



The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition on the occasion of

Deepavali

Please email your articles and advertisements for this edition at salujaindra@gmail.com by October 12, 2025. For any questions, Please call 646-247-9458

INSIDE :-

THE 80TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: TIME FOR COURAGE, NOT CALCULATED FEAR PAGE 2

WHY GOVTS AVOID TAXING THE RICH TO REDUCE INEQUALITY PAGE 8

THE UN CAN SURVIVE WITHOUT THE US PAGE 9

PAK-SAUDI DEFENSE PACT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA PAGE 10

Trump signs Executive Order Imposing \$100K Annual Fee for H-1B Visa Applications

The Trump administration also plans to launch a \$1 million gold card visa for wealthy foreigners



S. President Donald Trump signs an executive order in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, D.C., on September 19, 2025. -Photo Credit: Reuters

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): In a move that could adversely impact Indian professionals on visas in the U.S., President Donald Trump on Friday, September 19, 2025, signed a proclamation that will raise the fee for H-1B visas to a staggering \$1,00,000 annually, the latest in the administration's efforts to crack down on immigration.

White House staff secretary Will Scharf said the H-1B non-immigrant visa programme is one of the "most abused visa" systems in the country's current immigration system, and it is supposed to allow highly skilled laborers, who work in fields that Americans don't work in, to come into the United States.

CONTD ON PAGE 44

Sikh leaders submit report to PM on safekeeping of Jore Sahib of Guru Gobind Singh and Mata Sahib Kaur



Sikh delegation members felicitating PM Modi -Photo: X/@HardeepSPuri

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025
NEW DELHI (TIP): Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, accompanied by prominent Sikh leaders, met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, September 19, 2025, and submitted recommendations regarding the safekeeping and appropriate exhibition

of the Jore Sahib relics - footwear attributed to Guru Gobind Singh and Mata Sahib Kaur that are believed to be 300 years old. In an X post, Mr. Puri stated that "along with a committee of several eminent and well-known members of the Sikh Sangat,

CONTD ON PAGE 44

US attorney Erik Siebert under pressure to charge New York AG Letitia James in mortgage fraud case is resigning, say sources

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Erik Siebert, a federal prosecutor in Virginia whose monthslong mortgage fraud investigation into New York Attorney General Letitia James has not resulted in criminal charges, is resigning under pressure from the Trump administration, two people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Friday, September 19.

Siebert is leaving his position amid a push by Trump administration officials to bring charges against James, a perceived adversary of the president who has successfully sued him for fraud. The people who confirmed his plans to resign spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter.

It was not immediately clear Friday afternoon who would replace Siebert, who was nominated by Trump to the top job in the office after having worked there for more than a decade.



New York Attorney General Letitia James

It comes shortly after Trump said Siebert should be removed as head of the prestigious Eastern District of Virginia U.S. office. Siebert's top deputy, Maya Song, is also leaving her position as first assistant U.S. attorney and will work as a line prosecutor, one of the people familiar with the matter said. Trump administration officials have been aggressively pursuing allegations against James arising from alleged

CONTD ON PAGE 44



MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal addresses a press briefing in New Delhi on Friday, September 19, 2025. -Photo Credit: ANI

India, U.S. to intensify efforts for a trade deal, says MEA

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025
NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): India and the United States have decided to "intensify efforts" for an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial trade agreement, said an official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday, September 19, 2025.

Speaking at the weekly press briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal addressed several issues in India-U.S. relations, including the ending of

CONTD ON PAGE 44



OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.
 Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans



Andy Singh
516-441-7000
 16 E. Old Country Road
 Hicksville, NY 11801



Herman Singh
718-441-7000
 118-18 101 Avenue
 Richmond Hill, NY 11419

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com

Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services
 Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers


 The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL
PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

VICE PRESIDENT:

Chitagam Saluja

CHIEF EDITOR:

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,

SnapsIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

CORRESPONDENTS :**SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS:

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS**LONDON**

Nirpal Singh Shergill

SPL CORRESPONDENT**DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Chandan Singh

CHANDIGARH:

Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA:

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

JAIPUR :

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovlien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

COMMENT

The 80th UN General Assembly: Time for Courage, Not Calculated Fear

The 80th UNGA is in progress, and the eyes of the world are turned to the world body to see what the world leaders have in mind to work for peace, development and human rights



When the United Nations was founded in 1945, it was given a simple but profound mandate: to prevent war, to protect human rights, and to give a voice to the peoples of the world when the din of national ambition threatened them. Eighty years on, the UN's promises remain enshrined in lofty charters and innumerable resolutions - yet the organization's moral authority is fraying at precisely the moments when it is needed most. The 80th UN General Assembly must stop treating great-power sensitivities and political convenience as superior to human life. It must remember that the UN's gravest failure would not be impotence on paper, but silence in the face of mass atrocity.

This year's High-Level Week opens under the theme "Better Together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights." The theme is noble; the test is whether member states will honor it by speaking truth to power. A fearful UN - one that sanitizes or muffles its judgments to avoid offending influential states - betrays the very purpose of its existence. When the organization bows to geopolitical calculation rather than the protection of civilians, it hands the world back to the rule of the few: the strong, the strategic, and the unscrupulous.

Look at the crises that demand the General Assembly's moral clarity. Human-rights experts have warned repeatedly that the situation in Gaza has crossed thresholds of calamity that many describe in the language of genocide and famine - a charge that calls for urgent international action and accountability. Medical and humanitarian lifelines are collapsing; civilian death tolls and displacement have been catastrophic. The UN system cannot shrink from naming what it sees or from demanding an immediate, sustained cessation of actions that produce mass civilian suffering. To hesitate over terminology while people starve and die is to prioritize diplomatic comfort over human rescue.

If the UN is to reclaim its conscience, it must also break the dangerous pattern

that has allowed atrocity to metastasize elsewhere: in Ethiopia's Tigray and other regions where civilians remain trapped in cycles of violence and deprivation; in Sudan, where war and siege have produced famine conditions in Darfur and beyond; and in Myanmar, where the Rohingya and other minorities continue to face persecution and displacement. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has warned that the "rules of war are being shredded" in multiple theaters - a stark indictment that should galvanize the Assembly to act, not to prevaricate.

To be clear: the General Assembly is not being asked to play imperial arbiter. It is being asked to do what only it can do when the Security Council is paralyzed by vetoes and narrow national interest: to voice the conscience of the world, to convene humanitarian responses, to establish investigative mechanisms, and to rally both political and material support for ceasefires, safe corridors, and accountability. When the Security Council cannot or will not act, history has shown that the Assembly can and must step forward. Its authority rests not on coercive force but on moral legitimacy: a collective assertion that the world's peoples will not be abandoned. The Assembly must wield that legitimacy.

Member states, too, have duties that cannot be deferred to diplomatic technocrats. Powerful countries must stop treating the UN as optional when its decisions conflict with narrow strategic aims. They must stop weaponizing influence - or shielding allies - to prevent independent investigations or humanitarian access. They must fund the UN adequately and support its impartial experts rather than delegitimizing them for political convenience. When states treat multilateralism as a bargaining chip rather than a sacred public good, they starve the institution of the very legitimacy that enables global cooperation. The result is a slow-motion disintegration of a system designed to protect the weak from the will of the

By Indrajit Saluja



strong.

The stakes are existential. When the UN's capacity to act is eroded, the world drifts toward a brutal logic: might makes right. That is not merely rhetorical alarmism. It is a practical description of a world in which small or powerless populations are left vulnerable to predation by stronger neighbors, militia, or states that feel unconstrained by international restraint. The alternative - a rearmament of diplomacy, an insistence on accountability, and a robust humanitarian response - requires political courage. It requires member states to set aside immediate advantage and to serve the longer, higher interest of humanity. The Assembly must demand that courage.

At the heart of this revival should be concrete measures. The General Assembly should immediately mandate independent fact-finding missions where access is denied and atrocity crimes are alleged. It should empower and resource special rapporteurs and investigative tribunals with clear terms of reference and protection against political harassment. It should make humanitarian corridors and ceasefires a non-negotiable priority, tying development and diplomatic incentives to demonstrable protections for civilians. And crucially, it should adopt a standing mechanism to coordinate international relief when the Security Council is blocked - not to bypass the Council permanently, but to prevent paralysis when lives hang in the balance. These are not quixotic ideas; they are institutional repairs that recognize the Assembly's unique convening power.

The UN's critics are right to demand reform. The Security Council's veto culture, the underfunding of peacekeeping, and the sometimes opaque functioning of UN agencies all need overhaul. But reform cannot be an excuse for inaction. The General Assembly should treat reform and rescue as simultaneous priorities: fix the system while using what authority the system still retains to stop ongoing crimes and to protect civilians now.

Finally, a word to citizens and civil society: the UN will be as fearless as the members who demand it be fearless. Public pressure - sustained, vocal, and transnational - matters. Civil society groups, journalists, and ordinary citizens must push their governments to put principled action ahead of convenience. When the people insist, governments often follow.

The 80th General Assembly could be remembered as another ritual of speeches and photo-ops. Or it can be remembered as the moment when the world chose to revive the UN's founding promise: to protect succeeding generations from the scourge of war; to affirm human dignity, and to hold those who commit atrocities to account. The choice is simple and terrible: retreat into a jungle of raw power, or recommit to law, rights, and the human interest the UN was created to serve. The Assembly's answer will shape the century to come. The world will be watching.

DISCLAIMER

THE INDIAN PANORAMA ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLAIMS MADE IN ADVERTISEMENTS. WE ONLY SELL SPACE. VIEWS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE NEWSPAPER. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE INDIAN PANORAMA IS PROHIBITED.

Pills to Purpose Gala & Book Launch Raises Nearly \$175,000 to Support New Jersey's First Charitable Pharmacy



Gala Inauguration



The book "Pills to Purpose" is launched



Q & A session with Ritesh Shah

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Nearly 300 guests came together at the Moghul Ballroom in Edison for the Pills to Purpose Gala & Book Launch, celebrating the release of pharmacist Ritesh Shah's memoir, Pills to Purpose, and raising nearly \$175,000 in support of the Ritesh Shah Charitable Pharmacy (RSCP).

The evening, emceed by Joe Howe, President of RSCP, was filled with moving tributes and moments of reflection. The beautifully decorated ballroom set the stage for a program that included heartfelt keynote speeches, a symbolic candle lighting, and the unveiling of Ritesh Shah's book.

Keynote speakers Senator Vin Gopal and Senator Raj Mukherji delivered powerful remarks. Senator Gopal spoke on "Empathy: Prescription of Hope," highlighting the importance of serving underserved communities through New Jersey's first charitable

pharmacy. Senator Mukherji followed with "Seva: The Pharmacist's Purpose," drawing from the chapter in which he is featured to emphasize service, sacrifice, and the deeper mission of healthcare.

Guests also experienced a "Mission Moment" video spotlighting RSCP's patient impact, followed by a live art auction by Serena Cutaneo. After the program, attendees enjoyed a full buffet dinner and dessert while sharing in the spirit of community. The evening concluded with a book signing, where guests lined up to meet Ritesh Shah and receive personalized copies of Pills to Purpose.

"I am deeply humbled and inspired to have witnessed our community come together in such a powerful way," said Ritesh Shah, RPh. "This night was not only about launching a book, but about honoring the memory of my sister, Rena, whose light continues to guide this mission. The support in this

room affirms that Pills to Purpose is more than a book - it is a movement to ensure no patient in New Jersey is ever denied access to life-saving medication."

Copies of Pills to Purpose - subtitled A True Story of a Pharmacist - are now available on Amazon. Each purchase directly supports RSCP's mission: One book sold= one life saved.

For more information, visit www.pillstopurpose.com or www.rscprx.org.

MISSION: Increase access to medications, immunizations, health education, and pharmacy services for uninsured and underserved patients, to reduce clinical and social health inequities in our community.

24 Shrewsbury Avenue, Red Bank, NJ 07701
www.RSCharityPharmacy.org

Rohit Vyas's Documentary "OAK TREE ROAD" Nominated for Two EMMY Awards

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

EDISON, NJ (TIP): DESTINATION OAK TREE ROAD, a widely acclaimed documentary film about the meteoric rise to global recognition of a New Jersey retail and residential neighborhood from years of decline, has been honored with two 2025 New York Emmy Award nominations. The film, directed and narrated by internationally-renowned broadcast journalist Rohit Vyas, received the nominations for Documentary Historical and Performer/Narrator. The recognitions were announced recently at the PIX 11 studios by the New York chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NY NATAS).

Reacting to the announcement, Vyas said "I am honored that the hard work put into this production by our entire team has been recognized by esteemed peers in the industry. Having spent decades as a broadcast journalist covering the Indian and South Asian diaspora communities, this first documentary film project is particularly special. It is profoundly gratifying to see that the collective effort has made an



Rohit Vyas has reflected in the documentary, history, challenges, and successes of the Indian American community through the microcosm of one small but impactful area-Oak Tree Road.

impact."

DESTINATION OAK TREE ROAD spotlights the history of Oak Tree Road, a mile-and-a-half-long, once-desolate but today bustling cultural and business district in New Jersey that stretches from Edison Township to Iselin in Woodbridge Township. Officials and long-time residents interviewed in the film attribute the area's revitalization to the hard work and commitment of the Indian American

community. The production delves into how the community's efforts, in spite of numerous early obstacles, have today garnered Oak Tree Road worldwide recognition and attracted investment from multinational corporations.

Nominated alongside Rohit Vyas are fellow producers, 14-time Emmy Award Winner Janice Selinger, Actress / Sports Host Aditi Vyas and Arts Advocate Isha Vyas. Also nominated for the project is Joe Lee, former NJPBS Vice President and General Manager as the Executive in Charge of Production and Steve Stone as Director of Photography.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

HOUSE FOR SALE

Merrick Woods - Asking **\$850,000**

Well maintained "RANGER RANCH" with many fine UPGRADES AND FEATURES.

- Wonderful Natural Light and an "OPEN AIR" FEELING VIA THE 9 SKYLITES.
- Situated on a mature landscaped lot, the home offers a lot of privacy and a wonderful setting.
- Five Bedrooms including a Primary Bedroom with Private Bath on the FIRST FLOOR.
- Additional 4 Bedrooms and 2 additional Full Bathrooms, one with a WHIRLPOOL TUB.
- Double Insulated Anderson Windows, including 8" Sliding Doors and huge Pane Windows that bring in AN ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL LIGHT.
- The Second Floor offers 2 Large Bedrooms, one with an Ensuite Room that could be used as Home Office.

TAXES \$16,435/YR

Contact Martin "Marty" Sorrentino
Licensed Real Estate Associate Broker
Signature Premier Properties Ph : 516-551-0082
martysorrentino@gmail.com

UN backs Abbas video address after US visa refusal

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The UN General Assembly on Friday adopted a resolution allowing Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to address next week's high-level debate by pre-recorded video after the United States refused to issue visas for Palestine's delegation.

The resolution was passed with 145 in favor, five against (Israel, Nauru, Palau, Paraguay, and the United States) and six abstentions (Albania, Fiji, Hungary, North Macedonia, Panama, and Papua New Guinea).

It sets out procedures for the delivery of pre-recorded statements, authorizing President Abbas to submit his address via video in the General Assembly Hall, introduced by one of Palestine's New York-based representatives.



A view of the results of the vote on a resolution on "Participation by the State of Palestine during the eightieth session" at the General Assembly.-Photo credit: UN

The measure also allows for statements via a live link or pre-recorded video to the high-level conference taking place on the two-State solution, and other high-level meetings. The arrangements apply only to the

current 80th session.

In another action, the 193-member Assembly adopted without a vote a Saudi Arabian-proposed decision allowing the Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Mohammed bin Salman, to deliver a statement by video or pre-recorded message at the high-level conference on 22 September 2025.

The US Department of State announced on 29 August that it was denying and revoking visas from members of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority on national security grounds, stating that they had failed to comply with past commitments, and "for undermining the prospects for peace."

(Source: UN News)

UN Security Council rejects resolution to extend Iran sanctions relief

Iran calls action by UN Security Council 'unlawful' as nine member countries vote against nuclear sanctions relief



An Iranian flag flutters in front of the reactor building of the Bushehr nuclear power plant, just outside the southern city of Bushehr, Iran

File photo

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The United Nations Security Council has voted not to permanently lift economic sanctions on Iran over its nuclear programme, delivering a major economic blow that Tehran claims is "politically biased".

A resolution on Friday to block the sanctions fell in the Security Council by a vote of four to nine, meaning sanctions will return by September 28 if no significant deal is reached beforehand.

Russia, China, Pakistan and Algeria voted to stop the sanctions from being reintroduced.

Nine UNSC members voted against sanctions relief - the United States, Britain, France, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Denmark, Greece, Panama, and Somalia, according to Iran's official IRNA news agency. Guyana and South Korea abstained.

The vote follows a 30-day process launched in late August by Britain, France and Germany - known as the E3 - to reinstate sanctions unless Tehran meets their demands.

"Today's action is hasty, unnecessary and unlawful. Iran recognizes no obligation to implement it," Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran's permanent representative and ambassador to the UN, said at the session on Friday.

"Any attempt by the E3 to reimpose sanctions already terminated is not only baseless but a direct assault on international law and the credibility of the Security Council itself," he said.

"This travesty unfolds against the backdrop of blatant aggression," he added, referring to

Israel and the United States's attacks on his country's nuclear facilities during June's 12-day war.

The council, Iravani added, had "squandered an opportunity for dialogue and consensus".

Iran says Europeans 'misusing JCPOA mechanism'

Iranian officials have accused the European trio of abusing the dispute mechanism contained in the 2015 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which allows for the application of sanctions under a "snapback mechanism".

"What Europeans are doing is politically biased and politically motivated ... They are wrong on different levels by trying to misuse the mechanism embedded in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)," Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh said before the vote.

The Europeans offered to delay the snapback for up to six months if Iran restored access for UN nuclear inspectors and engaged in talks with the US.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi claimed that Tehran had presented a "reasonable and actionable plan" and insisted Iran remains committed to the NPT.

But the E3 accuse Tehran of breaching their nuclear commitments, including by building up a uranium stockpile of more than 40 times the level permitted under the JCPOA. The UN's nuclear watchdog board also ruled back in June that Iran was not respecting international nuclear safeguards.

"However slim, there is still a possibility of diplomatic engagement to fix this already complicated issue," said Al Jazeera's Tohid Asadi, reporting from Tehran.

But today's vote adds another "layer of complexity" and puts Iran "on the very brink" of deeper sanctions that would compound pressure on its economy, he added.

'Clock is ticking for high-level diplomacy'

The UNSC vote allowing sanctions to snap back is not the complete "end of negotiations," as the parties have just over a week to come up with a last-ditch deal, said Al Jazeera's diplomatic editor James Bays, reporting from the UN.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

India Reaffirms Commitment to Afghanistan at UN, Calls for Fresh Policy Approach

I.S. SALUJA

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

UNITED NATIONS (TIP) India has reiterated its "paramount interest" in ensuring peace and stability in Afghanistan while urging the international community to adopt a "fresh approach" beyond punitive measures to support the Afghan people reeling under poverty, disease and hunger.

Speaking at the UN Security Council session on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), India's Permanent Representative, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, praised outgoing UNAMA chief Roza Otunbayeva for her leadership and reaffirmed India's readiness to work closely with the mission.

Harish underlined India's long-standing civilizational ties with Afghanistan and said New Delhi continues to prioritize humanitarian aid, development cooperation and capacity-building initiatives. Since August 2021, India has delivered 50,000 tons of wheat, 330 tons of medicines and vaccines, 40,000 liters of pesticides, and other critical supplies, he noted. Following the devastating earthquake earlier this month, India dispatched more than 36 tons of relief materials, including tents, food supplies, medicines and generators, with more aid on the way.

He also highlighted India's development footprint through over 500 projects across Afghan provinces and pointed to scholarships provided to 2,000 Afghan students, nearly 600 of them women, since 2023. India has additionally supported drug rehabilitation programs with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, particularly targeting women.

