator Steve Rhoads. These honors recognized the outstanding contributions of our students, founding members, and management team in fostering cultural enrichment and community engagement.

# Canada to issue a special commemorative stamp on World War I and the Quebec connections to the Canadian Sikh Soldiers



--->By Prabhjot Singh

The country has earlier issued two stamps in the honor of Sikhs - one on the 300th anniversary of Baisakhi in 1999 and another to mark the 100th anniversary of the Komagata Maru incident



It has been for more than a century that Sikhs have remained associated with the Canadian defense forces.

Photo credit/ GhaintPunjab

Now when Canada is holding Remembrance Day events that coincide with the two World Wars, Montreal-based businessman-cum-historian Baljit Singh Chadha has recalled the contribution of two of the 10 known Sikhs who served Canada in World War I.

To commemorate the occasion, Canada Post has decided to come out with a special theme stamp honoring Sikh Canadian soldiers.

The special stamp will be unveiled to the general public at the 18th annual Sikh Remembrance Day ceremony hosted by the Sikh community on November 2.

This stamp is to commemorate and honor Sikh soldiers who have remained part of the Canadian military for over 100 years, including 10 Sikh soldiers who were enlisted for the World War I.

"Of the 10 known Sikhs who enlisted in the Canadian army and served Canada in World War I," says Baljit Singh Chadha by quoting from his book "History of the Sikhs in Quebec", that there are significant connections to Quebec for at least two of them, Sunta Gouger Singh and Waryam Singh.

"Most of the others would also have likely undergone training at Camp Valcartier in Quebec.

"Sunta Gouger Singh, born in Lahore, Punjab, in 1881, enlisted at the Peel Street Barracks in Montreal on January 6, 1915, at the age of 32. His father and wife lived in Phillaur, Punjab, India. He had served for three years in the 32nd Punjab Rifles of the Indian Army. He joined the 24th Battalion (the Quebec Regiment) and sailed from Montreal to England on the S.S. Cameronia in May 1915. The battalion arrived in Boulogne, France in September 1915.

"Sunta Gouger Singh was killed in action early in the war, on October 19, 1915, in the trenches near Kemmel, Belgium, just south of Ypres. At the time of his death, the battalion working parties were in the front-line trenches day and night, under heavy artillery bombardment. Gouger Singh's gravestone is in the La Laterite Military Cemetery, near Kemmel. His grave is among those of 197 other Canadians, all from three infantry battalions, all buried together.

"Strangely, Gouger Singh's gravestone does not have the expected Canadian Maple Leaf, though his

Canadian Battalion number is noted. The inscription is very unusual for a Canadian gravestone. The script is in the Gurmukhi language and reads: "God is one" and "Victory is to God." There is no cross on the stone.

While talking about second Sikh soldier Waryam Singh, Baljit Singh Chadha writes in his book that "the Quebec Chronicle of December 31, 1917, records that the first passengers to use the new Quebec Bridge were some three hundred returned soldiers who had disembarked at St. John. Among them was Waryam Singh.

"The Gazette reported that they "were brought directly through to the local discharge depot by special train which passed over the recently completed structure." (The Gazette, January 1, 1918).

"Along with 54 other wounded Canadians, Singh travelled across Canada by train, on the Imperial Limited, arriving in Vancouver on January 6, 1918. The Vancouver Daily World (7 January 1918) describes the "Royal Reception" these men were given across Canada: "The men enjoyed a most lavish welcome from the citizens all along the route from the east. At Quebec, Kenora, Calgary, Field and other places the patriotic and appreciative people turned out in crowds and showered the wounded and crippled men with gifts of all kinds." (So far, no further reference to the reception at Quebec has been found.) Waryam was discharged in Vancouver in March 1918, still with impaired functioning of his shoulder (Gray 2014).

"Waryam Singh enlisted in Barriesfield, Ontario in May 1915 and served in the 59th and 38th Battalions (Eastern Ontario Regiment). He served in Canada for 5 months, in Bermuda for 10 months, and England for 2 months before arriving in France in August 1916.

He wrote letters home from France to India in 1916, describing both military action and more personal aspects of the war. Two letters describe events during the Battle of the Somme. In one of the letters to his father Wazir Singh in Kapurthala, India, in November 1916, Waryam wrote:

"On the 4th of November there was a big fight, and much hand-to-hand fighting took place and many prisoners were taken... When we took the trenches some of the enemy escaped and some were taken. The dead were countless. The bravery which we showed that day was the admiration of the British soldiers. After the fight they asked me how it was that I was so utterly regardless of danger."

His battalion later moved north to take part in the capture of Vimy Ridge. There, in late April 1917, Waryam Singh was wounded in the shoulder. He remained on duty despite his wound, but then he also got "trench fever" and pneumonia and spent almost eight months in hospitals in France and England. He also underwent an operation on his shoulder because the wound had not healed, and a piece of shrapnel had to be removed. Waryam Singh was invalided to Canada and travelled on the hospital ship Braemar Castle to St. John, New Brunswick, in late December 1917, adds Baljit Singh Chadha.

(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.)



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## Former cricketer Azhar sworn in Telangana minister

Former Indian cricket captain Mohammad Azharuddin was sworn in as a minister in Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy's cabinet on Friday.

In a simple function held at Raj Bhavan, Governor Jishnu Dev Verma administered the oaths to the former Indian skipper in the presence of important leaders, including the CM.

Talking to reporters after the swearing-in ceremony, Azharuddin thanked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, senior party leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and K C Venugopal for making him a minister.

"I am glad. I thank the high command. My supporters," he said.

With the inclusion of Azharuddin, the total strength of the cabinet rose to 16, with room for two more. As per the Assembly strength, Telangana can have 18 ministers.

The former cricketer's appointment to the ministry is seen as a crucial step as the Congress party has been fighting tooth and nail in the Jubilee Hills bypoll, where over a lakh Muslim voters could play a decisive role.

The bypoll is necessitated due to the death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath in June this year, following a heart attack. Azharuddin was nominated as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) under the Governor's quota by the Telangana government in August last week. However, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma is yet to clear the appointment.

Azharuddin unsuccessfully contested from the Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency in the 2023 polls.

There has been a request from the Telangana Congress to the senior party leadership to make Azharuddin a minister, as there was no representation for minority communities in the state cabinet.

AICC also approved Azharuddin's name, Congress sources had earlier said. Another Congress leader said the AICC may have shown inclination towards Azharuddin's induction into the Cabinet in view of the upcoming Assembly polls in Bihar, where there is a large chunk of Muslim voters.

Asked on BJP's charge that he was inducted as a minister just ahead of the Jubilee Hills Assembly bypoll, Azharuddin said elections and making a minister are two separate things. He said it (making him minister) is the government's prerogative.

# Bihar polls: NDA manifesto focuses on jobs, edu, healthcare, women

PATNA (TIP)

The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Friday, Oct 31, released its 'Sankalp Patra' (manifesto) for the Bihar assembly election, with a focus on creating 10 million jobs, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and women empowerment.

The manifesto pledges Rs10 lakh financial assistance to those from the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), constituting 36% of the population, for business and entrepreneurship, and the constitution of a high-power commission to study their socio-economic conditions for their empowerment. It promises Rs 2,000 monthly to Scheduled Caste students enrolled in higher education and a venture fund for entrepreneurship.

The manifesto pledges Rs4 lakh insurance cover and collateral-free vehicle loan at a minimum interest rate for gig workers, auto-rickshaw, and e-rickshaw drivers. It promises collateral-free loans for green homestays.

Chief minister Nitish Kumar, Union minister and BJP chief JP Nadda, and other leaders of alliance parties released the manifesto.

On October 28, the Opposition bloc released its 32-page manifesto 'Bihar ka Tejashwi Pran', promising a government job to one member of every household, Rs 2,500 monthly to women under the 'Mai Bahin Yojana', minimum support price (MSP) for all crops, restoration of the old pension scheme for government employees, and 200 units of free power.

The NDA manifesto also promises MSP guarantee to ensure the right price for every crop to farmers at the



Chief minister Nitish Kumar, Union minister and BJP chief JP Nadda, and other leaders of alliance parties released the manifesto. (PTI)

panchayat level, doubling of agricultural export and self-reliance in pulses, Rs 1 lakh crore investment in agriculture infrastructure, and Rs 1 lakh crore for the 'Developed Bihar Industrial Mission'.

It promises flood-free Bihar in five years through the 'flood to fortune' model involving inter-linking of rivers and by setting up the Flood Management Board.

The manifesto talks about plans to develop 10 new industrial parks and five mega food parks, development of manufacturing units in every district to boost local employment to check migration, and create an ecosystem to prepare Bihar for the new-age economy so that it could be a global workplace and back-end hub, attracting

investment. The manifesto proposes developing Bihar as a tech hub of eastern India with the establishment of defence corridor, a semiconductor manufacturing park, global capability centres, a mega tech city, a fintech city, and the development of a network of 100 micro, small, and medium industries parks and 50,000 cottage industries.

For the poor, it has five guarantees including 125 units of free electricity, free medical treatment up to Rs 5 lakh, 50 lakh new houses, and a social security pension. It pledges to continue with a 5 kg free ration. It lays out plans for the construction of seven expressways, modernisation of 3,600 km of railway tracks in the state, expansion of Amrit Bharat Express trains, and Nammo rapid rail services. *Source: HT*

## Punjab Governor sanctions prosecution of Bikram Singh Majithia in corruption case

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

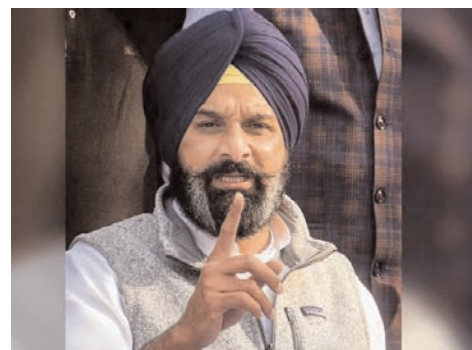
Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria has granted sanction to prosecute former Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) minister Bikram Singh Majithia in a corruption case filed by the state Vigilance Bureau.

The approval, issued under Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, follows a recommendation made by the Punjab cabinet on September 8.

The case accuses Majithia of possessing assets worth over Rs700 crore, disproportionate to his declared income by around 1,200%, allegedly acquired through the laundering of Rs 540 crore linked to a 2013 drug trafficking network.

Government sources have confirmed the development.

Majithia, a three-time MLA from



Majithia, was arrested on June 25 after early-morning raids at his Amritsar residence and 25 other locations. The Vigilance Bureau seized digital devices, property documents, and financial records during the operation. A Mohali court placed him in seven days of police custody on June 26, later extended by four days. He was sent to judicial custody on July 6.

The bureau filed a detailed chargesheet on August 22, supported by over 40,000 pages of evidence and statements from more than 200 witnesses. The investigation stems from a 2013 Enforcement Directorate probe into a Rs 6,000-crore synthetic drug racket led by ex-DSP Jagdish Singh Bhola, who allegedly named Majithia during questioning. Though earlier drug-related charges were dropped by the courts, the current case focuses on corruption and money laundering. Majithia has rejected the allegations as politically motivated.

His regular bail was denied in August, though he secured interim relief from the Punjab and Haryana High Court in September. The trial is set to proceed in a Mohali sessions court.

*Source: The Tribune*

## Lucknow named UNESCO 'Creative City of Gastronomy'

Lucknow has been added to UNESCO's "creative cities" in the "Gastronomy" category for its rich and diverse culinary heritage.

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay has designated 58 cities as new members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Creative Cities Network, which now includes 408 cities across more than 100 countries.

Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, has been recognised in the category of "Gastronomy".

"Proud Moment for India. Lucknow's rich culinary heritage now recognised on the global stage!" Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO said in a social media post on Friday.

"On World Cities Day 2025 (30 Oct), Lucknow has been designated a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, joining 58 new cities included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). The UCCN, which now has 408 cities across 100+ countries, promotes creativity and culture as key drivers of sustainable urban development," it said. Lucknow is renowned for its rich and traditional gourmet food, from the popular street food 'chaat' to Awadhi cuisine and delectable desserts.

The recognition, announced on World Cities Day, honours cities for their "commitment to championing creativity as a driver of sustainable urban development" as they bring their proven expertise in building resilient and vibrant communities.

"UNESCO Creative Cities demonstrate that culture and creative industries can be concrete drivers of development. By welcoming 58 new cities, we are strengthening a Network where creativity supports local initiatives, attracts investment and promotes social cohesion," Azoulay said.

Established in 2004, the UCCN aims to foster cooperation among cities that leverage culture and creativity to promote inclusive and sustainable growth. It supports initiatives that generate employment, enhance cultural vitality and strengthen social cohesion.

UCCN encourages cooperation between cities, the sharing of experiences and the pooling of solutions and allows members to inspire each other and strengthen the economic, social and environmental impact of their cultural policies. UNESCO said the newly designated creative cities—ranging from Kisumu (Kenya) and New Orleans (US) for Music, to Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) for Design, Matosinhos (Portugal) and Cuenca (Ecuador) for Gastronomy, Giza (Egypt) for Film, Rovaniemi (Finland) for Architecture, Malang (Indonesia) for Media Arts, and Aberystwyth (UK) for Literature—exemplify how local creativity promotes a distinct cultural expertise, rooted in its territory and generating social cohesion and economic dynamism.

## Slugfest over Patel's legacy: Kharge seeks ban on RSS, PM fires Kashmir salvo at Congress

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Parties across the political spectrum staked claim to the legacy of independent India's first deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on his 150th birth anniversary on Friday, Oct 31.

At a media conference to mark the occasion, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said: "The Central Civil Services Conduct Rules of 1964 prohibited government employees from associating with political organisations like the RSS and the Jamaat-e-Islami.... It was imposed during the time of Vallabhbhai Patel.... And on July 9, 2024, the Modi government lifted this 58-year-old ban."

When asked if he wanted a ban on the RSS, the ideological fountainhead of the BJP, Kharge replied: "This is my personal opinion, and I will say it openly. It (the ban) should be implemented because these are the things that Vallabhbhai Patel put before us, and if the PM and (home minister Amit) Shah give it due respect, then it should happen.

"Because whatever disturbances are happening in the country today, and whatever law and order problems are being created in the country, it's all because of the BJP and RSS," he said.

Kharge read out letters of Patel in which he noted the "joy expressed and the sweets distributed by RSS members on the death of Gandhiji" and that "the speeches of the leading figures of the Sangh are full of the poison of communalism".

"Recently, excerpts related to Gandhi, Gode and the RSS, as well as the 2002 Gujarat riots, have been removed from three NCERT textbooks.... And they have attempted to erase these facts, and they always keep doing this to transform lies into truth. "Our country's Prime



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Minister is an expert at this.... And the ban that Sardar Patel imposed on the RSS was to protect the secular and democratic nature of India," Kharge said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi invoked Patel to link him with Kashmir.

In his speech at the Rashtriya Ekta Divas celebrations at Patel's Statue of Unity near Gujarat's Kevadia, Modi said: "Friends, Sardar Patel placed the sovereignty of the country above everything else. But unfortunately, in the years following Sardar Patel's death, the governments of that time did not show the same seriousness regarding the country's sovereignty....

"Sardar Patel wanted, just as he had integrated the other princely states, for the entire Kashmir to be integrated. But Nehru did not allow his wish to be fulfilled. Kashmir was divided with a separate Constitution and a separate flag," he said. Patel's descendants also attended the event.

In 2019, after Jammu and Kashmir's special status was scrapped, historian Srinath Raghavan had told The Telegraph that the first meeting on the drafting of Article 370 took place on May 15 and 16, 1949, at Patel's residence in Nehru's presence.

When minister N.G. Ayyangar, who carried out the negotiations with then Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah, prepared a draft letter from Nehru to Abdullah summarising the contours of the agreement, he sent it to Patel with a note: "Will you kindly let Jawaharlalji know directly as to your approval of it? He will issue the letter to Sheikh Abdullah only after receiving your approval."

Samajwadi Party leader Akhilesh Yadav, too, demanded a ban on the RSS. He told reporters in Lucknow: "The BJP should remember that its parent party, that organisation was banned by Sardar Patel, and today the need is that someone become a Sardar Patel in this country and ban this ideology again."

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra said: "Be it Covid, earthquake, flood, or any disaster, it's Sangh volunteers who extend help. Many tall leaders have commended the RSS for its work. Mahatma Gandhi once said he was surprised by the discipline and absence of untouchability in the RSS camp, and Dr B.R. Ambedkar too appreciated that there was no difference between upper and lower castes there."

Source: The Telegraph

## Kerala Declared India's First Extreme Poverty-Free State by CM Pinarayi Vijayan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (TIP)

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday, Nov 1, announced in the state assembly that Kerala has officially become free from extreme poverty. The declaration was made during a special session held to celebrate Kerala Piravi, the state's formation day. "Today's Kerala Piravi marks a place in history because we have succeeded in making Kerala the first Indian state without extreme poverty. This Legislative Assembly has witnessed many historic laws and policy declarations. The Assembly now meets at a moment that marks yet another milestone in the creation of a Nava Kerala," he said.

The Chief Minister said the eradication



of extreme poverty was one of the key decisions taken at the first cabinet meeting after the new ministry was sworn in in 2021. "It was also the beginning of fulfilling one of the most important promises made to the people during the Legislative Assembly election," he added.

However, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) strongly opposed

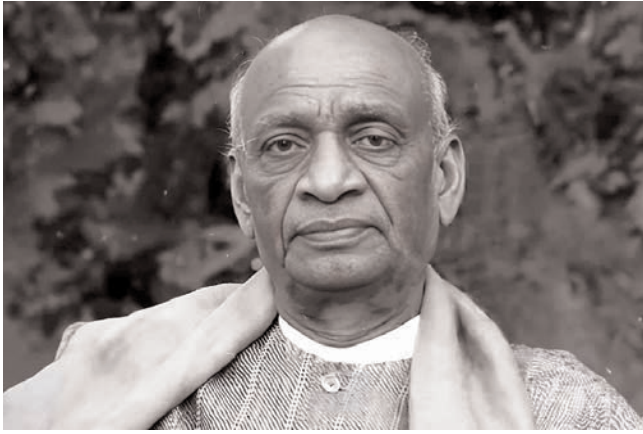
the claim, calling it "a complete fraud," and boycotted the session in protest. As the session began, Leader of the Opposition V. D. Satheesan criticised the chief minister's statement, saying it violated assembly rules under Rule 300. "We cannot be part of this. We are completely boycotting the session," he said before walking out with other opposition members, who shouted slogans calling the government's claim "fraudulent" and "shameful."

Responding to the criticism, CM Vijayan said the opposition's reaction reflected their own mindset. "We only make promises that we can fulfil, and we have done what we said we would do. That is our answer to the opposition," he told the House.

# India in history this Week

## OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 6

### 31 OCTOBER



1875 The freedom fighter of India and the first Home Minister of independent India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was born

1984 The then Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi was shot dead by her bodyguards.

1966 India's famous swimmer Mihir Sen floated and crossed the Panama Canal.

1943 Indian scientist and former chairman of 'ISRO' G. Madhavan Nair was born.

1960 The cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal killed about 10,000 people.



1975 Sachin Dev Burman, a famous musician and singer of Bengali and Hindi cinema, passed away.

### 01 NOVEMBER

1950 The first steam engine in India was built at the Chittaranjan Rail factory.



1984 After the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, anti-Sikh riots broke out in the country.

1858 The rule of India went from the East India Company to the ruler of Britain and now the Viceroy was appointed to replace the Governor General.

1956 The state of Madhya Pradesh was formed on

the basis of language.

1956 The capital of the country, Delhi became a union territory.

1960 Kalyani University was established in West Bengal India.

1966 The state of Haryana was carved out of Punjab.

1973 The name of Mysore was changed to Karnataka.

2000 The state of Chhattisgarh was formed.

### 02 NOVEMBER

1833 Mahendra Lal Sarkar, the First Homeopathic Practitioner in India, was born.

1834 The ship named Atlas had reached Mauritius with Indian laborers. Which is celebrated as immigrant day there.



1534 The fourth Sikh Guru Ramdas was born.

2012 Indian-American mathematician Shriram Shankar Abhyankar died.



### 03 NOVEMBER

1917 Annapurna Maharana, a freedom fighter and advocate for women's rights, was born.



1933 Economist and Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen was born in Birbhum district of West Bengal.

1948 The then Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru gave his first speech at the United Nations General Assembly.

2000 Direct to home broadcasting service launched for all by the Government of India.

### 04 NOVEMBER

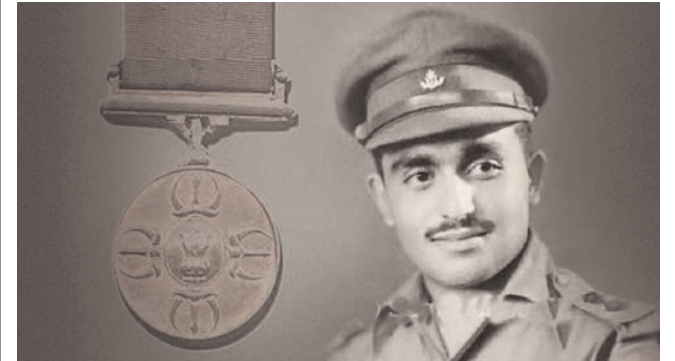


1936 Birth of eminent mathematician Shakuntala Devi.

1970 Famous Kathak dancer Pandit Shambhu Maharaj passed away.

1822 Formal launch of water supply scheme in Delhi.

1947 Major Somnath Sharma of Budgaon, Kashmir received the first Paramveer Chakra. However, he was given this honor posthumously.



1954 The Institute of Himalayan Mountaineering was established in Darjeeling.

1984 OB Aggarwal became world champion of amateur snooker.

1997 In Siachen base camp, the army off-signal gave the highest STD in the world. Booth set up.

1845 The famous revolutionary of India, Vasudev Balwant Phadke was born.

### 05 NOVEMBER

1556 In the second battle of Panipat, the Mughal ruler Akbar defeated Hemu.

1920 Indian Red Cross Society was established.

1961 India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru visited New York.

2001 India and Russia rejected the Taliban's participation in the Afghan government.

1870 The great freedom fighter Chittaranjan Das was born.

### 06 NOVEMBER

1763 The British army defeated Meerkasim and captured Patna.

1913 Mahatma Gandhi led 'The Great March' against apartheid policies in South Africa.

1998 India's proposal for ceasefire in Siachen rejected

1943 During the Second World War, Japan handed over Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

1962 National Defense Council was established.

2000 Jyoti Basu stepped down after being Chief Minister of West Bengal for 23 consecutive years.



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**HEALTH IS WEALTH**

# Guru Nanak: The Light of Oneness

**Guru Nanak Jayanti, also known as Gurburb or Prakash Utsav, is one of the most sacred festivals in Sikhism. The day marks the birth anniversary of the first Sikh master, Guru Nanak. The 556th anniversary of the first Sikh master will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 5, this year. THE INDIAN PANORAMA wishes its readers happy Gurburb.**

In a small village called Talwandi, nestled along the banks of the River Ravi in 1469, a child was born whose light would one day transcend borders, religions, and centuries. That child - Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism - came into a world fragmented by caste, creed, and inequality. Yet, through his words and actions, he offered a message that remains timeless: "There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim - there is only the One Divine Light that dwells in all."

## The Boy Who Questioned the World

From a young age, Nanak was unlike other children. While his peers were preoccupied with play, Nanak's gaze often turned inward - to wonder, to question, and to understand the mysteries of life. At the village school, when his teacher asked him to recite the alphabet, Nanak asked profound questions that left his elders astonished. "What is the meaning of each letter?" he asked. "If every sound comes from the Divine, then shouldn't every letter point toward Him?" His teacher, struck by the depth of this young boy's inquiry, realized that Nanak's learning was not of books alone - it was the intuitive knowledge of truth itself.

Another well-known childhood episode tells of the day Nanak's father gave him money to do business. "Go and strike a good bargain," he said, hoping to train his son in worldly affairs. But Nanak, walking through the marketplace, came upon a group of hungry sadhus. Without hesitation, he spent the money on food for them, saying, "This is the true business - the business of compassion." When questioned by his father, he calmly replied, "This was the most profitable deal, for it brought joy to others."

In yet another tale, Nanak's innate empathy shines through. As a child, he once refused to partake in a ritual feast, seeing it as an act of vanity rather than devotion. Instead, he insisted that worship should be expressed through kindness, not ritual - through serving humanity, not through empty ceremony. These moments from his youth revealed the quiet defiance of a boy who sought meaning beyond custom, and whose heart beat in rhythm with the Divine.

## The Revelation at Sultanpur

Years later, as an adult working as a storekeeper in Sultanpur Lodhi, Nanak's life took a mystical turn. One morning, after his habitual bath in the river Bein, he disappeared for three days. The townspeople believed he had drowned. But when he returned, radiant and silent, he uttered the words that would define his mission:

*"Na koi Hindu, na Musalman - There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim."*

This was not a denial of faiths, but a proclamation of oneness - that beneath



names and divisions, all souls are part of the same divine essence. From that moment, Nanak devoted his life to spreading the message of truth (Sat), unity (Ik Onkar), and selfless service (Seva).

## The Journey of a Saint

For the next three decades, Guru Nanak traveled far and wide - across India, Tibet, Arabia, and Persia - engaging with kings and peasants, saints and skeptics. His travels, known as Udasis, were more than pilgrimages; they were dialogues of understanding. He sang hymns of divine love accompanied by his faithful companion, Bhai Mardana, whose rebab turned each verse into a bridge between hearts.

Wherever he went, he denounced superstition, inequality, and exploitation. He emphasized that God is not found in temples or mosques, but in the heart that is pure and compassionate. His words, later compiled in the Guru Granth Sahib, carried the fragrance of simplicity and universal wisdom.

## The Light of Gurburb

Every year, on Guru Nanak Gurburb, Sikhs and devotees around the world celebrate the birth of this eternal light. Gurdwaras are illuminated with lamps, hymns of Shabad Kirtan echo through the night, and Langar - the free community kitchen - serves all, regardless of status. It is a living expression of Nanak's message: that serving humanity is serving God.

In Punjab and across the globe, processions carrying the Palki Sahib (palanquin) of the Guru Granth Sahib

move through streets adorned with flowers, as devotees sing the Asa di Vaar and recall his teachings. Yet, beyond the festivity, the essence of Gurburb is deeply spiritual - it is an invitation to rediscover the same light that shone in Nanak's heart within ourselves.

## The Eternal Message

Guru Nanak did not seek followers; he sought awakened souls. His message - of love without condition, faith without fear, and truth without boundaries - remains as relevant today as it was five centuries ago.

In an age divided by ideology and identity, Guru Nanak's voice still whispers across time:

*"Recognize all humanity as one. Walk in humility, speak in kindness, and see God in every face."*

His life reminds us that the truest worship is not in grand rituals or doctrines, but in the quiet compassion we extend toward one another. In that sense, Guru Nanak was not just the founder of a faith - he was the eternal child who questioned the world, and in doing so, illuminated it.

## Contributions to Humanity

Guru Nanak's preaching came at a time when there were conflicts between various religions. Mankind was so intoxicated with pride and ego that people had started fighting against each other in the name of God and religion. Hence, Guru Nanak began his teachings by saying that there are no Hindus and no Muslims. This implies the fact that God is one and that He is only seen differently through various religions.

Guru Nanak's teachings, although not intended, contributed to the unity of Hindus and Muslims to an extent. He also emphasized on the importance of equality of mankind. He condemned slavery and racial discrimination and said that all are equal.

Guru Nanak is one of the most important religious figures to have contributed to women empowerment in India. Guru Nanak appealed to his followers to respect women and to treat them as their equal. He said a man is always bound to women and that without women there would be no creation on earth. He also restored the faith in God by saying that the Creator is deeply involved in what man is trying to achieve on earth. While most of the major religions including the sects of Hinduism and Buddhism advocated monasticism in order to achieve salvation, Guru Nanak came up with a religion that supports the lifestyle of an average householder. Most importantly, he also taught his followers the methods to attain salvation while leading a normal life within the society. He, in fact, stressed on the importance of leading life with one's family members. Not only did he teach his ideals, but he also served as a living example. When Guru Nanak left for the heavenly abode, nine other Gurus followed his teachings and continued to spread his message.

## Death

According to the legend, when Guru Nanak approached his final few days, a debate between Hindus, Muslims, and the Sikhs arose as to who should be given the honor to perform the last rites. While Hindus and Sikhs wanted to cremate the mortal remains of their Guru as per their custom, the Muslims wanted to perform the last rites according to their beliefs. When the debate failed to conclude amicably, they decided to ask Guru Nanak himself as to what needs to be done. When they all approached him, Guru Nanak asked them to bring flowers and lay them next to his mortal remains. He asked the Hindus and the Sikhs to place their flowers on the right side of his body and the Muslims to place theirs on the left. He said that the honor of performing the last rites would go to the party whose flowers remain fresh for a night. When Guru Nanak breathed his last, the religious communities followed his instructions. When they came back the next morning to see whose flowers remained fresh, they were surprised to see that none of the flowers had wilted, but the biggest surprise was that Guru Nanak's mortal remains had disappeared and all they could see in place of his body were fresh flowers. It is said that the Hindus and the Sikhs picked up their flowers and buried it, while the Muslims did the same with their flowers.

# The river that changed everything

## THE AWAKENING OF GURU NANAK AT SULTANPUR LODHI

In the tranquil town of Sultanpur Lodhi, where the Kali Bein flows like a silver thread through the Punjab plains, a miracle unfolded that changed the spiritual landscape of India forever. The year was around 1499. Guru Nanak, then a humble storekeeper in the service of the local governor, had already begun to stand apart from his contemporaries - his heart restless, his spirit drawn to the eternal questions of existence.

Every dawn, he would walk to the riverbank, bathe in the calm waters, and lose himself in meditation. But one morning, as the mists hung low over the river and the world was still half asleep, Nanak entered the River Bein - and did not return.

For three days, Sultanpur was in turmoil. Some believed he had drowned; others said he had vanished into the Divine. But on the third day, as the sun rose above the shimmering water, Nanak emerged - radiant, silent, and transformed. His face glowed with a serenity that transcended the human realm. When he finally spoke, his first words were destined to echo through centuries:

*"Na koi Hindu, na Musalman - There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim."*

It was not a denial of faiths but a revelation - that beneath all names, creeds, and rituals, there is only One Universal Light - Ik Onkar. The River Bein had not taken Guru Nanak away; it had returned him to truth.

### The Vision in the Depths

According to Sikh tradition, during those three mystical days, Nanak was in communion with the Divine Presence. He was shown the cosmic order - where all beings are connected in the eternal rhythm of creation. From this vision flowed his divine mission: to awaken humanity to unity, compassion, and righteousness.

When he reappeared, he was no longer the state's storekeeper but the world's spiritual teacher - Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the messenger of Oneness. His words carried the freshness of a river's flow and the depth of its silence. The experience at the River Bein became the fountainhead of Sikh philosophy - the moment when enlightenment entered the current of human history.

Every drop of that river seemed to ripple with a new consciousness - a message that true religion lies not in rituals or divisions, but in realization. And so began Nanak's lifelong journey - across India, Tibet, Arabia, and Persia - spreading the essence of divine unity.

### The River's Message

The Kali Bein stands today not merely as a geographical site but as a symbol of awakening - the moment when illusion gives way to realization. Just as the river cleanses, Guru Nanak's message continues to purify the mind and



*"Air is the Guru, Water the Father, and Earth the Great Mother. Day and night, the nurse, play and nurture the world. Good deeds are the fragrance of life - By the Grace of the True One, we find peace."*

— Guru Nanak Dev Ji

dissolve the barriers we create among ourselves.

It reminds us that spiritual rebirth begins not in temples or rituals, but within the depths of our own being.

### The Vision of Oneness

According to Sikh tradition, during those three days, Guru Nanak was in the presence of the Divine, who revealed to him the eternal truth and commanded:

*"Nanak, I am with you. My Name shall be your support. Go and spread My Name.*

*Teach humanity to remember Me, to earn with honesty, and to share what they have."*

When he emerged, Guru Nanak was no longer Daulat Khan's storekeeper. He had become the Guru - the Enlightened One. From that day on, his life became a mission - to awaken humanity to unity, equality, and compassion.

He began to compose hymns in praise of the Divine - poems that spoke of love, humility, and self-realization. With his Muslim companion Bhai Mardana, who played the rebaab, Nanak set out on long spiritual journeys known as Udisis, travelling across India, Tibet, Arabia, and Persia. Everywhere he went, he sang

of the One God who pervades all, and of the futility of division. Kings and peasants, Hindus and Muslims, ascetics and householders - all found solace in his words.

### The River as Symbol

The Kali Bein is not just the site of a miracle - it is a metaphor for transformation.

Just as the river flows endlessly, dissolving all boundaries, Guru Nanak's teaching flows through time - cleansing, connecting, and renewing human consciousness.

The river symbolizes the spiritual journey - entering its depths is the act of surrender, and emerging from it is the awakening of truth. Every pilgrim who visits Sultanpur Lodhi today sees the River Bein as the cradle of enlightenment - a place where heaven touched earth.

### The Three Pillars of Sikh Living: Naam, Kirat, Vand

A Blueprint for a Balanced and Conscious Life

After his divine revelation, Guru Nanak distilled his teachings into three

### SULTANPUR LODHI TODAY: THE SACRED TOWN OF LIGHT

Sultanpur Lodhi, in Kapurthala district of Punjab, is one of the holiest towns in Sikhism. Pilgrims from around the world visit the Ber Sahib Gurdwara, which marks the exact spot where Guru Nanak meditated under a berry tree and from where he entered the River Bein.

During Guru Nanak Gurburab, the town glows like a sea of light. Kirtan echoes through the air, the riverbanks shimmer with diyas, and devotees perform Seva (service) in endless joy. Modern Sultanpur Lodhi stands as a living museum of Guru Nanak's message - where spiritual history meets timeless faith.

simple yet revolutionary principles, known as the Three Pillars of Sikhism:

- Naam Japna - Remember the Divine Name.
- Kirat Karni - Earn an honest living.
- Vand Chhakna - Share with others.

These are not merely religious ideals, but practical foundations for a life of balance, mindfulness, and integrity - as relevant in the 21st century as they were five centuries ago.

### Naam Japna: The Practice of Mindful Awareness

*"Ik Onkar Satnam."* - There is One Creator; His Name is Truth.

At the heart of Guru Nanak's philosophy lies Naam Japna - remembrance of God's Name. It is the practice of keeping the Divine in constant awareness, whether through meditation, song, or silent mindfulness.

Guru Nanak taught that when we remember the Divine, our thoughts, words, and actions align with truth. We shed ego, anger, and fear - and discover peace that is not dependent on circumstance.

In the modern world, Naam Japna resonates with the language of mindfulness. It is the art of staying centered amidst chaos - of carrying a still heart in a restless world. Whether one repeats "Waheguru" in prayer, or simply pauses in gratitude, the act of remembrance reconnects the soul to its source.

### Kirat Karni: The Path of Honest, Ethical Work

Guru Nanak rejected the idea that spirituality required withdrawal from the world. Instead, he taught that work itself can be a form of worship, if done with honesty and purpose.

Kirat Karni means to earn one's livelihood through ethical means - without deceit, exploitation, or greed. It sanctifies every profession, from the farmer's plough to the artisan's craft, as long as it upholds truth and service.

Even after enlightenment, Guru Nanak continued to labor with his hands, reminding followers that the divine dwells not in renunciation, but in righteous living.

In our era of corporate pressure and moral compromise, Kirat Karni remains a moral compass - urging us to act with fairness, integrity, and conscience. Honest work, Guru Nanak said, is Karma Yoga - the fusion of duty and devotion.

### Vand Chhakna: The Joy of Sharing and Social Responsibility

The third pillar, Vand Chhakna, embodies the spirit of generosity - to share one's earnings, food, and blessings with others.

This principle gave birth to the Langar, the Sikh community kitchen, where all - rich and poor, king and commoner - sit together and share a meal as equals. The Langar is not merely charity; it is a revolution in social equality, a living expression of the belief that all humanity is one family.

In our modern times of isolation and inequality, Vand Chhakna calls for compassionate action - to give, to volunteer, to serve. It reminds us that wealth gains meaning only when it flows toward the welfare of others.

### MODERN REFLECTIONS:

#### The Three Pillars Today

- Naam Japna: Mindfulness & Mental Health:

In an age of anxiety and distraction, daily remembrance of the Divine calms the mind and nurtures gratitude. Mindfulness apps, yoga practices, and meditation groups today echo the same essence Guru Nanak taught - to stay present in the Name of the Eternal.

- Kirat Karni ? Ethical Work & Sustainability

Guru Nanak's call for honest labor resonates with the global movement toward ethical business, fair trade, and sustainability. His principle encourages professionals to balance profit with purpose, integrity with innovation.

- Vand Chhakna: Philanthropy & Community Care

Modern Sikh organizations worldwide embody Vand Chhakna through humanitarian initiatives - from disaster relief to free meals through Langar on Wheels and Khalsa Aid. In every act of service, the river of compassion still flows.

### A Living Message

The mystical moment at the River Bein was not merely an event in history; it was the dawn of a new consciousness - a call to awaken the divinity within humanity.

Guru Nanak did not create followers - he created thinkers, seekers, and servants of truth. His words remain a gentle revolution:

*"Recognize all humanity as one. See no stranger. Serve all as the image of the Divine."*

More than five centuries later, his light still flows - through the hymns of the Japji Sahib, through the fragrance of Langar, and through the silent reflection of every soul who looks inward and sees



the same Light in all. The Kali Bein still glistens in Sultanpur Lodhi, a symbol of that eternal moment when man merged with the Divine - and returned as the Light of Oneness.

### Ber Sahib Gurdwara: The Sacred Shade of Enlightenment

In the serene town of Sultanpur Lodhi, nestled along the banks of the Kali Bein, stands one of the most sacred and historically profound sites in Sikhism - Gurdwara Ber Sahib. This shrine is not merely a place of worship; it is a living testament to the divine revelation that gave birth to a spiritual revolution over five centuries ago. It was here, beneath the spreading branches of a Ber (Ziziphus jujuba) tree, that Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism, entered a deep state of meditation - and from here, he emerged enlightened, proclaiming, "Na koi Hindu, na Musalman" - "There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim," a statement that would redefine humanity's spiritual understanding forever.

### The Ber Tree: A Witness to Awakening

The Ber tree (a jujube tree), under whose shade Guru Nanak would sit and meditate, still stands within the Gurdwara complex. It is said that this very tree witnessed his enlightenment

and became sanctified by his divine presence. The tree's descendants continue to flourish, symbolizing the continuity of faith, wisdom, and compassion.

Pilgrims from around the world visit to bow under this sacred tree, feeling the serene energy that pervades the site. Its leaves and shade are regarded as sacred - a silent reminder of the timeless moment when spiritual light first dawned upon humanity through Guru Nanak.

### The Gurdwara: Architecture and Aura

The Gurdwara Ber Sahib, originally established centuries ago, was rebuilt and expanded during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the great Sikh ruler of the 19th century, who contributed richly to its preservation. The present structure combines traditional Sikh architecture with serene elegance.

Its pristine white marble walls, gilded domes, and tranquil sarovar (holy tank) reflect the calm spirituality of its origins. The sound of kirtan (devotional hymns) fills the air, echoing Guru Nanak's teachings of Naam (the Divine Name), humility, and universal love.

During the early morning and evening prayers, the Gurdwara resonates with the rhythmic recitation of the Japji

Sahib, the opening composition of the Guru Granth Sahib and Guru Nanak's profound expression of divine truth.

### A Living Legacy

Every year, thousands of devotees gather at Ber Sahib to celebrate Guru Nanak Gurburab, marking his birth and enlightenment. Sultanpur Lodhi becomes a city of lights, devotion, and unity - the very values Guru Nanak preached. Langars (community kitchens) serve meals to all, regardless of caste, faith, or background, embodying the spirit of equality and service that began under that humble Ber tree.

The site also played a pivotal role during Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary in 2019, when pilgrims from across the globe converged on Sultanpur Lodhi, reaffirming that his message - of compassion, service, and divine unity - remains as relevant today as ever.

### The Spiritual Meaning of Ber Sahib

Gurdwara Ber Sahib is not just a monument; it is a symbol of awakening. It represents the moment when divine realization broke the boundaries of organized religion. The River Bein reflects the flow of consciousness; the Ber tree, the shelter of divine wisdom; and the words of Guru Nanak, the eternal song of oneness.

In the modern world - divided by identity, greed, and intolerance - the message born at Ber Sahib still calls out:

*"Recognize the One Light in all. Serve others, live truthfully, and remember the Divine in every breath."*

### Visiting the Sacred Site

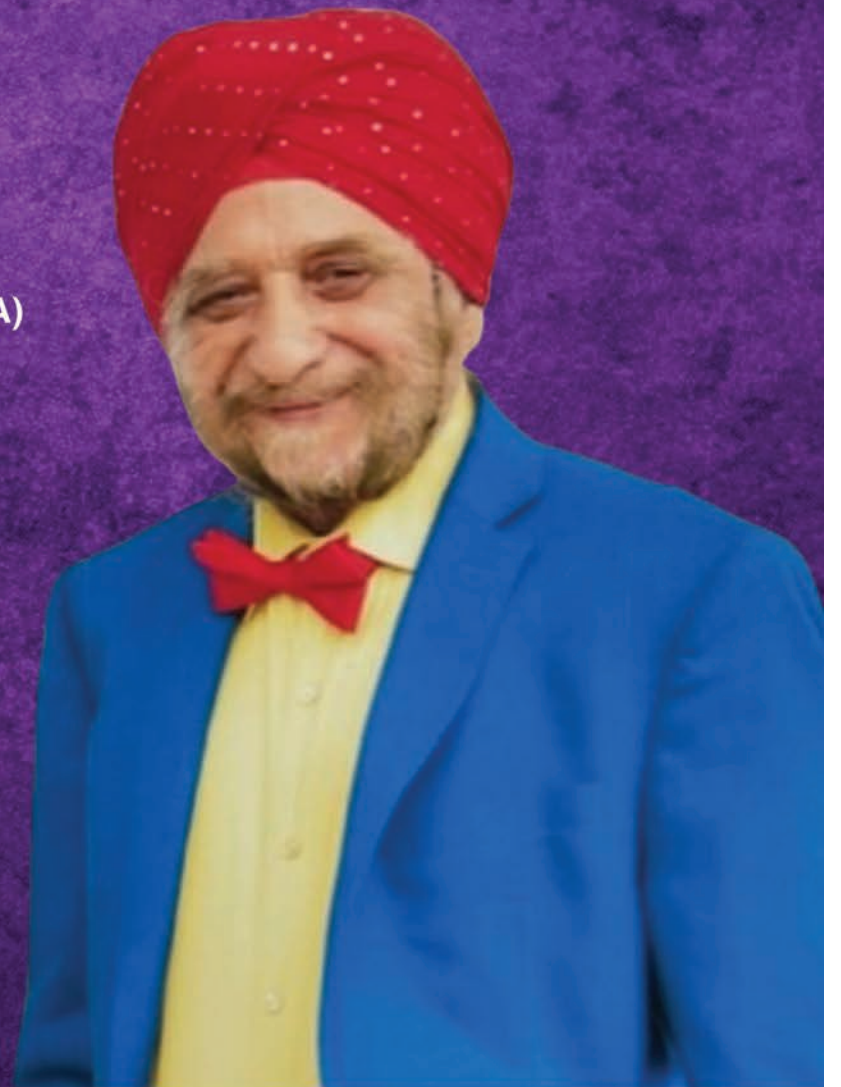
Located about 26 km from Kapurthala and easily accessible from Jalandhar and Amritsar, Sultanpur Lodhi is a peaceful town where time seems to slow down. Pilgrims walk barefoot through its streets, reciting shabads, visiting various historic Gurdwaras linked to Guru Nanak's life - including Gurdwara Hatt Sahib (where he worked), Gurdwara Guru Ka Bagh, and Gurdwara Sehra Sahib. But among them all, Ber Sahib remains the spiritual heart - the place where enlightenment bloomed and a new path for humanity began.



# ਕਲ ਤਾਰਨ ਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਆਇਆ

**HEARTIEST GREETINGS ON THE  
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- (Honored as Sikh role model by Hem Kunt Foundation, USA)
- Founding Patron, World Punjabi Organization (USA) Sikh Forum Inc. Plainview
- Former Vice President , Sikh Forum Inc. Plainview
- Former Chairman, India Association, LI-India Center
- Executive Committee Member, Richmond Hill First Sikh Gurdwara in 1973-74
- Autor of the book - Global Religions



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# Equality in every grain: The legacy of langar

**How Guru Nanak's revolutionary idea continues to nourish humanity - body, mind, and soul**

In a world that still grapples with hunger, inequality, and division, the simple act of sharing a meal can become a spiritual revolution. Over five hundred years ago, Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism, envisioned such a revolution - one that would begin not in palaces or temples, but in a humble kitchen. His idea was Langar, a free community kitchen that fed anyone and everyone, without discrimination.

Today, from the corridors of the Golden Temple in Amritsar to makeshift tents in disaster zones, from city streets to refugee camps, Langar continues to serve millions of meals every single day - a living embodiment of equality in action.

## The Origins: A Meal That Challenged Caste and Creed

To understand the Langar, one must return to the 15th century - a time when India was divided by rigid caste hierarchies and religious divisions. People were categorized not by their humanity, but by birth, occupation, and belief. The privileged ate separately, while the marginalized often went hungry.

Amid this injustice, Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1469-1539) emerged as a voice of divine compassion and moral courage. From a young age, he questioned meaningless rituals and hypocrisy in religion. His defining moment came during his youth, when his father, Mehta Kalu, gave him 20 rupees to start a business - a test of his responsibility.

Instead of seeking profit, Nanak spent the money feeding a group of hungry ascetics. When reprimanded, he calmly replied,

*"This was Sacha Sauda - the True Trade."*

That act - choosing compassion over commerce - marked the seed of Langar. Years later, as Guru Nanak established the first Sikh commune at Kartarpur Sahib, he institutionalized the Langar as a permanent part of Sikh practice. Everyone, regardless of caste, gender, or religion, would sit together and eat the same food, symbolizing oneness before God.

## Langar: A Radical Act of Equality

Langar was far more than charity; it was a spiritual declaration. In a society where upper castes refused to eat with "lower-born" individuals, Guru Nanak's Langar erased all such distinctions. The concept of sitting together in a pangat (row) to share a simple meal was an act of rebellion against social inequality and a profound expression of humility.

## Mata Khivi: The First Lady of Langar

An often-overlooked yet central figure in the Langar tradition is Mata Khivi Ji, wife of Guru Angad Dev Ji (the second Sikh Guru). She is lovingly remembered in the Guru Granth Sahib for her



graciousness and dedication in managing the Langar at Khadoor Sahib.

She organized, expanded, and systemized the community kitchen - ensuring that every visitor received warm food, kindness, and respect. Under her care, Langar became an institution of dignity, where both men and women served equally. Mata Khivi's example established seva (selfless service) as the heartbeat of Sikh communal life.

## Langar Through the Centuries

The Gurus who followed Guru Nanak strengthened the Langar tradition. Guru Amar Das Ji made participation in Langar a precondition for audience with him - even emperors had to sit in the pangat before meeting the Guru. This simple act symbolized humility and the breaking down of hierarchy.

By the time of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, Langar was a defining identity of the Sikh community. The tradition became inseparable from the Gurdwara (Sikh temple), ensuring that no one would leave hungry from the house of God.

When the magnificent Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib) was constructed, the Langar became its soul. To this day, the Golden Temple serves over 100,000 free meals daily, using nearly 50 quintals of wheat flour, 18 quintals of dal, and 12 quintals of rice - all prepared and served by volunteers.

## The Spirit of Seva: Service Without Self

The essence of Langar lies not only in the food but in the spirit of seva. Every task - from peeling onions to washing dishes - is done as a spiritual offering, without expectation of reward or recognition.

Volunteers, known as sevadars, come from all walks of life: farmers, doctors,

homemakers, students, even tourists. All cover their heads, remove their shoes, and work shoulder-to-shoulder in humility. In the eyes of the Guru, all are equal. There is no hierarchy in Langar - only harmony.

## Global Reach: Langar Without Borders

What began in a small village on the banks of the River Ravi has now become a global humanitarian movement. Wherever Sikhs have settled, they have carried the tradition of Langar with them - to Canada, the UK, the US, Australia, Kenya, and beyond.

During times of crisis, Langar becomes a lifeline.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gurdwaras across the world delivered meals to hospitals, stranded workers, and the homeless.

Khalsa Aid, inspired by Guru Nanak's teachings, set up mobile kitchens in war-torn regions like Iraq, Syria, and Ukraine.

In London, the "Midnight Langar" at Trafalgar Square feeds the homeless every weekend.

In Melbourne and Toronto, Sikh youth organizations distribute food in public parks and train stations.

Each meal served is a continuation of Guru Nanak's vision - spirituality through action, compassion beyond boundaries.

## Why Langar Matters Today

In an age defined by social media excess, food waste, and growing inequality, the Langar stands as a beacon of simplicity and sustainability. It teaches that the greatest form of worship is not chanting prayers in isolation, but feeding a hungry soul with love.

It also challenges modern notions of charity. Langar is not about giver and receiver - it's about shared humanity. Both the one who serves and the one who eats are spiritually nourished.

Even in 2025, the relevance of Guru Nanak's Langar is profound:

- It fosters interfaith harmony by welcoming all.
- It combats hunger and food insecurity in practical ways.
- It teaches environmental responsibility through minimal waste and community cooking.
- And it inspires volunteerism and humility in a world driven by self-interest.

## A Meal of the Soul

Langar is more than food - it is faith served on a plate. Each roti rolled, each dal stirred, and each thali washed carries the message of Ik Onkar - One Universal Creator. It dissolves the illusion of separateness and reminds us that divinity dwells in every being.

As Guru Nanak taught:

*"Recognize the Lord's light within all, and do not consider social class or status."*

*There are no strangers - no one is high or low."*

## The Eternal Table of Humanity

Five centuries later, the aroma of Langar still rises from Gurdwaras across continents - a fragrance of equality, humility, and love. Beneath that fragrance lies the timeless wisdom of Guru Nanak Dev Ji: that spirituality is not an escape from the world but a transformation of it.

In every grain cooked and shared in Langar lives the heartbeat of humanity.

In every hand that serves and every hand that receives, God is found.

# Breaking barriers: Guru Nanak's feminist vision

## How the first Sikh Guru reimagined womanhood and equality, centuries ahead of his time

In the dusty lanes of 15th-century Punjab, amid the murmurs of caste and the silence of subjugation, a boy named Nanak began asking questions that few dared to utter.

Why were some called pure and others untouchable?

Why were men deemed divine and women impure?

Why did rituals overshadow compassion?

These were not questions of rebellion - they were questions of realization.

By the time Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1469-1539) emerged as a spiritual luminary, he had already begun reshaping the moral geometry of his time. His message was simple but seismic: All are equal before the Divine.

And within that universal equality lay one of his most revolutionary truths - the elevation of women.

### The Verse That Shattered Patriarchy

In the sacred hymn Asa di Var, Guru Nanak proclaimed words that would echo through centuries:

*"So kyo manda aakhiye, jit jamme raajan?"*

*"How can she be called inferior, from whom kings are born?"*

In one stroke, he dismantled generations of patriarchal prejudice. Women - often silenced by social and religious codes - were placed at the center of divine creation.

He declared that woman is not to be condemned but revered, for she is both life-giver and the reflection of the Infinite.

These words were not a poetic flourish - they were a theological revolution. At a time when religious texts excluded women from spiritual discourse, Guru Nanak's verse became a manifesto for gender dignity.

### A Revolution in Practice

Guru Nanak was not a philosopher of abstraction; he was a man of living truth. He did not merely preach equality - he practiced it.

He rejected the taboos that labeled women as impure due to menstruation or childbirth, calling such ideas ignorance of divine creation. He emphasized that both men and women carried the same divine light - Jyot.

He said:

*"From woman, man is born; within woman, man is conceived;*

*to woman he is engaged and married.*

*Why call her bad? From her, kings are born."*

In his eyes, woman was not to be worshipped as goddess or reduced to servitude - she was coequal in the spiritual journey. The path to divine realization was open to all, regardless of gender.

### Voices of Strength

Guru Nanak's message empowered the women closest to him - and they, in turn,



became beacons for generations.

### Bebe Nanaki

His elder sister, Bebe Nanaki, was the first to recognize his divine calling. Her faith, support, and intuitive understanding of her brother's spiritual light made her the first Sikh in history. She symbolizes intuitive devotion and feminine wisdom - the balance between love and discernment.

### Mata Khivi - The Nurturing Reformer

The wife of Guru Angad Dev Ji, Mata Khivi, institutionalized one of Sikhism's greatest contributions to humanity - the Langar, or community kitchen. Under her care, the Langar became a living embodiment of equality: men and women, rich and poor, sat together to share food without discrimination.

Her compassion and management were so revered that she is mentioned by name in the Guru Granth Sahib, an honor shared by very few women in religious scriptures.

### Mai Bhago - The Warrior Saint

Centuries later, Guru Nanak's message would inspire women like Mai Bhago, the fearless warrior who led forty deserters back into battle in the time of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Her courage became the living proof that spiritual strength and physical valor were not male monopolies.

- **Pangat (Community Meal):** Everyone, regardless of caste or gender, eats side by side.
- **Kirtan and Seva:** Women can perform hymns, read from the Guru Granth Sahib, lead prayers, and perform any religious duty - complete equality in spiritual service.
- **Leadership:** Sikh women have historically led Gurdwaras, schools, and humanitarian missions, carrying forward the Guru's legacy in the modern age.

This wasn't just progressive - it was centuries ahead of its time.

### Modern Reflections: Women of the Guru's Light

Today, Guru Nanak's teachings continue to inspire Sikh women around the world - from the gurdwaras of Amritsar to the community kitchens of London, Vancouver, and Nairobi.

- **In Education:** Sikh women head universities, schools, and interfaith organizations, promoting literacy and equality.
- **In Humanitarian Work:** Groups like Khalsa Aid see women at the forefront of global relief, serving refugees, disaster victims, and the homeless.
- **In Spiritual Leadership:** Women now perform Kirtan at the Golden Temple and lead online Sangats, bringing the Guru's wisdom to new generations.

### Beyond Gender: The Eternal Message

Guru Nanak's feminism was never confined to one gender; it was an invitation to transcend all binaries - male and female, high and low, rich and poor.

In his vision of Ik Onkar, all creation is part of one divine light. To discriminate against woman is to deny that divine unity.

He saw that true liberation comes not from asserting dominance, but from realizing oneness.

Thus, Guru Nanak's message was not only feminist - it was humanist, universal, and timeless.

### Legacy and Relevance Today

In an age when gender equality is still being debated and legislated, Guru Nanak's message feels both ancient and astonishingly modern. He didn't need to coin slogans or lead protests - he redefined consciousness itself.

For him, the measure of civilization was not power or conquest, but how a society treated its women.

His voice, echoing through the Guru Granth Sahib, still calls humanity to remember that spirituality is meaningless without equality.

*"There is One God in all; there is no high or low.*

*Whoever realizes this truth, finds peace."*

From nurturing souls to leading armies - Sikh women embodied the full spectrum of strength envisioned by Guru Nanak.

### The Spiritual Feminism of Sikhism

What makes Guru Nanak's vision unique is that his feminism was rooted in spirituality, not politics.

He did not demand social change as an act of rebellion - he unveiled spiritual truth as the natural foundation for social justice. If the soul is without gender, then discrimination against women is not merely unjust - it is untrue.

The Guru Granth Sahib, the living scripture of the Sikhs, reflects this balance beautifully. It uses both masculine and feminine imagery for the Divine. God is sometimes Pita (Father), sometimes Mata (Mother), and often neither, transcending all form and gender.

This oneness of being - Ik Onkar - is the spiritual essence of equality.

### Institutional Equality: Sikh Practices That Empower Women

Guru Nanak ensured that his vision did not remain confined to words. He institutionalized it within the Sikh community structure:

- **Sangat (Congregation):** Men and women sit together with no segregation, reinforcing spiritual unity.

# The pilgrim of peace: Guru Nanak's 4 Udasis

Tracing the footsteps of the saint who walked across continents to awaken humanity to Oneness

When the Kali Bein at Sultanpur Lodhi released Guru Nanak Dev Ji from its mysterious embrace, he emerged not just as a man transformed, but as a messenger of the Eternal.

That revelation marked the beginning of one of the most extraordinary odysseys in spiritual history - the four great Udasis, or missionary journeys, undertaken by Guru Nanak across India and beyond. Over two decades and tens of thousands of miles, the Guru traversed mountains, deserts, and seas - from the Himalayas to Sri Lanka, from Mecca to Assam - spreading a message that transcended religion, caste, and creed.

Each journey - each Udasi - was not merely travel; it was a pilgrimage of peace, a dialogue with humanity, a revolution of compassion.

## The First Udasi (1500-1506 CE):

### The Awakening of the East

The first journey took Guru Nanak eastward from Punjab through Delhi, Ayodhya, Banaras, Puri, Bengal, and up to Assam and Nepal. Accompanied by his faithful companion Bhai Mardana, a Muslim minstrel, he sang verses that awakened minds dulled by empty ritualism.

In Varanasi, he questioned the scholars and priests who had reduced spirituality to mechanical recitations. "Why chant mantras when compassion is forgotten?" he asked gently, reminding them that rituals without love are barren.

At Jagannath Puri, the priests invited him to witness the grand aarti (ritual offering of lamps). Instead, Nanak closed his eyes and sang his own aarti - not to an idol, but to the entire creation:

*"The sky is the platter, the sun and moon are lamps;*

*The stars are pearls, the breeze is incense."*

It was a vision of the cosmos itself worshipping the Divine - a poetry that erased boundaries between temple and world.

### Lesson from the First Udasi:

True worship lies not in ritual, but in wonder - in seeing the Divine in all creation.

## The Second Udasi (1506-1513 CE):

### The Message of the South

Guru Nanak's second journey carried him deep into southern India - through Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Rameswaram, and across the sea to Sri Lanka (Ceylon).

In the South, he met kings, yogis, and saints. At Rameswaram, where Lord Rama was believed to have built a bridge to Lanka, Guru Nanak reminded devotees that no bridge is holier than one built by love.

In Sri Lanka, he met King Shivanbh, who, moved by Nanak's wisdom, renounced his arrogance and embraced



humility. The Guru taught that liberation was not found in renunciation, but in truthful living amidst the world.

### Lesson from the Second Udasi

The path to God does not require withdrawal from life - it requires engagement with life through honesty, compassion, and humility.

## The Third Udasi (1514-1518 CE):

### The Call of the Mountains

The third journey led Guru Nanak northward - into the silence of the Himalayas, where he met ascetics, siddhas, and hermits who claimed spiritual superiority through seclusion.

At Mount Sumer, he encountered yogis who believed enlightenment could be achieved by abandoning worldly duties. Guru Nanak, clad simply and carrying no possessions, told them:

*"The world is not to be renounced, but to be transformed through righteousness."*

He taught the Siddhas that true discipline is not in twisted limbs or breath control, but in controlling the mind and living truthfully amid temptation.

### Lesson from the Third Udasi

The real ascetic is not one who flees the world, but one who lives in it with integrity and grace.

## The Fourth Udasi (1519-1521 CE):

### The Pilgrim of Oneness

Guru Nanak's final great journey took him westward - across the Khyber Pass into Afghanistan, Persia, Mecca, and Baghdad. This was the most daring of all, for he entered lands bound by strict religious orthodoxy.

In Mecca, legend says, he was found sleeping with his feet pointing toward

the Kaaba. When rebuked, he calmly replied, "Then turn my feet in the direction where God is not." The astonished caretakers realized - the Divine is everywhere.

In Baghdad, he met spiritual leaders who, after initial skepticism, bowed to his universal message. His dialogue with Pir Dastgir and Bahlol Dana became famous - a conversation of light between souls.

Through this journey, Guru Nanak united East and West, Hindu and Muslim, saint and scholar - all through the gentle power of truth.

### Lesson from the Fourth Udasi

God has no religion, no language, and no geography. To know the Divine, one must first know humanity.

## The Pilgrim Returns:

### Kartarpur and the Final Message

After two decades of wandering, Guru Nanak returned to Punjab and founded Kartarpur Sahib, the world's first Sikh commune. There, he sowed the seeds of the Sikh way - the Three Pillars of Sikh Living: Naam Japna (Meditation on the Divine Name), Kirat Karna (Honest Living), Vand Chhakna (Sharing with Others).

It was as if the lessons from all four Udasis had crystallized into a living example - a community without discrimination, where men and women worked, prayed, and ate together as equals.

Kartarpur was not just a village - it was the world Guru Nanak had envisioned through his journeys: a world of Oneness, equality, and love.

### The Enduring Footsteps

Guru Nanak's travels covered over 30,000 miles - without armies, wealth, or

scriptures. His companions were humility and song; his message, the eternal truth of unity.

Through forests, kingdoms, and deserts, he carried a lamp lit by love - challenging kings and comforting peasants, dissolving boundaries that still divide the world today.

His Udasis were not missionary expeditions; they were journeys of awakening - journeys that transformed humanity's understanding of God and self.

### Lessons from the Pilgrim of Peace

- Oneness of All: Divinity flows through all - beyond religion or race.
- Truthful Living: Spirituality is proven through conduct, not appearance.
- Equality: No one is high or low; all are equally divine.
- Compassion in Action: Service (seva) is the highest form of devotion.
- Fearless Inquiry: Questioning is not rebellion - it is the path to wisdom.

### The Eternal Journey

More than five centuries have passed, yet Guru Nanak's footsteps still echo across continents. Every Gurdwara, every Langar, every act of seva - carries forward the legacy of that Pilgrim of Peace who walked the world to remind us that "Ik Onkar" - There is One Eternal Reality.