On security concerns, Harish stressed that Afghanistan must not become a safe haven for international terrorist groups. He urged strict adherence to UN Security Council sanctions against ISIL, Al Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and their affiliates. India, he said, welcomed Kabul's condemnation of the April 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

Arguing that "business as usual" is insufficient, Harish called for international efforts to combine incentives for positive behaviour with disincentives for harmful actions. He said the Afghan people, after more than four years under sanctions, have seen limited development opportunities, and humanitarian needs have worsened after the recent earthquake.

"This is the time for compassion, a time for lending a helping hand," he told the Council, reaffirming India's "non-negotiable" commitment to Afghanistan's development and its support for international efforts towards a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan.



India's Permanent Representative, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish speaking at the UN

File photo

Indian American professor Lakshmi Iyer inducted into Notre Dame All-Faculty Team

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

INDIANA (TIP) : The University of Notre Dame, Indiana, has inducted Lakshmi Iyer, an Indian American professor of Economics and Global Affairs, into the All-Faculty Team, a group of seven faculty members recognized for their transformative contributions to Notre Dame and beyond.

At every Notre Dame home football game, the Office of the Provost honors a distinguished member of the faculty as part of the All-Faculty Team. As the Fighting Irish played Texas A&M University on Sept. 13, Iyer was recognized, according to a university release.

Trained as an economist, Iyer's research explores the intersection of history, politics, and economics, with a strong focus on Asia. Her recent projects have explored whether post-colonial policies can change the long-run effects of historical institutions, when decentralization can improve education and health outcomes, and whether providing formal land rights can improve women's economic participation.

Her new lines of research examine the interplay between governance, global



Lakshmi Iyer has been inducted into Notre Dame All-Faculty Team

health, and natural resource management.

At Notre Dame, Iyer is the academic director of the Building Inclusive Growth (BIG) Lab, which develops innovative, long-lasting solutions to help vulnerable populations in developing countries.

Iyer's work aligns with Notre Dame's Poverty Initiative, a University-wide effort to create a world intolerant of poverty by expanding knowledge about how to solve it.

"Growing up in India during a period of economic liberalization, I saw how

government policies can shape the economic and human development trajectory of a country," she said.

"I was inspired to investigate why and how countries can make progress against poverty, and to identify historical, political, or social barriers to such progress. More than 800 million people still live in extreme poverty around the world. Poverty is not just an economic issue; it is a moral, political and social issue. I am privileged to be working with scholars across several disciplines at Notre Dame and beyond, to investigate how a diverse range of factors contribute to poverty, including history, political institutions, and the inclusion of women."

Iyer has conducted archival and field research in several countries including India, Nepal, Vietnam, China, and Myanmar. Her work has been published in leading economics and interdisciplinary journals.

Iyer teaches undergraduate, masters, and Ph.D. classes in the Department of Economics and the Keough School of Global Affairs. She holds Bachelors and Masters degrees from the Indian Statistical Institute, and a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

INDIAN-ORIGIN BARRISTER ANURAG MOHINDRU DISBARRED FOR OXFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL DEGREE LIE



Anurag Mohindru was charged by the Bar Standards Board with engaging in dishonest and/or discreditable conduct

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

LONDON (TIP): An Indian-origin lawyer who was found to have misled a UK barrister's chamber by falsely claiming to have studied medicine at the University of Oxford has been disbarred for professional misconduct by an independent tribunal.

Anurag Mohindru, 50, was charged by the Bar Standards Board with engaging in dishonest and/or discreditable conduct which was likely to diminish trust and confidence in the legal profession.

The watchdog told an independent disciplinary tribunal at a hearing last week that he had brought the legal profession into disrepute in an application for tenancy at 23 Essex Street chambers back in November 2012.

"In the CV he asserted he had studied biomedical science/medicine at Oxford University when he had not," the board said in a statement this week.

"The tribunal found this behavior was a serious breach of the standards expected of members of the Bar. Having found Mr. M to have been dishonest, the panel decided that the appropriate sanction was to order his disbarment. He has been immediately suspended pending any appeal," it noted.

"In the CV he asserted he had studied biomedical science/medicine at Oxford University when he had not," the board said in a statement this week.

"The tribunal found this behavior was a serious breach of the standards expected of members of the Bar. Having found Mr. M to have been dishonest, the panel decided that the appropriate sanction was to order his disbarment. He has been immediately suspended pending any appeal," it noted. The tribunal concluded that Mohindru had acted dishonestly by providing false information on his curriculum vitae (CV) during the course of his application to the Essex Street Chambers and also ordered him to cover legal costs of 54,780 pounds. "The public and profession should expect barristers to be honest when applying for positions within a chambers," a Bar Standards Board spokesperson said.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian-origin Telangana man shot dead by US police claimed 'racial discrimination'

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): The 30-year-old man from Telangana, who was allegedly shot dead by the US police, had claimed that he was a victim of "racial hatred and discrimination".



Mohammed Nizamuddin who was allegedly shot dead by the US police, had claimed that he was a victim of "racial hatred and discrimination".

Mohammed Nizamuddin from Mahabubnagar district died in the United States after allegedly being shot by the police there following a "scuffle" with his roommate, his family members said on Thursday.

In a recent post on social media, Nizamuddin said, "I have been a victim of racial hatred, racial discrimination, racial harassment, torture, wage-fraud, wrongful termination and obstruction of Justice.

"Today I decided to raise my voice against all odds... Oppression of corporate tyrants must end and everyone involved in it must be punished severely."

Citing information received from a friend of his son, Nizamuddin's father Mohammed Hasnuddin told media that the incident occurred on September 3, though it is unclear what exactly happened.

According to a video released by Santa Clara police, they received a 911 (emergency call) involving a disturbance between two roommates. When the police reached the spot, they received information that the situation had escalated and the suspect stabbed the victim, pinning him to the ground.

"The officer attempted to deescalate the situation with verbal commands. But the suspect ignored the commands... When the officer saw the suspect's hand holding a knife come down towards the victim, the officer shot four times," Santa Clara police chief Morgan said in the video. The suspect was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Ludhiana youth goes missing in Russia, kin write to Central Govt

They say viral video shows him wearing army uniform, urging Central Govt to save Indian youths

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

LUDHIANA / NEW YORK (TIP): Samarjit Singh (25), who had left the city for Russia in July, is reportedly missing as the family of the boy has lost contact with him for the past about 10 days. Charanjit Singh, father of Samarjit, has been writing to Central Government agencies to help trace his son.

Talking to The Tribune, Sukhdev Singh, the maternal cousin of Samarjit, said the latter had left Ludhiana in July to study medicine in Russia.

"He had gone with the support of valid documents to Russia and everything was going well till recently. However, his family was not able to contact the youth for the past about 10 days. His father Charanjit is running a small grocery shop in the Daba area and he told us that he was not able to talk to him. A few days ago, a video went viral on social media in which Samarjit was seen wearing army uniform, urging the Indian Government to save Indian youths, who were forcibly asked to join the Russian army during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. We don't know about the reality of the video clip and how he landed himself in trouble. The entire family has lost contact with Samarjit and we have been writing to the authorities in Delhi to intervene in the matter," he said.

Charanjit told The Tribune that the video of his son showed him dressed in an army uniform and there were other boys too, who were saying that they were being ill-treated and the Indian Government should do the needful to evacuate youths trapped in Russia.

Sukhdev, who works with a local firm, said the youth's family did not know anything about Samarjit being in the army or being part of the war-zone as he had gone there to study only.

"We don't know if he landed himself in trouble or was forcibly asked to join the Russian army. We can only approach Indian Government agencies to help find the youth," he said.

(Source: Tribune, India)



A video grab of Samarjit Singh (C) in which he was asking for help from the Central Government

18 Months Later, Rozario family and DRUM's organizing pushes NYPD To Serve Misconduct Charges on Officers Alongi and Cianfrocco for Killing Bangladeshi Teen, Win Rozario

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): The NYPD, on September 18, served the Civilian Complaint Review Board's (CCRB) misconduct charges on officers Salvatore Alongi and Matthew Cianfrocco for killing Win Rozario in March 2024. The Bangladeshi teenager was safe at home until NYPD officers Salvatore Alongi and Matthew Cianfrocco arrived. Alongi and Cianfrocco recklessly shot Win five times in less than two minutes of entering the apartment, as his mother pleaded for the officers not to shoot - endangering the lives of Win's mother and younger brother in the process.

While the CCRB ruled last week that the officers engaged in serious misconduct, including excessive force and abuse of authority, there was concern amongst the community that the NYPD would try to stop any discipline to the officers involved, especially given the NYPD's history of stopping or delaying discipline of officers in other high profile police killings, including Eric Garner, Kawaski Trawick, Allan Feliz and more.

The news of charges being filed came after a protest held by Win Rozario's family, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), the Justice Committee, elected officials like Public Advocate Williams and State Senator John Lie and others at NYPD headquarters, calling for Commissioner Tisch and Mayor Adams



Rozario Rally crowd

to charge the officers before the deadline. A group of almost forty city and state elected officials also sent a letter to the commissioner and mayor, urging them to "move forward without delay or obstruction, so that New Yorkers and Win's family do not have to wait another year for Justice.

In response to the news that charges were served on Alongi and Cianfrocco, Notan Eva Costa, the mother of Win Rozario, issued the following statement: "I'm relieved to hear that the NYPD has

done the right thing and served the CCRB's charges, but I wish me and my family and so many others didn't have to fight to make that happen. The truth is Alongi and Cianfrocco should already have been fired and it's painful that we still have the whole discipline process ahead of us. I hope this means the NYPD won't try to play tricks in the months ahead and that Alongi and Cianfrocco are fired as soon as possible. Without Win this past year and a half, I have felt like I lost a part of myself. I am fighting

for Win and all New Yorkers so that all our children get a chance to grow up. Young people struggling with mental health issues should not live in fear of being killed by the NYPD."

Sherry Padilla (she/her), Organizer with Desis Rising Up & Moving (DRUM) said: "For too long, the lack of accountability for NYPD officers has fueled the recklessness we saw in the murder of Win Rozario. The serving of the charges substantiated by the CCRB on Alongi and Cianfrocco is a welcome step, but only possible because the Rozario family and others fought relentlessly for it. The gap left in the Rozario family by Win's absence can never be filled. All the more important that the remaining steps of firing and prosecution go through so that the family has even a bare opportunity to move forward."

Loyda Colon (they/them), Executive Director of the Justice Committee and a representative of the family shared: "The facts related to the NYPD murder of Win Rozario, a teenager who was safe in his home prior to Alongi & Cianfrocco's arrival are clear. Commissioner Tisch did the right thing by making sure the CCRB's misconduct charges were served but we shouldn't have had to fight to ensure this would happen.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

Consulate General of India, New York
cordially invites you to celebrate

AYURVEDA DAY 2025

Eat food as medicine
Launch of Nutrition 360

September 27, 2025 | 11AM
3 East 64th Street, New York, NY 10065

RSVP :

or visit :
<http://bit.ly/3JRkKt>

STATE BANK OF INDIA
460 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

HIRING

**STATE BANK OF INDIA, NEW YORK BRANCH IS LOOKING TO HIRE
SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF
ENTRY-LEVEL ASSOCIATES**

Associate (General Banking), the candidate should possess minimum educational qualification of a High School Diploma and be capable of working in a computerized environment.

Must be flexible and work well with a diverse workforce. The role requires to work in office work set up.

The positions have an annual base salary of \$35,620 plus group life insurance, health, and dental insurance (fully paid for by the bank) and 401k benefits.

Interested candidates, please submit your resume to:

pna.nyb@statebank.com
vppna.nyb@statebank.com

on or before October 04, 2025

The details are also available on our website <https://sbinewyork.statebank/careers>

STATE BANK OF INDIA IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT EMPLOYER

ALL CANDIDATES MUST HAVE VALID AUTHORIZATION TO WORK IN THE US

GOPIO Medical Webinar concludes that Ayurvedic and modern medicine can both be effective for certain diseases

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) held its webinar series on September 13th, 2025, with a compelling session titled "Indian Medicinal Wisdom: Strategies for Modern Maladies." The event brought together subject matter experts on ancient medicine and modern medicine, practitioners of combined healthcare approaches, community leaders, and global participants to share insights and best practices.

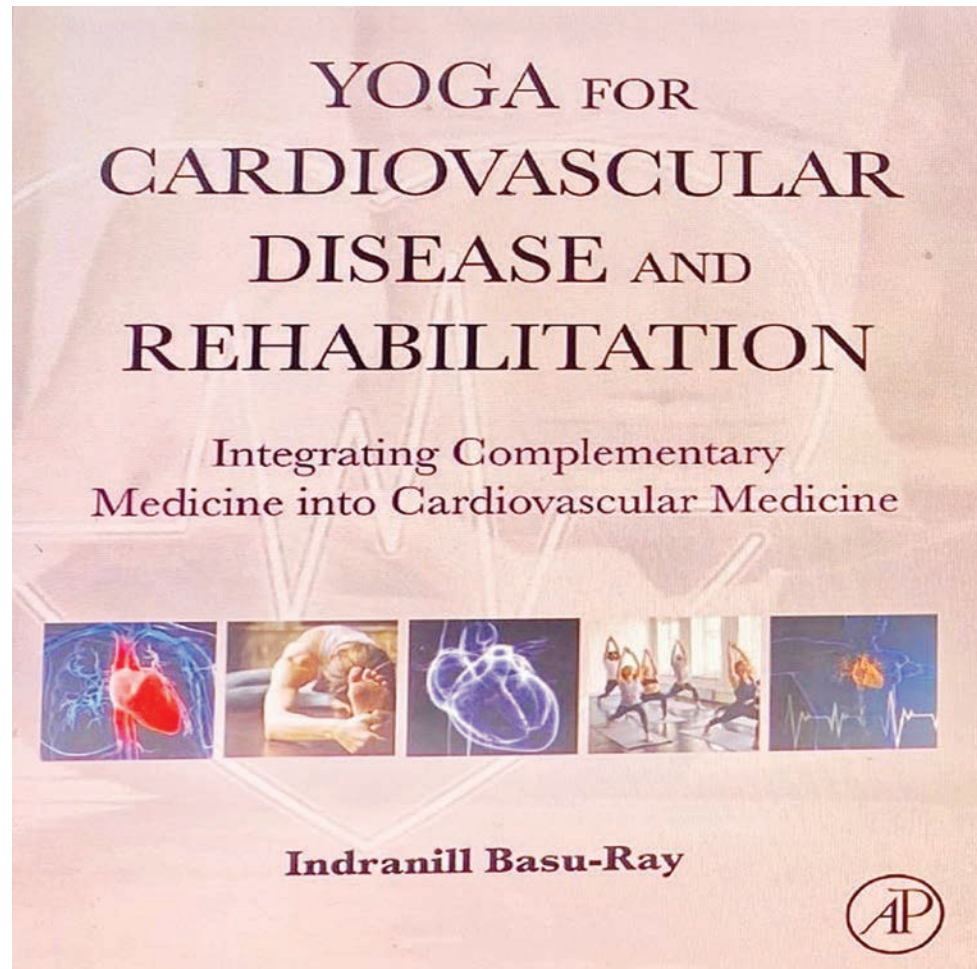
Moderated by Public Health Leader and Community Advocate Aparna Hande from Southern California, who also serves as GOPIO Medical Council Co-chair, told the audience in the outset that the Webinar session was to encourage active global Indian Diaspora participation with discussions emphasizing the effectiveness of combining modern medicine with evidence-based traditional practices for both prevention and treatment.

The program started with welcome remarks by GOPIO Associate Secretary Sunil Vuppala, who also serves as the Chair of the Webinar Series. Vuppala said that the last few webinars have galvanized the Diaspora community to a common platform to discuss topics of common interest. He then introduced the GOPIO Chairman and President for their remarks.

GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, who could not be present in person, provided a video message sharing brief history of GOPIO International, which was founded in 1989 in New York, now spanning 35 countries with life members and 100 chapters worldwide. Dr. Abraham explained that the primary purpose of GOPIO when it was established as a nonprofit was to integrate the Indian diaspora into the mainstream political community—a goal he noted has been successfully achieved. He further emphasized that OPIO has evolved to address current and relevant issues facing the global Indian diaspora, benefiting both the Indian and global communities. Dr. Abraham also highlighted GOPIO's proactive role during the COVID-19 pandemic, organizing numerous health-related programs for the benefit of the Indian Diaspora.

GOPIO President Prakash Shah in his remarks highlighted the series of webinar initiatives aimed at educating the Indian Diaspora on relevant issues. He explained that this is the third webinar in the series, held every other month on the second Saturday since July. The first webinar focused on immigration, the second on the AI era, both of which he described as successful and impactful. This third session explores "Ancient Medicinal Wisdom for Modern Maladies." He also announced the upcoming event on October 11 of this year, which will focus on investment growth and the role of the Diaspora.

The Chief Guest for the session was Padma Shri Recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh, an Allergist & Immunologist who is also a philanthropist, entrepreneur, and Chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media



Dr. Indranil Basu-Ray Yoga for Cardiovascular Disease and Rehabilitation

and ITV Gold. Dr. Parikh is also President-Elect of Global Asso. of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO), which represent 1.4 million Indian physicians worldwide. Dr. Parikh in his remarks concluded, "Ayurvedic and modern medicine can both be effective for certain diseases, provided the ancient remedies meet standard dosage and quality requirements."

Dr. Indranill Basu-Ray (Tennessee, USA), Cardiologist, Prof. of Public Health, Director of Research and Chair, GOPIO Medical Council has been a Yoga advocate. Author of "Yoga for Cardiovascular Disease and Rehabilitation," he demonstrates how yoga and holistic traditions can transform modern healthcare and medicine.

Dr. Basu-Ray said, "Yoga is not a religion; it is a lifestyle practice. Adopting healthy lifestyle changes is the best medicine for a healthy life, supported by both research and modern medicine."

Dr. Nirmal Joshi (Pennsylvania, USA), who is a physician, filmmaker and CEO of Joshi Health Foundation spoke on the topic. "The Epidemic of Heart Attacks in Young Indians - The Crisis and the Solutions," he uncovered the reasons behind this growing crisis in our communities. Dr. Joshi said that there is an alarming epidemic of early and severe heart attacks in Indians and we need to act now.

Pulmonologist Dr. Tina Shah, a public health advocate, currently a Democratic candidate for a Congressional seat in New Jersey (NJ-07) shared her insights under the theme "Ancient Wisdom in Healthcare and Medicine," bridging

modern science with timeless health traditions.

Dr. Tina Shah said, "Clean air is essential for the health of every organ in our body, and we must take a public health approach in our society to promote policies that reduce air pollution."

Endocrinologist, Diabetes Expert and population expert Dr. Renu Joshi (Pennsylvania, USA), spoke on the topic, "Not So Sweet! - Unmasking Diabetes in Indian Communities." She further highlighted the alarming rise of diabetes and explored lessons in prevention from Ancient India.

Dr. Renu Joshi said, "Diabetes, though an ancient disease, can be prevented through a healthy lifestyle, meditation, and regular screening. Traditional medicines may help with prevention, while modern medicine plays a key role when the condition is not controlled."

Dr. Dinesh Upadhyay (India), Naturopathist and Yoga & Ayurvedic expert and former National Co-Convener, BJP Medical Cell, joined from India. He serves as the Sampark Pramukh for Delhi Pradesh with Chikitsak Sangh and Arogya Bharati.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

DISPOSAL SITE

OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM

Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.30 PM

For
construction
Debris,
Demolition
& Cleanouts



Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208
Just 5 minutes from JFK



Roll Off Container Service
10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates ** All major credit cards accepted

Call @ 718-345-6451

Why govts avoid taxing the rich to reduce inequality



By Aunindyo
Chakravarty

No government can increase taxes on the rich since they are the fundamental power behind every throne.

"Of course, the 'just' way to reduce public debt is to raise taxes on the rich. After all, they are the people who have gained from the loans that governments have taken over the years. They hold most of this debt in the form of government bonds, directly or through investments in large funds. The more governments borrow, the more they earn on these assets.

But no government can increase taxes on the rich since they are the fundamental power behind every throne. Any attempt to raise taxes faces serious pushback from powerful sections of the media, which are owned or controlled by big corporates."