The world he envisioned - without borders, without prejudice, without fear - remains the destination toward which humanity still walks.

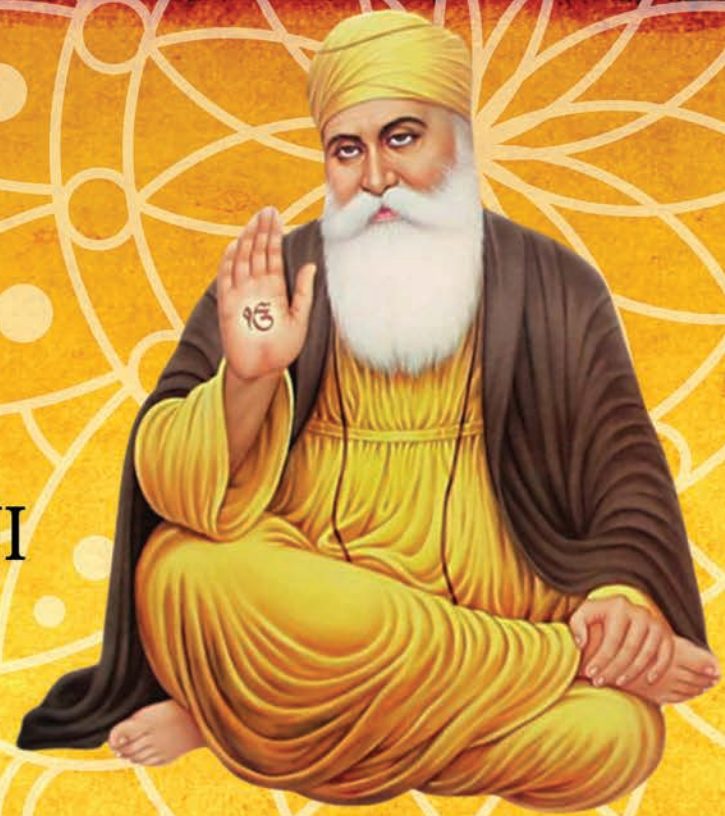
Because the journey of Guru Nanak never truly ended.

It continues - in every heart that dares to see all beings as one.



ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਿਆ  
ਮਿਟੀ ਧੁੰਧੁ ਜਗਿ ਚਾਨਣੁ ਹੋਆ।

HAPPY SHRI GURU NANAK DEV JI  
PRAKASH UTSAV



## BEDI FAMILY, New York

First row ( L to R): Kirpa Kaur, Ryanbir Singh Bedi, Paramjit Singh Bedi,  
Kuldip Kaur Bedi, Satbir Singh Bedi

Second row (L to R): Simarjit Kaur, Saachi Kaur, Japna Kaur, Asees Singh, Daya Singh

Third row (L to R): Jaswinder Singh, Bisman Singh, Tejvir Singh, Raminder Singh,  
Ribli Kaur, Tresa Kaur, Gurpreet Singh, Supreet Kaur, Chazbir Singh Bedi

# Beyond religion: Guru Nanak's universal spirituality

When Guru Nanak Dev Ji walked the earth more than five centuries ago, the Indian subcontinent was a landscape divided by faith, caste, and ritual. The air trembled with chants from temples and mosques - yet humanity was lost in its noise. In that age of confusion, Guru Nanak's voice rose not as a preacher of a new creed, but as the awakener of a timeless truth - that the Divine is not confined to one religion, scripture, or path.

His vision was not about creating another sect, but about dissolving barriers. Guru Nanak's universal spirituality continues to inspire Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, and seekers of every path - a reminder that all rivers flow to the same ocean.

## The Dawn of a New Consciousness

Born in 1469 in Talwandi (now Nankana Sahib, Pakistan), Nanak grew up in a time of social unrest. The Mughal Empire was rising, sectarian conflicts were common, and spiritual life was buried beneath ceremony and dogma. Yet, young Nanak questioned everything - the rituals, the divisions, the arrogance of religious institutions.

One morning, after disappearing into the waters of the Kali Bein at Sultanpur Lodhi, he re-emerged transformed - radiant with realization. His first words were:

"There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim - all are children of the One Creator."

That was not a declaration of rebellion, but of revelation - an awakening to Ik Onkar, the One Divine Reality pervading all existence. From that moment on, Nanak's life became a journey - not to convert others, but to awaken them to their inner truth.

## Ik Onkar: The Sound of Oneness

At the heart of Guru Nanak's message lies the sacred symbol Ik Onkar, which opens the Sikh scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib. It means:

There is One Reality, One Creator, manifest in all creation.

This was not a philosophical statement - it was a spiritual realization. Nanak saw the Divine not as a distant ruler, but as a living presence in every atom of existence.

In his hymn Japji Sahib, he writes: *"Air is the Guru, Water the Father, and Earth the Great Mother."*

Through these lines, he shattered the boundaries between sacred and secular. Nature itself became holy; service to creation became worship of the Creator. His spirituality was eco-centric, inclusive, and deeply compassionate - centuries before such terms entered modern discourse.

## The Dialogue of Faiths: A Universal Vision

Guru Nanak's four great journeys - the Udasis - took him across India, Tibet, Mecca, Baghdad, and Sri Lanka. In every land, he entered into dialogue, not debate. He met Hindu pandits, Buddhist monks, Jain sages, and Muslim sufis - and in each, he found a



reflection of the same divine truth.

### Among the Hindus:

He revered the Vedas for their wisdom but rejected blind ritualism and caste hierarchies. "Read the Name of God in your heart, not just on your lips," he told scholars at Banaras.

### Among the Muslims:

He entered mosques, sang the praises of the One, and emphasized submission not to form, but to truth. In Mecca, when rebuked for resting with his feet toward the Kaaba, he gently said, "Turn my feet toward where God is not." The astonished caretakers found divinity everywhere.

### Among the Buddhists and Jains:

He resonated with their ideals of compassion, simplicity, and non-violence, yet cautioned that renunciation alone was not liberation. "Live truthfully amid the world - that is the real asceticism," he taught.

### Among the Sufis:

He shared deep kinship. The Sufi mystics spoke of divine love and unity, and Guru Nanak's hymns echoed their essence. The Persian saints in Baghdad hailed him as a "Messenger of the One," recognizing that his God was not a name, but a presence that dwells in every heart.

### Beyond Labels: The Human Religion

Guru Nanak's teachings dismantled the walls of identity. For him, religion was not about belonging to a group, but becoming fully human.

He said:

*"Truth is high - but higher still is truthful living."*

To him, devotion meant living with integrity, serving others, and seeing the divine light in all beings. He laid the foundation for a society where no one is high or low, where men and women sit together as equals, and where feeding the hungry (Langar) is holier than fasting in isolation.

His Three Pillars of Sikh Living - Naam Japna (Remembrance of God), Kirat Karna (Honest Work), and Vand Chhakna (Sharing with Others) - remain universal principles that transcend all religions.

Even today, these teachings resonate in Sufi shrines, Hindu ashrams, interfaith gatherings, and humanitarian movements worldwide.

### The Universal Voice in Guru Granth Sahib

The Guru Granth Sahib, the living scripture compiled by Guru Arjan Dev Ji, includes hymns not only of Sikh Gurus but also of Hindu Bhaktas and Muslim Sufis - Kabir, Sheikh Farid, Namdev, Ravidas, and others.

This inclusion was no accident; it was the realization of Guru Nanak's universal vision. It proclaimed that truth is not the monopoly of one community, and that divine wisdom can emerge from any soul devoted to love.

In this way, the Guru Granth Sahib stands as the world's only interfaith scripture, where saints from diverse backgrounds sing in harmony of the same Eternal One.

### Guru Nanak and the Spirit of Interfaith Harmony

Guru Nanak's message is not bound to any era - it is an eternal antidote to division. His teachings form the spiritual DNA of interfaith dialogue:

He did not call for the destruction of religions - he sought their purification through love.

He did not reject temples or mosques - he invited humanity to build temples of compassion within their hearts.

He did not ask for conversion - he asked for transformation.

In a world still torn by religious conflict, his life offers a path of reconciliation. He reminds us that faith is not about separation, but about seeing unity in diversity.

### A Message for the Modern Seeker

In our century of noise and distraction, Guru Nanak's voice feels even more relevant. His spirituality is not ritualistic - it is experiential. It does not demand renunciation - it asks for responsible living.

For Buddhists, his emphasis on mindfulness echoes the path of awareness.

For Hindus, his recognition of the formless divine mirrors the Upanishadic spirit.

For Muslims, his insistence on remembrance (Naam Japna) resonates with Zikr.

For all humanity, his message is an invitation to look within - to find the One in every heart, and the same light in every being.



## Heartiest Congratulations on the 556th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji



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# Kartarpur: The village of eternal light

**Where Guru Nanak's spirit still walks the fields - a living symbol of peace, unity, and divine light**

On the banks of the serene River Ravi, in the fertile plains of Punjab, lies a village whose name means "The Abode of the Creator" - Kartarpur.

It was here, more than five centuries ago, that Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism, settled after his long journeys across Asia. And it was here, among farmers and seekers, that he planted not only crops, but the seeds of a timeless philosophy - of truthful living, equality, service, and divine oneness.

Today, Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur stands as a beacon of that vision - a sacred site where history, faith, and humanity converge. It is both a place of pilgrimage and a powerful symbol of hope and reconciliation in a world still learning to embrace unity beyond borders.

## The Guru's Return

After traveling for over 25 years on his four great Udasis, spreading the message of Ik Onkar - the Oneness of all existence - Guru Nanak chose to spend the last 18 years of his life in Kartarpur (now in Pakistan's Narowal district).

In the year 1522, he built a modest settlement on the Ravi's banks. Unlike the hermits who sought solitude in mountains, Nanak chose the earth itself as his temple. He tilled the land, sowed seeds, and lived as a humble farmer - proving that spirituality and honest work (Kirat Karna) are not separate paths but one.

"Truth is high," he said, "but higher still is truthful living."

In this village, spirituality took on a practical form. The community ate together, prayed together, worked together - the earliest form of Sangat and Pangat (holy congregation and equality in service). Kartarpur became a living experiment in divine democracy, where no one was rich or poor, high or low.

## The First Sikh Commune

Kartarpur was not merely a settlement; it was the first Sikh commune, a model of what society could be when guided by compassion instead of caste, by humility instead of hierarchy.

Here, the Langar (community kitchen) - a revolutionary idea introduced by Guru Nanak - became a daily practice. Men and women cooked and served together, transcending social barriers that had divided India for centuries.

The Guru composed hymns of universal truth, many of which would later form the heart of the Guru Granth Sahib. His close companion, Bhai Mardana, played the rabab as Nanak sang of the Creator's presence in every leaf, every breath, every moment of existence.



## The Passing of the Eternal Light

In 1539 CE, as the Guru's earthly life came to an end, legend says that a debate arose between his Hindu and Muslim followers over his final rites. The Hindus wished to cremate him; the Muslims wanted to bury him.

When they lifted the sheet covering his body, they found only fresh flowers in place of his mortal form.

Each group took half - one buried, one cremated - symbolizing that Guru Nanak belonged to all humanity.

To this day, both a samadhi (Hindu memorial) and a maqbara (Muslim tomb) stand side by side at Kartarpur - silent witnesses to a truth that transcends religion.

## The Gurdwara: A Living Memorial of Peace

Over the centuries, Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur became one of Sikhism's holiest shrines. The white domes rise gracefully above green fields, the structure gleaming under the Punjab sun like a reflection of the divine light Nanak spoke of.

From its verandas, one can still see

the River Ravi flowing - the same waters where the Guru once walked, prayed, and worked. Pilgrims describe the place as charged with peace, as if time itself pauses in Kartarpur, and the air still hums with the sound of Nanak's hymns.

## Kartarpur Corridor: Bridge Across Borders

For seven decades after the partition of India in 1947, this sacred site remained separated from millions of devotees by a line drawn through Punjab's heart. Many Sikhs could only stand at the Indian border near Dera Baba Nanak and gaze across the fields, their eyes moist with longing for the shrine just 4 kilometers away.

Then, in November 2019, a miracle unfolded. On the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, India and Pakistan inaugurated the Kartarpur Corridor - a visa-free passage allowing pilgrims from India to visit the shrine across the border.

It was an extraordinary moment in modern history - a corridor of faith beyond politics, built on the Guru's own

vision of peace and coexistence.

"Let no walls divide those who share the same divine light," Guru Nanak had once said - and Kartarpur today stands as a living realization of those words.

## A Symbol of Hope in a Divided World

The Kartarpur Corridor is more than a road; it is a pathway of reconciliation.

In an age where religion often divides, this narrow stretch of land reminds humanity of what we can build when we remember the teachings of those who saw no "other."

Pilgrims of all backgrounds - Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims, even international travelers - walk barefoot on its marble floors, share meals in the Langar hall, and feel the same serenity. For many, the visit becomes a spiritual homecoming - not to a religion, but to a sense of oneness and belonging.

## Echoes of Guru Nanak's Vision

### Kartarpur in the Modern Spirit

In recent years, the image of pilgrims walking across the corridor - some elderly, some in tears, many carrying soil from the shrine in small pouches - has become an emblem of faith uniting where politics divides.

International peace advocates often cite Kartarpur as a model for interfaith cooperation, a sacred geography where devotion transcends nationalism.

Scholars call it "a moral corridor" - an open invitation to rediscover Guru Nanak's universal spirituality in our time of fragmentation.

## The Village That Still Teaches the World

Standing at Kartarpur, one can still hear the echo of Guru Nanak's eternal words:

"There is One Light in all creation; By that Light, all are born."

The Ravi still flows gently by, reflecting both sun and moon - as if to say that duality is only illusion. The fields still bloom with the crops of service and humility. And the white domes of Darbar Sahib still gleam like lanterns of peace in the night.

Kartarpur is not just a place on a map - it is a metaphor for humanity's highest calling.

It tells us that the boundaries that divide hearts can be crossed not with weapons or walls, but with faith, forgiveness, and love.

## The Eternal Light Lives On

As pilgrims bow their heads at the shrine where Guru Nanak spent his final days, they do not just remember a saint - they experience a truth.

The same truth he lived, sang, and sowed in these fields: that God is One, humanity is one, and the light within us is eternal. Five centuries have passed, but in the quiet of Kartarpur, one still feels the presence of the man who once walked here - the farmer-saint, the poet of peace, the messenger of Oneness.

# Guru Nanak: The mystic poet who redefined spiritual freedom

**His verses sang of a timeless truth - of equality, compassion, and oneness - echoing more powerfully today than ever before**

In a world overwhelmed by conflict, inequality, and disconnection, the words of a poet from 15th-century Punjab still offer astonishing clarity.

That poet was Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1469-1539) - the founder of Sikhism, a spiritual visionary whose hymns transcend time, creed, and geography.

He was not a prophet seeking followers, nor a reformer craving power. He was a seer of truth, a poet of the soul, and a philosopher of the human condition - who saw the Divine not in distant heavens but in the rhythm of everyday life.

His poetry, composed in the musical cadence of raag (melody), became a bridge between God and humanity - a living song that continues to guide millions through the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh scripture.

## The Poet Who Sang the Universe

Guru Nanak's poetry was unlike anything the subcontinent had ever heard. It spoke not of ritual or hierarchy, but of experience - the direct encounter with the Infinite.

In his opening verse, the Mool Mantar, he distilled the essence of existence into a few immortal lines:

*"Ik Onkar, Satnam, Karta Purakh, Nirbhau, Nirvair..."*

There is One Eternal Reality; Truth is Its Name; It is the Creator, without fear or enmity.

Every word radiates universality. In those few syllables, Guru Nanak erased the boundaries that divided man from man, religion from religion, self from the Divine.

His poetry did not describe God; it revealed oneness as a lived experience. For him, the cosmos itself was music - every being a note in the divine song of creation.

Guru Nanak's journey was one of inquiry, not dogma. From childhood, he questioned blind faith and hollow ritual.

When asked to wear the sacred thread that signified caste, he refused, asking:

*"Make compassion the cotton, contentment the thread, and truth the knot - that is the sacred thread that never breaks."*

This poetic defiance carried a profound philosophical truth: spirituality is not inherited, it is earned through consciousness.

Throughout his life, Guru Nanak challenged systems that divided humanity - caste hierarchies, religious exclusivism, and gender inequality. His question was simple yet seismic:

*"If all are born of the same Light, who is high and who is low?"*

In an age where religion was often used as an instrument of control, Guru Nanak redefined it as a path to liberation through Naam (divine remembrance), Kirat (honest living), and Vand Chhakna (sharing with others).

He was both philosopher and reformer - merging metaphysics with social ethics, contemplation with action.

## A Universal Thinker Before His Time

Long before the Enlightenment or modern humanism, Guru Nanak articulated a universalist philosophy that resonates deeply with the 21st



century. He rejected religious exclusivity centuries before interfaith dialogue became fashionable. His belief that "God has many names, but the Light is one" speaks powerfully in our polarized times.

He envisioned a world without borders - of Sarbat da Bhala - the well-being of all. In an age obsessed with personal gain, this principle offers a moral compass rooted in empathy and collective upliftment.

His environmental insight was equally prophetic. In the Japji Sahib, he described air as the teacher, water as the father, and earth as the mother - a worldview that sees nature not as a resource but as kin.

*"Pavan guru, pani pita, mata dharat mahat."*

Air is the Guru, water the father, and great earth the mother.

Centuries before the climate crisis, Guru Nanak understood that harmony with nature was harmony with the Divine.

## The Relevance of Nanak's Thought Today

Guru Nanak's teachings address every crisis of our age - moral, ecological, and existential.

In an age of inequality, his message of oneness reminds us that no faith, gender, or race is inferior.

In an age of greed, his call for honest work (Kirat Karna) reaffirms the dignity of labour.

In an age of anxiety, his principle of remembrance (Naam Japna) offers inner stillness amidst chaos.

In an age of isolation, his teaching of

sharing (Vand Chhakna) rebuilds community.

For a divided and restless planet, his words offer a path not backward into tradition, but forward into truth - a spiritual humanism rooted in awareness and compassion.

## The Rhythm of Eternity: Nanak's Poetic Legacy

Guru Nanak's compositions were not essays of philosophy but songs of realization. Each Shabad (hymn) was meant to be sung, felt, and lived. His companion, Bhai Mardana, would play the rabab as the Guru's words flowed - transforming spiritual truth into sound, meditation into melody.

The Guru Granth Sahib, which contains 974 hymns of Guru Nanak, remains the world's only scripture written entirely in poetic and musical form. Each hymn is placed under a specific raag, signifying the mood and emotion of divine experience.

This fusion of art and spirituality makes his philosophy accessible not just to the intellect, but to the heart. As long as there is music, Guru Nanak's message will live - because his truth is sung, not spoken.

## The Philosopher of Courage and Compassion

Guru Nanak was not merely a contemplative thinker - he was a moral rebel. When tyrants like Babur invaded India, causing immense suffering, Nanak raised his voice in divine protest.

*"Eti maar payee kurlane, tai ki dard na*

*aaya?"*

Such cries of pain are heard, O Lord - did You not feel compassion?

It was perhaps the first poetic indictment of tyranny in Indian history - a saint confronting an emperor through song.

From that fearless moral inquiry was born the Sikh tradition of Sant-Sipahi - the saint-soldier who defends righteousness while remaining anchored in compassion.

## Guru Nanak: For Every Seeker

Five hundred years on, Guru Nanak remains a teacher not bound by religion.

His words speak to the monk and the activist, the scientist and the artist, the skeptic and the believer.

They do not ask for conversion - only for consciousness.

When he says, *"Truth is high, but higher still is truthful living,"*

he invites us to live our ethics, not merely preach them.

When he says, *"See the light of God in all and never forget the One who dwells in all hearts,"*

> he offers a solution to every conflict - the recognition of shared divinity.

Guru Nanak's philosophy was never meant for a temple, but for life itself - to be lived in the marketplace, the home, the field, and the heart.

## The Eternal Relevance

Half a millennium later, the world still struggles with the very divisions Guru Nanak sought to dissolve - inequality, intolerance, greed, and alienation. Yet his voice endures, as fresh and fearless as the day it first echoed along the banks of the River Bein.

To read Guru Nanak is to rediscover what it means to be human.

To sing his words is to awaken the soul to unity.

And to live his philosophy is to walk the timeless path of compassion - the path that leads from self to the infinite.

## The Poet Who Became the Voice of the Eternal

Guru Nanak was a poet, yes - but not one who wrote for fame or empire.

He was a poet of awakening, whose verses still dissolve barriers and speak to the heart of a world in need of healing.

He was a philosopher without a school, whose thought continues to resonate with mystics, scholars, and seekers across cultures.

And above all, he was - and remains - a Guru for all humanity, a reminder that the truest wisdom is not in renouncing the world, but in redeeming it.

More than five centuries ago, amid the fields of Punjab and the tumult of empires, a simple man with a luminous vision began to sing. His words were not sermons but songs - flowing like rivers from the depths of divine realization.

That man was Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1469-1539), the founder of Sikhism - a saint, poet, philosopher, and reformer who spoke of oneness beyond religion, of truth beyond ritual, of humanity beyond caste.

But Guru Nanak did not merely preach. He composed Shabads - sacred verses - that carried the vibration of the Infinite. Each word was a drop from the ocean of his enlightenment. These verses, sung with his companion Bhai Mardana on the rabab, became the living heartbeat of a new spiritual path - the Sikh way of devotion, equality, and service.

Today, those very words live on in the Guru Granth Sahib, the eternal scripture and spiritual guide of the Sikh faith. It is not just a book, but a living embodiment of the Guru's consciousness - the eternal light (Jyot) passed from Guru Nanak to all who seek truth.

#### From Guru's Lips to Living Scripture

Guru Nanak's compositions were collected and preserved by his disciples, forming the earliest body of Sikh hymns known as Bani. These verses were not confined to any single language - he used Punjabi, Persian, Sanskrit, Braj, and Marathi - reflecting his universal message that the Divine speaks in every tongue.

When the fifth Guru, Guru Arjan Dev Ji, compiled the Adi Granth in 1604, he placed Guru Nanak's hymns at its heart. He also included the verses of other Sikh Gurus and of saints from diverse backgrounds - Hindu bhaktas like Kabir and Namdev, and Muslim mystics like Sheikh Farid and Bhagat Ravidas.

This inclusivity was itself a declaration: truth is not owned by any one faith.

The Guru Granth Sahib thus became not just the scripture of the Sikhs, but a universal chorus of divine voices - a collective song of humanity seeking the One.

#### The Guru Lives in the Word

In 1708, before leaving his physical form, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth Sikh Guru, bestowed the Guruship upon the Guru Granth Sahib, declaring:

*"Sab Sikhian ko hukam hai, Guru manyo Granth."*

("To all Sikhs, the command is: Recognize the Granth as your Guru.")

With this act, the line of human Gurus ended, and the living spirit of the Guru continued in the form of the sacred word. From that moment on, the Guru Granth Sahib became the eternal, guiding presence for the Sikh community - revered not as a text, but as the living Guru itself.

To this day, Sikhs bow before the Guru Granth Sahib not in idolatry, but in reverence to divine wisdom - acknowledging that the same light which shone in Guru Nanak shines through these words.

# The living word: How Guru Nanak's voice became the eternal Guru

**From divine hymns to selfless service - the story of how Guru Nanak's message lives forever in the Guru Granth Sahib and the spirit of Seva**



Each hymn, each page, each verse is not read but experienced - sung in kirtan, contemplated in Simran, and lived through Seva.

#### Seva: The Living Legacy of the Guru

If the Guru Granth Sahib is the spiritual heartbeat of Sikhism, Seva (selfless service) is its pulse - the practical expression of the Guru's teaching.

Guru Nanak taught that true worship is not in ritual, but in serving others as a form of serving God. He said:

*"Truth is high, but higher still is truthful living."*

That truth comes alive in every Sikh who offers food in a Langar, carries water for pilgrims, or volunteers in hospitals and disaster zones. From feeding the hungry during global crises to rebuilding homes after floods and earthquakes, Sikhs across the world embody Nanak's message that the Divine resides in every being.

Seva is not charity - it is equality in action. When one kneels to wash another's feet, or serves a stranger food in the Langar hall, there is no giver and no receiver - only the One acting through many.

In this way, the word of the Guru becomes flesh through service. The verses of the Granth are not merely recited; they are lived in kitchens, fields, relief camps, and homes across the world.

#### The Music of the Infinite

Guru Nanak's words were never meant to be read silently - they were meant to be sung. The Guru Granth Sahib is organized by ragas (musical measures), each designed to evoke a spiritual emotion.

From the dawn melody of Asa di Var, awakening hearts to gratitude, to the serene tones of Rehras Sahib at dusk, these hymns create a rhythm of remembrance throughout the day.

Wherever the kirtan (devotional singing) flows - whether in a small village Gurdwara or at the Golden Temple in Amritsar - it carries the same vibration: the call to awaken to the One.

This sound current (Naad) is itself a form of Seva - for when one sings from the heart, one uplifts others in love and unity.

#### The Eternal Message: Ik Onkar

At the heart of the Guru Granth Sahib lies the opening verse - the Mool Mantar, revealed by Guru Nanak:

*"Ik Onkar, Satnam, Karta Purakh, Nirbhau, Nirvair..."*

("There is One Creator, whose name is Truth, the Creator without fear or enmity...")

These few lines contain the essence of Sikh philosophy - a universal spiritual declaration that transcends creed and culture.

It tells us that the Divine is not a deity belonging to one faith, but the underlying essence of all that exists - beyond gender, beyond form, beyond division.

That vision continues to guide millions today - from temples and mosques to meditation halls and interfaith movements - wherever people seek the truth of unity in diversity.

#### The Word That Walks the Earth

In every Gurdwara, the Guru Granth Sahib is not kept on a shelf but enthroned, covered with silken cloths, fanned with devotion, and carried in procession like a living master.

When opened each morning (Prakash) and closed at night (Sukhasan), it symbolizes the rising and resting of divine wisdom in daily life.

In these rituals, the Sikh community does not worship paper and ink - it honors the eternal consciousness that flows through those words.

Each reading from the Granth, called a Hukamnama, is taken as divine guidance

for the day - a dialogue between the Infinite and the human heart.

And in every act of Seva - whether it is cleaning the Gurdwara floor, planting trees, or serving Langar - the words of the Guru Granth Sahib find their truest expression.

#### A Light for All Humanity

Guru Nanak's vision was never limited to one community. He spoke for all seekers who longed for truth and justice, love and liberation.

The Guru Granth Sahib, compiled from voices across religions and castes, stands as a monument to the universality of the human spirit.

Today, when one listens to the shabads being sung at dawn in Amritsar, or watches Sikh volunteers feeding thousands at airports and disaster zones, one witnesses something profound:

The Guru still lives - not as a figure of the past, but as a living light in the present.

That light shines through every act of Seva, every song of devotion, every humble offering to humanity.

#### The Guru Is Still Speaking

Five centuries after Guru Nanak walked the earth, his voice continues to echo - in the rhythmic recitation of Japji Sahib, in the laughter of children serving Langar, in the silence of meditation.

The Guru Granth Sahib is not history; it is living presence.

Every word is a spark of eternity.

Every act of Seva is a verse in motion. And together, they remind us of what Guru Nanak came to teach:

That there is no separation between God and creation, no wall between prayer and action -

only the radiant truth that the Divine lives in every heart and every deed.

*"As fragrance abides in the flower, and reflection in the mirror - so does the Divine dwell in all."* — Guru Nanak Dev Ji



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# Guru Nanak and the birth of Sikh spirit of resistance

The 15th century was a time of darkness across much of northern India. Empires rose and fell, and ordinary people bore the weight of both - crushed under oppressive rulers, heavy taxes, and the violence of foreign invasions. Fear and fatalism ruled the hearts of many; religion had become ritual, and injustice went unchallenged.

It was in this age of despair that Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1469-1539) - the first Sikh Guru and founder of Sikhism - rose as a radiant voice of conscience. His message was not confined to temples or mosques; it was a clarion call for freedom of the human spirit.

When the Mughal invader Babur swept across India with his armies, leaving cities ravaged and people enslaved, Guru Nanak refused to stay silent. He witnessed the atrocities with a heart full of compassion - and anguish. But instead of submitting or turning away, he confronted the conqueror through verse, with the piercing power of divine truth.

*"Eti maar payee kurlane, tai ki dard na aaya"* - Did You Not Feel Their Pain?

In his composition known as the Babarvani (recorded in the Guru Granth Sahib, pages 360-363), Guru Nanak cried out in protest:

These lines were not merely a lament - they were a rebuke to both the temporal and divine order. Nanak addressed the Almighty but indicted the emperor; his question pierced through the sanctity of power and privilege.

Here was no saint removed from the world - Guru Nanak was the first spiritual master in Indian history to openly challenge a sovereign for cruelty to his subjects. He denounced tyranny not as a political act, but as a spiritual duty. His protest was rooted in the conviction that where there is oppression, God Himself is defiled.

## The Birth of the Sikh Spirit of Resistance

From that moment, the spirit of resistance - grounded in righteousness, not revenge - became woven into the Sikh soul.

Guru Nanak's defiance was not an act of rebellion for power, but of compassion for humanity. He awakened in his followers the courage to say no - no to tyranny, no to inequality, no to fear.

His legacy was not one of ascetic withdrawal but of engaged spirituality - a faith meant to stand with the oppressed and speak truth to power.

## From Word to Sword: The Lineage of Courage

That seed of defiance, planted by Guru Nanak, blossomed through the ten Sikh Gurus who followed.

### Guru Hargobind Sahib (1595-1644)

The sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind, transformed the spiritual resistance of Nanak into organized strength. He donned two swords - Miri and Piri, representing temporal and spiritual sovereignty.

He taught that the saint must also be a soldier when righteousness is threatened.

When imprisoned by Emperor Jahangir, Guru Hargobind refused to accept freedom unless 52 Hill Rajas - fellow prisoners of conscience - were



released with him. This episode, remembered as Bandi Chhor Diwas, became a lasting symbol of liberation and justice.

### Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621-1675)

Two generations later, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the ninth Guru, carried Nanak's spirit of defiance to its ultimate expression. When Emperor Aurangzeb began forcibly converting Hindus to Islam, Guru Tegh Bahadur stood as their shield.

He was imprisoned, tortured, and ultimately executed in Delhi for defending freedom of faith - not just for Sikhs, but for all.

His sacrifice, remembered as Hind di Chadar - the Shield of India - exemplified Guru Nanak's vision of universal justice.

### Guru Gobind Singh Ji (1666-1708)

The Tenth Master, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, completed the evolution of Nanak's message from word to action. In 1699, he created the Khalsa, a brotherhood of the pure, armed with both sword and spirit, to uphold truth and protect the oppressed.

His declaration - *"When all other means have failed, it is righteous to draw the sword"* -

was not a call to conquest, but to moral resistance.

Through him, Nanak's spirit of fearless compassion became an institution - a way of life.

## Beyond the Gurus: The Flame That Never Died

After Guru Gobind Singh, the spirit of Guru Nanak continued to inspire countless acts of courage.