The world around us is in turmoil and there is blood on the streets. From Nepal to France, through Indonesia and Argentina, governments are being booted out of power and popular leaders are facing protests from disillusioned supporters. The key reason is the growing inability of the average citizen to make ends meet and their governments' failure to solve their economic problems.

Almost everywhere, people are losing jobs. Those who are employed work long hours for low pay. Sometimes, like in the US, they work multiple jobs to make ends meet.

Even successful profit-making companies are sacking people in anticipation of what AI might do to their industry. Often, these are well-paid middle-class employees, who are suddenly faced with financial uncertainty.

Many governments tried to spend their way out of the crisis - by giving bailouts to corporates and subsidies to people.

Now, their national debt has ballooned and they are trying to find ways to reduce it. In Europe, Latin America and South-East Asia, governments chose to cut back on spending. They are now paying the price for it.

In France, Prime Minister Bayrou had to resign after lawmakers defeated his proposals to reduce government expenditure on welfare. In Argentina, President Milei is facing massive street protests after cutting aid to universities

and hospitals.

In Indonesia, President Prabowo's austerity measures have resulted in violent protests. In Nepal, the Oli government's expenditure cuts on social security and welfare programs caused widespread resentment, especially since the political class, and their 'nepo kids' enjoyed lavish lifestyles.

In the US, Donald Trump has tried to find another path to solving the public debt problem - his infamous Trump tariffs. The key assumption is that tariffs would force exporting nations to reduce their base prices to keep their market

So, all Trump has achieved is to push India towards our traditional adversary - China. The bonhomie between Modi, Xi and Putin, captured by cameras and published across the world, was a warning shot fired at the US.

It is reminiscent of India's earlier position in the geopolitical space of a bipolar world as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), till the USSR collapsed in 1991. At that time, India played the two powers against each other to extract maximum diplomatic value from them.

This gradually ended as the US

But no government can increase taxes on the rich since they are the fundamental power behind every throne. Any attempt to raise taxes faces serious pushback from powerful sections of the media, which are owned or controlled by big corporates.

Opinion makers who bat for corporates find easy access to newspaper columns and TV studios, which showcase their views opposing tax hikes. Any political leader who fights on the agenda of taxing the rich finds it impossible to raise funds. S/he also ends up having to deal with a hostile media.



share and, at the same time, fill the governments' coffers.

As it has turned out, this has only caused a sharp increase in prices in the US and huge job losses. No wonder, Trump's net approval ratings have been negative since mid-March.

After his initial attempts to force China to submit to his tariff tantrums failed, Trump has increasingly tried to bully India. Even Trump sympathizers admit that the 50 per cent duty levied on Indian exports, supposedly because we buy Russian oil, makes no sense since the US hasn't raised tariffs on China, which buys more oil from Russia than we do.

Trump's attempt to badger India to open up our market to American agricultural and milk products is nothing but a tactic to score political brownie points among some of his core voters in rural America.

The Modi government, on the other hand, cannot let American maize, soybean, milk and cheese enter for free because of the political price it might have to pay among India's farming community.

emerged as the sole power in the 1990s and established its role as the global Big Brother. Many observers saw India as America's natural ally as a large market-oriented economy with a democratically elected government.

Now, the Trump administration seems to have endangered that relationship by openly attacking India's trade policies. Even though Trump has walked back some of the rhetoric in the past couple of days, things have soured significantly.

Trump clearly has no answer to how to solve the US' debt problem. Nor does any other global leader in power. Experts are advising governments to cut expenditure while the people, burdened by high prices and pay cuts, are demanding the exact opposite.

Of course, the 'just' way to reduce public debt is to raise taxes on the rich. After all, they are the people who have gained from the loans that governments have taken over the years. They hold most of this debt in the form of government bonds, directly or through investments in large funds. The more governments borrow, the more they earn on these assets.

India, too, is not immune to such pressures. We have the problem of losing a crucial export market, which sustains millions of jobs, especially in textiles, gems and jewelry and shrimp farming. At the same time, our farmers will be hit if we reduce taxes on American farm goods.

So, we have no option but to play hot and cold with the US and China. We need new markets for our products, which the China bloc might provide. At the same time, we cannot completely alienate the US since our corporates have close business ties with it and our middle class depends heavily on service exports to the US.

India has no option but to ride it out as things unfold across the world. One thing is for sure: given that we are only at the beginning of the AI revolution, geopolitical and economic uncertainties are not going to disappear anytime soon and we are likely to see many more global realignments in the coming months.

(Aunindyo Chakravarty is senior economic analyst)

The UN Can Survive Without the US

Next week world leaders will gather for the General Assembly's annual high-level debate, and that despite the Trump administrations' scorn of multilateralism, "the world can't afford to abandon the mission of the UN simply because its founding architect has retreated."



By Chris Lu

One year ago, against the backdrop of deep geopolitical divides, the United Nations came together to adopt the Pact for the Future and its companion agreements, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations. These landmark agreements were designed to strengthen the UN's ability to address conflict prevention, sustainable development, humanitarian assistance, human rights and emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence.

Eleventh-hour compromises left no country fully satisfied. Yet the adoption of these agreements, despite divisions caused by the wars in Gaza and Ukraine, testified to the enduring promise of the UN and the importance of collective action. It was proof that multilateralism, while badly battered, was not broken.

The road to those agreements was neither smooth nor inevitable. During the yearlong negotiation process, the United States played a critical role in bringing it to a successful outcome. From day one, the Biden administration understood that an effective multilateral system contributed to US security by stabilizing regions, advancing democratic norms, coordinating global crises and opening markets. The UN couldn't be allowed to fail.

A year later, the political landscape at the UN has shifted dramatically under the Trump administration. The US has pulled back billions of dollars of financial contributions to the UN. The US now routinely denounces the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - the central organizing principle for the UN's work over the past decade. And USAID, the largest funder of development assistance in the world, has been dismantled, endangering the lives of millions of people and undercutting decades of progress on human rights, democracy promotion and inclusive development.

Looking back, the adoption of the Pact for the Future may be remembered as a fleeting triumph for multilateralism - a moment of collective resolve that briefly cut through geopolitical divides - before more paralysis and discord set in.

Next week, world leaders will gather in New York City for the UN's high-level week. It should be a time not just for reflection on what's been lost, but also for resolve about what can still be saved. The world can't afford to abandon the mission of the UN simply because its founding architect has retreated.

If the UN is to endure, it must rethink how to do its work and who funds it. At least for the next three years, the international community must learn to operate without US funding - and US moral leadership. This effort will require genuine reform and belt-tightening. Beyond across-the-board budget cuts, agencies must be consolidated or eliminated when their



UN Secretary-General António Guterres, left, and Japan's envoy, Kazuyuki Yamazaki. -Credit: UN PHOTO

functions are duplicative or don't align with the UN's core mission.

The UN also must rethink its funding system and broaden the donor base, requiring wealthier emerging economies to shoulder more responsibility. An equitable and effective UN can't rely on its top two donors for over 40 percent of its funding.

The rest of the world will also need to step up more forcefully to address global issues without waiting for Washington's blessing. We have already seen encouraging examples in 2025. At the UN Ocean Conference in Nice, France, which the US government did not attend, over 170 countries adopted an action plan with more than 800 commitments, including the creation of one of the world's largest Marine Protected Areas.

At the fourth Financing for Development conference in Sevilla, Spain, following the withdrawal of the US from the negotiations, more than 190 countries approved major pledges on debt relief, domestic resource mobilization and climate finance.

While no entity can fully make up for the absence of the US government, the UN needs to radically rethink its approach to an often-forgotten party: the private sector. The combined revenues of the world's top 500 companies rival the budgets of all governments worldwide. If more private-sector involvement could be unlocked, it would drive progress on

global challenges. Multinational companies understand that addressing poverty, conflict and climate change isn't charity; it's an investment in creating stable, growing markets on which long-term business success depends.

Private sector engagement is about more than funding - it's also about harnessing expertise that can make UN programs smarter and more effective. By leveraging advanced data tools to sharpen how aid is targeted, world-class logistics to accelerate humanitarian supply chains, fintech to streamline cash assistance and renewable energy to reduce the cost and risk of fueling peacekeeping missions, the UN can deliver results that are more scalable and sustainable.

Nowhere is the case for private sector expertise stronger than in artificial intelligence. Last year, Secretary-General António Guterres noted that AI could help advance nearly 80 percent of the SDGs. A year later, that prediction may well underestimate its potential.

In agriculture, new private sector AI projects are optimizing irrigation and boosting crop yields. In health care, AI is being used to diagnose medical conditions in regions where doctors are scarce. In climate change, AI is helping to model sea-level rise, monitor deforestation and predict floods and wildfires. These aren't futuristic scenarios. They are operating today, and they show the kind of innovation the

UN could scale globally, if there is a commitment to responsible AI development and deployment. The adoption of the first UN resolution on AI in March 2024 - an initiative led by the Biden administration - was a crucial step in that direction.

To be clear, there is no substitute for the resources and moral authority that Washington can bring to global challenges. But the rest of the world can't wait for a change in the White House before acting. The climate crisis won't pause. The humanitarian needs of displaced populations won't diminish. The technological revolution won't slow down. These challenges demand urgency, and many of the tools for addressing them are still available.

At high-level week, the choice before the global community is stark: allow the Pact for the Future to become a historical footnote or use it as a base for a new kind of multilateralism - one that can withstand even the withdrawal of its most powerful member. The Pact was never meant to be an end in itself. It was always intended as a roadmap for bringing more parties and tools to the table to solve the world's most serious problems. One year on, that vision is threatened, but not beyond saving.

(Chris Lu was the US ambassador to the United Nations for management and reform (2022-25) and is now the James R. Schlesinger Distinguished Professor at the University of Virginia Miller Center.)

(Source: PassBlue)

PAK-SAUDI DEFENSE PACT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA



By Prabhu Dayal

On September 17, 2025, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif signed a Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement in Riyadh. The pact formalizes their alliance with a collective defense clause, stating that "any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both". It was signed less than two weeks after an Israeli strike on Doha, which left Gulf States wary of US security guarantees.

The agreement upgrades the long-standing defense cooperation between Islamabad and Riyadh, institutionalizing a historically close security relationship rooted in shared faith and strategic interests. For decades, Pakistan has provided security support, including training and deploying troops to Saudi Arabia. The strengthened defense ties follow Saudi Arabia's significant financial support to Pakistan's struggling economy, including multi-billion dollar loans.

A Saudi-Pak joint statement said that "Building on a partnership extending nearly eight decades, and grounded in bonds of brotherhood, Islamic solidarity and shared strategic interests, the two sides signed the Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement".

From Pakistan's viewpoint, by securing a collective defense agreement with a wealthy and influential Gulf ally, it gains a strategic boost which could be perceived as bolstering Islamabad's position, especially at a time of high tension with India. The pact's collective defense clause, stating that "any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both," adds a new and complex dimension to the India-Pakistan rivalry. While Saudi Arabia has not historically intervened militarily in India-Pakistan conflicts, the official language raises concerns that Pakistan might be emboldened, potentially complicating India's response to future acts of terrorism originating from Pakistan.

The mutual defense pact between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia has implications for India, impacting regional security dynamics, diplomacy and India's growing relationship with Saudi Arabia. The pact introduces a new layer of complexity to the India-Pakistan security dynamics. In the event of a future conflict, Pakistan could attempt to portray any Indian military action as an act of aggression against Saudi Arabia as well, potentially leveraging the collective defense language of the pact.

Thus, India's primary concern is that the deal could embolden Pakistan and alter the regional balance of power. India has so far maintained a cautious and measured diplomatic posture. The ministry of external affairs stated that it would study the pact and protect India's national interests, but avoided a stronger reaction.

What is the importance of this pact for Saudi Arabia? Analysts have long



Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, second right, Saudi Arabia's Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman, left, Pakistan's PM Shehbaz Sharif, second left, and Pakistan's Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, pose for photographs after signing a mutual defense pact, in Riyadh.

Photo Credit : AP

speculated that in exchange for financial support, Pakistan could extend a "nuclear umbrella" to Saudi Arabia, which is non-nuclear but has expressed interest in developing nuclear capabilities if Iran does. The new pact, while not explicitly referencing nuclear arms, renews this speculation and alters the strategic calculus for West Asia.

Thus, Saudi interest in the pact is due to Pakistan's status as a nuclear power. The symbolic significance of Saudi Arabia aligning with a nuclear-armed state could affect the strategic calculations of regional players. Some reports indicate that discussions included nuclear technology and delivery systems, though no official confirmation has been made. By formalizing the alliance with the only Muslim-majority nuclear power, Saudi Arabia has reasserted its standing in the Islamic world during a period of increased criticism over Israel's actions.

The agreement shows that Riyadh continues to see significant value in its partnership with Islamabad. The mutual defense pact formalizes and upgrades a security relationship, sending a strong signal to regional rivals Iran and Israel that Saudi Arabia has additional security options beyond its traditional partnerships such as the one with the US. The agreement aims to "strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression" and deepen defense cooperation across various fields. A senior Saudi official did not specify whether the pact includes Pakistan's nuclear arsenal but noted that the deal "encompasses all military means," cultivating deliberate ambiguity.

India has steadily deepened ties with

Gulf States, including Saudi Arabia, while Pakistan's economic reliance on Saudi financial aid has grown. The defense pact signals that Riyadh continues to see significant value in its partnership with Pakistan, challenging the narrative that Islamabad was becoming isolated in its extended neighborhood.

Saudi Arabia is an important trading partner for India, with bilateral trade far outweighing its trade with Pakistan. Saudi officials have been quick to reassure India that their partnership is "more robust than ever," signaling a desire to avoid jeopardizing the strong economic relationship with India. A recent visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Riyadh in April 2025 and the expansion of the Strategic Partnership Council demonstrate a continued focus on strengthening ties across investment, energy, and defense.

New Delhi has been steadily strengthening its strategic and economic ties with Riyadh, with trade and defense cooperation expanding significantly. The new defense pact with Pakistan, however, adds a layer of complexity to this growing relationship. While Saudi officials have stressed that ties with India are robust, the defense agreement introduces a new complication to Riyadh's delicate balancing act between New Delhi and Islamabad.

Saudi officials may reassure India that this lucrative relationship will not be jeopardized by the new agreement with Pakistan. They will convey to us that Saudi Arabia will remain committed to safeguarding its relationship with India. Despite this, the pact could complicate India's ability

to retaliate against Pakistan without the risk of drawing in Saudi Arabia.

India will have to closely watch how the pact is implemented and what operational meaning is given to the collective defense clause. The ultimate impact will depend on Riyadh's specific actions, not just the symbolism of the agreement. There can be no doubt that the agreement presents a diplomatic challenge to India and could impact its ties with Riyadh. The agreement shifts the regional balance of power by formally tying a nuclear-armed Pakistan to the Gulf's security architecture.

While India's core military deterrence against Pakistan is not expected to be affected, the pact complicates India's foreign policy challenges by formalizing a long-standing alliance between these two key regional powers. By securing formal Saudi backing, Pakistan may feel emboldened to take a harder line on issues like Kashmir, terrorism, and water rights. This could complicate India's security calculations, especially following the April 2025 Pahalgam attack, and potentially undermine India's doctrine of punitive deterrence. If Saudi financial aid or oil subsidies flow towards Pakistan's military, it could help modernize the Pakistani armed forces, creating a better-equipped adversary for India. Thus, the challenge for India is to ensure that Riyadh's economic engagement with New Delhi will prevent the defense pact with Pakistan from directly targeting Indian security interests.

(Prabhu Dayal is a former ambassador)
(The article was originally published in The Hindustan Times)



Ashook Ramsaran

Dear Editor,

Apropos of your editorial comment "Save America from its guns and its wars."

<https://www.theindianpanorama.news/editorial-comment/save-america-from-its-guns-and-its-wars/>

Gun violence in America is a prevalent, mind-numbing social dilemma resulting in deaths and injuries to people of all ages and social groups, but particularly high among lower income and minority groups. It is heart wrenching to see the continuing pattern of children being massacred in schools, while gun advocates hide behind the façade of so-called constitutional protection. "Thoughts and prayers" are momentary salves for a nation that bleeds every day from this manmade scourge. It is unfortunate, and unbecoming, that elected officials are beholden to gun rights advocates and manufacturers while their constituents clamor for sensible gun safety and laws. The inability and fear among elected officials to do the right things to protect citizens from gun violence is a shameful act of cowardice.

Ashook Ramsaran

President, Indian Diaspora Council
Internationalew York



Anu Jain

Dear Editor,

<https://www.theindianpanorama.news/editorial-comment/save-america-from-its-guns-and-its-wars/>

As someone raised with Indian values of peace and non-violence, I find it heartbreaking to see so many innocent lives lost to gun violence in America. In my culture, true strength is measured not by destruction, but by the ability to protect life. America is a land of great opportunity and freedom, yet freedom should never mean living in fear-fear that a child may not return home from school or that a simple trip to the store could turn tragic.

I respect the right to safety and self-defense, but with rights come responsibilities. Responsible limits are essential: stronger background checks, psychological evaluations, safe storage laws, and sensible restrictions on weapons of war. These steps can save lives while still honoring individual rights.

Life is the most sacred gift. If America can lead the world in science, innovation, and democracy, it can also lead to building a society where non-violence is not just a dream, but a way of life.

Long Island, NY
516-728-4186



Dave Makkar

Dear Editor,

<https://www.theindianpanorama.news/editorial-comment/save-america-from-its-guns-and-its-wars/>

Gun control in America has the potential to protect lives, though it remains one of the nation's most debated issues. The United States suffers more gun-related deaths than most developed nations, including homicides, suicides, and mass shootings. Common-sense measures such as universal background checks, waiting periods, and restrictions on high-capacity or military-style weapons could reduce access to firearms by dangerous individuals, including those with violent histories or severe mental health issues, while preserving the rights of responsible owners. Evidence from countries like Australia and the United Kingdom shows that stronger gun laws can significantly decrease gun violence. Critics argue that criminals often ignore laws, and restrictions could leave law-abiding citizens vulnerable. The challenge is to strike a balance between personal freedom and public safety. By closing loopholes and focusing on prevention, America could reduce gun deaths. Ultimately, the right to live safely should outweigh political gridlock and partisanship.

New Jersey

Sunil Chandra

Dear Editor,

<https://www.theindianpanorama.news/editorial-comment/the-danger-of-imported-nationalism-a-challenge-for-americas-unity/>

One of the best articles I have ever read...crisp, compact, impactful and written in style.

Keep it up, Saluja Sir...Your choice of words and expressions always draws adulation for you.?????

America is a nation of immigrant inhabitants.

Let us begin by being clear that the greatest impediment to uniform integration is the *bias* that becomes frequently visible in the form of *behavioral prejudice* of the "whites" towards blacks, brownies, & some cults/tribes/religions.

This self-inflicted megalomania is so deep rooted that it is well-nigh impossible for Governments to address it fairly, effectively and legally.

Unless equitable humanitarian sentiment pervades towards the populace coming from diverse backgrounds, peaceful social integration will remain as only utopian (read: a failed fantasy) dream.

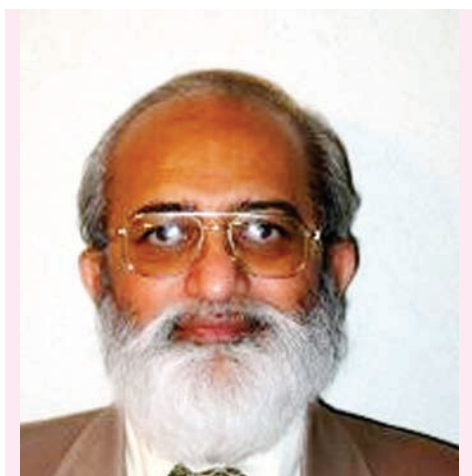
In fact, history is replete with examples that utopian and exaggerated idealism invariably leads to undesirable outcomes (read: evil outcomes).

Examples:

A) Infructuous, ineffective and spineless UN.

B) Unfair concept of humanitarian considerations for displaced refugees and cowardly concept of non-violence even towards evil forces.