- Banda Singh Bahadur, a disciple of Guru Gobind Singh, led an uprising



against Mughal tyranny, redistributing land to the poor and establishing the first Sikh rule based on justice.

- In the 18th century, Sikh warriors resisted persecution under successive Mughal and Afghan invasions, forming the Khalsa Misl that later united into the empire of Maharaja Ranjit Singh - a reign known for religious tolerance and equality.
- During the Indian freedom struggle, Sikhs made up a small fraction of India's population yet contributed disproportionately to its martyrs - from Udham Singh, who avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, to countless unsung heroes of the Ghadar and Akali movements.
- Even today, Sikhs around the world embody this same courage - standing at the forefront of humanitarian crises, offering Langar to refugees and the hungry, standing up against

injustice wherever it arises.

## A Unique Contribution to the World's Spiritual Heritage

Guru Nanak's protest against Babur was not simply a political act - it was a spiritual milestone in human history.

Until then, saints had often turned away from worldly suffering. Nanak turned toward it - bringing divine light into the darkest corners of society.

His was the first spiritual revolution in India to unite faith with social responsibility, devotion with defiance, prayer with protest. He showed that the Divine is not distant but deeply involved in the struggle for justice.

This moral courage - this union of compassion and resistance - became the hallmark of Sikh identity.

To this day, the Sikh stands tall - humble in service, but fearless in defense of the weak - carrying forward Guru Nanak's legacy of speaking truth to power, even at the cost of life itself.

# Gurdwaras associated with Guru Nanak: The sacred footsteps of the first Sikh Guru

When one traces the luminous journey of Guru Nanak Dev Ji—the founder of Sikhism and the voice of divine unity—one does not just follow a life, but an eternal light that continues to illuminate millions. His message of "Ek Onkar" — the oneness of the Creator—resonated across mountains, deserts, and seas. During his lifetime, Guru Nanak undertook extensive travels, known as Udasis, to spread the universal message of truth, equality, compassion, and devotion. Across these journeys, sacred shrines—Gurdwaras—arose at places touched by his divine presence. Today, these gurdwaras stand as living chronicles of his teachings, faith, and humanity.

Let us journey through some of the most revered Gurdwaras associated with Guru Nanak Dev Ji, each narrating a story of spiritual transformation and timeless wisdom.

## Gurdwara Nankana Sahib



The sacred town of Nankana Sahib, near Lahore in present-day Pakistan, holds unparalleled reverence as the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev Ji in 1469. Originally known as Talwandi, it was later renamed Nankana Sahib in his honor. The main shrine, Gurdwara Janam Asthan, stands where the divine infant was born to Mehta Kalu and Mata Tripta. The serene complex includes shrines marking significant events of his early life—the sacred well from which his sister Bebe Nanaki drew water, and the site where young Nanak amazed the village priest by composing hymns in praise of the One Creator. Every year, Guru Nanak Gurbpurab witnesses thousands of devotees gathering here, transcending borders in devotion and unity.

## Gurdwara Panja Sahib



Nestled against the Margalla Hills, this gurdwara marks one of the most miraculous events in Guru Nanak's life. When the local saint Wali Qandhari refused to share water with thirsty

travelers, Guru Nanak caused a spring to emerge by lifting a rock. Wali Qandhari, enraged, hurled a boulder down the hill, but Guru Nanak stopped it with his hand—leaving his divine palm imprint (Panja) upon the stone. The gurdwara, built around this sacred rock, is now one of Sikhism's holiest pilgrimage sites, symbolizing humility's triumph over arrogance and the Guru's infinite compassion.

## Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur



Kartarpur Sahib holds a sanctity unlike any other, for it was here that Guru Nanak spent the last 18 years of his life in spiritual reflection and service. He tilled the land, established the first Sikh commune (Kartarpur meaning "Creator's Town"), and taught the principles of honest living, Naam Simran (meditation on God's name), and Kirat Karo (earn by honest means). Guru Nanak's spirit of equality flourished here—Hindus and Muslims ate together in the Langar and prayed in unison. After his passing in 1539, both communities built memorials side by side, and today the magnificent Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur—accessible through the Kartarpur Corridor—stands as a beacon of peace between India and Pakistan.

## Gurdwara Ber Sahib



At Sultanpur Lodhi, Guru Nanak's spiritual awakening unfolded. While working as a storekeeper for the Nawab Daulat Khan, Nanak would spend hours immersed in divine contemplation. One dawn, he went to bathe in the Kali Bein rivulet and disappeared for three days. Upon returning, he proclaimed, "Na koi Hindu, na Musalman"—there is neither Hindu nor Muslim, only the One Divine. The sacred Ber tree under which he rested still stands at Gurdwara Ber Sahib, making it one of the most significant pilgrimage sites for Sikhs. Every Gurbpurab, Sultanpur Lodhi transforms into a radiant sea of devotion.

## Gurdwara Dera Baba Nanak



Just across the border from Kartarpur lies Gurdwara Dera Baba Nanak, built at the site where Guru Nanak once meditated and later settled with his family before establishing Kartarpur. The gurdwara overlooks the Ravi River, and from its upper floors, devotees can view Kartarpur Sahib through telescopes—a vision that evokes deep emotion and longing. The annual Kartarpur Sahib Jor Mela sees pilgrims gathering in remembrance of the Guru's last years.

## Gurdwara Nanak Jhira Sahib



Far to the south, in Bidar, lies a shrine that bears witness to Guru Nanak's compassion. When he found the town suffering from water scarcity, he miraculously caused a spring—Jhira—to gush forth from the hillside. The pristine water flows even today, symbolizing purity and grace. The gurdwara's architecture blends Sikh simplicity with Deccan artistry, attracting pilgrims from across India, especially during Guru Nanak Jayanti celebrations.

## Gurdwara Pathar Sahib



Amid the rugged Himalayas, Gurdwara Pathar Sahib stands as a reminder of Guru Nanak's journey to Tibet. According to legend, a demon attempted to crush the Guru with a boulder while he meditated. Miraculously, the rock softened, leaving his body's impression intact while repelling the demon's attack. The site, maintained by the Indian Army, is visited by both soldiers and travelers who find solace in its calm, high-altitude

serenity—a meeting point of faith and fortitude.

## Gurdwara Lakhpat Sahib



During his western Udasi, Guru Nanak visited Lakhpat—a once-thriving port city in Gujarat—on his way to Mecca and Medina. The gurdwara here preserves his wooden footwear, palki (palanquin), and handwritten manuscripts. The place reverberates with the Guru's message that true pilgrimage lies not in travel alone, but in spiritual awakening. Lakhpat Sahib is a UNESCO-protected heritage site, symbolizing Guru Nanak's global message of harmony.

## Gurdwara Mattan Sahib



In the picturesque valley of Kashmir, Guru Nanak conversed with local Hindu priests and Sufi mystics at Mattan, emphasizing that true devotion is not bound by rituals but by inner purity. The gurdwara built here retains a sacred pond and stone slabs where the Guru is believed to have meditated, marking the northernmost trail of his spiritual journey.

## A Tapestry of Faith Across Continents

From Nankana to Leh, from Bidar to Lakhpat—Guru Nanak's footprints span the length and breadth of South Asia, echoing his timeless message of "Sarbat da Bhala"—the welfare of all. Each gurdwara dedicated to his memory is not merely a structure of stone and marble, but a living symbol of his universal vision: that all humanity is one, and service to others is service to God.

These shrines are not museums of the past; they are pulsating centers of spiritual vitality, where the hymns of the Guru Granth Sahib continue to resound, and where the fragrance of Langar unites rich and poor alike. As we bow our heads at these sacred sites, we are reminded that Guru Nanak's journey never ended—it continues within every seeker who walks the path of truth, humility, and love.

# Guru Nanak in the eyes of scholars, spiritual masters

In the vast spiritual landscape of India, few figures command as much reverence, intellectual curiosity, and universal admiration as Guru Nanak Dev Ji—the 15th-century seer whose words became the foundation of Sikhism. More than five centuries later, Nanak's luminous teachings continue to stir minds and hearts across traditions, drawing reflections not only from his followers but also from spiritual masters, philosophers, and historians across the world. From Osho Rajneesh and the Dalai Lama to modern historians like W.H. McLeod, each has seen in Nanak a mirror reflecting their own quest for truth, harmony, and social transformation.

Among modern spiritual teachers, Osho Rajneesh spoke of Guru Nanak with deep affection and awe. To Osho, Nanak was not merely a preacher but a poet of the divine, a singer who expressed cosmic truths through rhythm and melody.

"Nanak's path to realization," Osho once said, "is not dry philosophy but a song filled with fragrance and joy. His way is music, not asceticism."

In his discourses on the Japji Sahib, Osho interpreted Nanak's words as the first outpouring of divine union—the spontaneous poetry of enlightenment. He described Nanak as a mystic who bridged earth and sky through his hymns, whose "Naam" (the divine Name) was both the path and the destination.

"When the ego disappears," Osho wrote, "whatever stands before your eyes is God Himself. Nanak saw this and sang it."

For Osho, Nanak symbolized the freedom of the spirit—a soul that transcended dogma, uniting Hindu and Muslim, philosophy and devotion, silence and song.

The 14th Dalai Lama, the global voice of Buddhist compassion, has often spoken of his admiration for Guru Nanak Dev Ji. On the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of the Guru, His Holiness said:

"I admire Guru Nanak, who came from a Hindu background, for making a pilgrimage to Mecca as an expression of respect. His life is a message of harmony among all faiths."

The Dalai Lama finds in Nanak's life an embodiment of karuna—compassion that transcends boundaries. He has called the Sikh community "an example for the modern world," praising their work ethic and generosity:

"Among the Sikhs," he noted, "there are hardly any beggars. You are not only hard-working but also generous in helping one another. Guru Nanak's teachings of equality and selfless service are what the world needs today."

To the Dalai Lama, Nanak stands as a spiritual bridge-builder, a saint who lived the essence of interfaith respect long before such terms existed. His message of compassion and selfless action aligns seamlessly with Buddhist principles of loving-kindness and mindfulness.

According to Swami Vivekananda: "There was a great prophet in India, Guru Nanak ... He conferred with Hindus and Mohammedans, and tried to bring about a new state of things."

Rabindranath Tagore said: "The

**Osho viewed Guru Nanak not as a man but as a phenomenon of pure silence and truth who transcended all religions, representing the ultimate point of all faiths. He admired Nanak's path for its natural, melodic, and celebratory nature, which he described as filled with song and flowers rather than rigid rules. For Osho, Nanak's teachings were the expression of his very being, not mere poetry, and listening to him was like being near a vibrant source of truth. Osho found a reflection of his own spiritual journey in Nanak's work, which emphasized awareness and love over dogma and limitations.**



freedom that Baba Nanak had felt was not political freedom; his sense of dharma was not constricted by the worship of deities that was limited to a certain country's or people's imagination and habit, and did not accommodate the universal human heart... he dedicated his life to preaching that freedom to all." Tagore recalled his childhood visit to the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) in Amritsar and wrote: "I remember the Gurudarbar at Amritsar like a dream. ... My father would sit among those Sikh worshippers ..."

On Nanak's hymn—"aarti" (Gagan Mai Thaal) Tagore said: "Asked to compose an anthem for the entire world, that had already been done long ago by Guru Nanak."

In a prayer meeting speech (New Delhi, 26 Sept 1947) Mahatma Gandhi said: "Sikhism started with Guru Nanak. What did Guru Nanak teach? He said that God is known by several names including Allah, Rahim, Khuda. ... Nanak Sahib tried to bring together all religions."

While spiritual masters view Guru Nanak through the eyes of love and devotion, historians and scholars approach him with a different kind of reverence—through research, analysis, and interpretation.

Swami Sivananda of the Divine Life Society, said: "Guru Nanak is a great prophet of Peace. Guru Nanak's teaching breathes the purest spirit of devotion... He takes the view of the Upanishads that there is one Brahman."

Several of Paramahansa Yogananda's self-realization hymn collections reference Guru Nanak's devotional lines (e.g., translations/adaptations of Nanak's chants such as "He Hari Sundara / O God Beautiful" appearing in collections attributed to Yogananda followers).

Contemporary Aurobindo Society posts and tributes commemorate Guru Nanak's call to unity and humanity:

Sant-poets such as Kabir and Ravidas are often invoked together with Nanak in devotional/poetic dialogues. Traditional janamsakhi-style stories present mutual

respect among these sants; modern retellings present Nanak praising Kabir's "nij baani" and vice versa.

The pioneering New Zealand historian W.H. McLeod, in his landmark study *Guru Nanak and the Sikh Religion*, examined Nanak as a historical and religious innovator. McLeod applied critical methods to the traditional Janamsakhis (biographical legends) and argued that Nanak's message belonged to the Sant tradition of northern India, emphasizing inner devotion over ritual. Though McLeod's approach was groundbreaking, it also sparked debates within Sikh circles for what some saw as an over-secular reading of Nanak's spirituality.

Sadhguru speaks of Guru Nanak as a spiritual master who lived from an "inner experience of life" rather than through scriptures. He emphasizes Guru Nanak's compassionate and courageous nature, noting that he was not always gentle but knew when to be hard and when to be soft. Sadhguru highlights the story of the "heavenly needle" to illustrate that Guru Nanak's life was not about amassing possessions, but about living from a place of inner spaciousness and realizing life itself.

**A Pioneer of Universal Humanism:** Scholars view Guru Nanak's philosophy as a "liberating philosophy of universal humanism," advocating liberty, love, respect, justice, and equality for all. He is recognized for questioning and condemning social customs and religious practices that discriminated against people based on caste, creed, or gender.

**Original Metaphysical Thought:** While his ideas derived in part from the Sant and Bhakti traditions, scholars argue that the fundamental issues of Sikhism are "fundamentally different in substance and direction," and his metaphysical aspects are considered original, not merely syncretic.

**Rejection of Ritualism and Asceticism:** Academic experts highlight his pragmatic approach to spirituality. He rejected idol worship,

the caste system, and the idea of asceticism or renouncing the world, advocating instead for a "householder's life" combined with spiritual practice and honest labor (Kirat Karni).

**Emphasis on Truthful Living:** Scholars emphasize that for Guru Nanak, "truth is a high ideal, higher still is truthful living". His teachings are seen as a call to action for creating a just society, not just a guide for personal salvation in the afterlife.

**A Poet and Mystic:** Guru Nanak is also recognized as a poet of "uncommon sensitivity" and a "wonderful mystic" whose verses, compiled in the *Guru Granth Sahib*, communicate complex spiritual ideas in simple language accessible to the common person.

"Hindu ka Guru, Musalman ka Pir": This popular saying reflects how he was, and still is, revered by both Hindus and Muslims, who saw him as their own teacher and spiritual guide.

**Baha'i Faith:** The Universal House of Justice of the Baha'i Faith considers Guru Nanak to have been endowed with a "saintly character" and views him as a "saint of the highest order" who was divinely inspired to reconcile the conflicts between Hinduism and Islam.

**Ahmadiyya Muslim Community:** This community considers Guru Nanak to have been a Muslim saint who sought to educate people about the real teachings of Islam.

## A Light for All Ages

Five hundred years after his birth, Guru Nanak continues to illuminate the human quest for truth and peace. His hymns still resound in gurdwaras and homes across the world, his ethics still shape communities, and his message still speaks to the global heart weary of division.

*Readers may please post their comments on the Guru Nanak Supplement, or email them to editor@theindianpanorama.news*

ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਿਆ ਮਿਟੀ ਯੁੰਧੁ ਜਗਿ ਚਾਨਣੁ ਹੋਆ।  
Heartiest Greetings on the 556th  
Prakash Divas of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji



**ARMINDER SINGH ARORA ADVOCATE**

PRACTICING CIVIL LAW SINCE 1978 AT DISTRICT COURT, LUDHIANA, INDIA

AUTHOR OF 85 BOOKS ON DIFFERENT LAWS OF INDIA.

WORKING ON A BOOK ON INTERPRETATION OF LEGAL TERMINOLOGY USED IN COURTS OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, USA, AND UNITED KINGDOM

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HAPPY SHRI GURU NANAK DEV JI  
PRAKASH UTSAV



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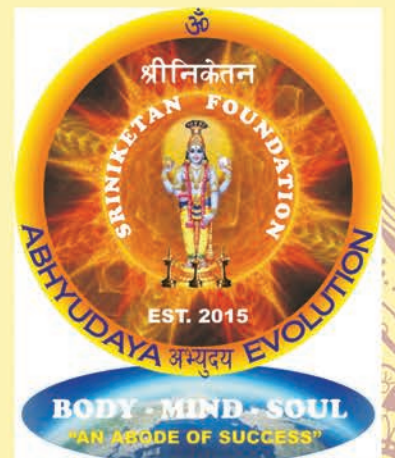
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## EXPERIENCE GERSHWIN AND MORE WITH NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

BY MABEL PAIS

**GERSHWIN** set classical music on fire with his jazzy *'Rhapsody in Blue.'*

Discover what makes a live orchestra concert so special. Experience an all-American program as vibrant and varied as our country, all brought to life by guest conductor **TITO MUNOZ**. Likewise, his contemporary Florence Price blended orchestral richness with a foot-stomping Piano Concerto. Pianist Michelle Cann has made these meteoric pieces her own. With Carlos Simon's *'Zodiac,'* you'll wing into the heavens, and Copland's *'Billy the Kid'* will take you to the wide-open west.

Inspired by Leonard Bernstein's masterful way of putting young audiences at the center of music-making, this interactive concert will feature inside tips, listening cues, and fun facts that make for the perfect Saturday afternoon family outing!

### PROGRAM

**Thursday, November 6 - 1:30 pm - NJPAC, Newark**

**Relaxed performance, details below**

**Friday, November 7 - 7:30 pm - Richardson Auditorium, Princeton**

**Saturday, November 8 - 7:30 pm - NJPAC, Newark**

**Sunday, November 9 - 2:00 pm - State Theatre, New Brunswick**

**Duration - 1 hour and 45 minutes**



Michelle Cann, pianist. - Credit: njpac.org.

**Tito Muñoz conductor**

**Michelle Cann piano**

**New Jersey Symphony**

**Florence Price Piano Concerto in One Movement**

**George Gershwin 'Rhapsody in Blue'**  
**Carlos Simon 'Zodiac' (Northeast Premiere, New Jersey Symphony Co-Commission)**

**Aaron Copland Suite from 'Billy the Kid'**

*The Thursday, November 6 performance at NJPAC in Newark will be a Relaxed Performance.*

Learn more on the program and what a relaxed performance is at [njsymphony.org/program\\_notes/detail/program-notes--rhapsody-in-blue](https://njsymphony.org/program_notes/detail/program-notes--rhapsody-in-blue)

and [njsymphony.org/relaxedperformance](https://njsymphony.org/relaxedperformance).

### CONCERT PRELUDE

**Thursday, November 6, at 12:30 pm at NJPAC in Newark**

Experience a special pre-concert performance in the lobby by the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) Outreach Ensemble, conducted by Michelle Hatcher.

### CLASSICAL CONVERSATION

**Saturday, November 8, at 6:30 pm at NJPAC in Newark and Sunday, November 9, at 1 pm at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick**

Enjoy a lively Classical Conversation

before the performance. Learn more about the music from New Jersey Symphony musicians, guest artists and other engaging insiders.

### NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

New Jersey Symphony is a GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning orchestra. Under the direction of Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 55 mainstage concerts across the state at venues in Newark, Princeton, New Brunswick, Red Bank, and Morristown, as well as at schools and public spaces statewide.

Programming at the Symphony reflects an unwavering commitment to diverse communities throughout the state, while providing students unparalleled opportunities to achieve musical excellence through its Youth Orchestra and other education programs.

In 2024, the Symphony announced it would continue to deliver its statewide activities from a new, permanent office, rehearsal, and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2026. For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit [njsymphony.org](https://njsymphony.org).

**Connect with NJ Symphony @** [njsymphony.org](https://njsymphony.org)

Follow NJ Symphony on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, and YouTube

## FORMER NJ GUBERNATORIAL HOPEFUL DEFTLY CAPTURES SKILL OF COURTROOM, POLITICS AND COMEDY

BY MABEL PAIS

**Law. Politics. Comedy.** At first glance, they may seem like very different worlds. But for Jon Bramnick, they come together naturally.

**JON BRAMNICK**, State Senator and Attorney, knows how to fight while making you laugh! Bramnick's journey through the courtroom, the Statehouse, and the comedy stage is anything but a joke. He will make you laugh all night long while he performs on the Victoria Theater stage of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), Newark, NJ on November 7, 2025. The performance begins at 7:30 PM. Special guest Vinnie Brand will join him.

Bramnick has been called recently "The Muhammad Ali of Comedian Lawyers," by NJ.com, a title that captures his rare mix of courtroom skill, political savvy, and comedic timing. With nearly four decades of legal experience and deep roots in New Jersey politics, attorney Jon M. Bramnick ([jonbramnick.com](https://jonbramnick.com)), founder of Bramnick Law ([jonbramnick.com/firm-overview](https://jonbramnick.com/firm-overview)), isn't just a seasoned trial lawyer and long-serving state senator but also a comedian.

Born and raised in Plainfield, he's the "Funniest Lawyer in New Jersey" — a legally binding title bestowed by the State Bar Association. When Jon's not



Jon Bramnick. -Credit: njpac.org.

busy working as a trial lawyer at his Scotch Plains personal injury firm, he's doing stand-up at comedy clubs from New York City to Florida. He also serves as a New Jersey state senator. In New Jersey's often bruising political and legal arenas, it's rare to find a figure who not only knows how to fight, but can make you laugh while doing it.

Bramnick has built a reputation for being quick on his feet, whether he's addressing a jury, debating on the Senate floor, or handling a heckler at a comedy club in New Brunswick. It's not every day that you discover a lawyer standing under the spotlight at a gritty comedy club, working a half-full room with jokes about ethics rules and crooked politicians. But for Jon Bramnick, it's part of a rhythm he's honed for over 30

years.

Performing regularly at venues like the Stress Factory in New Brunswick, Bramnick brings sharp wit and Jersey-centric humor to the stage. His comedy avoids the typical shock-and-awe punchlines; instead, he leans into clean, observational humor, skewering politics, bureaucracy, and his own profession with equal measure.

"You paid to see a lawyer tell jokes," he quips. "The good news is I'm not getting paid either."

The crowd laughs. The tension lifts. And suddenly, the man many recognize from political debates or courtroom victories becomes something even more relatable: human.

But beneath the laughter is a genuine desire to serve. Whether auctioneering

for charities, raising money for the Plainfield Symphony, or working to pass meaningful legislation, Bramnick has spent decades building bridges across communities, courtrooms, and party lines.

Jon Bramnick ([jonbramnick.com](https://jonbramnick.com)) recently ran for the Republican nomination in New Jersey's 2025 gubernatorial race, bringing his full personality — lawyer, lawmaker, and comedian—to the campaign trail. Although his bid in the primary concluded, Bramnick remains a visible and active presence across the state. Whether he's representing clients, speaking at community events, or bringing humor to a packed comedy club, he continues to lead with authenticity, clarity, and connection.

As he put it: "When you do comedy, it has to be instinctual. It has to be part of your personality." The same could be said for practicing law or representing constituents — it's about understanding people, reading the room, and responding with empathy and clarity.

### NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Learn more at [njpac.org](https://njpac.org).

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

## JAZZ FEST CONTINUES TO SHOWCASE JAZZ AS POWERFUL FORCE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



BLUES IS ALRIGHT singer-performers -Credit : njpac.org.

### 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.

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.

### 2025 TD JAMES MOODY JAZZ FESTIVAL PERFORMERS

ALEXANDER CLAFFY · 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 CONTINUED (EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

**When:** November 8 - 23, 2025  
**Where:** Multiple venues in Newark, New Jersey, including NJPAC (One 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.GO.NJPAC/1.888.466.5722 or visit NJPAC.org/jazz.

**SAT 11.15 @ 8:00 p.m. BLUES IS ALRIGHT**  
**TUCKA JAMES – VOCALS**  
**KING GEORGE – VOCALS**  
**POKEY BEAR – VOCALS**  
**WEST LOVE – VOCALS**  
**LENNY WILLIAMS – VOCALS**  
**THEODIS EALEY – VOCALS/GUITAR**

**Location:** NJPAC's Prudential Hall.

'Blues Is Alright' is a one-night only concert of Southern soul, blues and R&B; a musical storytelling filled with stark emotion and a revolving reality check. It's authentically raw; transforming tragedy, adversity and heartache into a visceral and cathartic experience. This special night of emotive lyrics and guitar-driven accompaniment features a mega lineup of musical royalty: performances by Tucka, King George, Pokey Bear, Theodis Ealey, J-Wonn and West Love.

Louisiana's **Tucka James** is an R&B singer who delivers "pillow talk" songs that recall the grooves of the '70s, '80s and 2010s. He has earned his nickname 'The King of Swing.'

Learn more about  
**Tucka James**  
@instagram.com/tuckakingofswing  
**King George** @803kinggeorge.com and @facebook.com/KingGeorge803;  
**Wardell "Pokey Bear" Brown** @facebook.com/wardell.brown.399  
**West Love** @instagram.com/\_westlove  
**Lenny Williams**  
@instagram.com/thereallennywilliams  
**Theodis Ealey** @theodisealey.com and @facebook.com/TheodisEaleyOFFICIAL  
**J-Wonn** @j-wonn.com

**SUN. 11.16 @ 2:00 P.M. JAZZ SALSA**

### SUNDAY

Luisito Rosario – vocals  
Luisito Rosario Orchestra  
**Location: Feldman Middleton Community Center.**  
As part of NJPAC's ArtsXChange initiative, this concert is a **FREE** innovative collaboration between NJPAC and Newark neighborhoods to produce arts and cultural programming. ArtsXChange spotlights local talent and nurtures the creativity of residents of all ages and abilities. The Luisito Rosario Orchestra will be led by New Jersey's own leading Salsa singer Luisito Rosario. All are welcome to join the salsa party in the South Ward!  
**SUN 11.16 @ 7:00 P.M. RACHAEL & VILRAY (FROM LAKE STREET DIVE)**

Rachel Price – vocals  
Vilray Bolles – guitar + vocals  
**Location:** NJPAC's Victoria Theater.  
*"Rachael and Vilray are a perfect example of the idea that sometimes what that once seemed old fashioned can actually resonate as new again."* – *All About Jazz*

Brooklyn-based jazz duo Rachael Price and Vilray Bolles, known as Rachel & Vilray, makes their NJPAC debut. Performing works from their latest album "West of Broadway" (Concord Jazz), the two friends offer a contemporary take on tin pan alley, the Great American Songbook, and vintage small combo jazz. Fusing West Coast jazz with Broadway musicals, they turn the idea of "Everything old is new again" on its head.

**THU 11.20 @ 7:30 P.M. JAZZ JAMS**

**Location: Clement's Place.**  
Co-presented by NJPAC's Jazz Advisory Committee and Rutgers Institute for Jazz Studies, Jazz Jams at Clement's Place is a **FREE** Jazz Jams Session concert series featuring top-flight New Jersey musicians directed by pianist and bandleader, James Austin, Jr. Audience members immerse themselves in the relaxing sounds of jazz music that stimulate the players'

and listeners' minds. All novice and seasoned jazz musicians and singers are welcomed to jam and improv with the professional band throughout the night. Co-producers: Wayne Winborne, Executive Director; IFJS and Eyesha Marable, Asst Vice President (AVP), Community Engagement, NJPAC.

**THU 11.20 @ 8:00 P.M. REPRESENT! A NIGHT OF JAZZ, HIP HOP, AND POETRY**

**CHUCK D – HIP-HOP ARTIST**  
**RAKIM – HIP-HOP ARTIST**  
**SLICK RICK – HIP-HOP ARTIST**  
**RAINA SIMONE – RAPPER**  
**DJ SPINNA**  
**TYEHIMBA JESS – POET**  
**NUYORICAN POETS CAFÉ SLAM TEAM – POETS**  
**CARIDAD DE LA LUZ- POET**

**Location:** NJPAC's Prudential Hall. This performance is part of Dodge Poetry.

"A once-in-a-lifetime grouping of artists, presented in a unique way. No two numbers were really alike and yet, due to the vocalists' and the musicians' skill, everything flowed together seamlessly." – NJarts.net

Back by popular demand is the fan-favorite jazz-meets-spoken word show **Represent!** Curated by Bill Stephney, part of the pioneering Def Jam Records team and responsible for launching rap group Public Enemy, this celebratory concert comprises MCs and poets performing their hit. For one unmissable night, NJPAC unites the leading voices in jazz, hip-hop and poetry.

Blaring horns and baring souls, these masterful artists exclaim their vision of justice, change, and joy. The incredible lineup includes hip-hop stars Chuck D (Public Enemy), Rakim (Paid in Full), Slick Rick, and rapper Raina Simone; Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Tyehimba Jess; one of the top poetry slam teams in the nation, Nuyorican Poets Café Slam Team featuring Caridad de la Luz, Executive Director of Nuyorican Poets Café; spoken word performers; leading

CONTD ON PAGE 40



REPRESENT! performers. -Credit : njpac.org.

**CONTD FROM PAGE 39**

jazz artists and more.

Learn more about

CHUCK D @ mrchuckd.com.

RAKIN @ rakimpresents.com

RAINA SIMONE @ raina-simone.com

DJ SPINNA @ djspinna.com

CARIDAD DE LA LUZ @

caridaddelaluz.com

Complete line-up to be announced soon!

**FRI 11.21 @ 7:30 P.M. CARLOS VARELA WITH SPECIAL GUESTS DIANA FUENTES AND JACKSON BROWNE**

**CARLOS VARELA – VOCALS + GUITAR**

**DIANA FUENTES – VOCALS**

**JACKSON BROWNE – GUITAR + VOCALS**

**RODRIGO TOSCANO - POET**

**Location: NJPAC's Victoria**

**Theater.** This performance is part of Dodge Poetry and receives additional support from the Gia Maione Prima Foundation.

*“The music of Cuba’s Carlos Varela feels as timely as ever.” – Los Angeles Times*

Known as the “Poet of Havana” or the “Bob Dylan of Cuba”, the immensely popular Cuban singer-songwriter Carlos Varela has dedicated his 30-year music career to expressing “the problems of my people.” His poetic lyrics speak to the promise and pain of Cuba across generations, with complex emotion and powerful imagery. His message has been banned and censored by Cuban authorities, but his songs, like 2000’s ‘Una Palabra,’ continue to resonate around the world. As Carlos explains: “Words can transform. They can reach your soul and your heart. They can shake your bones. They can change your life, and that can’t be lost.”

Special guest Diana Fuentes is a Cuban singer-songwriter known for her sparkling voice and her fusion of pop, R&B and Afro-Caribbean rhythms. She began as a vocalist in Síntesis and Carlos Varela’s band, earning Latin GRAMMY® nominations. She was the first Cuban female artist signed to Sony Music Latin since Celia Cruz, earning two Gold Records and one Platinum Record.

A member of both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame, special guest Jackson Browne has defined a genre of songwriting that is charged with honesty, emotion and personal politics. As influential and

enduring as his music is, Browne’s legacy as an advocate for social and environmental justice has been equally central to his career.

Opening the concert is Rodrigo Toscano, an author of 12 books of poetry, dialogist, essayist and labor-environmental activist.

Learn more about

Diana Fuentes @ dianafuentes.us

Jackson Browne @

jacksonbrowne.com

Rodrigo Toscano @

rodrigotoscano.com

**FRI 11.21 @ 8:00 P.M. CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE BIG BAND WITH ANDRA DAY, JOSÉ JAMES, AND LEDISI**

Christian McBride – bass/bandleader

Christian McBride Big Band

Andra Day - vocals

José James – vocals

Ledisi – vocals

**Location: NJPAC's Prudential Hall.**

*“one of modern jazz’s most innovative musicians” – Glide Magazine*

Montclair resident Christian McBride is a nine-time GRAMMY® Award-winning bassist/composer/producer, NJPAC’s Jazz Advisor, Artistic Director of the Montclair Jazz Festival, Board Member and Artistic Chair of Jazz House Kids. He makes his return as a bandleader with his latest project featuring his acclaimed Big Band and several special guest vocalists including: contemporary R&B innovator José James, the unparalleled GRAMMY® Award-winning Ledisi, and Andra Day who won a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture for her portrayal of Billie Holiday in the biopic ‘The United States vs. Billie Holiday.’

Most of the vocalists appearing on his latest album ‘Without Further Ado,’ Vol. 1 (Mack Avenue Records) have performed with him on the NJPAC stage. As told to WBGO Radio, “The impetus for this recording actually stems from the annual gala at NJPAC. So since 2012, I’ve been NJPAC’s Jazz Advisor and my Big Band has been the house band for the gala ever since. We’ve invited all kinds of great singers to come and sing at those galas. Between the gala and the James Moody Festival, we’ve had Al Jarreau, Dianne Reeves, Jeffrey Osborne, Cecile McLorin Salvant, Lizz Wright, Fantasia, Cynthia Erivo, Philip Bailey, every singer you could possibly think of. Every year I had to write these arrangements for these singers and they only got played once.

After more than 10 years, I’m looking at my library and I got this huge pile of big band music that’s only been played once. I thought they shouldn’t go to waste.”

Learn more about

Christian McBride @ christianmcbride.com

Andra Day @ andraday.com

José James @ josejamesmusic.com

Ledisi @ ledisi.com

**SAT 11.22 @ 7:30 P.M. STANLEY JORDAN PLAYS JIMI**

Stanley Jordan – guitar  
**Location: NJPAC's Victoria Theater.**

*“one of the world’s finest guitarists” – Downbeat*

World-renowned jazz guitarist Stanley Jordan channels the blues-rock legend in this can’t-miss tribute. “This is my fantasy Jimi Hendrix concert if Jimi were still alive and playing today,” he explains. It was Jimi’s death in 1970 that first moved 11-year-old Stanley to take up the guitar. His jazz career took flight, with four GRAMMY® nominations and the development of his signature two-handed touch technique, which was inspired by Jimi’s left-handed tapping. In this performance, Stanley channels Jimi while allowing his own style to shine through.

**SUN 11.23 @ 11:30 A.M. + 1:30 P.M. DORTHAAN’S PLACE: NAT ADDERLEY JR. QUARTET**

Nat Adderley Jr. – piano

**Location: NJPAC's NICO Kitchen & Bar.**

*“The finest in jazz is on the menu... anticipation runs high at Dorthaan’s Place, whether you’re there for the music, the food, the scene, Dorthaan, or all of the above.” – All About Jazz*

NJPAC continues Dorthaan’s Place, its popular Sunday jazz brunch series at NICO Kitchen + Bar curated by Newark’s First Lady of Jazz, Dorthaan Kirk. The series made its debut during NJPAC’s 2012-13 season and has grown ever since. This edition presents New Jersey’s Nat Adderley, Jr. — pianist, composer, arranger and longtime music director for Luther Vandross. Inspired by greats like Chick Corea, John Coltrane and Thelonious Monk, his quartet will have you bopping along with upbeat rhythms and playful solos.

There are two brunch seatings: 11:00 a.m. (music begins at 11:30 a.m.) and 1:30 p.m.

**SUN 11.23 @ 3:00 P.M. 14TH ANNUAL SARAH VAUGHAN INTERNATIONAL JAZZ VOCAL COMPETITION**

**GARY WALKER – HOST  
ANN HAMPTON CALLAWAY – JUDGE**

**JON FADDIS – JUDGE**

**NNENNA FREELON – JUDGE**

**CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE – JUDGE**

**JANIS SIEGEL – JUDGE**

**TYREEK MCDOLE - VOCALIST**

**Location: NJPAC's Victoria Theater.**

The divine Sarah Vaughan — Newark’s greatest musical gift to the world — got her start as the winner of a talent contest. NJPAC honors her legacy every year with the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, the only global jazz vocal contest of its kind, open to all genders and nationalities.

This event offers outstanding jazz singers a one-of-a-kind platform for embarking on a career in the music business — and offers audience members a chance to discover the jazz stars of tomorrow. For this 14th annual ‘The SASSY Awards’ event, WBGO Radio’s Gary Walker will host and 2023 SVVC winner Tyreek McDole will perform.

A panel of all-star judges — Ann Hampton Callaway, Jon Faddis, Nnenna Freelon, Christian McBride, and Janis Siegel — will select the winner. Gifted young contestants (featured in next issue) from around the world are evaluated on vocal quality, musicality, technique, performance, individuality, artistic interpretation, and ability to swing. The winner receives a \$5,000 cash prize. Past winners include Samara Joy, Cyrille Aimée, Jazzmeia Horn, Quiana Lynell, Laurin Talese, and more. For more information or to enter the competition, visit SarahVaughanCompetition.com.

**NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)**

Visit njpac.org for more information.

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

# Halloween: Where myths, masks & magic meet

When the last light of October fades and the moon ascends over rustling trees, the world prepares for a night unlike any other - a night when imagination takes flight, when shadows whisper stories of the ancient past, and when the living playfully dance with the idea of the unseen.

That night is Halloween, celebrated every year on October 31, a festival that fuses ancient Celtic mysticism, Christian traditions, and modern revelry into a spectacular symphony of the eerie and the joyous.

## From Samhain to Halloween: The Ancient Origins

Long before Halloween became a costume-clad celebration, it began as Samhain, an ancient Celtic festival marking the end of the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold months. Over 2,000 years ago, the Celts of Ireland, Scotland, and northern France viewed this period as a sacred turning point - the boundary between life and death grew porous, and spirits roamed freely among the living.

People lit massive bonfires to honor their gods, and Druids, the Celtic priests, performed divination rituals to foresee the coming winter. Villagers wore masks and animal hides to disguise themselves from wandering spirits and carried embers from the sacred fires back home to relight their hearths for protection and prosperity.

Samhain was a night of both awe and fear - a time to celebrate the harvest's bounty but also to prepare for nature's dormancy. It was not morbid, but mystical - a recognition that life and death are part of the same cosmic rhythm.

## Christianization: From All Hallows' Eve to Halloween

As Christianity spread through Europe, many pagan festivals were reinterpreted through a Christian lens. In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III declared November 1 as All Saints' Day (All Hallows' Day), a time to honor saints and martyrs. The night before - All Hallows' Eve - retained many of the older customs and superstitions.

Eventually, "All Hallows' Eve" contracted into "Halloween." The spiritual idea persisted: souls of the departed could revisit their homes, and prayers, offerings, and vigil lights were used to guide or comfort them. In England, people offered "soul cakes" to the poor in exchange for prayers for the dead - a practice that later evolved into the modern trick-or-treating tradition.

## The Journey to the New World

When Irish and Scottish immigrants arrived in America during the 19th century, they brought their Halloween customs with them. In the New World, the festival gradually transformed from a mystical ritual into a communal celebration.

By the early 20th century, Halloween



had become a lively event with parades, costume parties, ghost stories, and trick-or-treating. Children went door-to-door in disguise, echoing the Celtic belief in masking one's identity to blend with spirits.

It was also in America that the pumpkin became Halloween's most iconic symbol. The Irish tale of "Stingy Jack", who roamed the Earth with a lantern carved from a turnip, found new expression in the readily available pumpkin - larger, brighter, and perfect for carving. Thus was born the jack-o'-lantern, whose flickering face became the glowing heart of Halloween.

## Symbols of the Season: Meaning Behind the Magic

Every image associated with Halloween carries deep symbolism:

- The Jack-o'-Lantern represents both protection and mischief - a beacon to guide lost souls and ward against evil.
- Witches and Broomsticks symbolize the power of transformation - women once revered as healers and midwives, later feared as agents of dark magic.
- Black Cats, Bats, and Owls were thought to accompany witches, bridging the world between the living and the supernatural.
- Skeletons and Skulls remind us that

death is not an end, but part of an eternal cycle.

- Orange and Black - the festival's signature colors - reflect harvest (orange) and darkness (black), life and death intertwined.

Even the seemingly playful trick-or-treat ritual holds echoes of ancient spiritual reciprocity: giving and receiving blessings, sharing abundance, and honoring unseen forces.

## Halloween Around the World

Though Halloween is most popular in North America, its spirit is global. Across cultures, October and early November mark a time to remember the dead and celebrate life's continuity.

- Ireland & Scotland: Bonfires, torchlight parades, and storytelling keep the spirit of Samhain alive. In Derry, Northern Ireland, Europe's largest Halloween carnival merges ancient and modern imagery.
- Mexico: Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), held from October 31 to November 2, transforms remembrance into an art form. Families build colorful ofrendas (altars) with marigolds, sugar skulls, and food offerings, inviting ancestors to join in celebration.
- The Philippines: In Pangangaluluwa, people sing songs for the souls of the departed,

similar to the medieval European soul cake tradition.

- Japan: Halloween has become a festival of fashion and fun, especially in Tokyo's Shibuya district, where thousands parade in elaborate costumes.
- Italy and Spain: Families visit cemeteries, light candles, and share food in memory of loved ones, blending Catholic and folk customs.
- India: Though Halloween is relatively new, it is growing in urban centers as a creative cultural event - costume parties, pumpkin décor, and themed gatherings often coincide with Diwali festivities, offering a colorful contrast of light and shadow.

## The Psychology of Halloween

Why does humanity continue to celebrate a night devoted to ghosts, darkness, and the unknown?

Psychologists suggest that Halloween offers a safe confrontation with fear. It allows both children and adults to explore their darker emotions - curiosity about death, fascination with the supernatural - in a controlled, joyful environment.

By donning masks, people symbolically shed their everyday identities. The costume, in many ways, becomes a form of liberation - an opportunity to express hidden parts of the self, to laugh at fear, and to embrace the mystery of existence.

As cultural historian Lesley Pratt Bannatyne wrote, "Halloween is the day we let our imaginations rule, and we make peace with the darkness."

## Eco-Friendly Halloween

In recent years, a green Halloween movement has emerged. Conscious revelers are turning toward sustainable costumes, natural decorations, and pumpkin composting to minimize waste. Homemade treats and thrift-store finds are replacing disposable plastics, echoing the original harvest festival's connection to the earth and cycles of renewal.

Many communities now organize pumpkin walks, harvest fairs, and charity trick-or-treats, reviving Halloween's social spirit while caring for the planet.

Halloween, at its essence, is far more than an evening of spooks and sweets. It is a reminder that darkness and light coexist - that fear, death, and mystery are not enemies of life but companions on the same journey.

From the ancient fires of Samhain to the glowing pumpkins of today, from prayers for the dead to laughter in costume-clad streets, Halloween speaks of humanity's timeless need to face the unknown with imagination and joy.

As the October night deepens and children's laughter mingles with the whisper of falling leaves, remember: behind every mask is an echo of an ancient fire, still burning bright against the dark.



## Varun Dhawan's Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai gets new date

David Dhawan is returning to the director's chair with 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai'. Headlined by his son Varun Dhawan, the rom-com also stars Mrunal Thakur and Pooja Hegde, and has a new release date. Instead of April 2026, the film has now been scheduled to hit the big screen on June 5, 2026. Announcing the release date, the makers of Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai wrote on Instagram, "Drama bhi hona hai, comedy bhi - kyunki jab 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai' in cinemas on 5th June 2026."

Recently, Varun and Pooja featured in a hilarious video. He was playfully teasing his 'Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai' co-star in the fun behind-the-scenes clip. The clip opened with Pooja putting something in her eyes and claiming, "Varun is making me cry". When he asked the makeup artist what techniques they were using, Pooja shared, "It's a secret. We can't tell you."

Mouni Roy, who is a part of the primary cast, shared pictures from the set in May. She wrote, "If any of you understand magic & the theory of a dream come true this feels like that. Working with David sir was a life long dream."

# Pregnant Katrina's pics from balcony anger fans, Sonakshi calls it shameful

Star couple Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal have always kept their personal lives private. Every now and then, the actors do share sneak peeks of their real life love story on social media, giving fans a glimpse of their happily ever after. But they prefer keeping their private moments to themselves. For instance, last month when Katrina announced her pregnancy with an adorable polaroid shot of her baby bump and daddy-to-be Vicky, it was their choice. But the soon-to-be mother's viral pictures from her balcony, which surfaced on the internet this morning, were a clear invasion of privacy. And netizens are angry.

This morning, a media portal took to Instagram to share pictures of pregnant Katrina Kaif in the balcony of her Mumbai residence, ahead of her due date. Along with a string of photographs, a caption read: "Exclusive: Katrina Kaif steps out in her balcony while she nears her delivery date." This post irked several internet users, with many calling the website out for invading the actor's privacy by clicking photographs without her consent. Among other netizens was fellow Bollywood star Sonakshi Sinha, who slammed the post by writing: "What is wrong with you'll???? Photographing a woman in her own home without consent and publishing it on a public platform???? You'll are nothing less than criminals. Shameful." The post has now been removed.



In the comment section below, a social media user wrote, "This is a crime! Police should take action on this person who was taking pic and invade someone privacy," whereas another comment read, "Disgusting act by \*\*\*\*!! They need to face some sort of legal action. Getting papped publicly when one is aware and getting STALKED in their own home is different and it is disgraceful." An angry fan wrote, "@vickykaushal09 @katrinakaif please take action," whereas another comment read, "Do u

not know this is crime ?"

Recently, Vicky Kaushal opened up about parenthood. During an appearance at the second edition of the Yuva Conclave, the actor was asked what he is most looking forward to about becoming a father. Vicky shared, "Just being a dad (laughs). Really looking forward to it. I think, I think it's a huge blessing and exciting times. Almost there, so fingers crossed. Mujhe lag raha hai main ghar se hi nahi nikalne wala hun."

## Malaika Arora defends Bollywood dance numbers

Malaika Arora, known for her iconic dance performances in Bollywood, has spoken about the evolution of dance numbers in Indian cinema. In an interview, she shared her perspective on how these performances have transformed over the years, addressing both industry trends and public debate about their role and impact. Her insights highlight shifts in how such sequences are conceived and perceived by both filmmakers and audiences.

Discussing her career trajectory, Malaika reflected on the journey of dance numbers, noting that they have significantly changed since she began. She acknowledged that these routines have sparked debate for years, particularly regarding their narrative relevance and alleged promotion of vulgarity. Despite the controversies, Malaika believes that item songs have come a "long way".

She explained to Hollywood Reporter, the earlier approach to dance numbers, stating, "Earlier, they were mostly about glamour and spectacle, often detached from a woman's individuality. Today,



filmmakers are more conscious they integrate these numbers into stories with stronger character context. It's less about being provocative and more about performance and presence. I see it as an evolution where women can own their space."

Malaika also addressed the ongoing association of item songs with the male gaze, acknowledging its prevalence but highlighting her own outlook. She said,

"Yes, item songs have often been linked to the male gaze, but I've always looked at them differently. For me, dance is about confidence and expression. When I perform, I focus on enjoying the moment and bringing my own energy to it. As long as I feel comfortable and in control, that's what matters most. It's about celebrating the art and having fun with it rather than overthinking the labels."

Her recent appearance in the dance number 'Poison Baby' in the film 'Thamma', featuring Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna, marks her continued presence in the industry. She noted that her performance in the song was about "showing that you can stay relevant and passionate at any stage".

Reflecting on age and longevity in her career, Malaika stated, "age doesn't define your capacity to perform or inspire." She emphasised that experience and ongoing enthusiasm are equally important for an artiste.

Malaika's views come as conversations about representation and meaning in Bollywood dance numbers persist. She underscored the importance of artistic expression and self-assurance for performers, irrespective of prevailing stereotypes.

Alongside her dance career, Malaika is also a judge on the reality series 'India's Got Talent', sharing the panel with Shaan and Navjot Singh Sidhu. Her continued involvement in entertainment highlights her enduring relevance in the industry.

# Scream 7: Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox return to fight Ghostface

The fear of Ghostface has been reintroduced to the audience with the return of the Scream franchise. The maker dropped the first trailer of Scream 7 on October 30, just before Halloween. The promo gives fans a glimpse of Neve Campbell and Courteney Cox, who will be reprising their roles of Sidney Prescott and Gale Weathers, respectively.

The audience can expect intense emotions and suspense in the upcoming movie, keeping them on the edge of their seats at all times. In addition to Cox, the film will also witness the return of David Arquette, Matthew Lillard, and Scott Foley.

The trailer opens with a couple checking into a “psycho killer B&B,” where they are met with not one, but two Ghostfaces. The scene cuts to one of them calling up Sidney, warning her about the next target being her daughter, played by Isabel May. To save her daughter from the evil of Ghostface, Prescott will be forced to confront her past and fight the spirits.

As for the plot of the movie, the official synopsis reads, “When a new Ghostface killer emerges in the quiet town where Sidney Prescott (Neve Campbell) has built a new life, her darkest fears are realized as her daughter (Isabel May) becomes the next target.

Determined to protect her family, Sidney must face the horrors of her past to put an end to the bloodshed once and for all.” According to the events showcased in the trailer, Sidney will battle it out with the Ghostface head-on, while the slasher intends to “burn it all down.”

As for the cast of Scream 7, Campbell and Cox will be joined by Isabel May, McKenna Grace, Joel



McHale, Matthew Lillard and Jasmin Savoy Brown.

The movie is directed by Kevin Williamson. The latest installment of

the Scream franchise will drop on the big screens three years after Scream VI was released. Scream 7 is scheduled to hit theaters on February 27, 2026.



## George Clooney joins Call My Agent The Movie, filming begins in Paris

Actor George Clooney has joined the cast of the upcoming Netflix film 'Call My Agent The Movie', which began filming in Paris in early October 2025. The project brings together the original cast of the acclaimed French series, with Clooney set to make a special appearance alongside returning series regulars. Filming is taking place on location in Paris, with the film expected to premiere on Netflix in 2026.

Clooney's involvement was revealed during an interview with French newspaper Le Parisien while he was promoting another film in Los Angeles. He stated, "Since your French, I going to tell you that I'm leaving for Paris where I will be participating in the shoot of 'Call My Agent' next week I didn't hesitate for a second," confirming his commitment to the project.

The screenplay for the film has been written by Fanny Herrero, the creator, writer, and showrunner of the original series. Herrero, who previously wrote the first three seasons before stepping away, returns to helm the script for this much-anticipated feature-length iteration. The original series, set within a fictional Parisian talent agency, ASK, became known for its blend of drama and comedy as well as its star-studded cameo appearances.

# Not apologising for being a sex symbol, says Sydney Sweeney

Sydney Sweeney has set the record straight on those swirling rumours about her appearance. 'The Euphoria' and 'The White Lotus' star addressed social media speculation suggesting she's had cosmetic procedures, and she's not holding back.

In an interview with Variety, the 28-year-old dismissed the claims, saying, "I've never gotten anything done. I'm absolutely terrified of needles. No tattoos. Nothing." She added, "I'm going to age gracefully," putting an end to chatter comparing her current looks to photos from her teens.

For weeks, Reddit threads and social media users had speculated about possible Botox, fillers, and even a nose job, with one user claiming her upper lip looked "significantly bigger" and another insisting "the nose job is obvious." Despite the online scrutiny, Sweeney remains unfazed.

The actor noted that much of the public perception around her stems from the bold, complex women she portrays on screen. "Because I play a lot of very divisive characters, people think they know me," she said. "But they don't. So when people think, 'Ah, she's a sex symbol,' or 'She's leaning into that,' I'm like, 'No, I just feel good, and I'm doing it for myself and I feel strong.'"

Sweeney went on to say she hopes to inspire other women to embrace their confidence unapologetically. "You shouldn't have to hide or cover up in any room," she said. "Just flaunt what you've got and feel good."

Reflecting on her journey in Hollywood, the actor also opened up about learning to assert her worth in the industry. "Being an actress, it's a lot harder to stand in the room and demand your worth," she said. "I have to remind myself, 'Hey, Syd, you're actually powerful. Stand up a little taller.'"



## Hurricane Melissa leaves 49 dead in Caribbean

Hurricane Melissa's confirmed death toll climbed to 49 on Thursday, according to official reports, after wreaking destruction across much of the northern Caribbean and picking up speed as it headed past Bermuda in the North Atlantic.

Authorities in Haiti, which was not directly hit but nevertheless suffered days of torrential rains from the slow-moving storm, reported at least 30 deaths and 20 more missing.

At least 23 people, including 10 children, died in Haiti's southern town of Petit-Goave when a river burst its banks. Roads, houses and farmlands were also damaged by the rains.

Jamaica's information minister confirmed at least 19 deaths, but said authorities were continuing search and rescue efforts. The storm left hundreds of thousands without power, ripped roofs of buildings and scattered fields with rubble.

Jamaica's military has called on reserve personnel to report for duty to help with relief and rescue operations.

Melissa made landfall in southwestern Jamaica on Tuesday as a powerful Category 5 hurricane, the Caribbean nation's strongest-ever storm to directly hit its shores, and the first major hurricane to do so since 1988.

Windspeeds were well above the minimum level for the strongest hurricane classification. Forecasters at AccuWeather said it tied in second place for strongest-ever Atlantic hurricane on record in terms of windspeed when it struck land.

The forecaster estimated \$48 billion to \$52 billion in damage and economic loss across the western Caribbean.

# Built in the shadows and launched at night, Ukraine's long-range drones are rattling Russia

KYIV (TIP)

At a secret location in rural Ukraine, columns of attack drones are assembled at night and in near silence to strike deep inside Russia.

Their targets are strategic: oil refineries, fuel depots, and military logistics hubs. Since the summer, Ukraine's long-range drone campaign has ramped up dramatically, pounding energy infrastructure across Russia and stretching Moscow's air defenses thin.

Built from parts made in a scattered network of workshops, these drones now fly much further than at any point in the war. Officers in body armor move with quick precision; headlamps glow red to stay hidden. Engines sputter like old motorcycles as exhaust fumes drift into the moonless night. Minutes later, one after another, the drones lift from a makeshift runway and head east. The strikes have caused gasoline shortages in Russia, even forcing rationing in some regions and underscoring a growing vulnerability in the country's infrastructure. Lt. Gen. Vasyl Maliuk, head of the Ukrainian Security Service, said Friday that more than 160 successful strikes had been carried out against Russia's oil extraction and refining facilities so far this year.

### Drones hammer refineries

Western analysts say the attacks on energy infrastructure so far have had a serious – but not crippling – effect. Ukrainian drones have repeatedly hit 16 major Russian refineries, representing about 38% of the country's nominal



Long-range drones An-196 Liutyi of the Ukrainian 14th Separate Unmanned Aerial Systems Regiment stand in line before takeoff in undisclosed location, Ukraine. Associated Press

refining capacity, according to a recent review by the Carnegie Endowment, a U.S.-based think tank.

But it argues the actual impact has been considerably more limited: most plants resumed operations within weeks, and Russia's refining output has been cushioned by idle capacity and existing fuel surpluses.

The deep strikes have, however, given Kyiv the initiative at an important moment. The United States and Europe are ramping up sanctions on Russia's oil industry even as Kyiv's request for U.S. long-range Tomahawk missiles has stalled. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says Ukraine's improved long-range strike capability is causing real damage – forcing the Kremlin to import fuel and curb exports. “We believe they've lost up to 20% of their gasoline supply – directly as a result of our strikes,” he told reporters at a briefing in Kyiv.

At the secret launch site, the commander overseeing the operation – a broad-shouldered man identified by his call sign, “Fidel,” in accordance with

Ukrainian military regulations – watches through night-vision goggles as the drones climb into the star-filled sky.

“Drones are evolving,” Fidel told The Associated Press. “Instead of flying 500 kilometers (310 miles), now they fly 1,000 ... Three factors go into a successful operation: the drones, the people and the planning. We want to deliver the best result. For us, this is a holy mission.”

### Ukraine thrives on no-frills weapons

Much of Ukraine's fleet is homegrown. The Liutyi, a workhorse of the nightly attacks, is a waist-high craft with a sausage-shaped body, a propeller at the back, and a distinctive triangular tail.

It looks neither sleek nor intimidating – more Home Depot than Lockheed Martin – but the ease of assembly means it can be kept hidden and constantly tweaked: optimized to slip through heavily monitored frontline airspace.

Typical of Ukraine's no-frills war production philosophy, the Liutyi – whose name means “fierce” in Ukrainian – has become a symbol of national pride and recently featured on a local postage stamp. The reach of these drones – with some models doubling in range over the past year to routinely strike targets within a 1,000-kilometer radius of the border – marks a shift in the geography of the conflict. Attacks a year ago damaged refineries in a much narrower range, mostly in western Russian border regions. Costs have also come down, further testing expensive air defense systems, with long-range drones now being produced in Ukraine for as little as \$55,000.

## King Charles III strips Prince Andrew of titles, evicts him from royal home

LONDON (TIP)

King Charles III has stripped his brother Prince Andrew of his remaining titles and evicted him from his royal residence after weeks of pressure to act over his relationship with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Buckingham Palace said on Thursday, Oct 30, the king “initiated a formal process to remove the Style, Titles and Honours of Prince Andrew”.

After the king's rare move, Andrew will be known as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor and not as a prince, and he will move from his Royal Lodge residence into “private accommodation”.

It is almost unprecedented for a British prince or princess to be stripped of that title. It last happened in 1919, when Prince Ernest Augustus, who was a UK royal and also a prince of Hanover, had his British title removed for siding with Germany during World War I.

Demand had been growing on the palace to remove the prince from Royal Lodge after he surrendered his use of the title duke of York earlier this month over new revelations about his friendship with Epstein and renewed sexual abuse allegations by one of Epstein's victims, Virginia Roberts Giuffre, whose posthumous memoir hit bookstores last week.



The king 'initiated a formal process to remove the Style, Titles and Honours of Prince Andrew', Buckingham Palace said [File: Reuters]

But the king went even further to punish him for serious lapses of judgement by removing the title of prince that he had held since birth as a child of a monarch, the late Queen Elizabeth II.

“These censures are deemed necessary, notwithstanding the fact that he continues to deny the

allegations against him,” the palace said. “Their Majesties wish to make clear that their thoughts and utmost sympathies have been, and will remain with, the victims and survivors of any and all forms of abuse.”

Giuffre's brother declared victory for his sister, who died in April at the age of 41.

“Today, an ordinary American girl from an ordinary American family, brought down a British prince with her truth and extraordinary courage,” her brother Skye Roberts said in a statement.

Andrew faced a new round of public opprobrium after emails emerged earlier this month showing he had remained in contact with Epstein longer than he previously admitted.

That news was followed by the publication of, *Nobody's Girl*, by Giuffre, who alleged she had sex with Andrew when she was 17. The book detailed three alleged sexual encounters with Andrew, who she said acted as if he believed “having sex with me was his birthright”.

Andrew, 65, has long denied Giuffre's claims, but stepped down from royal duties after a disastrous November 2019 BBC interview in which he attempted to rebut her allegations.

## Israel returns 30 bodies of slain Palestinians as new strikes hit Gaza

Thirty more bodies of Palestinians who were detained by Israel have been returned to the besieged Gaza Strip, some showing signs of torture. The return of the Palestinian remains, via the International Committee of the Red Cross, came as Israeli forces continued air strikes across the Strip despite a shaky ceasefire, killing at least three people on Friday, Oct 31.

One Palestinian was killed and his brother wounded by Israeli gunfire in the Shujayea neighbourhood of eastern Gaza City, while another was killed by Israeli shelling in the Jabalia refugee camp, Wafa news agency reported. A third Palestinian died of wounds sustained from previous Israeli shelling, it added.

Separately, civil defence workers in central Gaza said they had recovered the body of a Palestinian from the rubble of the Abu Medein family home in the az-Zahra neighbourhood.

Israeli warplanes also struck buildings in Khan Younis in southern Gaza on Friday. The return of slain Palestinian detainees comes as part of the prisoner-captive exchange deal agreed in early October. The latest handover brings the total number of bodies received to 225, the Palestinian Health Ministry said in a statement. It said medical teams are identifying the bodies under standard protocols before documenting them and notifying families. In the previous handovers, bodies of prisoners had exhibited signs of torture, including being blindfolded and handcuffed, medical sources said. Many had appeared decomposed or burned, while others were missing limbs or teeth.

# Yemen's Houthis say arrested UN staff will be tried over Israeli links

SANAA (TIP)

Yemen's Houthi-run government will put dozens of detained United Nations staff on trial, alleging that they have spied for Israel or had links to an Israeli air strike that killed the prime minister, according to officials.

Abdulwahid Abu Ras, Yemen's acting foreign minister, told the Reuters news agency on Friday that a cell within the UN's World Food Programme was involved in directly targeting the government.

The Houthi prime minister and nine other ministers were killed in an Israeli strike on the capital Sanaa in August, the first such attack to kill senior officials.

The UN, which has repeatedly rejected Houthi accusations, said on Friday that a total of 36 UN employees were arrested after Israel's attack. It says that at least 59 UN personnel are being held by the group.

Abu Ras told Reuters that security agencies were acting "under full judicial supervision" and that public prosecutors were being kept informed "step by step". It was certain, he said, that the process would lead "to trials and the issuance of judicial rulings".

Separately, Nasruddin Amer, a senior Houthi official, told the dpa news agency on Friday that the detained UN workers would be tried on charges of spying for Israel.

"The judiciary will determine the penalty for those accused of spying for Israel in accordance with Yemeni law," Amer said. "This is not a law we enacted. It is a law that has been in effect and applied in the country by previous regimes."

The UN defendants are Yemenis and could face the death penalty under the



A member of Houthi security forces walks outside the United Nations compound following reports of UN staffers being detained, in Sanaa, Yemen, on October 29, 2025 [Khaled Abdullah/Reuters]

nation's laws.

### Trial 'not against the organisations'

Hundreds of UN personnel, including a small number of international staff, remain in parts of Houthi-controlled Yemen, according to Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for the UN secretary general.

Houthi security forces entered several UN offices in Sanaa on Sunday. The UN says it is operating under increasingly difficult conditions, hindering its ability to provide assistance to those in need in Yemen.

Amer told dpa: "The trial is not against the organisations, but against those who exploited humanitarian work to carry out espionage against our country and our people."