Sunil Chandra
New Delhi, India



Nagendra Rao

Dear Editor,

India is Unstoppable

Lt Gen P R Shankar and his Gunners Shot podcast is widely regarded as one of the most respected and closely followed geopolitical and military programs on YouTube today, making it well worth regular viewing. This particular episode stands out as one of his finest among a series of excellent ones.

Gen Shankar's impartial observations, devoid of excessive Indian nationalism, are particularly noteworthy. Furthermore, his ability to bring top Indian generals and military theorists onto his program to share their perspectives on key issues is commendable. Credit should be given to the PM Modi BJP/RSS government for allowing and even encouraging India's top military and geopolitical thought leaders to express their views. In

contrast, the Nehru-Gandhi family Congress Party administrations, which dominated India's first 50 years after independence, were marked by paranoia about military coups, as seen in Pakistan and other newly independent nations. Consequently, India's most decorated military commanders were never appointed as commanders-in-chief and were instead posted abroad as ambassadors upon retirement.

In this podcast, Gen Shankar aptly remarks, "I am called pro-US general. I am not. I am a pro-Indian general." He freely criticizes the slipups of the PM Modi BJP/RSS government, just as he critiques India's forgettable dynast and perennial PM hopeful, Rahul 'Pappu' Gandhi. Gen Shankar's stance is clear: he is not pro-BJP, but pro-India, and did not vote for the BJP in the last election. Nevertheless, he accepts Narendra Modi as India's Prime Minister and hence by extension, his own PM. This

podcast is one of Gen Shankar's finest introspective pieces, masterfully integrating military, economic, political, and cultural factors to explain India's unstoppable rise as a global force in the 21st century. Gen Shankar freely acknowledges America and China as superpowers currently hold more economic and military power than India which is major regional but battle tested power. Gen Shankar goes on to add the America China dyad are inevitably declining, and he pithily says why. India inexorably ascends to become the second global superpower by mid-21st century, trailed by a decaying United States. Gen Shankar astutely observes that every nation and culture has its day. As India rises, Failed Marshal Asim Munir, Trump's blue-eyed boy and terrorist Pakistan continue to attempt genocidal jihadi Gazwa-e-Hind games.

New York

Kali Hotel Steel Beam Ceremony Marks Milestone in Inglewood's City Transformation



Kali Hotel at Hollywood Park: the ceremonial raising of the final structural steel beam.



Dr. Kali P. Choudhury with Ms Gabriel, Head of BOA Private Banking and Jeniffer, VP BOA



Mayor Butt with Dr. Kali P. Choudhury

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

LOS ANGELES, CA (TIP): With hard hats on and applause echoing across the construction site, community leaders, developers, and local workers gathered this week to celebrate a major milestone for the Kali Hotel at Hollywood Park: the ceremonial raising of the final structural steel beam.

The moment represented far more than the completion of a framework. It marked the steady progress of a vision that began when the hotel first broke ground in October 2024 and underscored Inglewood's continuing transformation into a premier destination for sports, entertainment, and now world-class hospitality.



Kali P. Choudhury, Chairman of KPC Group

A LANDMARK IN THE MAKING

When complete, the Kali Hotel will be the only hotel permitted within the Hollywood Park Specific Plan. Rising 12 stories, it will become the district's second-tallest structure, with its rooftop restaurant and bar offering sweeping views across Los Angeles. Even airline passengers descending into nearby LAX will be able to spot the landmark from the sky.

City officials and developers hailed the project as a foundation for hundreds of future jobs, thousands of memorable guest experiences, and a lasting addition to the city's skyline.

"This is about more than just steel and concrete," one speaker said. "It's the foundation for opportunity, community pride, and a lasting future."

VISION AND LEADERSHIP

Developer Stan Kroenke, owner and chairman of the Los Angeles Rams, was credited as the driving force behind Hollywood Park's larger vision. The district - already home to SoFi Stadium and numerous entertainment and cultural venues - is expanding into a thriving ecosystem where residents and visitors can live, work, play, and soon stay.



Right: Dr. Arvind Saini and Dr. Sumatra Saini Choudhury, and Mr. Kali Prabal Choudhury from KPC Family

"Stan continues to set the standard for what's possible when you combine real estate and sports expertise," said Otto N., president of Kroenke Holdings. He also highlighted the dedication of the more than 220 field workers whose skill and effort have brought the project to this stage. "You are the ones making this happen every day," he added.

Mayor James Butts emphasized the local impact of the development, highlighting the role of TEC Constructors and Engineers, an Inglewood-based, minority-owned firm integral to the project. "Inglewood

is a place where ambitious projects don't just get built - they get built right, by our neighbors, for our community," he said. TEC has not only ensured safety and efficiency on site but has also created opportunities for other local businesses, including partnerships with the Greater Los Angeles African-American Chamber of Commerce.

PRECISION, SAFETY, AND SCALE

Brian Maguire, president of Clayco, detailed the scale of the project. Nearly 50,000 cubic yards of earth have been excavated, 24,000 cubic yards of concrete poured, and more than 500 tons of steel set. Remarkably, all this has been achieved with zero recordable safety incidents over the past year.

"The success of this project is the result of vision, partnership, and teamwork," Maguire said. "It's not just about concrete, steel, and glass - it's about what happens when people come together with commitment and pride."

Clayco also recognized two workers, Luis Borja and James Castillo, for their exceptional contributions to safety and professionalism, underscoring that the project's progress has been driven by individual dedication as much as by corporate partnerships.

A PERSONAL DREAM REALIZED

For Dr. Kali P. Choudhury, the visionary behind the hotel, the day carried deep personal meaning. He reminded the audience of his own journey to the United States with almost nothing, and how he built his estate in the city of Hemet before expanding his wings to Inglewood.

"This hotel is more than a building - it is a dream realized through vision, friendship, and strong support," Choudhury said, noting that the Kali Hotel is only part of a larger vision that includes Kali Square, a new development planned for downtown Los Angeles.

Choudhury also spoke movingly about his late wife, who passed away in June, and thanked the community for their outpouring of support. "When I first came to California, I worked at a nearby hospital and walked the streets of Inglewood imagining what this city could become. Now, together, we are transforming that vision into reality."

LOOKING AHEAD

As the steel beam was lifted 150 feet into the sky, the crowd cheered, recognizing it as a symbol of Inglewood's ongoing resurgence. The Kali Hotel is scheduled to open in September 2026, adding a major hospitality destination to a city that has already hosted the Super Bowl, welcomed millions of visitors to SoFi Stadium, and is preparing to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympic Games.

The hotel - and the broader developments to come, including Kali Square in downtown Los Angeles - stand as powerful symbols of growth, resilience, and community pride. With every beam set and every milestone reached, Inglewood is not just constructing new buildings, but building a new chapter in its history.

(Advertorial submitted by Rajeev Bhambri)



L To R: Brian McGuire, CEO of Clay Construction Company, Mayor of Inglewood Mr. Butt, Howard Steinberg, Principal Bankruptcy Attorney, and author Dr. Kali P. Choudhury, Chairman of KPC Group

Federal judge tosses Trump's defamation lawsuit against New York Times

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

TAMPA, FL (TIP): A federal judge in Florida on Friday, September 19, 2025, tossed U.S. President Donald Trump's \$15 billion defamation lawsuit against New York Times.

The lawsuit named a book and an article written by Times reporters Russ Buettner and Susanne Craig that focuses on Mr. Trump's finances and his pre-presidency starring role in

television's "The Apprentice".

Mr. Trump said in the lawsuit that they "maliciously peddled the fact-free narrative" that television producer Mark Burnett turned Mr. Trump into a celebrity - "even though at and prior to the time of publications defendants knew that President Trump was already a mega-celebrity and an enormous success in business".

(Source: AP)



US President Donald Trump

File photo



Sunday
28 September 2025 Start From
03:00 pm
BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Beltsville, MD
4320 Ammendale Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Embassy of India, Washington DC is Organizing the VIKSIT BHARAT RUN 2025 at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, 4320

Embassy of India, Washington DC to Organize VIKSIT BHARAT RUN 2025 on September 28

Ammendale Rd, Beltsville, MD 20705 on September 28, 2025 from 3 pm- 4pm. Those interested in attending the event may please register themselves through the link given below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtKSZ0WaR8Atua_sp0_9oVilVpB2-XuHJrdVHiQchV6tiOfg/viewform?usp=header

The Embassy has requested for participation in large numbers. Registered participants would be given a participation certificate after the completion of the event.

For more information, visit <https://indianembassyusa.gov.in/index>

More than 400 arrests made in Chicago area operation so far: U.S. top immigration official

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

CHICAGO (TIP): ICE launched its Chicago area operation on September 8, drawing concern from activists and immigrant communities who say there's been a noticeable uptick in immigration enforcement agents

Immigration enforcement officials have arrested more than 400 people as part of an operation in the Chicago area that launched a little less than two weeks ago, a top Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) official said Friday (September 19, 2025).

Marcos Charles, the acting head of ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations, gave the figures during an interview with The Associated Press. The figure, which has not been widely reported, offers an early gauge of what is shaping up as a major enforcement effort that comes after similar operations were launched in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

When asked whether he thought that amount of arrests at this point in the operation was positive, Mr. Charles said 400 is a "solid number", adding that the figure includes arrests made by other federal agencies besides ICE who are assisting in the campaign.

"We're going to be conducting this operation until we feel that we've been successful," he said. "There's not an end date in sight."

ICE launched its Chicago area operation dubbed "Midway Blitz" on September 8, drawing concern from activists and immigrant communities who say there's been a noticeable uptick in immigration enforcement agents.

That has deepened dread in communities already fearful of the large-scale arrests or aggressive tactics used in other cities targeted by U.S. President Donald Trump's hardline immigration policies.

The operation has brought allegations of excessive



Acting Executive Associate Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations, Marcos Charles, is shown during a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation in Park Ridge, Ill., on September 19, 2025.

Photo Credit: AP

force and heavy-handed dragnets that have ensnared U.S. citizens while gratifying Trump supporters who say he is delivering on a promise of mass deportations.

The Trump administration has promised to send an influx of immigration agents and National Guard troops to Chicago, over the fierce objections of local leaders and residents. A military deployment to Chicago has yet to materialize even as immigration enforcement operations continue.

Officials and activists in the Chicago area opposed to the enforcement surge argue the approach is dangerous and imprecise, pointing to accounts of two U.S. citizens who were briefly detained this week by federal officers focused on immigration enforcement. Advocates have also protested the death of a man shot by an ICE officer on September 12 after authorities said he tried to flee during a traffic stop, dragging the officer.

Mr. Charles said roughly 50% to 60% of the Chicago operation arrests were targeted arrests, meaning they were specific people that ICE was trying to find because they had committed a crime, had a final order of removal or had done something that put them on ICE's radar.

The rest were what's often referred to as "collateral arrests", meaning people that ICE comes across during their operations who aren't the person they're looking for but are in the country illegally, so ICE can arrest them.

Collateral arrests were not allowed during the Biden administration but the Trump administration threw out those restrictions almost immediately after coming into office as part of Trump's efforts to beef up deportations.

"It doesn't mean that the collateral arrests are non-criminal. Some of our collateral arrests ... also have criminal convictions and arrests. They just weren't the people we were looking for at the time," said Mr. Charles.

The Department of Homeland Security launched "Midway Blitz" after months of Trump administration criticism of Chicago and Illinois over state and local policies that restrict law enforcement cooperation with ICE. ICE says these policies mean that immigrants who've committed crimes in the U.S. and can be deported as a result are instead released into the community. ICE says it then has to go out into the community and track them down to remove them.

Many local officials and activists have said that immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility and that if they cooperate with ICE, it makes it less likely that immigrants who are victims or witnesses to crime will come forward to work with police.

(Source: AP)

Carney, Poilievre engaged in pleasant verbal joust as House of Commons resumes its sitting



--->By Prabhjot Singh

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): Politics is an amazing game. At times, it says so much without creating a furor. Then there are times when it leads to uproars without anything substantial said or done.

On Monday, when the House of Commons reassembled, it not only accorded a warm welcome to the Leader of the Opposition, Pierre Poilievre, back on the floor of the House, but also saw a couple of first-time MPs of Indian origin - Jagsharan Singh Mahal and Amarjeet Gill - on their feet.

They participated in both government business as well as private members' statements period.

The limelight, however, was on Prime Minister Mark Carney and Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre as they held their first-ever verbal joust in the House of Commons. It marked the beginning of the second sitting of the House as MPs returned to Ottawa for the fall sitting.

While Prime Minister Mark Carney had made his debut in Parliamentary debates when the new House constituted after the April 28 general elections held its first sitting.

New to electoral politics, Mark Carney was on his legs several times in the House last spring to take questions from opposition MPs, but Pierre Poilievre was not there at the time, having lost his long-held Carleton seat in the April 28 election.

When he got on his feet for the first time in the new House, Pierre Poilievre apologized for being late, saying "I had some meetings with extremely important people in East-Central Alberta." Poilievre, who got elected through his August byelection win in the Alberta riding of Battle River-Crowfoot.

He thanked the electors of his new riding, which was held by former MP Damien Kurek, who resigned his House seat to allow Poilievre to run. And Pierre Poilievre had a record number of more than 200 candidates on the ballot paper.



Carney and Poilievre -File photo

Poilievre also thanked Carney for rapidly calling the byelection after Kurek resigned, as he had initially pledged. "I wonder if one day he might regret that decision."

Pierre Poilievre probably did not want to spoil the bonhomie of the opening day as he did not raise or ask any embarrassing questions or launch an attack on the Liberal government, as he is well known for.

Quick to acknowledge the warm reception, Pierre Poilievre said: "In a spirit of good faith, I wonder if he agrees that our goal should be a Canada where hard work is rewarded, where food and homes are affordable, where streets are safe, where borders are solid, and where we're all united under a proud flag."

Prime Minister Mark Carney was not far behind in continuing with his rhetoric, saying, "I'm sure I speak for all parliamentarians in welcoming the member for Battle River-Crowfoot back to the House of Commons," to which the House, including members of the Liberal caucus, applauded.

The prime minister added that Poilievre might notice a "few things that have changed since he was here last." He mentioned the Liberals' having the largest women's

caucus in Canadian history and the "spirit of collaboration" that led to the passage of the Building Canada Act and the Bloc Québécois bill to protect supply management in future trade negotiations.

"I agree with the sentiment and objectives of the Leader of the Opposition," Carney said.

Conservatives had been instrumental in the spring in helping the minority Liberals pass the Building Canada Act, contained within Bill C-5, due to opposition from the Bloc Québécois and NDP. The two parties had opposed the bill due to their concerns that it would allow Ottawa to bypass existing federal legislation to fast-track major projects, while the Tories supported the legislation as a "better-than-nothing" approach.

Things became more thorny between the two leaders from then on.

Poilievre sarcastically said that it was true that things have changed in the Commons: "I look around this place, and when I left, there was a Liberal prime minister who was making excuses about breaking promises, running massive deficits. Costs, crime, chaos were all out of control," he said.

"And whereas today we have a Liberal prime minister breaking promises, making excuses, running massive deficits, with costs, crime, and chaos out of control."

Poilievre added that in a "nonpartisan spirit", Tories would simply insist that Carney respect his own promises in relation to making Canada's economy the strongest in the G7 or on reducing the cost of food.

Carney shot back that he understands Poilievre "was busy" and missed the Liberal income tax cut, the passage of Bill C-5, which also brought down federal barriers to internal trade, the removal of the GST on new homes under \$1.5 million for first-time buyers, and the launch of the new housing agency Build Canada Homes.

"This government has been absolutely focused on improving affordability for Canadians," Carney said. "We are building the strongest economy throughout the worst crisis in our history."

House of Commons: Finance Ministers, past and present, hold the sway in Canadian politics on day 2

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): While former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia (Chrystia) Alexandra Freeland made public her exit from Federal Politics within hours of the new Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne announcing that the new Liberal government under Mark Carney will table its first federal budget on November 4.

Early in the day, Chrystia Freeland announced her departure from federal politics, confirming she will step down from Cabinet and not seek re-election.

In a letter to constituents she expressed gratitude for the trust placed in her over five terms representing University-Rosedale riding in Greater Toronto Area. She thanked both Prime Ministers Justin Trudeau and Mark Carney for the opportunity to serve in Cabinet, as well as her colleagues, staff, and family for their support.

It was her resignation on the day in December last year she was to present her fiscal report during the previous Liberal Government under Justin Trudeau, that rocked the federal politics. She had then resigned both as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

She joined the race to head the Liberal Government after Justin Trudeau quit but lost it to the incumbent Prime Minister Mark Carney. She contested the last federal elections on April 28 and won comfortably.

Interestingly, while the Leader of Opposition Pierre Poilievre, after losing the April 28 elections, made a triumphant entry to House of Commons by winning a byelection from Alberta, Chrystia Freeland, made



Christina (Chrystia) Alexandra Freeland and François-Philippe Champagne

public her decision to quit federal politics.

Incidentally, she has been appointed international envoy to Ukraine and will help as an envoy in its reconstruction.

After she quit Justin Trudeau's Cabinet, a Liberal MP of Indian origin, Chandra Arya, became the first member of the Liberal caucus to propose the name of Chrystia Freeland for the Prime Ministers' office. Interestingly, he himself became the first candidate to join the race for the party leadership. However, the party high command rejected his credentials for the leadership race.

It did not end there. Subsequently, his nomination as a Liberal candidate from Nepean riding in Ottawa was

also turned down. Instead, it is Mark Carney, the Prime Minister, contested successfully from there. It may be just a coincidence that in the current House of Commons, both Chandra Arya and Chrystia Freeland, would be missing from members' list.

Freeland highlighted key accomplishments during her tenure, including trade negotiations with Europe, the renegotiation of NAFTA, economic protections during the pandemic, infrastructure investments, and Canada's support for Ukraine.

Explaining her decision, Freeland said the demands of public office had become too great and that she wishes to dedicate more time to her family. She emphasized her pride in serving Canadians and expressed confidence in the country's resilience.

"Canada has faced great challenges, but it will emerge stronger than ever," she wrote.

When she quit in December last year, she called out her own government's economic stewardship and "costly political gimmicks." Her exit escalated caucus pressure on Trudeau to resign, triggering a leadership race that she ran in, but that ultimately made Mark Carney leader. The Liberals would go from 20 points behind the Conservatives to a comeback win in April's election.

She's attracted ire from Trump, who called her "toxic," and from Russia, which sanctioned her back in 2014.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news
(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based senior journalist)

Changes in bail, immigration laws may dominate the House of Commons when it resumes its sitting after a break



--->By Prabhjot Singh

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): Animated debates over demands for changes in bail laws and the scrapping of the temporary foreign worker program have been taking place all over Canada as Prime Minister Mark Carney is getting ready for his second session of Parliament.

The session is expected to be stormier as the Leader of the Opposition, Pierre Poilievre, looks all set to spearhead a concerted campaign against "failures of the Carney-led Liberal government."

While Conservatives will gun for the ruling Liberals, the BC ruling NDP has indicated support for the Opposition over ending the foreign worker program. If the reactions to the BC NDP Premier's recent statements are any indication, sentiments look hurt.

Since the start of 2025, many developed nations, including the US, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and France, have been working on tightening their immigration controls, besides downsizing intakes of foreign students. These legal changes have been impacting the movement of people from developing nations to developed nations. In addition, they have been providing a lever to the Conservatives to whip up anti-immigrant sentiments on the pretext of "Saving jobs for their own people", while fighting the problems like housing and affordability.

Growing social conflicts may be at the back of the minds of the ruling clans, both in provinces, as well as at the federal level, in their attempts to find solutions, but the problems are refusing to be contained. Instead, they are getting

multiplied and becoming serious.

It is why even provincial governments are taking up cudgels on behalf of Canadians to protect their jobs from being taken away by an uncontrolled influx of "immigrants".

Domestic and street violence, house break-ins, auto thefts, growing gun culture and violent crime, which have shown unprecedented increase, are shifting the focus to fresh immigrants in general and international students in particular.

Though "deportation" of those involved in wrongful entry or the spurt in violent crime has started, yet the chorus for sweeping changes in laws, especially bail to habitual offenders, has overtaken all other remedial measures the governments have been contemplating to initiate.