Abu Ras claimed that the Houthis are supporting humanitarian provision, and will "assist organisations committed to the principles of humanitarian work, facilitating their activities and work".

There was no immediate comment from the World Food Programme.

Since Israel launched its war on Gaza in October 2023, the Houthis have targeted vessels in the Red Sea and carried out drone and missile attacks against Israel, saying that they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians under fire in Gaza.

Israel has regularly struck the war-torn country, targeting civilian infrastructure, including residential buildings and the main international airport, while killing dozens at a time.

## Xi promises to protect free trade at APEC as Trump snubs major summit

GYEONGJU (TIP)

Chinese leader Xi Jinping told Asia-Pacific leaders on Friday that his country would help to defend global free trade at an annual economic regional forum snubbed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Xi took center stage at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that began Friday in the South Korean city of Gyeongju, as Trump left the country a day earlier after reaching deals with Xi meant to ease their escalating trade war. This year's two-day APEC summit has been heavily overshadowed by the Trump-Xi meeting that was arranged on the sidelines.

Trump described his Thursday, Oct 30, meeting with Xi as a roaring success, saying he would cut tariffs on China, while Beijing had agreed to allow the export of rare earth elements and start buying American soybeans. Their deals were a relief to a world economy rattled by trade tensions between the world's two largest economies.

Trump's decision to skip APEC fits with his well-known disdain for big, multi-nation forums that have been traditionally used to address huge global problems, but his blunt dismissal of APEC risks



South Korean President Lee Jae Myung welcomes Chinese President Xi Jinping to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Gyeongju, on October 31, 2025. | Photo Credit: AP

worsening America's reputation at a forum that represents nearly 40% of the world's population and more than half of global goods trade.

### Xi defends multilateralism

"The more turbulent the times, the more we must work together," Xi said during APEC's opening session. "The world is undergoing a period of rapid change, with the international situation becoming

increasingly complex and volatile." Xi called for maintaining supply chain stability, in a riposte to U.S. efforts to decouple its supply chains from China.

Xi also expressed hopes to work with other countries to expand cooperation in green industries and clean energy. Chinese exports of its solar panels, electric vehicles and other green tech have been criticized for creating oversupplies and undercutting the domestic industries of countries it exports to.

It's Xi's first visit to South Korea in 11 years, and he's scheduled to meet new Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Friday and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Saturday. South Korean officials said a Lee-Xi meeting would focus on dealing with North Korea's nuclear program.

Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent, who attended the summit on Trump's behalf, said a U.S. move to rebalance its trade relationships would ensure that "each country operates on fair and reciprocal terms." He added that the U.S. is "investing with its trading partners to build resilient production networks that reduce dependence on vulnerable sectors."

## Nepal Counts the Economic Cost of the Gen Z Uprising

With governments coming and going and policies being constantly chopped and changed, Nepali businesses are long used to working in an environment of uncertainty. What they are not used to is operating in a climate of fear.

During the two days of the Gen Z protests on September 8 and 9 — a violent revolt that killed 76 people and toppled the K.P. Sharma Oli government — prominent business establishments were vandalized and set on fire. And that wasn't the worst of it. Some businesspeople had to flee for their very lives from the rampaging mobs as their homes were ransacked.

With the emergence of multiple new and competing groups that want a direct say in the political process following the revolt, the Sushila Karki-led interim government has struggled to assert its control.

The new government has the singular mandate of holding nationwide elections by March 5, 2026. Yet in the current environment of political contestations, the polls are by no means certain.

Old political parties, the biggest in the dissolved lower house, are major stakeholders in Nepal's political process. So are members of Gen Z who spearheaded the September protests. There cannot be elections unless the government, the political parties, and the Gen Z leaders can agree on a way ahead. Thankfully, formal conversation between them has now started — albeit with tentative first steps.

Besides this, the fragile security situation could be another stumbling block to timely elections.

During the protests, over 1,000 criminals escaped prisons and nearly as many weapons were looted from the police force. Most of these remain unaccounted for.

Moreover, under pressure from various protesting groups, around 200 people who had been detained in connection with random acts of arson, violence, and looting during the protests were released, further demoralizing the police and the business community.

Nepal's businesses feel they cannot rely on the police for protection. If looters and thieves cannot be punished, what is the guarantee that the businesses will not be targeted again?

While before the protests, Nepal's economy was expected to grow by around 5 percent this fiscal year, the World Bank now caps growth at 2.1 percent, as it reckons the Gen Z protests have deepened political and economic uncertainties.

Preliminary estimates suggest around \$700 million in damage to private property, with over 15,000 jobs directly affected. The loss in confidence of the private sector, which is responsible for 85 percent of formal jobs in Nepal, will be hard to restore.

# Pak, Afghanistan extend ceasefire, to hold another round of talks

ISLAMABAD (TIP)

After the second round of talks in Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan agreed to extend the ceasefire on Thursday. According to a statement released by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the talks between the two nations were mediated by both Ankara and Qatar.

The statement noted that the talks were held between 25 and 30 October in Istanbul. Negotiators from Turkey, Qatar, Afghanistan and Pakistan sat down to discuss ways to strengthen the ceasefire, which had been agreed upon in Qatar. Earlier this month, Islamabad and Kabul engaged in a brief military conflict at the border, which resulted in several fatalities.

"Afghanistan, Pakistan, Türkiye and Qatar held meetings in Istanbul from 25 to 30 October 2025 aimed at solidifying the ceasefire that was agreed by Afghanistan and Pakistan in Doha on 18-19 October 2025, with the mediation of Türkiye and Qatar. All parties have agreed on the continuation of the ceasefire," the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

### Next meeting on 6 November

It also noted that additional principles for the implementation of the ceasefire would be discussed and finalised during a high-level meeting to be held on 6 November in Istanbul.



Afghan Taliban's Defence Minister Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid and Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif shake hands following the signing of a ceasefire agreement during negotiations mediated by Qatar and Turkey in Doha, Qatar, on October 19, 2025. (File Photo: Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Handout via Reuters)

"All parties have agreed to put in place a monitoring and verification mechanism that will ensure the maintenance of peace and impose a penalty on the violating party," the ministry stated. "As mediators, Türkiye and Qatar express their appreciation for the active contributions of both parties and stand ready to continue cooperation with both sides for lasting peace and stability," the statement further read.

Initially, a 48-hour ceasefire was announced on 15 October after intense border clashes between the two sides. It was later extended until the conclusion of the Doha talks, with the support of Türkiye and Qatar. The military escalation between the two nations intensified after Pakistan conducted two strikes in Kabul, while the Taliban's Foreign Minister, Amir Muttaqi, was on a six-day visit to India.

## Living freely in Delhi: Sheikh Hasina says has no plans of leaving India

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday said she had no plans of leaving India, warning that millions of voters would be boycotting the election in Bangladesh if her party, the Awami League, wasn't allowed to participate. In interviews to a news agency and the UK's Independent, Hasina refused to apologise for the killings that took place in July-August 2024 during the agitation that led to the toppling of her regime. Hasina told Reuters she "lives freely in Delhi but remains cautious given her family's violent history".

Hasina, advised by Bangladesh Army Chief Waker-Uz-Zaman, left for India on August 5 last year on a self-imposed exile as tens of thousands of protesters marched towards her residence in Dhaka. Since then, she has been in a safehouse in Delhi, according to reports. A Reuters journalist had seen Hasina taking a stroll at Delhi's Lodhi Garden and nodding to passersby who recognised her.



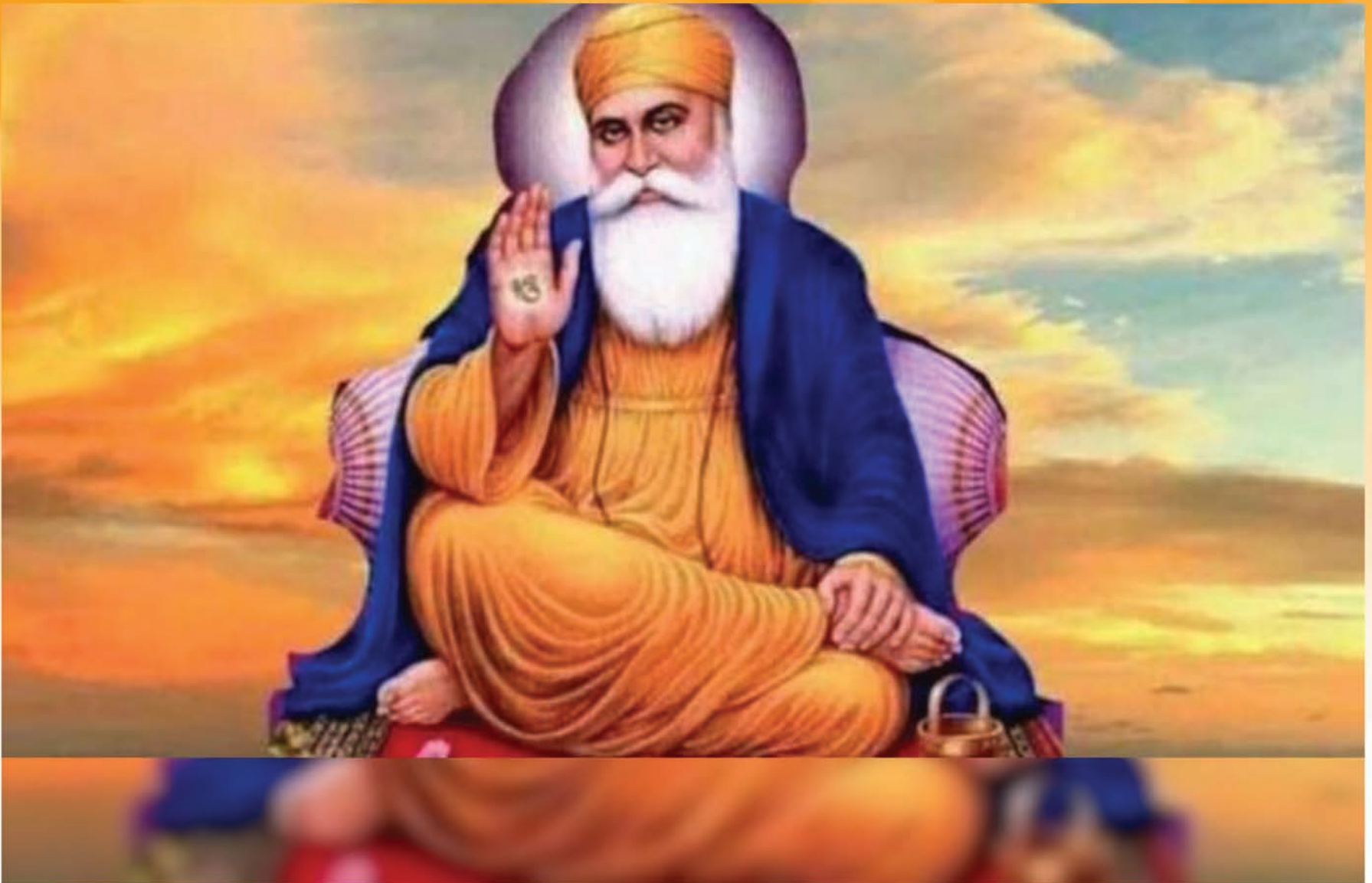
In an e-mail interview to Reuters, Sheikh Hasina said that "she would not return to Bangladesh under any government formed after elections that exclude her party, and plans to remain in India". "I would of course love to go home, so long as the government there was legitimate, the Constitution was being upheld, and law and order genuinely prevailed," she told Reuters.

Hasina and several leaders of her government and party are facing charges of murder and a trial has just concluded at the International Crimes Tribunal-1 in Dhaka where the government prosecutor sought the death penalty for her.

Around 1,400 people were allegedly killed in Bangladesh in July and August last year as a students' protest against quota in jobs turned into a movement against the Sheikh Hasina regime.

In an interview to The Independent, published on Wednesday, Sheikh Hasina refused to apologise for the deaths, but said she "mourns each and every child, sibling, cousin and friend we lost as a nation" and would "continue to offer my condolences". She called the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) proceedings "sham trial" and part of the process of assassinations against her family, and a bid to get rid of her.

"The ICT is a sham court presided over by an unelected government consisting of my political opponents. Many of those opponents will stop at nothing to get rid of me," Hasina told The Independent. "Because of my family's history, nobody can be more aware than I am of the history of political assassinations in our country, and this move by the ICT is part of that ugly tradition."



ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਿਆ ਮਿਟੀ ਯੁੰਧੁ ਜਗਿ ਚਾਨਣੁ ਹੋਆ।

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Daler Singh  
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FORMER PRESIDENT  
Baba Makhan Shah Lobana Sikh Center, New York  
President, Akal Gatka Gurmat Group Inc. New York

# Try these instant face masks for glowing skin

Try these easy home remedies that will instantly give you glowing skin of your dreams!

## At-home sheet mask

A new lockdown find is sheet masks that come packed as a capsule and as soon as you dip it in a liquid it turns into a mask. This is perfect for days when you do not have too much time for an elaborate skincare routine. All you need to do is dip one of those in cold milk and a pinch of turmeric. Leave the mask on for 15 minutes and rinse with cold water. This will ensure you have brighter and glowing skin. Just make sure you use organic turmeric that does not leave a stain on your face!

## Ice-cube glare

Ice cubes are one of the best things to increase blood circulation to your face and bring the lost glow back. One of the best things to do here is to steep a cup of green tea and let it cool. Once the green tea is ready, mix it with a few drops of your favourite essential oil and fill it up in an ice tray. After a few hours, use this iced green tea on your face and watch the magic



happen! It is an instant hack to get glowing skin.

## Besan packs

If you're looking to go all out with traditional home remedies, we're here for you. All you need is one teaspoon of besan aka gram flour and yoghurt. Mix it together and add a pinch of turmeric and saffron to the mix. Now, apply the mixture to your face and leave it on for about 20 minutes. Rinse with cold water

and see the magic happen.

## Honey and Lemon

A timeless favorite, this mask brightens dull skin in minutes. Mix one tablespoon of honey with a few drops of fresh lemon juice\*\* and apply evenly to your face. Honey hydrates deeply, while lemon's vitamin C evens out skin tone. Leave it on for 10-15 minutes, rinse with lukewarm water, and reveal instantly luminous skin.

# Tips to keep kitchen squeaky clean

Count on these easy suggestions to ensure your kitchen stays neat, clean and beautiful

## Cleaning

It is important to keep the kitchen's cleanliness and hygiene in check. Spray the area with all-purpose cleaners and wipe it dry. Regularly cleaning the countertop and the sink helps to ease down the tedious task of maintaining the kitchen.

## Waste management

Working around edible stuff can create a lot of waste (both wet and dry). It is important you have your waste management in check. The garbage can harbour alarming bacteria and offensive smells. Separate bins for dry and wet waste not only helps in disposing of the same easily but also maintain kitchen hygiene.

## Empty sinks

Make sure to keep your sinks empty and clean. That way it creates more room for rinsing off the vegetable while cooking and reduces the concern of bad odour from used utensils.



## Right cleaning tools

There's nothing more nerve-racking than going about cleaning without the right cleaning tools. Make sure you wash the napkins regularly and store them at a place that is easily accessible. Also, do not forget to dispose of an overused napkin as the odour from it can last for days. Using kitchen napkins or rags cuts down on trash and makes you take the eco-friendly route because you can just use one rag and rinse it out when required instead of tearing off paper towels and throwing them away after one wipe.

## Floor and wall tiles

Kitchen floors get messy in no time with food crumbs, other edible

particles, dust, etc. To keep germs and insects away from your kitchen, it is important to sweep or vacuum your floor daily. Along with the floor, ensure the tiles above the counter are cleaned at regular intervals. If the tiles contain dirt on them for long durations, they can come in contact with your food, and thus affect your health.

## Spill-in check

Another easy way to maintain your kitchen is to never let the spills sit. They get sticky and stinky in no time. Make sure to wipe a spill as soon as it happens to avoid dealing with a larger mess later. Depending on the food ingredient, if left unchecked for a long time, the spills can result in unremovable stains thus ruining the beauty of your kitchen.

## Clean cabinets

Always ensure you clean your cabinets regularly. Clean them by wiping down a few times. After cleaning, wipe the cabinets with a dry cloth or towel to absorb any extra moisture. It is recommended to clean the cabinets inside out a few times every month to avoid any dust particles or stains.

## FOOD CORNER

### Aloo Tikki: Crispy on the outside, soft at heart

Few dishes capture the essence of Indian street food like Aloo Tikki - the golden, crispy potato patties that tempt you with their aroma at every corner. Served hot with tangy tamarind chutney or spicy green chutney, this simple yet irresistible snack is loved across India - from Delhi's bustling lanes to Mumbai's chaat stalls.

#### Ingredients

For the Tikki:

- 4 large potatoes - boiled and mashed
- 2 tablespoons cornflour (or rice flour)
- 1 teaspoon ginger paste
- 1-2 green chillies, finely chopped
- ½ teaspoon red chili powder
- ½ teaspoon garam masala
- ½ teaspoon cumin powder
- ½ teaspoon chaat masala
- Salt to taste
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped coriander leaves
- Oil for shallow frying

#### Preparation

Step 1: Prepare the Potato Base

- Boil the potatoes until soft, peel them, and mash thoroughly. Add cornflour, salt, chili powder, garam masala, cumin powder, chaat masala, green chillies, ginger paste, and coriander leaves. Mix well until a smooth, firm dough-like mixture forms.

Step 3: Shape the Tikkis

- Take a portion of the potato mixture, flatten it on your palm, and if using filling, place a spoonful of the pea mixture in the center. Gently seal the edges and form round, flat patties.

Step 4: Fry to Perfection

- Heat a non-stick pan or tawa. Add a few tablespoons of oil and shallow fry the tikkis on medium flame until golden brown and crisp on both sides. Drain on absorbent paper.

#### Serving Suggestions

Serve hot with:

- Green chutney (mint-coriander)
- Tamarind chutney
- A sprinkle of chaat masala and finely chopped onions
- For a street-style twist, top with yogurt, chutneys, chopped onions, sev, and pomegranate seeds to make Aloo Tikki Chaat.

#### The Final Bite

Crunchy on the outside, melt-in-the-mouth inside - Aloo Tikki is comfort food that never fails to please. Whether as an evening snack, festive treat, or chaat centerpiece, it's a timeless Indian favorite that brings pure joy with every bite.



# Heart disease on the rise among young adults due to unhealthy lifestyle

Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) occurs when the arteries supplying blood to the heart become narrowed or blocked due to plaque buildup, a condition called atherosclerosis. This reduces oxygen supply to the heart, especially during physical exertion, and when blockages exceed 70%, it can lead to a myocardial infarction, or heart attack.

While CAD was once considered an ailment of older adults, experts now warn that it is increasingly striking people in their 20s and 30s. Dr. Aditya Kumar Singh, Associate Director and Unit Head, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) at Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital, New Delhi, notes that the trend is largely fuelled by modern lifestyle choices, poor diet, sedentary habits, obesity, smoking, alcohol consumption, and chronic stress. Having performed numerous complex cardiac procedures,

Dr. Singh emphasises that young individuals must recognise early warning signs and make proactive lifestyle changes to protect their heart health.

Traditionally, CAD was seen in older individuals, men above 45, and women after menopause. However, the disease is now appearing alarmingly early due to unhealthy routines and high-stress living. Common contributors include: Smoking and tobacco use, High-fat, low-nutrient diets, Sedentary work culture, Obesity, Excessive alcohol intake, Chronic stress and lack of sleep, Erratic work hours, long screen time, and poor dietary patterns have turned young professionals into high-risk candidates for heart disease.

## Controllable risk factors include:

Diabetes, High blood pressure,  
High cholesterol, Smoking or tobacco use, Alcohol consumption, Obesity, Sedentary lifestyle, Stress

## Non-modifiable risk factors include:



Age, Family history of heart disease, Genetic predisposition, Targeting controllable factors through diet, exercise, and regular health checks can significantly reduce the likelihood of CAD.

## WARNING SIGNS TO WATCH FOR

Typical symptoms of CAD include:

Chest pain or tightness (angina), Pain radiating to the neck, jaw, or left arm, Shortness of breath, Fatigue or dizziness.

Dr. Singh stresses that even mild or intermittent chest discomfort should not be ignored, especially in those with risk factors like obesity, diabetes, or hypertension.

Coronary Artery Disease is no longer an “old-age” disorder. It is silently claiming younger lives, often due to preventable habits. As Dr. Singh emphasizes, “A healthy lifestyle is your first and most powerful defense against heart disease.” Early detection, timely medical intervention, and consistent self-care can keep the heart strong for decades to come.



## When smells make you sick: How nausea leads to a hidden thyroid disorder

Most of us have turned up our noses at strong food smells, but for some, that queasy feeling can go far beyond mere dislike.

A peculiar case of a 67-year-old woman who developed nausea and aversion to the smell of cooked food turned out to be something far more serious - a thyroid disorder in disguise.

Dr. Honey Savla, Consultant, Internal Medicine at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central, recounts the case to highlight how the body can send distress signals in the most unexpected ways.

“Generally, ongoing nausea is thought to indicate a digestive health issue, acidity, or intolerance,” says Dr. Savla. “But sometimes, the body sends warning signals in locations we don’t expect. Hormonal levels, metabolic processes, and even the brain’s reaction to a mere whiff can affect our response to a stimulus.”

In this particular instance, the patient couldn’t bear the smell of food being cooked in her own kitchen. “As soon as she walked in, she experienced bouts of nausea and had to step outside to recover,” recalls Dr. Savla. “She began losing her appetite and subsequently lost a significant amount of weight, despite no major changes in her diet.”

When routine digestive tests offered no answers, further investigation revealed that her thyroid hormone levels were abnormally high—a condition known as thyrotoxicosis, where an overactive thyroid speeds up metabolism and alters various body functions.

According to Dr. Savla, the heightened hormone levels had made her overly sensitive to smells, triggering nausea and food aversion. “The excess thyroid hormones had altered her body’s metabolism and increased her smell sensitivity to the point where even simple cooking odors became an irritant,” she explains.

Once the thyroid imbalance was treated, the patient’s symptoms began to ease. “Within a few weeks, her nausea subsided and she was able to eat normally again,” says Dr. Savla. *Source: India Today*

# Pink vs white guava: Which is better for diabetics?

Guava, the tropical fruit known for its refreshing taste and impressive nutrition, is often hailed as a superfruit for diabetics. It is low in calories, rich in fiber, and packed with essential nutrients like Vitamin C, potassium, and antioxidants. However, the debate between pink and white guava continues - which one offers better benefits for those managing diabetes?

Both varieties have unique strengths. Pink guava, with its rosy flesh, gets its color from lycopene - a powerful antioxidant that helps protect the heart and pancreas from oxidative stress. It contains slightly more natural sugars and a softer, sweeter taste. While this makes it delicious, diabetics should consume it in moderation. Its antioxidant properties, however, make it valuable for preventing diabetes-related complications and promoting overall cardiovascular health.

White guava, on the other hand, is paler, firmer, and less sweet. It typically has a higher fiber content and a slightly lower glycemic load than pink guava. This means it releases sugar into the bloodstream more slowly, helping maintain stable glucose levels. Its mild sweetness and high Vitamin C levels also make it ideal for daily consumption by diabetics. The abundant fiber aids digestion, promotes satiety, and supports better weight management - all crucial for controlling blood sugar.

Both types of guava work wonders when eaten fresh and without the peel. The peel can be difficult to digest and may contain pesticide residues. It's



best to avoid guava juice, jams, or processed products that include added sugar. Eating a medium-sized guava as a mid-morning or evening snack helps regulate sugar levels and provides a nutrient boost.

So which is better? For strict blood sugar control, white guava has a slight edge due to its lower sugar and higher fiber content. But for overall antioxidant protection and heart health, pink guava is equally valuable. The healthiest approach is to enjoy both in moderation - white guava for daily intake and pink guava occasionally for its antioxidant power.

In short, guava, whether pink or white, is a diabetic-friendly fruit that supports balanced sugar levels, boosts immunity, and promotes general wellness. The key lies in portion control and regular inclusion as part of a healthy, balanced diet.

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## WhatsApp on Apple Watch is coming soon so you can chat without needing an iPhone

WhatsApp has begun rolling out a dedicated app for the Apple Watch for users who want to stay connected on the go. As per WABetaInfo, the app, currently available through the latest WhatsApp beta for iOS, allows Apple Watch owners to chat, reply, and interact with messages directly from their wrist.

Unlike its Wear OS counterpart, the initial version of WhatsApp on Apple Watch functions as a companion app and still requires the iPhone to be connected. Users looking to leave their phone at home and use WhatsApp solely on their watch will find that the app does not yet support full independence. The iPhone connection is necessary for messaging, so the experience is not yet standalone, but this release is still a big step forward for WhatsApp on Apple Watch.

Previously, Apple Watch users could access WhatsApp only through basic notification mirroring, which offered limited interaction. The new companion app changes this by providing more direct access, including viewing conversations, sending quick replies, reacting with emojis, and checking media—all without waiting for a phone notification. These additions bring the Apple Watch closer to the level of support offered by other messaging apps on watchOS.

# Why is the Sun's outer layer hotter than its surface? Mystery solved

Researchers have made a landmark discovery in solar physics by directly observing small-scale waves in the Sun's corona, elusive magnetic waves that have baffled scientists for more than 80 years.

The breakthrough, published in *Nature Astronomy*, was achieved using the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST) in Hawaii, the world's most powerful solar observatory.

The phenomena, termed the torsional Alfvén waves, could finally unravel the mystery of the Sun's super-hot outer atmosphere, offering vital clues to how the corona reaches temperatures of millions of degrees while the solar surface remains comparatively cool at about 5,500°C.

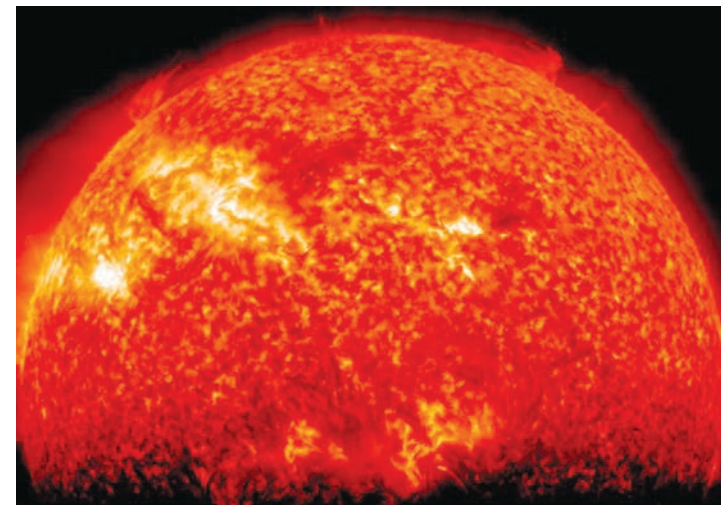
Alfvén waves, named after the 1942 Nobel laureate Hannes Alfvén, are magnetic disturbances that travel through plasma, the electrically charged gas that makes up the Sun.

While larger and more sporadic Alfvén waves linked to solar flares have been detected before, this is the first time the subtle, ever-present twisting waves, thought to be powerful enough to heat the corona, have been directly confirmed.

Professor Richard Morton of Northumbria University led the research team, employing DKIST's Cryogenic Near-Infrared Spectropolarimeter (Cryo-NIRSP) to discern the twisting, or torsional, motions hidden within the turbulent coronal plasma.

The Cryo-NIRSP allowed the team to analyse highly ionised iron at 1.6 million degrees Celsius, detecting tiny, periodic Doppler shifts, red and blue shifts on opposite sides of magnetic structures caused by twisting waves. This was possible thanks to the instrument's unrivalled spectral resolution and sensitivity to minuscule plasma movements.

To reveal the elusive torsional signal, Professor Morton also developed new analytical techniques to separate out the



dominant 'kink' waves, large swaying motions that usually mask the twisting effect.

The implications are huge: confirmation of small-scale torsional Alfvén waves may solve the "coronal heating problem", explaining how the corona's temperature greatly exceeds that of the Sun's surface, and identifying a key driver of the solar wind.

This discovery, by an international team including members from the UK, China, Belgium and the US, will help refine space weather models, advancing our ability to forecast solar storms that can disrupt satellites, GPS, and power grids on Earth.

It also marks a new era in high-resolution solar physics, laying the groundwork for future DKIST-based exploration into the fundamental dynamics powering our star.

Oppo has already launched its next flagship phone — Find X9 Pro. Vivo will be doing so soon with the X300 Pro, which it has already revealed in China. Given that the phones are out in public, although in a limited way, we already know a lot about them. These are premium, nay ultra-premium, phones with the hardware that is top of the line and sets a new benchmark for smartphones of 2026. This means they come with top chipsets, plenty of RAM and storage, revamped camera systems built around extremely high-resolution 200MP sensors, and displays that are richer and brighter than ever. But of all things that the X9 Pro and the X300 Pro come with, I am most excited about the external lens that they will support.

Of course, this lens is an extra. In other words you will have to pay more for it. And I am not yet sure how good it is going to be in use. But I am excited because this is a step that pushes mobile photography into a new realm. It opens up new possibilities.

For several years now phone companies have been working hard at improving mobile phone photography. But all the low-hanging fruits have been plucked and increasingly it is evident that physics behind optics and sensors can't be defeated with clever tricks. This is the reason why even now Nokia Pureview 808, a phone launched in 2012, can click photos that are almost as good or even better than what most flagships can manage in 2025.

Once the limits became clear

## What is next for high-end phones? An external lens system and this is the way



companies started using computational photography. Most notably Google has shown with Pixel phones what is possible using clever software and tuned up image processing. But there are limits to that as well. There are limits to AI too. At the end of the day photography is all about light, lenses, sensors. And there is no bypassing physics that governs it all.

It is in this context I feel that the move towards external lenses is the next big thing in mobile photography. This is particularly important for telephoto

shooting, because zoom is one thing that is hardest to do within small and petite shells of smartphones.

The approach is clearly visible with the Vivo X300 Pro and the Oppo Find X9 Pro. Both these phones come with a large telephoto lens that can be attached to the camera module. This lens then increases the optical zoom offered in the phone to a significant range. The Vivo lens, branded Zeiss, extends the phone's optical zoom to 200mm. The Oppo lens, branded Hasselblad, makes the phone's

optical zoom 230mm. This is still not enough range to shoot birds and small animals. But it is enough of a range that you can actually carry your phone to a safari in Kenya and get fairly decent, if not spectacular photos, of bigger animals.

Of course, I haven't used any of these telephoto lenses with these phones. And I am not even sure if Vivo and Oppo will be launching these accessories here in India. There are obviously optical challenges that are going to be there. An increase in optical zoom range is welcome, but it is almost certain that it will also mean a reduction in light gathering capabilities — read narrow aperture. Similarly, I do not know what sort of distortion these telephotos introduce, and whether the small image sensors in the phones can actually support such large lenses or not.