In Canada, the House of Commons will resume its sitting on Monday. The leader of the Opposition, Pierre Poilievre, who won his seat back in Parliament through Battle River-Crowfoot in Alberta byelection, has already been making noise about changes in bail laws as well as advocating for the deportation of all those without proper documents.

Pierre Poilievre also called on the government to abolish the temporary foreign worker program. Poilievre says the program has oversaturated the market with cheap labor, making it challenging for young Canadians to secure employment.

The TFW program allows Canadian employers to use foreign workers to fill temporary jobs when no Canadian workers can be found.

His views have been endorsed by the British Columbia Premier David Eby.

In a surprise statement early this week,

When it comes to law vs. Sentiments, the latter tends to enjoy a slight upper hand.

David Eby called for the end of Canada's temporary foreign worker (TFW) program - blaming Ottawa's flawed immigration policies for filling up homeless shelters and food banks.

His statement created ripples in the strong Indo-Canadian community not only in British Columbia but also elsewhere.

"The temporary foreign worker program is not working. It should be cancelled or significantly reformed," Eby said during an unrelated announcement in Surrey, B.C.

"We can't have an immigration system that fills up our homeless shelters and our food banks. We can't have an immigration system that outpaces our ability to build schools and housing. And we can't have an immigration program that results in high youth unemployment."

It's a rare show of unity between Eby, of the B.C. NDP, and federal Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, who on Wednesday called for the program to be scrapped. At a press conference in Mississauga, he blamed temporary foreign workers for "shutting our own youth out of jobs."

His announcement, however, evoked severe criticism, both from within and outside the party. Various trade unions held that the statement made by the Premier was beyond the mandate or philosophy of the NDP.

David Eby, however, has not relented.

Other than immigration laws, the other major issue likely to dominate the House of Commons is the "tariff" war with the USA. Though the Prime Minister has rolled out a plan to save the Canadian producers and jobs, the Opposition is unlikely to spare any opportunity to attack Prime Minister Mark Carney.



Laws are meant to act as deterrents for restricting the movement of people across man-made boundaries. Early this year, when the US President, Donald Trump, started rolling out his tariff plans after assuming office for his second term, the movement of people across the Canada-US border dropped considerably. New laws, though primarily focused on generating more revenue while making the US as number one country in the world, have, as initial reports show, acted as a "dampener" to drastically cut free movement of people across two friendly neighbors.

Recent reports by Statistics Canada reveal that Canadians are hitting pause on trips to the United States, and it's not just a blip. For the seventh straight month, travel south of the border has dropped sharply, a shift fueled by political and economic tensions.

New figures from Statistics Canada show that in July 2025, return trips by car to the US fell 36.9 per cent compared to the same month last year. Air travel was also down, with Canadians returning from the US on commercial flights dropping 25.8 per cent.

President Donald Trump's aggressive trade stance toward Canada, including tariffs and his suggestion that the US should "annexe" its northern neighbor, has sparked anger and a growing boycott movement.

With eminent cricket personalities on its Board, ETPL breaks new ground

There is a famous saying that institutions grow taller than the men and women who built them, holding that men and women come and go, but the institutions they build stay forever.

How true? See Pierre de Coubertin, a French educator and historian, co-founder of the International Olympic Committee, or James Naismith, inventor of basketball.

It is why they say if the founders are good, great people, institutions they start to become immortal.

And of late, a lot has been happening in the world of sports. Take the example of Kerry Packer, the man who revolutionized the game of cricket. Many still remember him as the father of instant or shorter versions of cricket. And now the shorter and instant versions of cricket have taken the game to territories where they were unheard of two to three decades ago.

Cricket may have originated in England, but more than 60 per cent of European territory remained free from its influence for most of the 20th century. But now the sport is taking Europe by storm.

The start of the European T20 Premier League (ETPL), for example, was a step in the right direction. Within months, the ETPL has announced a series of leadership appointments that underline its ambition to

become cricket's next global powerhouse.

In a significant move, Brian MacNeice, Chair of Cricket Ireland, has been appointed Chair of the ETPL Board, while Andrew May, CFO of Cricket Ireland, will continue as a Board Director and core member of the ETPL founding team. These appointments further strengthen the partnership between Cricket Ireland and the ETPL, underscoring the league's commitment to strong governance and long-term ambitions.

Further strengthening the leadership team, Warren Deutrom, former CEO of Cricket Ireland, joins the ETPL on a full-time basis as Director, ETPL and Chair of Rules X, the parent company of the ETPL.

Widely respected as one of the most accomplished administrators in world cricket, Warren Deutrom was instrumental in Ireland achieving ICC Full Member status and establishing itself as a growing force on the global stage. His appointment brings global credibility and vision to the ETPL's leadership.

Speaking on his appointment, Brian MacNeice said: "The European T20 Premier League marks an exciting new chapter for the game in Europe. It carries the potential not only to inspire a new generation of players and fans but also to firmly establish Europe as a vibrant



The new Executive Board of ETPL -Photo credit: ETPL

and credible cricketing destination. At Cricket Ireland, we are delighted to be a founding partner in this journey, and we look forward to working closely with the ETPL leadership team to deliver a league built on the highest standards of professionalism, integrity and governance."

Warren Deutrom, on being appointed as Chair of Rules X, the parent company of the ETPL, said: "I am delighted to be given this exciting opportunity to remain involved in European cricket, and to help bring this longstanding vision to reality."

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based senior journalist. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

Tasveer Film Festival Celebrates 20 Years with Power-Packed Lineup and Global Expansion Through Groundbreaking Film Market

North America's leading platform for South Asian cinema returns October 8-12, 2025 in Seattle, showcasing premieres, industry deals, and the next generation of filmmakers at the Tasveer Film Center



Tasveer Film Center

Photo credit: Yashar Shayan

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

SEATTLE, WA (TIP): The Tasveer Film Festival Market, the only Oscar-qualifying South Asian film festival in the world, and North America's leading platform for South Asian storytelling, returns this October for its 20th anniversary, celebrating two decades of groundbreaking storytelling. The Tasveer Film festival runs from October 8-12, 2025 at their recently acquired property, Tasveer Film Center (4812 Rainier Ave S, Seattle, WA).

At the Launch Party tonight, Tasveer released the full official festival lineup, market projects, and list of visiting filmmakers and film industry executives. The Tasveer Market's second year hosts a day-long AI convention and welcomes a growing number of industry representatives, including executives from Jordan Peele's



Tasveer team inside Tasveer Film Center

Monkey Paw Productions, Reese Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine, Taika Waititi's Waititi Productions, Atomic Monster, Daniel Destin Cretton's Hisako Films, South Stack Studios, Entropy Media, Merelta Films, Exit 44 Entertainment, among others.

HIGHLIGHTED FILMS AT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL INCLUDE:

- Opening Night Feature: Little Jaffna, Directed by Lawrence Valin (North America Premiere, France 2024) (AlUla Audience Award, Red Sea Film Festival)
- Centerpiece Film: I, the Song, Directed by Dechen Roder (North America Premiere, Bhutan, 2024) (Tallinn Black Night

Film Festival -Best Director)

- Documentary Feature: Farming the Revolution, Directed by Nishtha Jain (Washington State Premiere, India, 2024) Best International Documentary, Hot Docs
- Film Festival 2024
- Diaspora Focus: Have You Heard Judi Singh?, Directed by Baljit Sangra (USA Premiere, Canada, 2025)
- Tasveer Emerald Screening: Humans in the Loop, Directed by Aranya Sahay (Washington Premiere, India, 2025)
- Closing Night Feature: Zewel, Directed by 'Q' (World Premiere, Bangladesh/India 2025)
- Market Highlight: AI Day with Runway

The 20th edition of Tasveer Film festival spotlights 109 films from around the world, 43 of which are world



Tasveer Film Festival Highlights

premieres, spanning 22 countries and 24 languages and local dialects.

Rita Meher, Tasveer Film Festival and Market Executive Director remarks, "For 23 years, we've stayed true to our mission of uplifting South Asian voices by bringing bold, thought-provoking films to Seattle. It's humbling to see that work recognized, and my vision is to establish Seattle as a global hub for cinema-building our own table, focusing on quality and experience, and staying at the edge of industry trends from storytelling to AI."

The festival also serves as a creative hub-hosting industry panels, networking events, and conversations that connect filmmakers, producers, artists, and audiences. Tasveer has developed an ecosystem for South Asian filmmakers connecting South Asian and diaspora filmmakers with financing, mentorship, and industry opportunities through the Tasveer Film Market, Film Fund and Tasveer Producers Lab. Since 2020, Tasveer has distributed \$228,000 in grants, in partnership with Netflix, creating a vital talent pipeline for underrepresented South Asian filmmakers.

The Tasveer Film Market, to be held from October 8-10, 2025, is the first global market, a curated marketplace for upcoming South Asian films in late development to meet executives in North America. The market includes networking events, live pitches, 1-1



Tasveer Film Festival & Market

meetings, panels, and educational AI workshops for industry badge holders. In 2024, they received 300 unique project submissions, curating 63 live project pitches, and announcing 7 deals at the closing of the market.

Award-winning filmmaker Mohammed Ali (Mo) Naqvi, who recently joined the Tasveer Film Market as Artistic Director after serving as Chairman of the Advisory Board last year, emphasized the global impact of the Market alongside his colleagues Anushree Shukla, Associate Director, and Neha Dutta, Sr. Manager, Industry Relations.

Naqvi said: "As a filmmaker myself, I started almost 20 years ago when something like this-a film market created by and for South Asian filmmakers in the diaspora-felt like a fantasy. The fact that we are doing it now, with partnerships from some of the biggest global brands in entertainment and tech, who are not only supporting us but championing a new generation of filmmakers, feels like a dream come true. I feel privileged to help make this happen with such an incredible team".

Tasveer Film Festival Market Schedule

October 8-12, 2025 o Seattle, WA

Day 0: Tuesday, Oct 7th, 2025

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Local Filmmakers Showcase

Day 1: Wednesday, Oct 8th, 2025

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - At the Intersection of AI & Film

4:00 PM - Tasveer Film Market Opening

7:00 PM - Tasveer Producers Lab Pitch

8:00 PM - Tasveer Film Festival Screening

Day 2: Thursday, Oct 9th, 2025

9:00 AM - Tasveer Select Pitches

12:00 PM - Networking Lunch

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM - Panels | Meetings

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Networking

Reception

7:00 PM - 20th Tasveer Film Festival

Opening Night & Red Carpet Gala

9:00 PM - 11:00 PM - After Party

Day 3: Friday, Oct 10th, 2025

9:00 AM - Tasveer Film Fund Pitch Day

12:00 PM - Networking Lunch

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM - Industry Panels

1:00 PM - Tasveer Film Festival

Screening

3:00 PM - 11:00 PM - TFF Screenings

Begin

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Networking Happy

Hours

10:00 PM - Market Closing Party

Closing Ceremony of the Market;

Producers Lab Fellow Award

Day 4: Saturday, Oct 11th, 2025

10:00 AM - Breakfast with Filmmakers

11:00 AM - Film Screenings Block

Day 5: Sunday, Oct 12th, 2025

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM - TFF Screenings

5:00 PM - Closing Night Film &

Awards Ceremony



Rita Meher with 2025 Mayor's Film Award for outstanding achievement in film.

Photo credit: Tasveer Film Festival & Market.

ABOUT TASVEER FILM FESTIVAL; MARKET

Founded by Rita Meher and produced by Tasveer, TFFM has grown from a grassroots initiative into North America's leading platform for South Asian storytelling-and the world's only Oscar®-qualifying South Asian film festival. For over 20 years, the Tasveer Film Festival (TFF) has used the power of film to bridge cultures, challenge perspectives, and foster global connection through curated films, interactive workshops, and bold conversations. In 2023, Tasveer launched the Tasveer Film Market (TFM), North America's first industry hub connecting South Asian stories with global executives. Tasveer, originally founded in 2002 by Rita Meher and Farah Nousheen, is a Seattle-based nonprofit to inspire social change through South Asian cinema and storytelling.



PRESENTED BY



diwali at times square

CELEBRATING 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN NORTH AMERICA

OCTOBER 12TH 2025

11AM TO 9PM

SAN FRANCISCO
CALIFORNIA

11 & 12
october

Dussehra Diwali
Dhamaka

TIMES SQUARE
NEW YORK

Awards & Gala Dinner

10 oct

Diwali Festival

12 oct

TORONTO
CANADA

11 & 12
october

Diwali Festival
of Lights

CONCEPTUALIZED
& PRODUCED BY



MANAGED BY



MEDIA PARTNERS



SOCIAL MEDIA PARTNERS

Embassy of India in Guatemala in collaboration with ESC organizes Business Meet between Indian and Guatemalan Companies in Electronics & IT Sector



H.E. Amb. Raj Kumar Singh delivered welcome remarks at the hybrid BSM, highlighting India's commitment to strengthen bilateral trade, encourage innovation & open new avenues for collaboration between the two nations.



Mr. Gurmeet Singh, CEO & Executive Director of ESC, highlighted India's growing electronics & software exports, inviting Guatemalan firms to explore partnerships and benefit from India's innovation & tech expertise at the hybrid BSM.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): The Embassy of India in Guatemala, in collaboration with the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), successfully organized a hybrid Buyer-Seller Meet (BSM) on 12 September 2025. The event brought together approximately 55 Guatemalan companies for in-person participation, while Indian companies joined virtually through video conferencing.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome by H.E. Shri Raj Kumar Singh, Ambassador of India to Guatemala, who underlined the growing India-Guatemala partnership and the importance of technology and innovation as drivers of bilateral trade. The Ambassador extended his greetings to the Guatemalan companies and the Indian participants for taking part in this platform to explore business opportunities.

Mr. Gurmeet Singh, CEO & Executive Director, ESC India, delivered opening remarks highlighting India's global strengths in electronics, IT and software exports. He stressed that the Indian industry is keen to partner with Guatemala to bring

quality products, services and expertise to the Central American market. Ms. Sofia Velásquez, Foreign Trade Coordinator, Chamber of Commerce of Guatemala, welcomed the Indian companies and spoke on Guatemala's readiness to enhance trade cooperation with India, emphasizing the vast opportunities for collaboration in technology and electronics. Mr. Juan Esteban Sánchez, Director, Invest India, outlined India's rapidly growing investment climate and invited Guatemalan businesses to collaborate with Indian companies, citing India's ease of doing business and vibrant start-up ecosystem.

The highlight of the session was the presentation of "INDIASOFT" Video and PowerPoint presentations by participating Indian companies, moderated by Mr. Vikrant Saxena, Joint Director, ESC. These presentations showcased a diverse range of Indian products, software solutions and services designed to meet international standards and market needs.

A dynamic Questions and Answers session followed, where Guatemalan participants interacted directly with Indian exporters. Questions covered topics such as supply chains, pricing structures, after-sales service, certification requirements, and logistics. The session allowed for meaningful exchanges and helped clarify specific market demands and opportunities.

Testimonials from Guatemalan visitors to India - including Mr. Pablo Ceballos and Mr. Daniel Monroy from Guatemala and Mr. Manuel Castillo from Honduras - were shared. They highlighted their positive experiences in India, underlining India's advanced technology capabilities, business-friendly environment, and warm hospitality.

(Photo G 3 here)

Both Guatemalan and Indian companies expressed strong interest in follow-up engagements and reported that the BSM had provided valuable insights, opened new channels of communication, and laid the foundation for stronger trade partnerships in the electronics and IT sector between India and Guatemala. The Embassy of India reaffirmed its commitment to continue facilitating such platforms to deepen bilateral commercial engagement and expand opportunities for Indian companies in Central America.

(Based on a press release issued by Embassy of India in Guatemala)



Guatemalan companies enthusiastically participated in the BSM exploring opportunities & building stronger business links

Sheila Chaman's Book "Doordarshan Diaries: The Golden Era of Television" Launched



Dr. Vijay Jolly (President DSG-NGO), Ashok Tandon (Member Prasar Bharti Board) & Sheila Chaman (Author)

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): On the momentous occasion of the 66th Foundation Day of Doordarshan, Delhi Study Group, in association with Om Books International, hosted the launch of "Doordarshan Diaries: The Golden Era of Television" by veteran journalist and news anchor Sheila Chaman. The event took place at the Deputy Chairman's Hall, Constitution Club of India, Rafi Marg, New Delhi, and was graced by distinguished leaders, media veterans, and cultural personalities.



Sheila Chaman & Ghulam Nani Azad share a light moment at the book launch

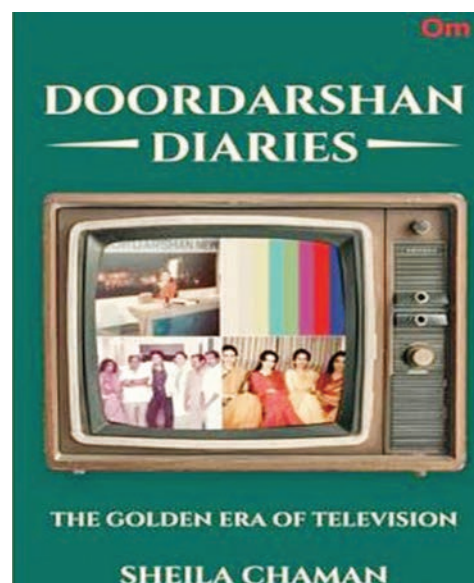
The book was formally released in the presence of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Former Deputy Minister for Information & Broadcasting, who attended as the Guest of Honor. The well-organized event, conducted by Sheila herself, was attended by a wide cross-section of people and personalities from different walks of life. Among them were Salma Sultan, the iconic newsreader; Jyotsna Rai, a popular DD presenter of that era; Ashok Tandon, Member of the Prasar Bharati Board; along with newsreaders, DD presenters, cameramen, and producers from Doordarshan's golden era.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheila Chaman said, "Doordarshan is more than an institution, it is a feeling, a shared memory that united families and communities across India. Through this book, I wanted to capture not just the programs or personalities but the ethos of an era when television brought the nation together. The overwhelming response today has reaffirmed that Doordarshan

continues to live in our hearts as a cultural anchor."

Adding to the sentiments, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Former Deputy Minister for I&B, said, "I am delighted to see Doordarshan's legacy being chronicled by someone who has lived through it. Sheila Chaman's work captures the soul of Indian television-the warmth, simplicity, and integrity that distinguished it from today's fast-paced media culture. This book will be a treasured reminder of an era where television was not just watched, but experienced together."

The gathering felt like a scene from Doordarshan's golden era, with so many familiar faces present to congratulate Sheila Chaman on her milestone achievement. Sudhir Chaudhry, the ace news anchor who was trained by Sheila during his time at Zee News, praised the book, noting that it beautifully encapsulates the essence of that era and serves as a beacon for those aspiring to join the television medium.



Title of the book

Speaking about the book, Sheila Chaman said, "This book is my tribute to Doordarshan-the institution that shaped my life and career, and in many ways, the collective memory of an entire nation. I hope readers, young and old, will relive the magic of those evenings when families across India paused to watch, learn, and dream together."

ABOUT THE BOOK

Doordarshan Diaries: The Golden Era of Television is a nostalgic journey into the golden era of Indian television. It chronicles the rise of Doordarshan as a unifying cultural force across the nation, from its modest beginnings to becoming a shared cultural memory.



Doordarshan's golden era gathered under one roof: L-R : Basabdhutta Mohanty (Program producer), Sukanya Balakrishnan & Mrinalini Singh (newsreaders), Sadhna Srivastava (Presenter), Sikander Bhasin (news producer), Dr. Govind Gunthey (News Producer & Editor and co-writer for the book), Sudhir Tandon (Cameraman) Sheila Chaman (Newsreader & Book Author), Salma Sultan (Hindi news reader), Sudhir Chaudhry (News Anchor), Jyotsna Rai (DD Presenter) Rajiv Rai (cameraman)

Through vivid recollections and untold anecdotes, Sheila Chaman brings alive the charm of black-and-white screens, the gravitas of iconic news anchors, and the pioneering programs that defined an era-including cultural staples such as Krishi Darshan, Chitrahaar, Hum Log, Ramayan, and Mahabharat.