But as a trend this is a welcome trend. That is because it allows a lot of people, people who only shoot occasionally, to go by using their phones even in special circumstances. For example it will give phone-totting people in a wildlife park a chance of capturing better photos. Or it can potentially allow users to click better portraits on a sunny afternoon at a family gathering.

# India should halt sanctioned oil imports, seek tariff relief, and fair trade talks with US: GTRI

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India should halt sanctioned oil imports, seek tariff rollback, and resume trade talks only on fair terms with US, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said in a note, outlining a three-step plan for India to protect its trade interests under the ongoing bilateral trade agreement negotiation with America.

According to GTRI, India must first end oil imports from sanctioned Russian firms such as Rosneft and Lukoil to avoid exposure to secondary sanctions that could cripple financial and digital systems.

Second, once these imports cease, India should press Washington to withdraw the punitive 25 per cent "Russian oil" tariff imposed on Indian exports.

Finally, trade negotiations with the US should resume only after tariffs return to normal levels, and strictly on fair and balanced terms.

"End oil imports from sanctioned Russian firms to avoid secondary sanctions. Press Washington to withdraw the punitive 25 per cent "Russian oil" tariff once those imports stop. Restart trade negotiations only after tariffs normalise--and only on fair, balanced terms," the GTRI added in its note.

On October 24, government officials stated that India and the US are "very near" to finalising the first tranche of the ambitious Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

The call for a sequenced approach comes amid rising tensions following Washington's October 22 sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, which together account for 57 per cent of Russia's



crude output. The move has placed India in a difficult position, as these sanctions threaten not just trade but also access to vital financial and digital infrastructure.

The impact of US measures has already been severe. Since the introduction of the 25 per cent "Russian oil" tariff on July 31, total duties on Indian goods have doubled to 50 per cent, leading to a 37 per cent fall in exports between May and September.

The note added that the secondary sanctions now pose broader risks. They can block access to the SWIFT payment network, freeze dollar transactions, and cut off digital services crucial for refineries, ports, and banks.

GTRI warns that while tariffs directly hurt exporters, sanctions have

the potential to paralyse operations by targeting digital and financial systems.

Once imports from sanctioned companies end, GTRI argues that India should demand the withdrawal of the "Russian oil" tariff, since the sanctions cover only about 57 per cent of Russia's output and the blanket tariff applies even to non-sanctioned producers. Removing the tariff would halve India's US duty burden--from 50 per cent back to 25 per cent, and help restore export competitiveness.

GTRI further added that India should target parity with major partners such as the European Union, seeking average industrial tariffs of around 15 per cent and duty-free access for select export sectors, including textiles, gems and jewellery, and pharmaceuticals.

## India's forex reserves drop by close to \$7 billion from previous week

The foreign exchange reserves declined sharply to \$695.36 billion for the week to October 24, losing \$6.92 billion from the previous week when it nearly peaked.

The week to October 17 saw the reserves rising sharply on the back of a boost in gold reserves which rose close to \$7 billion on the back of the record rally in the safe haven metal.

The reserves had peaked in the week to September 27, 2024 when it had scaled past the \$704.8 billion mark. Since then, it fell massively but had climbed back over the \$700 billion mark thrice including in the previous reporting week when it scaled past \$702.28 billion.

For the reporting week, the foreign currency assets, the biggest major component of the reserves, fell by \$3.862 billion to \$566.548 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

The value of the gold reserves also declined by \$3.01 billion to \$105.536 billion during the week, the RBI said. In the previous week, the value of the gold reserves, which crossed 880 tonnes, had increased by over \$6 billion to over \$107 billion, which was 13.9% of the total reserves.

The special drawing rights were also down by \$58 million to \$18.664 billion, the apex bank said.

The country's reserve position with the IMF however rose by \$6 million to \$4.608 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.



# Apple posts record India revenue; supply issues not linked to production

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Apple achieved an all-time revenue record in India during the September quarter, said Apple CEO Tim Cook on Friday, October 31.

Cook, while speaking during the company's post-earnings call, described 2025 as an "extraordinary year" for Apple, in which the company posted a record \$416 billion in revenue for the fiscal year. Apple reported \$102.5 billion in revenue for the September quarter, up 8 percent year-over-year, marking a new September quarter record.

"We also set a September quarter revenue record in emerging markets and an all-time revenue record in India. These results come at the close of an extraordinary year for Apple in which we achieved an all-time revenue record of \$416 billion for the fiscal year," said Cook.

According to IDC data, Apple achieved a record shipment volume of 4.9 million units in Q3 2025, driven by strong performance in smaller cities and the



launch of the locally manufactured iPhone 17. The iPhone 17 Series, launched in September 2025, accounted for nearly 20% of Apple's shipments that quarter.

During the quarter, Apple launched its iPhone 17 Series, which includes the iPhone 17, iPhone 17 Air, iPhone 17 Pro, and iPhone 17 Pro Max. However,

iPhone revenue totaled \$49 billion, up 6 percent year-over-year, driven primarily by the iPhone 16 family. Apple Senior Vice President and CFO Kevan Parekh noted that iPhone sales grew in the majority of markets the company tracks, setting September quarter records in several emerging markets, including Latin America, the Middle East, and South Asia, as well as an all-time record in India.

Addressing ongoing supply constraints, Cook said several iPhone 17 models remain constrained, though not due to manufacturing capacity. He clarified that the issue stemmed from stronger-than-expected demand rather than production limits.

"Yes. If you look at the supply constraints, today, we are constrained on several 17 models. We're not predicting when the supply/demand will balance. We're obviously working very hard to achieve that because we want to get as many of these products out to the customers as possible. But today, I'm not going to predict," said Cook.

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - NOV 2 TO NOV 9, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



Aries

## ARIES

Ganesha says this week is a great one for you. This period will bring you renewed energy and positivity.

Your thoughts will be clear, and your intentions will be strong. Harmony and love will deepen in your relationships. Communication and time spent with your partner will strengthen your bond. If you're attracted to someone special, you'll definitely have a good opportunity to deepen your intimacy with them. Sharing your experiences and thoughts will be enjoyable during this time, and you'll be able to express your feelings better with others. This communication will infuse new energy into your relationships and enrich your social life. Overall, this week promises to provide you with positive experiences in love and relationships. Listen to your heart and spend time with people who bring you joy. This is a great time to deepen your romantic relationships.

## TAURUS



Taurus

Ganesha says general circumstances may be somewhat challenging for Taurus this week. Anxieties and

uncertainties may increase in your mindset, creating a sense of unease within you. This tension in relationships may hinder your close relationships. To avoid any misunderstandings, try to express your feelings, especially with loved ones. At this time, you need to control your emotions and make informed decisions. You may be forced to refrain from your favorite activities, but try to keep yourself filled with positivity. Participating in activities like meditation or yoga can be helpful in self-protection and avoiding negativity. Remember, it's important to maintain stability and balance in any situation. Your relationships may experience some ups and downs, but if you remain patient and prioritize communication, these challenges will subside over time. This week, try to take care of yourself and your loved ones, and you will notice positive changes.

## GEMINI



Gemini

Ganesha says this week will be an overall wonderful experience for Geminis. Your positive energy and calm

nature will attract others. This is a time to enhance your personality and hone your creative abilities. Social interactions will increase, which could

lead to new friendships and relationships. Your communication skills will be quite impressive this week, so be careful in your conversations to avoid negativity. Your curiosity and courage will lead you to new possibilities, and you will be successful in expressing your thoughts clearly. You will strive to build cordial relationships with those around you, which will strengthen your emotional state. This is also a good time for introspection and personal growth. Recognize your inner energy and use it to bring positive changes in your life. This week, you will truly shine, and doors of opportunity will open up for you.



Cancer

## CANCER

Ganesha says this week will be average for Cancers in all areas. During this time, you may experience some

anxiety and stress, especially in your relationships. You may worry excessively about small things, which could impact your mental health. Try to conduct all conversations with restraint and express your feelings openly to avoid misunderstandings. Spending time with your loved ones this week will be beneficial. Simple conversations and shared experiences can bridge the gap between you. This is a time when you will have the opportunity to understand the importance of your relationships. Remember, every challenge is also an opportunity. Try to bring positivity into your relationships. If a problem arises, find a solution with patience and understanding. Don't forget to express your feelings, as this will be your biggest support this week.



Leo

## LEO

Ganesha says this week will be overall normal for you. You may feel hesitant to connect

with those around you and share your feelings. This time indicates some mental anxieties and tensions that may persist. Your previous plans may be somewhat affected, so you are expected to maintain patience. A slight feeling of insecurity in relationships is possible, which may make you feel uneasy. Try to understand and control your emotions. Prioritize communication, as this can strengthen your relationships. Your creativity may be slightly hindered, making it difficult to implement new ideas. Therefore, focus on self-expression. Meditation and spiritual practices will help you achieve mental peace during this period. Overall, this week can be an opportunity to bring stability, which will help you deal with your worries.



Virgo

## VIRGO

Ganesha says this week, the overall outlook for Virgos will be bright and positive.

This is a time of balance and harmony. You will be able to establish deep connections with those around you. Your sensitivity and understanding will provide opportunities to inspire others, expanding your social circle. Your conversations will have a special charm, further strengthening your relationships. You're likely to find new friends or partners who will contribute positively to your life. Whatever you think will have a positive impact, and clarity in your thoughts will help you communicate better with your loved ones. During this time, it's important to show kindness and empathy toward yourself and others. If you face any challenges, maintain patience and a positive attitude. This week is an excellent time for you to move forward slowly and deepen your relationships.



Libra

## LIBRA

Ganesha says this week, the overall experience for Libras will be extremely positive. A new

direction is emerging in your life, empowering your thoughts and emotions. You'll feel harmony and balance in your relationships, making your social life easier. Time spent with friends and family will bring joy and satisfaction to your heart. Your strength and charm will attract more people this week. If you've faced conflict in a relationship, now is the time to resolve it and make a fresh start. You'll be able to express your feelings easily through conversation. A positive attitude and a spirit of cooperation will help strengthen your relationships. Remember that your attitude and perspective towards life will influence your experience. Be patient when facing challenges and try to remain calm in every situation. This week is a time to fully accept these circumstances!



Scorpio

## SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week will be normal for Scorpios. You may experience a range of emotions, which may

make you anxious and restless. This is a time for introspection, so try to delve deeper into your mind. You may also feel some irritability and uneasiness in your relationships. In such situations, try to maintain patience and overcome negative thoughts. The support of loved ones will motivate you to move forward. Maintaining harmony is important this week. Also, if you're experiencing any fears or apprehensions, try to understand and accept them. In such situations, communication can yield many positive results. Remain calm and seek support from those around you. Remember, this week's challenges will strengthen you and make you more aware of your emotions. This is a time for self-reflection, which can help strengthen your relationships.



Sagittarius

## SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week will be a mixed bag. Your mind will be filled with various

worries and organizational challenges. This is an important time for social relationships, but stress and anxiety may impact your experience. You may face challenges in connecting with those around you, so it's important to maintain patience and balance. This week offers you an opportunity to understand and focus on the depth of your relationships. You need to maintain honesty and clarity in your relationships. Pay attention to small details, as these can strengthen them. This is also a time to connect with your inner self. Calm your thoughts through meditation and introspection. Work on yourself to bring warmth and love into your relationships. Remember, even this challenging time can lead to growth and improvement.



Capricorn

## CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week, Capricorns are experiencing positive and encouraging signs in their overall lives. You will now reap the rewards of your stability and hard work. Relationships will be filled with harmony and cooperation, strengthening your bonds with family and friends. This week is a time for increased social interaction, which will leave you feeling mentally and emotionally energized. Your communication skills may improve during this period, allowing you to express your thoughts effectively. It's a time to connect with people who understand your ideas and perspectives. Increased mutual love and respect will deepen your relationships. This week will open doors to new possibilities in your life, allowing you to spend more time with loved ones and share joys. Overall, this week will be valuable and memorable for you, bringing you self-satisfaction and happiness.



Aquarius

## AQUARIUS

Ganesha says your social skills and communication skills will improve during

this time, allowing you to build deeper bonds with loved ones. This is a time to strengthen friendships and new relationships. Those around you will appreciate your uniqueness and courage, making your relationships even more special. Your openness and spontaneity will make you more popular with others. Moments spent with family members will bring you joy. If there have been any lingering misunderstandings, this is the right time to resolve them. You will also have the opportunity to make new friendships or rekindle old ones. Participate in social activities and

## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : NOV 3 TO NOV 9 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

### NOVEMBER 3

Ganesha says you love someone with all your heart, but you have to learn to control your sometimes erratic and rebellious behavior. You are constantly on the lookout for a committed romantic relationship, and the thought of being alone can make you sad. Yoga and meditation should be practiced for both spiritual and physical benefits. You must amass knowledge, information, and lasting connections. Entrepreneurs can diversify their businesses into new and lucrative areas.

### NOVEMBER 4

Ganesha says you enjoy reading to expand your knowledge and learn about new and unseen things, and you constantly welcome new ideas, but you must learn to control the urge to act at times when you are shy. May you get respect and appreciation in the coming year. Economic benefits can come from various sources. Your living conditions can improve by getting new sources of income. You can get big benefits in matters of real estate.

### NOVEMBER 5

Ganesha says you enjoy being alone and independent, which enables you to take small steps toward your goals, but you need to manage your tendency to be reckless, overbearing, and at times restless. You can have enough energy available with you, and if you use it properly, it can give impressive results. Friends and family may not be of much help, so don't count on them. In terms of money, this would be an excellent moment to buy stocks and real estate, but all purchases should be made with the long term in mind.

### NOVEMBER 6

Ganesha says this year, you can get profits from the contacts you have made recently. You can enter lucrative industries thanks to your extensive business expertise, which can also help you become more visible in the market. Money gain is certain, but the unexpected loss can also happen. More attention should be paid to health, especially for people with chronic diseases. Yoga and meditation should be practiced for both spiritual and physical benefits.

### NOVEMBER 7

Ganesha says the time is now to make important business decisions. During this time, investment can give good returns. Home repairs and other construction-related work may also be high on your priority list. Property matters can be beneficial. Distant travel, even to another country, is enjoyable and there can be a possible reunion with old friends. Patients with chronic diseases need to pay more attention to their health.

### NOVEMBER 8

Ganesha says if you pay attention to the words of your family members this year, you can achieve a lot. By getting new sources of income, your financial condition can improve, and your confidence can be at its peak. Your wife and other female family members may make every possible effort to keep you satisfied. If there is any career change then it can be beneficial. Your outspoken personality can be beneficial for you. Avoid becoming a permanent surety or guarantee for others, as this can lead to awkward situations and legal problems.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA

### NOVEMBER 9

Ganesha says you can make new relationships and sign new collaborations this year, which can help your career a lot. Financial gains can result from past investments. Family members and friends can offer encouragement and support. You will experience some minor stress and tension, especially about the health of your parents and an increase in household expenses. Trips for fun or socializing with friends can be interesting and intellectually stimulating.

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### CONTD FROM PAGE 52

utilize your creativity. This week will allow you to socialize with others and enjoy positive experiences. Listen to your heart and be prepared to bring emotional depth to your relationships. This week brings excellent opportunities for you.

### PISCES



Ganesha says this week will be a bit mixed for Pisces. You will experience a range of emotions, which may make you feel anxious and confused. This is a time for introspection and reflection. You will try to maintain cordial relationships with your friends and family, but interpersonal communication may be a bit strained. To avoid misunderstandings, you must express your thoughts clearly and openly. Whenever you discuss any topic, try to maintain patience and

understanding. This week will give you the opportunity to learn how to communicate and share your inner concerns. Have confidence in yourself

and try to channel your thoughts in a positive direction. Although you may face internal conflict, you can use this time to strengthen your self-

confidence. Avoid depression or anxiety, as your energy is channeled into positive thinking.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ॥



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# Sikh History This Week

## OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 6

### October 31

1752 Numerous atrocities committed against Sikh women and children under orders of Mir Mannu. However, the Sikhs weren't frightened. They kept saying "Mannu Sadi Datari Asi Manu Day Soay Jio Jio Sanu Wadahda Asi Dun Sawae Hoay" Sardar Chattar Singh, Sardar Jay Singh got the Sikh women freed from the Lahore jails. Sikhs were always in chardikala.

1922 The Babbar Akalis attended "Charan Ki Chhinj" at Achalpur.



1984 Sardar Beant Singh gunned down Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, to avenge the destruction of Sri Akal Takhat Sahib and desecration of holy Harimander Sahib, the holy Sarowar, and for burning rare records and buildings of the complex.

1989. Sikh Panth holds Indira Gandhi, then Prime Minister of India, responsible for the desecration of Harimander Sahib in 1984's operation Bluestar.

### 1st November

1916 Punjabi Americans and the Ghadar Party established a Punjabi newspaper "Ghadar." It advocated armed revolutionary struggle for India's freedom. GHADAR PARTY, a revolutionary group, founded in United States of America (USA) for the independence of India. Its members were Indian residents, primarily Sikhs, settled in USA. Their prime objective was to actively cause rebellion among members of the British forces, thereby forcing the fall of the British empire and hasten their departure from India.

1921 Gurdwara Hothian was forcibly captured and brought under SGPC's control. As the movement of non-cooperation gained momentum among Sikhs, the Akali leaders began their tour of the provinces urging the Sikhs to join the Akali Dal and rise as one man to liberate their Gurdwaras. On this day a large number of Akalis suddenly appeared at Gurudwara Hothian and captured it.

1921 Karam Singh of Daulatpur leads a jatha of 50 Akalis at the call of SGPC to capture the Gurudwara of Hothian.

1925 The Punjab Gurudwara Act established on July 8, 1925 was enacted. Speaking on the occasion, Tara Singh said that during the Gurudwara reform movement, Akalis suffered 30,000 men and women behind bars, 400 dead and 20,000 injured, besides dismissals from services, withdrawal of jagirs and pensions, confiscation of properties and imposition of fines, etc. These numbers were never refuted. Giani Nahar Singh, a contemporary, put the figures at 40,000 behind bars and 500 dead. With the enactment of Gurudwara Act, came to fruition, the Sikh efforts to assert its identity. However, this came only after a bitter struggle and a great deal of sacrifices.

1966 Punjab Suba came into existence.

### 2nd November



1708 Gur Gadhi, Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB: No institutionalized religion is safe from erosion till its tenets and doctrines have been enshrined in some tangible, though, permanent form. Great religions of the world, therefore, have taken care to prepare or compile one volume which is sovereign and supreme in its authority. Assuredly, it will employ the medium of poetry to reach out to infinity. Such a volume then, is the Guru Granth, the sacred book of the Sikhs – a volume that takes its place alongside the world's greatest scriptures, the Vedas, the Zind-Avesta, the Bible and the Koran. Its power is the power of the puissant and winged word, and no exegesis or commentary or translation can ever convey the full beauty of its thought and poetry. In all mystic literature the appeal of the numinous and the ineffable is inexplicable, if not incommunicable. And yet the great Sikh scripture is not a knot of metaphysical riddles and abstract theorizings. On the contrary, since for the most part it employs the idiom of the common people, and draws its imagery, metaphors and symbols from the home, the street and the market-place, its poetry has a rare kind of immediacy, concreteness and urgency. To see a Sikh congregation intoning the sacred hymns in unison is to see massed spiritual energy take shape before your eyes. That's how the ordinary word changes into the logos and becomes oracular. The Sikhs indeed regard the Granth as a complete, inviolable and final embodiment of the message of the Guru. There is to be no word beyond the Word. And that's how Guru Gobind Singh, the Tenth Guru, spoke to the congregation shortly before his ascension.



1780 Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was born.

### 3rd November

1668 Bhai Dharam Singh was born in Hastnapur to father Sant Ram and Matta Sabho. He was among the first five members to be initiated into the Khalsa order. He was the second one to answer Guru Gobind Singh call and offered his head to the Guru. He remained in the company of his great Master when he went to Nanded where he breathed his last in 1708.

1753 Meer Mannu fell from his horse during an

attack. As his foot was stuck in the saddles's stirrup, he got dragged to death. Subsequently, his wife Mighalani sought help of Abdali.

1834 Raja Sangat Singh of Jind passed away.

1988 The hearing began in the case of General Vaidiya's murder. On Aug. 10th, 1985, Harjinder Singh "Jinda" and Sukhdev Singh "Sukha", gunned down General Vadiya after his retirement from the Indian army. General Vadiya was the Chief of the Indian Army who ordered the attack on the holiest of the holy shrines at Amritsar and elsewhere in Punjab during 1984 operations. On Oct. 9, 1992, Sukhdev Singh "Sukha" and Harjinder Singh "Jinda" were hanged until death in Puna Jail.

### 4th November

1469 Prakash Utsav, Patshahi first, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. In a world rife with falsehood, sunk in superstitions and plagued by all kinds of inequities and inequalities, Guru Nanak rang in the gospel of truth, universal love and brotherhood. The Founder Guru of the Sikhs and one of the greatest and saintliest of saviours, he redeemed the soul of a moribund society that had experienced a total eclipse, if not annihilation, of all abiding human values. The condition of the contemporary society has been vividly described by the First Master in the well-known words

Guru Nanak was born in a Bedi family at Talwandi (Nankana Sahib), near Lahore, in 1469. At an early age he learnt Sanskrit, Persian and the prevalent form of Gurmukhi. He was a precocious child with a pronounced penchant for religion. His father, Mehta Kalu, made vain efforts to woo him to a mundane mode of life. Accordingly, he was got employed in a Government store of the Nawab of Sultanpur where he served for 13 years.

It was in 1499 that the day of destiny of ecstatic communion with God came. While taking his daily bath in the rivulet Bain that flows near Sultanpur, Nanak had his illumination through a soul-stirring vision of Almighty God. It was here that the Guru delivered his great sermon in the memorable words: "There is no Hindu, there is no Musalman". The spiritual enlightenment enjoined on him a mission to the propagation of which he consecrated his entire life. He set out on his great Udasi's (Missionary journeys) to deliver God's message to sinning and suffering humanity.

1763 Sikh forces attacked and defeated Ahmad Shah's Jahan Khan at Wazirabad.

1982 Akali Dal organized morcha in Delhi during the 9th Asian Games. Haryana police harassed Sikhs on their way to Delhi. No rank, status, or position mattered. All Sikhs were thoroughly harassed and made to feel foreigners in their own home.

### 5th November

1840 Maharaja Khadak Singh, the first Prince designate of Maharaja Ranjit Singh died of slow poisoning. He was administered doses of white lead in wine at the instance of Dhian Singh. The Dogra brothers had hatched a conspiracy to kill all the eligible princes of the Maharaja.

1920 Khalsa College was handed over to a Panthic College Committee.

1978 Killing of Sikhs took place in Delhi. The Delhi police fired at a Sikh protest procession and killed four Sikhs including the President of the Akali Party's Delhi unit, Jathaedar Awtar Singh Kohli, Sardar Mohinder Singh, and Sardar Gobind Singh. The police sieged three Sikh shrines of Delhi. Entrance to the Sikh shrines was banned after a period of 200 years. The curfew around the Sikh shrines was not lifted until November 7.

# Tulsi Vivah: The sacred union of devotion and divinity

## Where the Holy Plant Becomes the Bride of Lord Vishnu

As the soft autumn breeze carries the scent of incense and the flicker of diyas illuminates courtyards, a divine celebration unfolds across India - Tulsi Vivah, the celestial wedding of Tulsi (Holy Basil) and Lord Vishnu in his Shaligram form. Revered as the festival that bridges heaven and earth, Tulsi Vivah is both a sacred ritual and a symbolic renewal of devotion, purity, and nature's eternal rhythm.

### The Legend: From Vrinda's Devotion to Tulsi's Divinity

The story of Tulsi Vivah has its roots in the Padma Purana, Skanda Purana, and other ancient scriptures. It tells of Vrinda, a virtuous and devoted wife of the asura king Jalandhar. Her chastity was so powerful that even the gods could not defeat her husband. To restore cosmic balance, Lord Vishnu disguised himself as Jalandhar and deceived Vrinda. When she realized the divine deception, she was heartbroken and cursed Vishnu to turn into a Shaligram stone and to be separated from his consort Lakshmi.

Overcome with remorse, Vishnu blessed Vrinda to be reborn as Tulsi, the most sacred plant on Earth. He promised that she would be worshipped eternally and that their divine union - Tulsi Vivah - would be celebrated by devotees every year on Earth.

Thus, the festival stands as an eternal reminder that divine love transcends illusion, suffering, and even time itself.

### When and How Tulsi Vivah Is Celebrated

Tulsi Vivah is observed on the Ekadashi (11th) or Dwadashi (12th) day of the bright fortnight (Shukla Paksha) in the Hindu month of Kartik - generally falling between October and November. The day marks the end of Chaturmas, a four-month period when marriages and major religious ceremonies are avoided. From this day onward, the Hindu wedding season officially begins.

In homes and temples, the Tulsi plant is dressed as a bride - adorned with a sari, ornaments, vermilion, and bangles. Beside her, a Shaligram stone, Krishna idol, or Vishnu image is placed as the groom. A miniature marriage mandap (altar) is decorated with flowers, sugarcane, and marigold garlands.

Priests or elders recite the Tulsi Vivah Katha, chant Vishnu mantras, and perform kanyadaan - symbolically offering Tulsi in marriage to Vishnu. Devotees then distribute prasada, light lamps, and sing bhajans, turning the ceremony into a joyous, heartwarming celebration of divine love.

### Spiritual Significance: The Soul's Union with the Supreme

Beyond the symbolism of marriage, Tulsi Vivah represents the union of Bhakti (devotion) with Paramatma (the Supreme Soul). Tulsi, embodying devotion, purity, and surrender, unites with Lord Vishnu - the cosmic protector and preserver of life.

The ritual emphasizes the belief that true spiritual union lies in selfless love and service to the Divine. Just as Tulsi offers her fragrance and life-giving essence selflessly, devotees are reminded to live with purity, faith, and surrender.

In a deeper sense, Tulsi Vivah is also the



### Important information

**Tulsi Vivah 2025**

**Sunday, 02 November 2025**

**Dwadashi Tithi start : 02 November 2025  
at 07:31 am**

**Dwadashi Tithi ends : 03 November 2025  
at 05:07 am**

celebration of feminine energy (Shakti) uniting with the masculine consciousness (Purusha) - the divine harmony that sustains the cosmos.

### Regional Traditions Across India

Though the essence of Tulsi Vivah remains universal, its celebration varies beautifully across India's diverse spiritual landscape.

#### Maharashtra:

The festival holds special prominence here. Families decorate courtyards with colorful rangolis, set up an ornate Tulsi Vrindavan (brick altar), and perform the ceremony with devotional songs, bhajans, and aarti. The Tulsi is dressed in a bright red or green sari, while the Shaligram or Krishna idol is adorned as a groom in a tiny turban.

**North India (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh):**

In many homes, especially among Vaishnava devotees, Tulsi Vivah is performed with full wedding rituals - mangalashakt, kanyadaan, pheras, and aarti. After the ceremony, sweets like laddoos, malpua, and panchamrit are offered.

#### South India:

In states like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, the ceremony is called Tulasi Kalyanam, and it is observed with grandeur in Vishnu temples. Devotees perform elaborate rituals accompanied by traditional music, flower decorations, and offerings of pongal and payasam.

#### Gujarat and Rajasthan:

The festival is marked by decorative clay mandaps, garlands, and folk songs celebrating Tulsi's purity and Lord Vishnu's grace. Women observe fasts and seek blessings for family harmony and conjugal happiness.

#### Eco-Spiritual Essence:

#### Honoring Nature as Divine

In today's times, Tulsi Vivah carries profound ecological relevance. Tulsi is not merely a sacred plant; she is a natural purifier, known to release oxygen, repel insects, and heal ailments. By venerating her as divine, Hinduism expresses its deep ecological wisdom - seeing divinity in every element of nature.

In many eco-conscious households and temples, Tulsi Vivah has evolved into a celebration of environmental awareness, where devotees plant new Tulsi saplings and pledge to protect the earth. This blending of spirituality and sustainability reflects the timeless Hindu principle - Prakriti is sacred; the Earth is our mother.

#### The Living Goddess in Every Home

Every courtyard that houses a Tulsi plant is believed to be a miniature temple, a living link between the devotee and the Divine. Lighting a lamp before her each evening is said to bring harmony, health, and spiritual upliftment.

As the marriage rituals conclude and lamps glow beside the sacred plant, Tulsi Vivah reminds devotees that divine love resides not in the heavens alone, but in every breath of nature, every act of devotion, and every pure heart that surrenders in faith.

#### In Essence

Tulsi Vivah is more than a festival - it is a spiritual allegory of union, purity, and devotion.

It teaches that when the heart becomes as pure as Tulsi and devotion as steadfast as Vrinda's, the Divine Himself manifests to accept that love.

"Where there is Tulsi, there is purity.

Where there is devotion, there resides the Divine."

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**CONTD FROM PAGE 1**

## Usha has no plans to convert: US VP Vance amid row over interfaith marriage remarks

She herself encouraged me to reengage with my faith many years ago.

"She is not a Christian and has no plans to convert, but like many people in an interfaith marriage-or any interfaith relationship-I hope she may one day see things as I do. Regardless, I'll continue to love and support her and talk to her about faith and life and everything else, because she's my wife," he said.

Vance made the initial comments on Wednesday at a Turning Point USA event at the University of Mississippi.

He was confronted by a young South Asian woman over his faith and his inter-religion marriage to Usha as well as over the Trump administration's policies on immigration.

Responding to her, Vance said that on most Sundays, Usha goes to church with him.

"... I've told her, and I've said publicly, and I'll say now in front of 10,000 of my closest friends, do I hope eventually that she is somehow moved by the same thing that I was moved in by church? Yeah, I honestly do wish that, because I believe in the Christian gospel, and I hope eventually my wife comes to see it the same way," he said.

"But if she doesn't, then God says everybody has free will, and so that doesn't cause a problem for me. That's something you work out with your friends, with your family, with the person that you love."

In his response to the social media post, Vance further said that posts like this reek of "anti-Christian bigotry".

"Yes, Christians have beliefs. And yes, those beliefs have many consequences, one of which is that we want to share them with other people. That is a completely normal thing, and anyone who's telling you otherwise has an agenda," he said.

## 9 dead in stampede at Venkateswara Swamy temple in Andhra Pradesh

The police official further said that the incident occurred due to the collapse of an iron grill near the steps. The public, in fear, thought that something was falling and panicked. They fell from a height of about six feet. There was no stampede. Since the collapse was from a height of six feet, one person fell on another, and that led to the incident.

"It is purely an accident and due to the owner's mistake. They haven't applied for police bandobust, there were no permissions also," he added.

AP Home Minister Vangalapudi Anitha noted that at least five people were injured. She said at least seven of the dead were in the age group of 35-40.

According to her, the temple is located at an elevation on the first floor, and when the devotees were climbing, the railing broke off, resulting in the people standing at a corner falling off and others dropping on them.

Observing that Kasibugga Venkateswara temple is a private one and not under the Endowments Department, Anitha said it was common to see 1,500 to 2,000 devotees turn up

there every Saturday.

Further, she noted that the auspicious occasion of Ekadasi coinciding with 'Karthika Masam' on a Saturday aggravated the tragedy as multitudes thronged the temple.