11 members of the Doordarshan family of that golden era have gone down memory lane to capture and encapsulate the charm and challenges faced by them in various departments and how they all overcame them to shape the medium as it stands today.



L-R: Sanjay Mago (CEO Om Books), Ajay Mago (Owner Om Books) Sheila Chaman (Author), Ghulam Nabi Azad (former Union Minister), Dr. Vijay Jolly (President Delhi Study Group), Shantanu Ray Chsudhri (Editor in chief Om Books), Vedant Mago

For the older generation, it is a walk down memory lane. For the younger, it is a gentle invitation to rediscover their roots in a quieter, slower India-one frame at a time.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sheila Chaman, a distinguished face of Doordarshan, has had a career spanning over three decades as a news anchor, journalist, columnist, documentary producer and Trainer. Many of today's popular News anchors on various TV News Channels have been trained by her to give them that finesse which she shared from her days with Doordarshan. She is also known for her work as a social worker and environmentalist. Her insider's perspective makes "Doordarshan Diaries " a rare archival account of Indian television history, enriched with anecdotes from other Doordarshan personnel.

ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

Om Books International (OBI) is one of India's leading English-language trade publishing houses, with over three decades of experience in publishing and retail. OBI publishes across a wide spectrum of categories, including fiction, non-fiction,



Doordarshan's iconic anchor Salma Sultan proudly displays her friend's book

memoir, children's books, illustrated titles, and cinema. Its catalogue features both Indian and international voices, combining cultural relevance with commercial success. Its publishing excellence has been recognized with prestigious honors: in 2020, it won the Romain Rolland Book Prize for the Hindi translation of Asterix; and in 2015, its title To Dad, With Love won First Prize for Excellence in Book Production from the Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP).

A GUEST WHO ATTENDED THE BOOK LAUNCH EVENT COMMENTED.

"Some moments can turn into memories for a lifetime. September 15th was one such day. The 'stars' of Doordarshan that all of us saw as inspiration while growing up in the 1980s and 90s, came together at 'The Constitution Club' to mark the launch of 'Doordarshan Diaries' put together by famous news broadcaster Sheila Chaman.

It is true nothing feels more euphoric



L-R: Jyotsna Rai (popular DD Presenter), Sudhir Chaudhry (well-known current DD News Anchor), Sheila Chaman (Newsreader, Presenter & Author) & Sikander Bhasin (Doordarshan News producer)

than nostalgia and Monday evening was loaded with memories and stories that shaped the early years of broadcasting in young India. Every anecdote shared by all the people from the Golden era of Doordarshan at the launch brought back memories of the news and views delivered each day with elegance and poise.

The women broadcasters of Doordarshan were also the icons who set the bar high for women of their generation to be confident, fearless and poised to lead from the front.

And I must say like in those days when we focused on making the most of the time we were allowed to watch TV in our childhood and had no cellphones to distract us, on Monday, I got so involved in listening to the stories, enamored by voices floating in the room and admiring the signature big rose flower elegantly resting on the hair of Salma Sultan ji - the famous news broadcaster of that era who continues to inspire, that I forgot to take photos.

Looking forward to reading the book and preserving it as a priceless memory of a time where life still seemed to move at a pace that was slower and quieter but clearly more invested in enjoying the present as it unfolded and prepare for the surprises that lay in the future

AA time that allowed us to register experiences more deeply and meaningfully.



L-R: Raghnath Singh Chaudhury (co-writer for the book & "Krishi Darshan" program producer), Ajay Mago (owner Om Books), Jyotsna Rai & Dr. Govind Gunthey (co-writers for the Book), Sheila Chaman (Author), Ghulam Nabi Azad (former Union Minister), Salma Sultan (Hindi Newsreader & Dr. Vijay Jolly (President DSG-NGO)

LeT terrorist confirms Indian strikes destroyed Muridke camp in Pakistan

Pakistan's denials about terror factories on its soil have been punctured yet again — this time by a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander himself.

In a viral video circulating on social media, LeT's Qaasim was seen standing near the ruins of the terror outfit's Muridke headquarters, which was destroyed in Operation Sindoor. He admitted that scores of militants were trained there.

"I am standing at the ruins of Markaz Taiba in Muridke, which was destroyed in the Indian attack. The process of rebuilding it is underway... This mosque will be built bigger than before," Qaasim declares in the footage, even boasting that the new facility would surpass the one India flattened.

Crucially, he acknowledges that "mujahideens and talaba (students)" received training at the camp and had achieved "faiz" (victory) — a direct contradiction of Islamabad's claims that the Muridke complex was no longer in use for militant activity.

In a separate video, the LeT commander appeals to Pakistani youth to enlist for a Lashkar programme, combining religious indoctrination with weapons training. The course, run from Muridke, has long been flagged by Indian agencies as a conveyor belt for jihadi cadres.

Jaish, Hizbul Mujahideen 'shifting bases' from PoK after Op Sindoor

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Pakistan-based terror groups Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) have begun relocating their bases to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province from Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) in the wake of India's Operation Sindoor, sources in the defence and military establishment said on Friday, September 19.

The decision reflects a significant "tactical adaptation" by these groups, which now view PoK as vulnerable to Indian strikes, while KPK offers greater depth due to its proximity to the Afghan frontier, they said.

Under Operation Sindoor, India destroyed terrorism centres in Bahawalpur, Muridke, Muzaffarabad and several other places.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan.

The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10.

"The inputs indicate that this movement by the terror groups is being conducted with full awareness and direct facilitation of Pakistan's state structures," said one of the



Hizbul Mujahideen is building a facility named 'HM 313' in Bandaai area, say intelligence officials.

sources.

The sources also cited holding of JeM gatherings in certain places in Pakistan recently under police protection and the "tacit involvement" of political-religious outfits like Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI).

These details are part of a dossier prepared jointly by several Indian security and intelligence agencies.

The most significant development uncovered occurred in Garhi Habibullah town of Mansehra district in KPK, where JeM staged a public recruitment drive roughly seven hours before the start of the India-Pakistan

cricket match on September 14, the sources said. The event was a coordinated mobilisation effort led jointly by JeM and JUI in the presence of Mulana Mufti Masood Ilyas Kashmiri, alias Abu Mohammad, a senior JeM leader for KPK and Kashmir, they said.

Ilyas Kashmiri is a high-value target wanted in India, and he is closely connected to JeM founder Maulana Masood Azhar. His presence at a public rally guarded by both JeM cadres armed with M4 rifles and local police officers reflects the Pakistan state's support for JeM, the sources said.

India, Canada move forward to restore strained relations

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India and Canada on Friday, Sept 19 took a concrete step towards restoring normalcy in their strained relations, with senior officials from both sides meeting in New Delhi and agreeing to revive dialogue mechanisms across a wide range of sectors.

The consultations were led by Secretary (East) P Kumaran from the Ministry of External Affairs and Deputy Foreign Minister David Morrison from Global Affairs, Canada. Deputy Foreign Minister Morrison also held a separate meeting with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the talks followed the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Kananaskis in June, where both leaders had agreed to put ties back on a constructive track.

Diplomatic sources said the discussions in New Delhi provided an opportunity to review the state of bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and global issues.

Separately, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, told reporters that the



Secretary (East) P Kumaran with Deputy Foreign Minister of Canada David Morrison in New Delhi on Friday. Photo: PTI

National Security Advisors (NSAs) of both India and Canada held talks on September 18. "This is part of the regular bilateral security consultations that happen between the two countries. It was also an opportunity and occasion for them to follow up on the discussions that happened between PM Modi and Prime Minister Carney in Kananaskis, on the sidelines of G7 in Alberta, Canada," Jaiswal said.

Relations between the two countries had sharply deteriorated in 2023 after

then Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged Indian involvement in the killing of Khalistan separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia, a charge New Delhi dismissed as "absurd and motivated."

The episode led to tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomats, a freeze in trade negotiations, suspension of visa services, and the recall of High Commissioners from both capitals. The strain also created unease among the large Indian diaspora in Canada,

including students and workers.

The change of leadership in Ottawa earlier this year created an opening for a reset. Carney's June meeting with Modi was the first significant effort to put relations back on track, paving the way for Friday's consultations.

"Both sides reaffirmed the importance of ties anchored in shared democratic values, respect for the rule of law and commitment to sovereignty and territorial integrity," MEA officials said.

In line with the understanding reached at the leadership level, the two sides have agreed to initiate steps to "reactivate dialogue" in diverse domains, including trade, defence, energy, civil nuclear, security and law enforcement, critical minerals, space, science and technology, and agriculture.

According to officials, New Delhi and Ottawa have also agreed to address capacity-related issues at their missions and consulates to better support growing people-to-people ties and economic opportunities. The progress achieved since the June summit, including the return of High Commissioners to New Delhi and Ottawa, was noted as a positive signal.

India examines Safran's offer on Tejas engine amid strained ties with US

In the backdrop of India-US trade talks, Safran — a French manufacturer — has submitted a proposal to produce engine for Tejas Mk-2 fighter jets.

"Various parameters of the Safran proposal, its engines are being studied by the Defence Research and Development Organisation," said sources, adding that no decision had been taken on the proposal so far.

Sources pointed out that this does not mean that General Electric's F-414 engine had been junked.

The first flight of Tejas Mk-2 jet is slated in early 2026. The plane is a much-upgraded, more powerful version and a deadlier version of the Tejas Mk-1A — already under production by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The sources said Safran had submitted a proposal for setting up an entire eco-system of manufacturing engine in India. The French giant has offered to produce two engines — one for the Tejas Mk-2 and the other for the next generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

Safran already makes helicopter engines in collaboration with HAL, which have been used on more than 400 Advanced Light Helicopters.

Tejas Mk-2 was planned and designed around the specifications of the GE F-414 engine. A change of engine at this stage would entail a design change in the plane's structure, as each engine has a different air-intake angle, thrust and power dynamics.

In July 2023, Delhi and Washington DC had announced to make the GE F-414 engine in India with transfer of technology (ToT). Discussions are on between the GE and HAL on terms of the ToT as it would need a nod from the US Administration.

Source: TNS

Rahul Gandhi asks 'Gen Z' to prevent 'vote chori', BJP hits back

NEW DELHI (TIP)

During a press conference on Thursday, Sept 18, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's shoutout to the Gen Z of the country to play a decisive role in safeguarding the Constitution and prevent alleged "vote theft" received a strong response from the BJP's Nishikant Dubey, who stated that the new generation stands strong against dynastic politics.

The slugfest with the BJP started after Rahul Gandhi urged the country's students and the Gen Z, those born in the early 2000s, to protect democracy, after he promised to stand by them in their fight against alleged "vote theft".

"The country's youth, the country's students, the country's Gen Z will save the Constitution, protect democracy, and stop vote theft. I will always stand with them," Rahul Gandhi said.

During his explosive press briefing on Thursday, Rahul Gandhi alleged illegal deletion and addition of votes in Karnataka and Maharashtra with the use of centralised software. However, the Election Commission rejected the allegations as "baseless".

The statement from Rahul Gandhi did not go well with the BJP with MP Nishikant Dubey saying that India's Gen Z was against family politics, corruption, and ideological ambiguity.

"Gen Z is against dynastic politics. Why would they tolerate Rahul after Nehru, Indira, Rajiv and Sonia? They are against corruption — why won't they drive you out?" Dubey tweeted.

In a post on X to Rahul Gandhi, Dubey warned that the Congress MP should prepare to leave the country if the Gen Z anger boiled over: "They want an Islamic state in Bangladesh and a Hindu state in Nepal. Why won't they make India a Hindu nation? Start preparing to leave the country — they are coming," Dubey said.

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on



Thursday launched a scathing attack on BJP and the Election Commission over 'vote chori' as he came with proof of systemic voter manipulation, with Karnataka's Aland constituency as the prime example. During a press conference, the Sabha Leader of Opposition alleged that some of the names were being struck off electoral rolls through software manipulation and fake applications. He alleged that somebody tried to delete 6018 votes in Aland constituency in Karnataka.

"Aland is a constituency in Karnataka. Somebody tried to delete 6018 votes. We don't know the total number of votes that were deleted in Aland in the 2023 election. They are much higher than 6,018, but somebody got caught deleting those 6018 votes, and it was caught by coincidence. What happened was that the booth-level officer there noted that her uncle's vote was deleted, so she checked who deleted her uncle's vote, and she found that it was a neighbour who deleted the vote. She asked her neighbour, but they said I did not delete any vote. Neither the person deleting the vote nor the person whose

vote was deleted knew. Some other force hijacked the process and deleted the vote," he said.

Give 'vote chori' proof to ECI, Karnataka BJP leaders tell Congress

With Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi continuing his tirade against the Election Commission of India (ECI), senior BJP leaders from the state on Thursday dared Congress leaders to submit an affidavit to ECI along with evidence backing their "vote theft" allegation or go to a court of law.

"Rahul Gandhi's 'vote chori' drama is nothing but a Congress ploy to attack the ECI and insult the mandate of the people," BJP state president BY Vijayendra said in response to Congress leaders' allegations that attempts had been made to delete names of voters in Kalaburagi district's Aland Assembly constituency ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections.

BJP slams Cong over Sam Pitroda's 'felt at home in Pak' remark

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Sam Pitroda's "felt at home in Pakistan" remark on Friday handed the BJP ammunition to target the Congress.

The BJP said his "Pakistan-friendly remarks" had Rahul Gandhi's "silent support" and attempted to establish that the "heart of the Gandhi family does not reside in India but in Pakistan".

Pitroda, the Indian Overseas Congress chief, clarified he meant to "emphasise the shared history and people-to-people bonds" without overlooking the "pain, conflict, or the grave challenges we face from terror and geopolitical tensions."

During a recent interview, Pitroda had said that India's neighbourhood must be a prime focus when it comes to foreign policy. "...Can we really substantially improve our relationship with our neighbours?

They are all small, they all need help, they are all going through difficult times and there is no need to fight. Of course, there is a problem of violence...and terrorism, all that is there. But at the end of the day, in that neighbourhood, there is a common gene pool."

"I've been to Pakistan and I must tell you that I felt at home. I've been to Bangladesh...Nepal, and I feel at home. I don't feel like I'm in a foreign country. They look like me, they talk like me, they like my songs, they eat my food...so I must learn to live with them in peace and harmony; that's my first priority," he said.

Taking aim at Pitroda, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari asked how any patriot could say "Pakistan feels like home" in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack and the subsequent



Sam Pitroda

Operation Sindoor.

"His statement reflects the thinking of the top leadership of the Congress party and insults our soldiers and 140 crore citizens. If this is not anti-national, then what is?" Bhandari asked.

"Gandhi says he wants to struggle against the Indian state and Pitroda calls

Pakistan his home. Building closeness with terrorists and respecting the terror-sponsoring Pakistan is a Congress habit, which is an insult to India's sovereignty, integrity and the valour of our brave soldiers," Bhandari said.

Pitroda stated that his intention was to draw attention to "the realities we face" — ranging from "concerns about the electoral process, the importance of civil society and youth, and India's role — both in its neighborhood and globally." In a statement, he said, "If my words have caused confusion or hurt, I want to clarify that my aim was never to belittle anyone's suffering or undermine legitimate concerns, but to foster honest conversation, empathy and a more grounded and responsible approach to how India sees itself and is seen by others."

India in history this Week

SEPTEMBER 19 TO SEPTEMBER 25

19 SEPTEMBER

1965 Sunita Williams, woman of Indian origin who went into space was born.

1581 Sikh Guru Ram Das died. Guru Ram Das was the fourth Guru of the Sikhs.



2007 Yuvraj Singh of India set the record for the fastest half-century off 12 balls by hitting six sixes in an over off Broad in a T20 match against England in Durban.

2000 Karnam Malleswari won a bronze medal in the weightlifting event at the Olympics.

1936 Hindustani classical musician Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande died.

20 SEPTEMBER

1338 Sultan of Delhi Feroz Tughlaq Shah III passed away.

1933 Social activist and British woman Annie Besant, who fought for the independence of Hindustan, died.

1819 Death of Goa scientist-revolutionary Jose Custodio Faria.

1856 Birth of Shri Narayana Guru, the great saint and reformer of India.

1857 British troops liberated Delhi from the rebels and captured it.



1878 The famous Madras newspaper The Hindu was first published as a weekly in the editing of GSS Iyer.

2009 Marathi film Harishchandrachi Factory selected in Oscar Awards foreign film category

21 SEPTEMBER

2000 The Liberal Democratic Friends India Society was established for better relations between India and Britain.

1857 Bahadur Shah II surrendered to the British.

1966 Mihir Sen floated and crossed the Bosphorus Channel.

2008 Oil products started in Reliance's Krishna Godavari basin.



1926 Birth of famous actress and singer Nur Jahan.

1743 The death of King Sawai Jai Singh of Amer.

22 SEPTEMBER

1965 In the battle between India and Pakistan, there was a ceasefire on the initiative of the United Nations on this day.

1539 Guru Nanak Dev, the first Guru of the Sikh sect, died in Kartapur. It was he who started the practice of 'langar'.

1914 The German warship Imden bombed the port of Madras.

1869 Social reformer of India VS Srinivasa Shastri was born in 1869.

2008 Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh left for a ten-day visit to America and France.

2011 The Planning Commission of India, in an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, refused to consider a person spending Rs 965 in cities and Rs 781 per month in villages as poor.

1988 Publication of the National Geographic magazine started today.

23 SEPTEMBER

1908 Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar was born on this day.



1803 The British East India Company defeated the Maratha army in the Battle of Asa.

1862 Birth of great patriot and politician Srinivas Shastri.

1863 The death of 1857 freedom fighter Rao Rao Ram.

1929 Child marriage abolition bill (Saradha Law) passed.

1965 Order of ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

2009 The Indian Space Research Organization

(ISRO) placed seven satellites in orbit, including the Indian satellite Ocean Sat-2.

24 SEPTEMBER

1861 Bhikaji Cama was born the lofty voice of women's rights.

1932 Poona Pact was signed between Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi in Pune's Yerwada Central Jail for the rights of untouchables.

2014 ISRO's satellite Mangalyaan successfully entered the orbit of Mars.

2008 The Madras High Court dismissed the petition regarding premature release of Nalini and two other convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi murder case.

2008 Kapil Dev, the Indian cricketer was conferred the honorary title of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army by Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor at a function.



1932 Bengal's revolutionary nationalist Pritilata Wadecdar became the first woman to lay down her life for the country's independence.

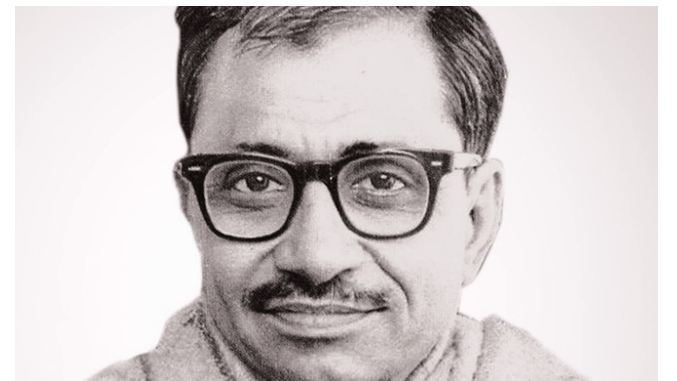
2009 India's first Chandrayaan-1 discovered water on the lunar surface.

1726 The East India Company was authorized to form municipal and mayor courts in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

1940 India's famous female swimmer Aarti Saha was born.

25 SEPTEMBER

1524 Vasco da Gama came to India for the last time.



1916 Indian economist, sociologist, journalist and great thinker Deendayal Upadhyaya was born.

1914 Former Deputy Prime Minister of India Chaudhary Devi Lal was born.

2009 The Enforcement Directorate revealed the hawala network of about five thousand crore rupees.

1920 Birth of India's famous rocket scientist Satish Dhawan.

1955 India's first female physician Rukmabai passed away.

2007 The Nepali Congress (Democratic) party led by former Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba merged with the Congress.

WORLD FOOD MOVEMENT TO LAUNCH FEEDING PROGRAM IN USA FOR STUDENTS AND FOOD-INSECURE COMMUNITIES

BY MABEL PAIS

Experience an unforgettable night of purpose and music at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) this month! Join NJPAC for the World Food Movement's musical fundraiser featuring the internationally acclaimed vocalist Abby V (Abhishek Venkatachalam) in the Victoria Theater on Sunday, September 28, 2025 starting at 4 pm.

This special evening showcases Abby V's extraordinary artistry alongside a powerful mission: providing hot, nutritious meals to college students and food-insecure individuals in New Jersey and New York.

WFM MISSION

The World Food Movement (WFM) has been established to provide food assistance to students and food-insecure communities in the United States of America. This initiative is inspired by The Akshaya Patra Foundation, the world's largest NGO-run school lunch program in India serving fresh, nutritious meals to millions of children every day.

LAUNCH

WFM is set to formally launch its feeding program in the US on September 28, 2025. The inauguration event will be held at the Victoria Theatre, NJPAC in Newark, New Jersey. This organization has been established to fulfill the great desire of Srila Prabhupada, Founder-Acharya of ISKCON (The International Society for Krishna Consciousness), to ensure that no one goes hungry.

Due to various factors, including rising living expenses, many are forced to choose between food and other essentials. WFM will focus on addressing hunger and food insecurity among students and food-insecure individuals across the country.

The event will be graced by Sri Chanchalapati Dasa, Vice Chairman, Dr. Siva Sivaram, National Board Member and other important members of the Foundation. Eminent personalities from various parts of the country are also expected to be present at the launch.

AKSHAYA PATRA - SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WFM builds on the vast experience and expertise of Akshaya Patra, which has contributed tremendously to alleviating classroom hunger among students by providing them with fresh, nutritious school lunches. It has also played a significant role in developing practical and scalable solutions to combat hunger, improving food and nutrition security in India since 2000.

Akshaya Patra has grown from its humble origins to currently feeding 2.3 million children in India every day. The unique vision of this program is that "no children should be deprived of education because of hunger." The Foundation has addressed classroom hunger effectively and has become a cornerstone of nutritional and educational support for children. Akshaya Patra has demonstrated that innovation and technology can bring about a social transformation when driven by compassion.

Akshaya Patra is known for its state-of-the-art, ISO (International Organization for Standardization)-certified kitchens, which can cook up to 100,000 meals a day. Its efficient systems and processes have become case studies at leading international institutions, including Harvard University, Stanford University, and London Business School. Former Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton have expressed their appreciation for the scale, quality and use of advanced technologies in Akshaya Patra's feeding programs.

INTERNATIONAL REACH

The organization gradually extended its services outside India and established its first international kitchen in the United Kingdom in 2020. Since then, over 800,000 meals have been served from this kitchen to



NJIT students enjoying meals from the WFM initiative
Credit : wfm.org.



WFM serving a food-insecure community -Credit: wfm.org.



Abby V. -Credit: njpac.org.

children, university students, and individuals in homeless shelters.

Beyond school feeding, Akshaya Patra has also been actively involved in homeless and emergency feeding, supporting millions of people in India and abroad. The Foundation's international humanitarian aid includes food relief to people affected by wars, earthquakes, floods and other natural calamities in regions such as Nepal, Turkey, and Ukraine.

WFM VISION

Inspired by Akshaya Patra's overwhelming success, the World Food Movement (WFM) has brought this transformative model to the US, and commenced feeding initiatives in New Jersey, New York, and Washington D.C., with a vision to expand nationwide.

Sri Chanchalapati Dasa said, "We are happy to launch World Food Movement in the US to serve the students and other communities of this wonderful country. We believe it is essential for citizens to be well-nourished to thrive and engage effectively in nation-building. We are committed to promoting well-being, restoring dignity and making a difference in people's lives. We invite you to participate in this event and join

us in our mission to ensure food for all. We will be happy to work with the government and its administrative agencies, philanthropists, corporate leaders, entrepreneurs and individuals to provide abundant, nutritious meals and contribute to building a healthier and happier nation."

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

4:00 PM – Meet & Greet with Abby V and HG Chanchalapati Dasa, Co-founder and Vice Chairman of World Food Movement, The Akshaya Patra Foundation, and Co-mentor and Vice Chairman of Global Hare Krishna Movement. (light refreshments will be available)

5:00 PM – Musical Concert by Abby V and Launch of the World Food Movement.

Note: Please be seated in the auditorium by 4:45 pm.

TICKETS

To purchase tickets for the event, visit njpac.org/event/melody-with-a-mission.

Your ticket brings hope, dignity and opportunity to those in need — while you enjoy one of today's most dynamic, soulful voices.

ABBY V (ABHISHEK VENKATACHALAM) - MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Abby V is a JUNO Award nominee for Best Global Album (2025) and winner of Astro International Superstar, a televised worldwide reality singing competition with contestants from all over the world. . This multi-award-winning Canadian-Indian singer-songwriter, composer, and producer from Toronto has captivated global audiences with his unique fusion of Indian classical, Western classical, Pop, R&B, Hindi and Tamil music. He's trained in Carnatic, Hindustani, and Western classical traditions. He's contributed to film soundtracks like 'Think Originals' and 'Indian 2.' Having collaborated extensively, on stage and in the studio, with numerous world-renowned musicians, Abby has also composed, arranged and produced numerous film scores, soundtracks, albums and singles over his career. His debut solo album titled 'First of All' - consisting of 8 original songs in English, Hindi and Tamil - released in 2019 to great commercial and critical acclaim.

Abby V's viral sensation "73 Ragas with Abby" garnered international acclaim, establishing him as a trailblazer in contemporary music who bridges cultures through his craft. His viral video '73 Ragas,' where he sang 73 Indian classical ragas in a row, showcases his vocal skills and knowledge. Watch him sing '73 Ragas' - (both Hindustani and Carnatic) back-to-back; live and on-the-spot, as the interviewer follows him around the house! - <https://youtu.be/KK1ZsK6FxI>.

He fondly attributes and is grateful for his success to his gurus, Smt. Ranjani-Gayatri, Smt. Raji Gopalakrishnan and his dad, Venky Iyer for helping him discover the bliss that is Indian Classical Music!

THE WORLD FOOD MOVEMENT (WFM)

The World Food Movement is dedicated to empowering community college students and food-insecure individuals in the United States — delivering fresh, wholesome meals that foster well-being, dignity and opportunity. WFM strives to ensure easy access to nutritious food for people in need, with a vision that no one should go hungry. Inspired by The Akshaya Patra Foundation — the world's largest non-profit school lunch program, which has served nearly 5 billion meals globally in the past 25 years — WFM draws on this transformative model and extensive experience to fulfill food and nutrition security needs in America.

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

BROADWAY'S SUPERSTARS TO PERFORM AT WOMEN@NJ PAC'S SPOTLIGHT GALA

BY MABEL PAIS

Laura Benanti, Tony Award winner and **Norm Lewis**, Tony Award nominee, will perform at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's (NJ PAC) annual fundraiser, the Women@NJ PAC Spotlight Gala on Saturday, September 27, 2025.

'An Evening with Laura Benanti and Norm Lewis,' will feature the stars performing numbers from the Broadway musicals they've made famous, as well as surprise song selections.

The evening will also see two longtime NJ PAC supporters presented with the Founders Award, the sole honor that the Arts Center presents each season. This event will support initiatives to advance the Arts Center's indispensable social impact work in arts education, community engagement and arts and well-being.

Darrell K. Terry, Sr., President and Chief Executive Officer of Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Children's Hospital of New Jersey, is an NJ PAC Board Member and one of the architects of NJ PAC's Arts & Well-Being programming, which uses the performing arts to advance community health. Several of these programs bring performances to Beth Israel for the hospital's staff, visitors, and even patients at their bedsides.

Noted philanthropist **Mindy A. Cohen** is also an NJ PAC Board Member, as well as a Member of the Board's Executive Committee, and the Co-President of Women@NJ PAC. Over the course of a career that spanned politics, fundraising and event planning, Cohen helped elect New Jersey leaders like Senator Frank Lautenberg, founded the prestigious consulting firm Evergreen Partners, and supported arts nonprofits, including Newark's jazz radio station WBGO and the New Jersey Symphony, as well as NJ PAC. She also served as Chair of the Arts Center's Spotlight Gala, a record six times.

"Mindy and Darrell have both built remarkable careers that have had an impact on so many across New Jersey. I am beyond grateful that they also chose to devote their time, insight and expertise to helping NJ PAC grow into the anchor institution it is today — and to positioning the Arts Center to accomplish even more in the seasons to come," said John Schreiber, President and CEO of NJ PAC.

The Women@NJ PAC Spotlight Gala, often called the "party of the year," treats Arts Center supporters to a night of dinner in NJ PAC's theaters and gathering spaces, followed by a headlining performance in Prudential Hall and an after-party that includes the Arts Center's famous dessert buffet and dancing to tunes spun by DJ Kiss.

PROGRAM

For the complete program, visit njpac.org/event/2025-spotlight-gala.

TICKETS

For the first time this year, the Arts Center is offering a special New Member Spotlight Gala Ticket. This ticket includes access to the performance and the afterparty, as well as a year-long NJ PAC membership. Those who are already NJ PAC Members can buy a ticket to the performance and afterparty for a discounted price. Tickets are available at njpac.org/event/2025-spotlight-gala.

GALA CHAIRS

Philanthropist and Women@NJ PAC Vice President



Laura Benanti



Norm Lewis



Darrell K. Terry



Mindy A. Cohen

Photos Credit : njpac.org.

Patricia L. Capawana, and Balpreet Grewal-Virk, Senior Vice President of Community Health for RWJBarnabas Health and Women@NJ PAC Trustee, chair this year's Spotlight Gala. Prudential Financial is the lead sponsor of the 2025 Gala.

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJ PAC)

NJ PAC, located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is the most diverse performing arts center in the country, and the anchor cultural institution for both the city of Newark and the state of New Jersey. It is an artistic, cultural, educational and civic center where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJ PAC brings communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists, while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJ PAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJ PAC Arts & Well-Being develops initiatives and programs that amplify the health benefits of the arts and measure the impact of the Arts Center on community health and well-being. NJ PAC has attracted more than 12 million visitors (including more than two million children) since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents. Visit njpac.org for more information.

NJ PAC

One Center Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102
njpac.org or 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)

FOLLOW NJ PAC ONLINE:

Website: njpac.org
Twitter: @NJ PAC
Instagram: @NJ PAC
Hashtag: #NJ PAC
Facebook: facebook.com/NJPAC
YouTube: NJ PACtv

FOLLOW NJ PAC'S STANDING IN SOLIDARITY SERIES ONLINE:

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

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

'SWEENEY TODD' ACTOR NOW PERFORMS 'MURDOCH: THE FINAL INTERVIEW'

BY MABEL PAIS

MURDOCH: The Final Interview, a new American play, is being performed at Theater555 (555 West 42nd Street – between 10th & 11th Aves).

The performance started on Friday, September 12. Opening Night is Sunday afternoon, September 28, 2025 at 3PM. The play is scheduled to run until Sunday, December 28, 2025.

This is a production of Masterworks Theater Company and Eric Krebs Theatrical Management. This is the World Premiere of the play by an unnamed source, performed by Jamie Jackson (Sweeney Todd) with direction by Christopher Scott.

"The script of 'Murdoch; The Final Interview' came to me in a very strange way," says Mr. Krebs. "It was left at the door of Theater555 overnight in a plain manila envelope addressed to me. I looked inside and found a script with a note that said that the playwright wanted to remain anonymous, but that I was welcome to produce the play if I so desired. I thought immediately of 'Deep Throat,' the mysterious incident that took place during the Nixon years. So, of course, I set to work reading the play, and

discovered a marvelous jigsaw of a drama. And here we are... I think the world of politics and of human nature will both be explored in a thrilling manner."

Come and watch Planet Earth's most controversial media magnate, Rupert Murdoch, face the cameras, a live audience and a mysterious interviewer as he attempts to secure his legacy.

Some questions: Who almost drowned him as a boy? What happened after he met JFK in the Oval Office? What are his honest feelings about marriage, truth and sacred cows? Can he survive the return of a bitter Roger Ailes?

Over ninety minutes Murdoch encounters family members, revisits Presidents, wrangles with newspaper editors, collides with "Fox News" creator, Roger Ailes, and finally, wrestles, literally, with an inscrutable monster. It's the shocking, fair and balanced interview you've been waiting for, written by an unnamed source, brought to life by a single actor.

CAST

The cast for **MURDOCH: The Final Interview** is **JAMIE JACKSON**.

CREATIVE TEAM

The creative team is Peter R. Feuchwanger (set design), Joan Racho-Jansen (lighting design), Andy Evan Cohen (audio visuals), Josh Weidenbaum (sound design) and SoHee Youn (music composer). The production stage manager is Brian Westmoreland.

SCHEDULE

Tuesday – Saturday at 7:30pm and Sunday at 3pm.

TICKETS

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Theater555 box office, one hour before curtain or online @ theater555.venuetix.com/showdetails/5RmDjz6VR6R7E2mj10X8/0UP2dDJH9Y80ZZv8y4Tq.

BIOGRAPHIES

JAMIE JACKSON (Performer)
Learn more at jamiejackson.com.
CHRISTOPHER SCOTT (Director)
Learn more at xscottnyc.com Insta: @Theatrebeast.
Masterworks Theater Company
Masterworks Theater Company
(Christopher Scott Artistic Director) is a



Jamie Jackson. -Credit: theater555.com

not for profit company that specializes in bringing new plays and musicals to the stage. It was founded in 2014. To date MTC has sponsored 23 new play readings and 3 fully staged productions.

ERIC KREBS THEATRICAL MANAGEMENT

Eric Krebs Theatrical Management (Eric Krebs, General Manager) has been active in the off-Broadway world for almost 50 years, beginning with The Passion of Dracula at the Cherry Lane Theater in 1977.

THEATER555

Learn more at theater555.com.A

TRANSDISCIPLINARIAN SINGER GANAVYA BLENDS SPIRITUAL JAZZ WITH TAMIL DEVOTIONAL MUSIC

BY MABEL PAIS

GANAVYA, New York-born and Tamil Nadu-raised singer and transdisciplinarian, will sing at the First Unitarian Congregational Society, 119 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on September 26, 2025 at 8 pm. Doors open at 7 pm.

Ganavya has been acclaimed by the Wall Street Journal as "among modern music's most compelling vocalists." Her latest album, 'Daughter of a Temple' (Leiter) was recorded over a week in 2022 at the Moore's Opera House in Houston, Texas, after ganavya reached out to friends and associates to join her in "a gathering in and for devotion." The resulting album, a hypnotic blend of spiritual jazz and South Asian devotional music, features over 30 guest artists from across the jazz and world music disciplines including esperanza spalding, Vijay Iyer, Shabaka Hutchings, Immanuel Wilkins, Peter Sellars, Rajna Swaminathan, Charlotte Braithwaite, Chris Sholar, Darian Donovan Thomas, and Bindhumalini Narayanswamy.

The collaboration celebrates community and devotion, capturing the artist's journey from the isolation of living between two cultures to fostering a creative village. With this album, ganavya aims to convey to listeners her belief that connection and love can be achieved through shared experiences – "I want it to make them feel less alone because that's what it did for me. I see it as proof that prayer works and love truly



Ganavya. -Credit: worldmusicinstitute.org.

exists."

"No matter the language or the content, Ganavya's voice is a thick ephemera, like smoke as dark as ink, just coming off the fire." — New York Times
Listen to Ganavya
<https://youtu.be/4TcKHVtZOuA>

TICKETS

For tickets to see the performance, visit <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35721/production/1235747?performanceId=11621312>.

THE WOMEN'S VOICES

World Music Institute's 'The WOMEN'S VOICES' Series celebrates the role that female artists play in the preservation and promotion of their respective cultures and traditions.

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

To learn more about the First Unitarian Church and accessibility, visit fuub.org/community/accessibility.

EXPERIENCE THE SACRED SOUNDSCAPE OF KHAYAL WITH SAAMI BROTHERS



Saami Brothers. -Credit: facebook.com/saamibrothers

BY MABEL PAIS

SAAMI BROTHERS, leading sacred soundscape of Khayal (Hindustani Classical Music), will perform at the Kaufman Music Center's Merkin Hall, Abraham Goodman House, 129 West 67th Street, New York, NY. Phone - 212 501 3330 - on Saturday, October 4, 2025.

The Saami Brothers are the leading representatives of 'Qawal Bachay.' The Qawwal Bacchon Ka Gharana or Dilli Gharana is the oldest Qawwal gharana. A gharana is a system of social organization in the Indian subcontinent, linking musicians or dancers by lineage or apprenticeship of the Hindustani Classical music tradition. It was founded by Hazrat Amir Khusrau (1253-1325) and his students in the 13th century.

The evening offers the opportunity to experience the sacred soundscape of

Khayal in its most authentic expression, with Ustads Rauf and Urooj on vocals, Ahmed Saami on harmonium, and their father, the revered Ustad Naseeruddin Saami, appearing as a special guest. They will be accompanied by sarangi – a bowed stringed instrument which mimics the sound and depth of voice, and tabla.

Get a sneak peek of their performance @ facebook.com/saamibrothers and worldmusicinstitute.org/saamibrotherskhayal.

TICKETS

For tickets to see the Saami Brothers perform, visit kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/event/saami-brothers-khayal

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



Sydney Sweeney's alleged Bollywood debut price tag has everyone scratching their heads

Nobody really knows what to make of it but Sydney Sweeney is apparently in talks to make her Bollywood debut. And no we don't mean a cute, little stereotyped cameo. A full-fledged role as a desi heroine.

It could be the varied portfolio of projects, her 'great jeans' controversy or just that very strong it-girl factor that seems to be batting off every controversy flying in face, somebody does in fact believe that Sydney stepping foot in Bollywood could mint them the big bucks — and yes, bigger than ₹530 crores, because that's reportedly the pay cheque being offered up to the actor, as reported by The Sun.

What's the plot you ask? Sydney, as per a News18 report, will be playing the role of an American star who falls in love with an Indian celebrity. The film will reportedly be shot across Paris, New York City, London and Dubai and is believed to start "early next year".

Now, safe to say, everybody is baffled. Comments expressing the sentiment read, "Why would anyone from Bollywood pay her ₹45m. This sounds bs", "She got \$2 million for Anyone But You, there's no way someone will offer her ₹45 million for a Bollywood movie.", "Huge money laundering scheme if true, she won't get paid this much even in Hollywood" and "That would be disastrous. Even SRK or Prabhas don't deserve that kind of pay, forget this girl!" to quote a few.

If you think it's just us lot that's shocked, know that The Sun has also reported how Sydney herself too was quite taken aback with the alleged offer. The Sun reported that the actor too, was in fact, shocked...but the project is intriguing, and it could elevate her global profile even further...Nothing has been decided yet, but it is a huge opportunity and Sydney is weighing her options carefully".

So would you be interested in watching Sydney make her Bollywood debut or is this a hard pass?

From Bawaal to Sunny Sanskari Ki...: Janhvi & Varun shift gears

Janhvi Kapoor and Varun Dhawan are among the most sorted actors of the current generation. They won hearts with their chemistry in the romance drama Bawaal. They are reuniting on the big screen in Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, and we cannot keep calm, as they look so much fun in the trailer. Here are a few reasons why we anticipate watching this dynamic duo in an easy-going entertainer.

One of the biggest reasons is that fans will see a fresh dynamic between the actors. Bawaal was an intense drama, and this is a light-hearted family entertainer. Varun is more adept in the comedy space, and any actress paired with him in a comedy film is always fun to watch. Thus, we will get to see a fresh dynamic between the duo.

Janhvi Kapoor shines as one of the most versatile talents of her generation, unafraid to experiment with roles. Paired with Varun Dhawan, known for his effortless charm and perfect comic timing, Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari is a refreshing family entertainer that highlights their combined star power.

With just one outing, the two had already created buzz about their compatibility. Their reunion strengthens that impression, positioning them as one of the most exciting new-age pairings in Bollywood.

Together, Janhvi and Varun are carving out a space as a screen couple



who can shift gears seamlessly, making their reunion more than just another casting choice.