Reacting to the incident, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, in a post on X said, "The stampede at Kasibugga Venkateswara temple in Srikakulam district anguished me. It is very sad that devotees have died in this unfortunate incident. I convey my deepest sympathies to the families of the victims."

The CM also said that he directed officials to ensure better treatment for the injured persons and added that he instructed the authorities and local leaders to monitor the relief work at the stampede site.

PM Narendra Modi also reacted to the tragedy, announcing an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from the PMNRF for the next of kin of those who lost their lives.

President Droupadi Murmu also condoled the loss of lives in the stampede prayed for the quick recovery of those injured.

## US flights in chaos: Major airports hit by shortage of air traffic controllers amid government shutdown

worst-hit regions being New York, where 80 per cent of air traffic controllers were out, the agency said.

At least 35 FAA facilities, including several at the largest US airports, reported staffing problems. Airports affected included facilities in New York, Austin, Newark, Phoenix, Washington, Nashville, Dallas and Denver. At some airports, delays averaged one hour or more.

The shutdown has forced 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 Transportation Security Administration officers to work without pay.

"After 31 days without pay, air traffic controllers are under immense stress and fatigue," the FAA said late Friday.

"The shutdown must end so that these controllers receive the pay they've earned and travelers can avoid further disruptions and delays," it added.

The impact on the system would have been far worse on a typical Friday. However, Halloween evening traffic was 20 per cent lower than usual, which helped mitigate the effects of staffing shortages, airline officials said.

More than 5,600 flights were delayed on Friday and 500 cancelled, according to FlightAware, a flight tracking website.

At New York's LaGuardia Airport, 50 per cent of flights were delayed and 12 per cent cancelled, with delays averaging 140 minutes, while Washington, DC's Reagan National Airport had a quarter of flights delayed.

Airlines are bracing for more flight disruptions.

"Coming into this weekend and then the week after, I think you are going to see even more disruptions in the airspace," US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on Fox News' "America's Newsroom".

**CALLS FOR 'CONTINUING RESOLUTION'**

On Thursday, air traffic control



staffing shortages snarled flights at Orlando, Dallas/Fort Worth and Washington, DC, when FlightAware data showed 7,300 flights delayed and 1,250 cancelled across the United States.

Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, Southwest Airlines and American Airlines have all called on the Congress to quickly pass a stop-gap funding bill known as a "continuing resolution" to let the government reopen amid talks on disputes over healthcare policy.

National Air Traffic Controllers Association President Nick Daniels on Friday joined the airlines in calling for a continuing resolution.

The government shutdown began on October 1 and continued as a federal funding bill has stalled in Congress.

Republican lawmakers want to pass a "clean" funding measure with no strings attached, while Democrats have demanded talks on extending healthcare subsidies set to expire at year-end.

Airlines have repeatedly urged an end to the shutdown, citing aviation safety risks.

The shutdown has exacerbated existing staffing shortages, threatening to cause widespread disruptions similar to those that helped end a 35-day government shutdown in 2019.

The FAA is about 3,500 air traffic controllers short of targeted staffing levels and many had been working mandatory overtime and six-day a week even before the shutdown.

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# Pondicherry: Where the soul finds its shore

As the first rays of the sun gild the Bay of Bengal, the sleepy streets of Pondicherry awaken to a rhythm that is both ancient and timeless. The sea breeze carries whispers of French chansons mingled with temple bells and the aroma of freshly brewed filter coffee. There's something ethereal about this coastal haven - something that soothes even the most restless traveler.

Pondicherry, now officially Puducherry, is not just a destination; it's a mood - a delicate blend of European grace, Tamil warmth, and spiritual quietude. It invites you to slow down, to walk barefoot on its beaches, to sip coffee under bougainvillea-covered balconies, and to discover the poetry hidden in its pastel walls.

## A Legacy Written in Two Languages

Pondicherry's story is one of cultural confluence. Once a small fishing village, it became the French capital in India in the 17th century and remained so until 1954. The French influence lingers - not as nostalgia, but as a living identity.

## The city is divided into two distinct quarters:

- The White Town (Ville Blanche) - with its elegant colonial architecture, chic boutiques, and European-style cafés.
- The Tamil Quarter (Ville Noire) - with its bustling bazaars, traditional homes with Thinnai verandahs, and vibrant local life.

Walking from one to the other feels like crossing continents in minutes - the fusion of France and India, of baguettes and idlis, of serenity and spice.

## The French Quarter: A Pastel Dream

The French Quarter is Pondicherry's soul - a vision in ochre, mustard, and ivory. Streets bear names like Rue Dumas and Rue Romain Rolland, and old colonial buildings wear their age gracefully under cascades of bougainvillea.

Here, the Hotel de l'Orient, La Villa, and Maison Perumal transport visitors to another era - where cane furniture, high ceilings, and heritage courtyards whisper stories of merchants and missionaries.

Cafés such as Le Café (right on the Promenade), Café des Arts, and Coromandel Café are perfect for lazy mornings with espresso and croissants, while art galleries like Cluny Embroidery Centre and Studio Indigo showcase Pondicherry's creative soul.

## The Promenade: Where Sea Meets Spirit

Stretching for 1.5 kilometers along the Bay of Bengal, the Rock Beach Promenade is Pondicherry's heartbeat. Mornings here begin with joggers and yoga practitioners saluting the sun, while evenings belong to storytellers, lovers, and photographers.

Landmarks such as the Gandhi Statue, Old Lighthouse, War Memorial, and French Consulate stand as graceful reminders of the town's colonial past.



The absence of traffic during evenings turns the seafront into a pedestrian paradise, where the only sound is that of the waves and the occasional laughter from nearby cafés.

## Aurobindo Ashram: Inward Journeys

Few places in India evoke stillness like the Sri Aurobindo Ashram. Founded in 1926 by Sri Aurobindo and The Mother (Mirra Alfassa), this spiritual community focuses on Integral Yoga - a philosophy that seeks harmony between material and spiritual existence.

Inside the ashram's shaded courtyard, devotees gather around the flower-decked marble samadhi of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother. The silence here is profound, almost tangible - broken only by the rustling of frangipani leaves.

The ashram also supports several community projects - schools, handmade paper factories, art galleries, and cottage industries - all reflecting the ideals of selfless service and creative living.

## Auroville: The City of Human Unity

A short drive from central Pondicherry lies Auroville, the utopian township envisioned by The Mother and inaugurated in 1968. It is not a tourist site in the conventional sense - it is a living experiment in human unity and sustainable living.

At its center stands the Matrimandir, a magnificent golden sphere surrounded by sprawling gardens and meditation pathways. It is often called the Soul of Auroville, a place meant for silent concentration and inner discovery.

Visitors can explore Auroville's handicraft boutiques, organic cafés, art studios, and eco-villages, which promote conscious living. The Auroville Bakery, Naturellement Garden Café, and Solar Kitchen offer wholesome meals made from locally grown produce.

## Sacred and Scenic: Temples, Churches, and More

Pondicherry's spiritual harmony extends to its places of worship.

The Manakula Vinayagar Temple, near the ashram, is an ancient shrine dedicated to Lord Ganesha, where an elephant named Lakshmi blesses devotees.

The Sacred Heart Basilica and Immaculate Conception Cathedral stand



as grand examples of Gothic and Baroque architecture, their interiors bathed in soft stained-glass light.

The Varadaraja Perumal Temple, adorned with ornate gopurams, showcases classical Tamil craftsmanship.

This seamless coexistence of faiths - Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, and beyond - adds to Pondicherry's tranquil charm.

## Culinary Harmony: A Feast for All Senses

In Pondicherry, the cuisine is a reflection of its cosmopolitan character. The Franco-Tamil fusion is irresistible - think of seafood bouillabaisse infused with Indian spices, creole curries, and crusty French bread paired with coconut chutney. Try Le Dupleix or La Villa Shanti for fine dining, Baker Street for patisserie perfection, or Chez Pushpa for authentic Creole dishes. Local favorites include prawn masala, prawn vindaloo,

chicken roast with coconut milk, and the refreshing nimbu soda sold by beachside vendors.

The best way to experience Pondicherry's food is to wander - let the aroma guide you, whether to a street stall or a chic colonial café.

## Beaches and Beyond

Paradise Beach (Chunnambar) lives up to its name - accessible by boat, fringed with palms, and perfect for a quiet swim.

Serenity Beach, dotted with surf shacks and fishing boats, attracts both surfers and solitude seekers.

Auroville Beach is ideal for morning walks and evening meditations.

Just beyond the city, the fishing villages of Veerampattinam and Tantipalayam offer a glimpse into the rhythm of coastal Tamil life - nets drying in the sun, children playing cricket by the shore, and fishermen mending their boats at dusk.

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when you ask of  
happiness  
Pain steps forward”  
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# History This Week OCT 31 - NOV 06

## OCTOBER 31

October 31, 1940 - The Battle of Britain concluded. Beginning on July 10, 1940, German bombers and fighters had attacked coastal targets, airfields, London and other cities, as a prelude to a Nazi invasion of England. British pilots in Spitfires and Hurricanes shot down over 1,700 German aircraft while losing 915 fighters. "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few," declared Prime Minister Winston Churchill.



October 31, 1941 - Mount Rushmore National Memorial was completed after 14 years of work. The memorial contains 60-foot-tall sculptures of the heads of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt - representing America's founding, political philosophy, preservation, and expansion and conservation.

October 31, 1950 - Earl Lloyd became the first African American to play in a National Basketball Association (NBA) game when he took the floor for the Washington Capitols in Rochester, New York.

October 31, 1952 - The U.S. detonated its first hydrogen bomb at the Elugelab Atoll in the Eniwetok Proving Grounds in the Pacific Marshall Islands.

October 31, 1961 - The body of Joseph Stalin was removed from the mausoleum in Red Square and reburied within the Kremlin walls among the graves of lesser Soviet heroes. This occurred as part of Russia's de-Stalinization program under his successor Nikita Khrushchev. Stalin's name was also removed from public buildings, streets, and factories. Stalingrad was renamed Volgograd.

October 31, 1968 - During the Vietnam War, President Lyndon Johnson ordered a halt of American bombing of North Vietnam.

October 31, 1984 - Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by three Sikh members of her bodyguard while walking in the garden of her New Delhi home.

Birthdays - Chinese soldier and statesman Chiang Kai-shek (1887-1975) was born in Chekiang. Educated at the Wampoa Military Academy, he led the KMT (nationalist) forces in the struggle against the Communist army led by Mao Zedong.

## NOVEMBER 1

November 1, 1936 - The Rome-Berlin Axis was proclaimed by Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini following a visit to Berlin by Italian Foreign Secretary Ciano.

November 1, 1950 - President Harry S. Truman was the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt by

two members of a Puerto Rican nationalist movement.



November 1, 1963 - South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu were killed in a military coup.

November 1, 1993 - The European Union came into existence as a result of the Maastricht Treaty.

November 1, 1995 - The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system.

## NOVEMBER 2



November 2, 1930 - Haile Selassie was crowned Emperor of Ethiopia.

November 2, 1947 - The first and only flight of Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" flying boat occurred in Long Beach Harbor, California. It flew about a mile at an altitude of 70 feet. Costing \$25 million, the 200-ton plywood eight-engine Hercules was the world's largest airplane, designed, built and flown by Hughes. It later became a tourist attraction alongside the Queen Mary ship at Long Beach and has since been moved to Oregon.

November 2, 1962 - During the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F. Kennedy announced on TV, "the Soviet bases in Cuba are being dismantled, their missiles and related equipment being crated, and the fixed installations at these sites are being destroyed."

Birthdays - American frontiersman Daniel Boone (1734-1820) was born in Berks County, near Reading, Pennsylvania.

Birthdays - James K. Polk (1795-1849) the 11th U.S. President was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He served from March 4, 1845 to March 3, 1849. He declined to be a candidate for a second term, saying he was "exceedingly relieved" at the completion of his presidency.

## NOVEMBER 3

November 3, 1918 - Part of the German

fleet mutinied at Kiel in the closing days of World War I.

November 3, 1948 - Dewey Defeats Truman banner headline appeared on the front page of the Chicago Tribune newspaper. Harry Truman actually defeated Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey for the presidency.



November 3, 1957 - Soviet Russia launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.

November 3, 1983 - White South Africans voted to allow Indians and "Coloreds" (persons of mixed race) limited power in the government, but continued to exclude blacks.

## NOVEMBER 4

November 4, 1942 - During World War II, British troops led by Bernard Montgomery defeated the Germans under Erwin Rommel at El Alamein after a twelve-day battle.

November 4, 1956 - Soviet Russian troops moved in to crush an uprising in Hungary.

November 4, 1979 - About 500 young Iranian militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran, and took 90 hostages, including 52 Americans that they held captive for 444 days.



November 4, 1995 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated as he left a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

Birthdays - American humorist Will Rogers (1879-1935) was born in Oologah, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). "All I know is what I read in the newspapers," he once joked. He was killed in an airplane crash with aviator Wiley Post near Point Barrow, Alaska.

Birthdays - Famed TV journalist Walter Cronkite (1916-2009) was born in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was a leading correspondent for United Press International during World War II. From 1962 to 1981, he was the anchorman of the CBS Evening News and was widely regarded as America's most trusted journalist.

## NOVEMBER 5

November 5th - Remembered as Guy Fawkes Day in Britain, for the anniversary of the failed "Gunpowder Plot" to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I in 1605.

November 5, 1733 - The first issue of the New York Weekly Journal was published by John Peter Zenger, a colonial American printer and journalist. A year later, he was arrested on charges of libeling New York's royal governor.



November 5, 1911 - Aviator C.P. Snow completed the first transcontinental flight across America, landing at Pasadena, California. He had taken off from Sheepshead Bay, New York, on September 17th and flew a distance of 3,417 miles.

## NOVEMBER 6

November 6, 1860 - Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th U.S. President and the first Republican. He received 180 of 303 possible electoral votes and 40 percent of the popular vote.

November 6, 1917 - During World War I, the Third Battle of Ypres concluded after five months as Canadian and Australian troops took Passchendaele. Their advance, measuring five miles, cost at least 240,000 soldiers.

November 6, 1962 - The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning South Africa for its apartheid policies and recommended economic sanctions.

Birthdays - American conductor John Philip Sousa (1854-1932) was born in Washington, D.C. Best known for his rousing marches including The Stars and Stripes Forever, Semper Fidelis, and El Capitan.

Birthdays - Polish composer, pianist and patriot, Ignace Paderewski (1860-1941) was born in Kurylowka, Podolia, Poland.



Birthdays - Inventor of the game of basketball, James Naismith (1861-1939) was born in Almonte, Ontario, Canada.

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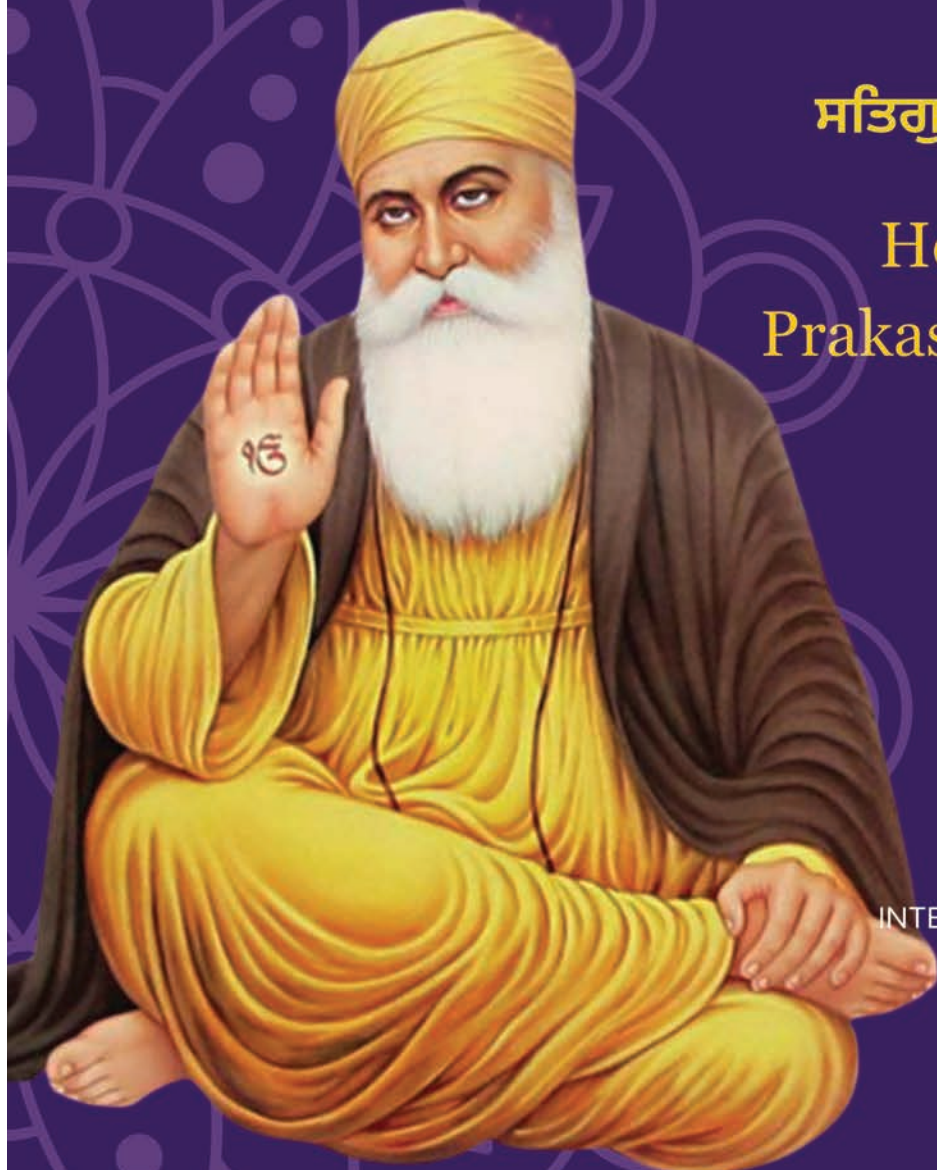


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# Aus crush India in Melbourne T20I after dismal batting show by visitors

MELBOURNE (TIP)

Australia posted a commanding victory over India in the second T20I at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday, October 31, as the visitors failed to perform with the bat except for a swashbuckling 68 from Abhishek Sharma and a useful 35 from Harshit Rana.

Skipper Surya Kumar Yadav failed to perform with the bat as the Indian team folded up on 126 without batting the full quota of 20 overs. Josh Hazlewood was the pick of the Australian bowlers and bagged three wickets for 13 runs. He removed Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma.

Australia had an easy task on hand and smoothly cruised to the target with captain Mitchell Marsh scoring 26-ball 46. The hosts reached the target with 6.4 overs to spare and are now 1-0 up in the five-match T20 series, with the first T20 having been washed out due to rain.

Most Indian batters struggled to get to double digits. Eight Indian batters contributed only 19 runs, with Abhishek and Harshit putting up 103 runs.

Suryakumar Yadav scored only one run. In the recently concluded T20 Asia Cup in September, Yadav scored 72 runs in seven matches at an average of just 18.00.

Chasing 126, Australian openers Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head bashed Indian bowlers all over the park as the duo completed a 50-run stand for the opening wicket in just 25 balls. The power play set it up for Australia. Head and Marsh went on the attack and didn't give India a chance.

Head, after playing a fiery innings of 28 runs off 15 balls, was removed by Varun Chakaravathy in the 5th over, and Josh Inglis joined Marsh in the middle.

Marsh slammed Kuldeep Yadav in his first over for 20 runs before holding out on long off while trying to smash another six. At the time of his dismissal, Australia were 87-2 in eight overs. Chakaravathy showcased his mystery as he squared up Tim David for just one in the following over, as he chipped the ball back to Varun for an easy caught and bowl chance.

Australia reached the 100-run mark in the 10th over, after Mitchell Owen pushed the ball for a run towards deep backward square-leg.

In the same over, Owen was dropped by Harshit Rana, who



Australia's Josh Hazlewood, center, appeals unsuccessfully for the wicket of India's Shubman Gill, right, during their T20 cricket match in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Oct. 31, 2025. AP/PTI

was running in from deep mid-wicket. However, Yadav, in his next over, removed Inglis for run a ball 20 runs, and Marcus Stoinis joined Owen in the middle.

In the 13th over, Jasprit Bumrah took two back-to-back wickets, removing Owen and Matthew Short on 14 and 0, respectively.

Earlier in the match, Abhishek Sharma came to India's rescue with Harshit Rana in the supporting role to propel the visitors to 125.

Abhishek, the number one T20I batter in the world, hammered 68 off 37 while Harshit held the other end with a sturdy 33-ball 35.

The duo forged a 56-run partnership to keep India's hopes of posting a competitive total alive. Abhishek and Harshit were India's only two batters who managed to cross the double-digit mark.

Under the gloomy sky of Melbourne, Australia's mainstay Josh Hazlewood ran rampant with his blistering pace after India was put to bat by the hosts.

While Abhishek went about the business with his usual belligerent mindset, vice-captain Shubman Gill struggled to churn out runs in seaming conditions.

## Real Madrid, Super League promoters seek over \$4 billion in damages from UEFA

Real Madrid and Super League promoters are seeking more than \$4 billion in damages from UEFA, which they accuse of unfairly torpedoing the breakaway competition, a source told AFP on Thursday. A Spanish court Wednesday dismissed an appeal from UEFA relating to the league. Proposed in 2021 by 12 elite European clubs, including Real Madrid and Barcelona, the Super League project quickly collapsed due to fierce opposition from English clubs' fans and threats from UEFA and FIFA.

The European Court of Justice ruled in December 2023 that the ban on the Super League was contrary to European law. Last year, a Spanish judge said FIFA and UEFA had "prevented free competition" by opposing the Super League, ruling they were practising anti-competitive behaviour and abusing their dominant position.

The court in Madrid on Wednesday also rejected appeals filed by La Liga and the Spanish football federation.

The project's promoter A22 Sports Management said it regretted that UEFA has "refused any path of compromise" and "reforms" despite several months of discussions, and claimed to have "no other choice" but "to initiate proceedings to obtain compensation for the damages suffered."

"After years of legal proceedings, UEFA can no longer ignore binding court decisions," A22 CEO Bernd Reichart said.

# India Women storm into World Cup final after record 339-run chase

NAVI MUMBAI (TIP)

Determined, focused, unrelenting, combative... Words would fall short if one wanted to describe India Women's incredible five-wicket win over Australia Women in the Women's ODI World Cup semi-final on Thursday, Oct 30.

In a chase of dreams, the hosts knocked out the defending champions by chasing down a record 339-run target and earned themselves a shot at glory. They will take on South Africa Women in the final on Sunday. Women's cricket is all set to have new champions this time.

An impressive turnout of almost 35,000 at the DY Patil Stadium cheered not just the fall of every Australian wicket, but even the dot balls the Indian bowlers bowled and the runs their batters scored. Jay Shah, the ICC chairman, and BCCI president Mithun Manhas were also there, in the VIP box. So were Bollywood superstar Kareena Kapoor Khan and former Women's captain Mithali Raj. Barring the Australians, India Women disappointed nobody.

Jemimah Rodrigues (127 not out off 134



Jemimah Rodrigues (centre) celebrates after India's victory against Australia in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup semi final in Navi Mumbai (Photo | AP)

balls) played the innings of her career, while Harmanpreet Kaur (89 off 88 balls) too played a captain's knock as India achieved the extraordinary feat of prevailing over the strong Australian

bowling group and securing their third Women's ODI World Cup final berth.


What makes the win in this second semi-final even more special for India is that the chase turned out to be their

highest-ever in the format and also the highest-ever in an ODI World Cup. What's sweeter? They bettered the Australians' feat (331) which the visitors had achieved a few days ago against the Indians in the group-stage game in Visakhapatnam.

Australians seldom choke, but this was one rare occasion when the invincibles made mistakes. The two regulation catches that keeper-batter and opener Alyssa Healy and Tahlia McGrath dropped when Jemimah was on 82 and 106 proved that the pressure had got on to the otherwise steely Australians.


Precisely, it was the 167-run third-wicket stand in 26 overs between Jemimah and Harmanpreet, which had put the pressure back onto the Australians. A bit of dew had also made batting a tad easier.

Jemimah, though, deserves all the kudos for her brilliant temperament and composure. For a moment or two, she looked as if she was tiring a little bit as the boundaries too had dried up from her bat since Harmanpreet's departure. But she refused to give in and hung on.




*Happy*  
**GURPURAB**

HEARTIEST GREETINGS ON THE 556TH PRAKASH DIVAS OF SHRI GURU NANAK DEV JI

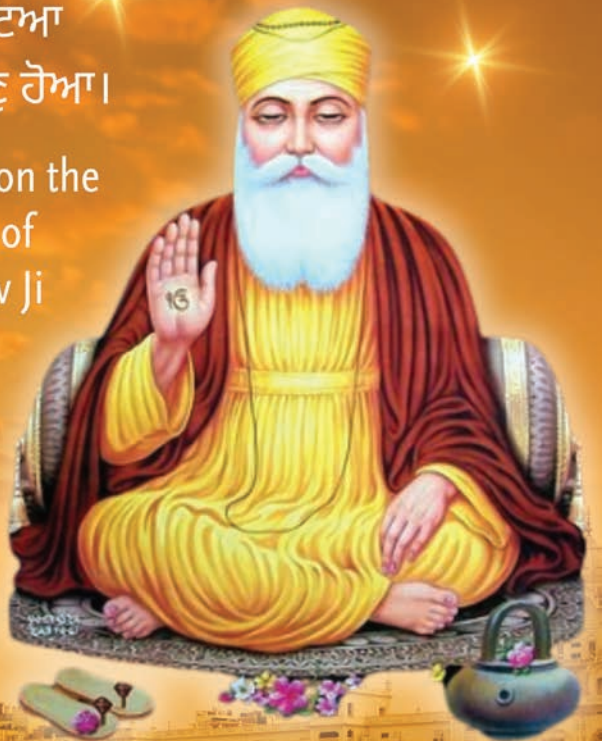



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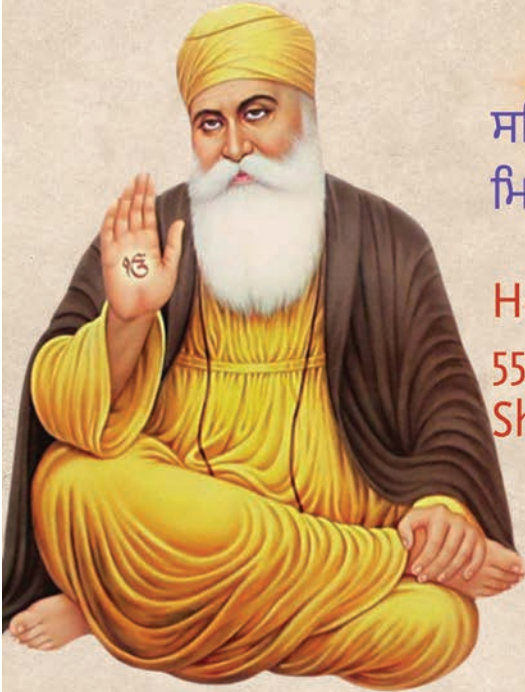
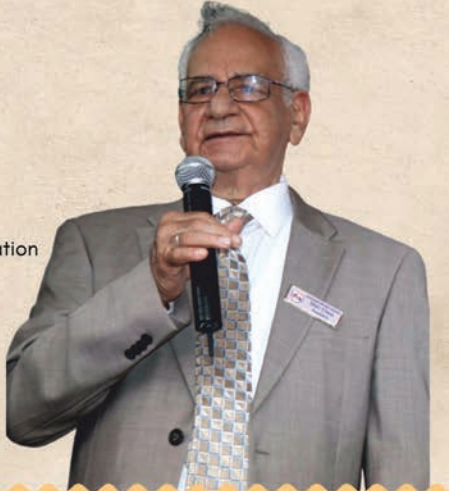
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\*President, Jackson Heights Indian Merchants' Association  
\*Member, Queens Community Board  
\*Member, Advisory Board, Elmhurst Hospital

**LAVANYA**  
37-08 Kalpana Chawla Way (74th Street),  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372  
718-565-5404; 347-254-0730



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Heartiest Greetings on the 556th  
Prakash Divas of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

**VIKAS  
INDU  
HARSAHAB AND  
RAUNAK DHALL**



ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਗਟਿਆ  
ਮਿਟੀ ਯੁੰਧੁ ਜਗਿ ਚਾਨਣੁ ਹੋਆ।

**HEARTIEST GREETINGS ON THE  
556TH PRAKASH DIVAS OF  
SHRI GURU NANAK DEV JI**

**MASTER MOHINDER SINGH**

- Former President, Gurdwara Sikh Cultural Society, Richmond Hill, New York
- Founder President, Gurdwara Baba Makhan Shah Lobana Sikh Center, Guru Tegh Bahadur Marg, Richmond Hill, New York
- Member, Community Board 9, Queens County, New York

*Heartiest Greetings on the  
556th Prakash Divas of  
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ਮਿਟੀ ਯੁੰਧੁ ਜਗਿ ਚਾਨਣੁ ਹੋਆ।

**Hervender Singh,  
Harjeet Kaur and Family  
New Jersey, USA**

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ਮਿਟੀ ਯੁੰਧੁ ਜਗਿ ਚਾਨਣੁ ਹੋਆ।

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**Dr. Hari K. Shukla, MD, Pediatrics**

President and Founder, South Asians of New York Inc. Established in 2004, Not for profit organization.  
President Children's Medical Center, Flushing.  
Chairman, NAVA (New American Voters Association), A not for Profit Organization.  
Former President, Queens pediatric society  
Former President, MSS, Flushing Hospital Medical Center.  
Former Governor, Rotaract, Rotary District 305

shuklamd@gmail.com | 718-961-4000  
www.DrHariShukla.com

Long Island Ladies Circle  
invites all to  
**Mata Ki Chowki**  
by  
**Sri Vaishno Sera Samiti**  
Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2025  
Asa Mai Temple, 80 E Barclay St., Hicksville NY 11801  
**4 PM - 8 PM**  
Chowki will be Facebook Live as well  
Chowki will be followed by Langar & Prasad  
For more information, contact **President Pinky Jaggi 516-330-7323**  
Vice Presidents: Arti MSjitija, Sonia Narang, Varindre Khas, Sonia Sodhi, Sonia Anand, Lily Soni  
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**KIRPAL SINGH SIHOTA**  
Member at Large-Rural Representative  
Fresno County Transportation Authority  
Cell: 1+559-269-6974

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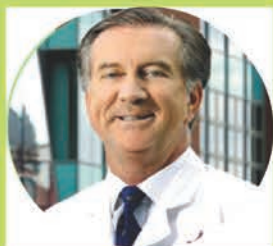
**ALICIA, HARINDER (HARRY),  
MANJEET, AJOONI**



## An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combating avoidable blindness in children.

On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion.

Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute to be constructed 2024



In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated and Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.

**3.5 + million served**  
**325,000 + vision restoring surgeries**  
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