The story follows two former lovers in Delhi who attempt to rekindle their old romance, only to get caught up in a series of amusing mix-ups and clever deceptions. As the chaos deepens, an unexpected new love story emerges, leaving everyone wondering who will

truly find their happy ending.

Produced by Hiroo Yash Johar, Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta, and Shashank Khaitan under the banners of Dharma Productions and Mentor Disciple Entertainment, it is directed by Shashank Khaitan and features Janhvi Kapoor, Varun Dhawan, Rohit Saraf, and Sanya Malhotra. It will be released on October 2.

Shahid Kapoor, Rashmika Mandanna, Kriti Sanon start shoot of Cocktail 2

Shahid Kapoor, Kriti Sanon, and Rashmika Mandanna's 'Cocktail 2' is shaping up to be one of the most anticipated films of the year, and Shahid has now teased the start of the shoot. The actor shared a selfie on Instagram, captioning it: "New Beginnings!!! 'Cocktail 2' (sic)."

He tagged Rashmika and Kriti in the post, giving fans their first glimpse of the trio together on set. In the picture, Shahid looked effortlessly dashing, sporting a neatly trimmed beard and a smart hairstyle.

Rashmika also shared a sneak-peek of her look, posting a picture with the caption, "gand where you at (sic)," tagging Shahid and Kriti in the process.

The sequel is produced by Dinesh Vijan's Maddock Films and written by Luv Ranjan. While plot details remain under wraps, the makers are aiming for a theatrical release in the latter half of 2026. The buzz surrounding the film intensified when Anaita Shroff Adajania, wife of Homi Adajania,



shared a glimpse of the 'Cocktail 2' script on her Instagram Story, alongside Kriti's look from the film. Shahid and Rashmika have also teased their respective appearances, further heightening excitement.

The original 'Cocktail' was a contemporary love triangle starring

Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, and Diana Pentz. The film was widely appreciated for its fresh take on friendship and romance, its memorable soundtrack, and Deepika's standout performance, which solidified her position as one of Bollywood's leading stars.

Amanda Seyfried defends calling Charlie Kirk hateful amid backlash



Actor Amanda Seyfried has come forward to defend herself from backlash after calling conservative activist Charlie Kirk "hateful" in a comment posted on Instagram after his assassination.

Just days after Charlie Kirk was shot in the neck during an event in Utah earlier this month, an Instagram video from the account @So.Informed posted a video which highlighted several controversial remarks that Charlie Kirk had made about immigration, trans rights, and more.

The actor had responded to the Instagram post. "He was hateful," the *Mamma Mia!* actor wrote in the comment section.

Amanda had also seemingly commented on Charlie Kirk's death by resharing a message via her Instagram Stories that

read, "You can't invite violence to the dinner table and be shocked when it starts eating."

The actor was getting slammed by her activity on social media, which prompted her to address the hate coming her way and clarify her remark in a separate Instagram post.

"I don't want to add fuel to a fire. I just want to be able to give clarity to something so irresponsibly (but understandably) taken out of context. Spirited discourse isn't that what we should be having?" Amanda wrote in the caption while sharing a note.

Defending her views, Amanda wrote in her note, "We're forgetting the nuance of humanity. I can get angry about misogyny and racist rhetoric and ALSO very much agree that Charlie Kirk's murder was absolutely disturbing and deplorable in every way imaginable."

"No one should have to experience this level of violence. This country is grieving too many senseless and violent deaths and shootings. Can we agree on that at least?" she added.

Charlie Kirk was fatally shot on September 10, when he was speaking at an event at Utah Valley University in Orem. A 22-year-old man from Utah, Tyler Robinson, has been arrested but the motive remains unclear except that police say Robinson held a deep disdain for Kirk's far-right political views that often attracted allegations of racism.

In a historic level of government recognition, US President Donald Trump has announced to posthumously award Charlie Kirk the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour given by the United States. He also ordered flags to be flown at half-staff and sent the Vice President to accompany his casket, unusual for a non-elected official. In the aftermath of the assassination, Jimmy Kimmel's show is being pulled by ABC, following remarks the comedian made about Tyler Robinson.

Famke Janssen to star in post-apocalyptic thriller

Famke Janssen will star as the lead in the upcoming post-apocalyptic film, *One Second After*, reported Variety. Janssen is known for her role as Jean Grey in the X-Men film series.

One Second After will be directed by Scott Rogers, from a script written by J Michael Straczynski. The film will be produced by Rob Pfaltzgraff, Nick Reid, and Matt Kennedy. MPI Original Films and Startling Inc are the banners backing the film. The rest of the cast of *One Second After* includes Josh Holloway, who was seen in *Yellowstone* and *Lost*, and Hannah John-Kamen, who recently reprised her role of Ava Starr/Ghost in *Marvel's Thunderbolts**. She played the role first in *Ant-Man* and *The Wasp*.

Apart from the X-Men films Janssen has also starred as Lenore in the *Taken* trilogy, alongside Liam Neeson and Maggie Grace. She also starred as Xenia Onatopp in *Goldeneye*, which starred Pierce Brosnan as James Bond.



Robert Redford, giant of American cinema, dies aged 89

Robert Redford, star of Hollywood classics including *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *The Sting* and *All the President's Men*, has died aged 89. In a statement, his publicist Cindi Berger said the actor died on Tuesday, Sept 16, at his home "at Sundance in the mountains of Utah - the place he loved, surrounded by those he loved".

"He will be missed greatly," Berger said, adding that Redford's family are requesting privacy.

Redford was one of the defining movie stars of the 1970s, crossing with ease between the Hollywood new wave and the mainstream film industry, before also becoming an Oscar-winning director and producer in the ensuing decades. He played a key role in the establishment of American independent cinema by co-founding the Sundance film festival, which acted as a platform for films such as *Reservoir Dogs*, *The Blair Witch Project*, *Donnie Darko*, *Fruitvale Station* and *Coda*.

Redford also acquired a reputation as one of Hollywood's leading liberals and campaigned on environmental issues, including acting as a trustee of the Natural Resources Defense Council advocacy group and vocally opposing the now cancelled Keystone XL pipeline extension.

Born Charles Robert Redford in 1936, he grew up in Los Angeles and, after he was expelled from the University of Colorado, studied acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. After playing a series of small parts on TV, stage and film, he began to make headway in the early 60s, being nominated for a best supporting actor Emmy in 1962 for *The Voice of Charlie Pont* and winning a lead role in the original 1963 Broadway production of



Neil Simon's hit play *Barefoot in the Park*. Redford's film breakthrough arrived in 1965: an eye-catching role as a bisexual film star in *Inside Daisy Clover* opposite Natalie Wood, for which he was nominated for a Golden Globe.

After a series of solid Hollywood films, including *The Chase* and a screen adaptation of *Barefoot in the Park*, Redford had a huge hit with the 1969 outlaw western *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, in which he starred opposite Paul Newman and Katharine Ross. It was nominated for seven Oscars, though none were for the actors.

Redford starred in *Tell Them Willie Boy Is Here*, the

first directing credit in over 20 years by former blacklisted Abraham Polonsky, and then a string of key 1970s hits: frontier western *Jeremiah Johnson* (1972), period romance *The Way We Were* (1973) opposite Barbra Streisand, crime comedy *The Sting* (1973), again opposite Newman, and literary adaptation *The Great Gatsby* (1974). Redford followed these up with conspiracy thriller *Three Days of the Condor* (1975) and Watergate drama *All the President's Men* (1976), co-starring with Dustin Hoffman.

After a prolonged break from acting in the late 70s, Redford turned to directing with the ensemble drama *Ordinary People*, adapted from the novel by Judith Guest. A substantial hit, it won four Oscars in 1981, including best picture and best director for Redford – an accolade he never received for his acting.

His success as an actor continued in the 1980s and 1990s, though perhaps with less of the cutting-edge impact of his 1970s work. Baseball drama *The Natural*, adapted from a Bernard Malamud novel in 1984, was followed by *Out of Africa* in 1985, in which he played big game hunter Denys Finch Hatton opposite Meryl Streep's Danish aristocrat. He returned to directing with *The Milagro Beanfield War* in 1988 and *A River Runs Through It* in 1992, both grappling in different ways with rural America. A year later he made what in retrospect was something of a turning point: an unalloyed Hollywood project, the erotic thriller *Indecent Proposal*, in which his businessman character offers a million dollars to sleep with Demi Moore's character. It re-established Redford as a commercial force. Later in the 90s he directed *Quiz Show* and *The Horse Whisperer* (the latter of which he also starred in).

RSF strike kills 75 people in Sudan's Darfur: Rescuers

The RSF conducted their strike as they pressed a push to capture Darfur's last army-held city.

The attack struck a mosque at the Abu Shouk camp, just outside the North Darfur capital, said the Emergency Response Room, a local volunteer group coordinating relief in the camp. "The bodies were retrieved from the rubble of the mosque," the group said in a statement.

There was no immediate comment from the RSF on the incident.

El-Fasher, which has been under paramilitary siege for about 18 months, is the final state capital in Darfur still under the control of Sudan's army, which has been locked in a devastating war with the RSF since April 2023.

The city's fall would hand the RSF full territorial dominance over the region, where the UN and rights groups have already reported mass atrocities, including ethnically targeted killings.

Satellite imagery released by Yale University's Humanitarian Research Lab on Thursday showed RSF forces advancing on multiple fronts, including around Abu Shouk camp and the former UNAMID peacekeeping base, now used by anti-RSF Joint Forces. The Joint Forces, a coalition of former rebel groups from Darfur, sided with the army in late 2023 after mass killings targeting the Masalit tribe in West Darfur state capital El-Geneina. "RSF has likely captured the former UNAMID compound, Joint Forces' base of operations," Yale said, citing damage visible in satellite imagery collected between Monday and Thursday.

British spy chief says he sees no evidence Putin wants to negotiate peace in Ukraine

ISTANBUL (TIP)

There is "absolutely no evidence" that Russia's President Vladimir Putin wants to negotiate peace in Ukraine, the head of Britain's foreign intelligence agency said Friday, Sept 19, in an outgoing speech.

Richard Moore, chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, or MI6 as it is more commonly known, said Putin was "stringing us along."

"He seeks to impose his imperial will by all means at his disposal. But he cannot succeed," Moore said. "Bluntly, Putin has bitten off more than he can chew. He thought he was going to win an easy victory. But he – and many others – underestimated the Ukrainians."

Moore was speaking at the British consulate in Istanbul after five years as head of MI6. He leaves the post at the end of September. The agency will then get its first female chief.

During his tenure, Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, a war that has seen tens of thousands killed and still rages, principally in eastern Ukraine.

Moore said the invasion had strengthened Ukrainian national identity and accelerated its westward trajectory, as well as pushing Sweden and Finland to join NATO.

"Putin has sought to convince the world that Russian victory is inevitable. But he lies. He lies to the world. He lies to his people. Perhaps he even lies to himself," Moore told a news conference.

Referring to the Russian scientist Ivan Pavlov who conditioned dogs to respond to a bell, Moore said a phone call from the Russian president was "the equivalent of Pavlov's tinkling bell inside the Kremlin, eliciting learned behavior to tell Putin whatever it is the



system thinks he want to hear."

He said that Putin was "mortgaging his country's future for his own personal legacy and a distorted version of history" and the war was "accelerating this decline."

Moore, who previously served as the U.K.'s ambassador to Ankara, the Turkish capital, added that "greater powers than Russia have failed to subjugate weaker powers than Ukraine."

Analysts say Putin believes he can outlast the political commitment of Ukraine's Western partners and win a protracted war of attrition by wearing down Ukraine's smaller army with sheer weight of numbers.

Ukraine, meanwhile, is racing to expand its defense cooperation with other countries and secure billions of dollars of investment in its domestic weapons industry.

The spy chief was speaking as MI6 unveiled a dark web portal to allow potential intelligence providers to contact the service. Dubbed "Silent Courier," the secure messaging platform aims to recruit new spies for the U.K., including in Russia.

"To those men and women in Russia

who have truths to share and the courage to share them, I invite you to contact MI6," Moore said.

Russian FM Lavrov to meet Rubio at UN next week: Russian state media

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov plans to meet U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly next week, Russia's U.N. envoy said on Sept. 19.

"There is no agenda yet, but the meeting is planned," Vasily Nebenzya, Russia's U.N. ambassador, said in an interview with the Rossiya-24 television channel. The news comes as U.S. President Donald Trump's months-long effort to broker a peace deal in Ukraine has made little headway, while Russia continues to reject a ceasefire and intensifies attacks on Ukrainian cities.

The exact date of the meeting was not specified. The high-level week of the U.N.'s 80th General Assembly in New York will run from Sept. 23 to 27, while Lavrov is expected to address the U.N. on Sept. 27.

The U.S. State Department has not commented on the possible meeting.

Russia's chief diplomat previously met Rubio on Aug. 15 during the Alaska summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Trump.

Lavrov and Rubio also held talks in Kuala Lumpur on July 10 on the sidelines of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit, discussing the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

President Volodymyr Zelensky is expected to attend next week's U.N. Assembly, with both Rubio and the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry floating a possible meeting between the Ukrainian president and Trump.

Kim Jong Un oversees drone test, orders AI development

PYONGYANG (TIP)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw a test of an attack drone and ordered greater use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the technology, state media said on September 19.

Images shared by the official Korean Central News Agency showed the unmanned vehicle taking off and then destroying a target.

State media said the exercise demonstrated the "excellent combat effectiveness of Kumsong-series tactical attack drones", reporting Kim expressed "great satisfaction" with the result.

Drones are emerging as a "major military activity asset, raising it as a top-priority and important task in modernizing the armed forces of the DPRK," Kim reportedly said, using the acronym for North Korea.

He also ordered "efforts to rapidly developing the newly-introduced



Images showed the unmanned vehicle taking off and then destroying a target.

artificial intelligence technology" as well as the "expanding and strengthening" of drone production capabilities.

Analyst Hong Min at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification said Kim sees drone technology as critical to securing "great power status".

"The drones raise concerns because they offer low-cost, high-efficiency threats: autonomous mission execution, improved accuracy and lethality, suitability for mass production, and enhanced tactical flexibility," he added.

Pyongyang unveiled its first attack

drones last year and experts have warned its new capability in this area could be linked to its budding alliance with Russia.

Analysts also say North Korean troops sent to fight for Russia will be gaining modern warfare experience -- including how drones are used on the battlefield.

And Lim Eul-chul at South Korea's Kyungnam University said AI could allow North Korean drones to "operate even if GPS or communications signals are jammed, relying on pre-trained algorithms".

North Korea has tested GPS jamming attacks on the South Korean assets -- an operation that affected several ships and dozens of civilian aircraft.

"The AI drive has gained momentum since 2024, drawing on Russian technology transfers and lessons from the war in Ukraine," Lim said.

Recognising Palestinian state is best way to isolate Hamas, says Macron

Facing an economic and political crisis at home, French President Emmanuel Macron has insisted that recognising a Palestinian state would isolate the militant group Hamas. Macron also reiterated his condemnation of Israel's non-stop offensive in Gaza.

In an interview with Israeli television's Channel 12, President Macron asserted that the "Legitimate perspective of the Palestinian people and what they suffer today has nothing to do with Hamas."

"Recognition of a Palestinian state is the best way to isolate Hamas," Macron furthered.

France and Britain are among the Western countries that have vowed to formally recognise a Palestinian state at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) this month. Their key objective is to sideline Hamas and allow a two-state solution to a long-standing Arab-Israeli conflict.

Answering a question about economic sanctions, Macron said, "I think if the Gaza City operation is pursued by the government, it's clearly a debate we will need."

Slamming Israel for unleashing offensives in Gaza, the French President further said: "This type of operation in Gaza is totally counterproductive and a failure. You are destroying the image and the credibility of Israel, not just in the region, but in public opinion everywhere."

Israel army says will use 'unprecedented force' in Gaza City, urges residents to leave

TEL AVIV

The Israeli military warned on Friday, Sept 19, it would operate with "unprecedented force" in Gaza City, telling residents to flee southwards as it pressed its ground offensive on the territory's largest urban center, as strikes and operations continued across the Strip.

The Israel Defense Forces said troops expanded their operations in Gaza City, and in the past day, killed more than 10 operatives and directed strikes on terror infrastructure.

In the Strip's south, the military said troops operating in Khan Younis and Rafah killed several terror operatives and demolished dozens of sites used by Hamas.

Local Hamas-run health authorities said at least 22 people were killed across the Strip in Israeli strikes. The casualty figures could not be independently verified and did not differentiate between fighters and civilians.

As troops pushed the Gaza City ground offensive, the military announced the as-planned closure of the Salah al-Din Road, a temporary second evacuation route for residents of Gaza City to the southern Strip. Palestinians evacuating Gaza City can now only do so via the Rashid coastal road. "The IDF will continue to act with great and unprecedented force against Hamas and the other terror organizations," the military's Arabic-language spokesman said. "For your safety, take the opportunity and join the hundreds of thousands of [Gaza] City residents who have moved south to the humanitarian area, and do not allow Hamas to exploit you as human shields."

The military on Friday said it estimated 480,000 Gaza City residents have fled since late August.



Around one million Palestinians were estimated to be residing in Gaza City before the IDF launched a major offensive against Hamas in the area.

Ahead of the offensive, the IDF ordered Palestinians in all areas of Gaza City to evacuate immediately to an Israeli-designated humanitarian zone in the Strip's south. In western Gaza City on Friday, Sami Baroud described "relentless and intense shelling."

"Our life has become nothing but explosions and danger," the 35-year-old told AFP by telephone.

"We have lost everything — our lives, our future, our sense of safety. How can I evacuate when I can't even afford transportation?"

Nivin Ahmed, 50, fled south from Gaza City to the central city of Deir el-Balah on Thursday, walking with seven family members. "We walked more than 15 kilometers [nine miles], we were crawling from exhaustion," she said.

"My youngest son cried from fatigue. We took turns dragging a small cart with

some of our belongings."

Mona Abdel Karim, 36, said she had been unable to secure transport south and had been sleeping with her family on Al-Rashid Street for two nights waiting for a driver.

"I feel like I'm about to explode. We can't walk on foot — my husband's parents are elderly and sick, and the children are too weak to walk," she said.

Amid the growing humanitarian crisis in the Strip, Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories said Hamas gunmen "brazenly robbed" four UNICEF aid trucks carrying baby formula in Gaza City on Thursday.

"The trucks were commandeered right outside the UNICEF compound in Gaza City, a direct assault on humanitarian work," COGAT said in a statement.

UNICEF put out their own statement saying "armed individuals" commandeered four aid trucks outside their compound at gunpoint, and diverted the contents elsewhere, before releasing the drivers and the trucks.

UN Security Council nixes resolution to spare Iran from 'snapback' sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (TIP)

The United Nations Security Council on Friday, Sept 19, voted against a resolution that sought to block the reimposition of deep economic sanctions on Tehran over its resurgent nuclear program.

The vote prompted anger from Iran, which condemned France, Britain and Germany for an "illegal, unjustified and provocative" effort to reimpose "snapback" sanctions on the Islamic Republic under a 2015 nuclear deal, but indicated a diplomatic solution could still be reached.

Triggering the "snapback" mechanism required the Security Council to vote on removing the sanctions from Iran. The draft resolution was put forward by South Korea, the current president of the 15-member council, but did not garner the support of the nine countries required to halt the sanctions from taking effect at the end of the month.

Iran's ally Russia, which is also signatory to the 2015 deal, voted in favor of the draft resolution to permanently lift sanctions from Iran, as did China, Pakistan and Algeria. Nine members, including France and Britain, voted against the resolution,



The United Nations Security Council holds a meeting on Iran at UN headquarters on September 19, 2025, in New York. (AFP)

while two abstained. France, Britain and Germany, collectively known as the E3 nations, are signatories to a 2015 deal with Tehran that eased some sanctions in exchange for restrictions on Iran's nuclear activity.

Accusing Iran of failing to abide by the agreement, the E3 triggered the "snapback" mechanism on August 28 following unsuccessful talks with Iran to reach a new nuclear agreement.

The mechanism launched a 30-day period for the

return of all the UN sanctions that were in place on Iran before the 2015 deal, including a conventional arms embargo, restrictions on ballistic missile development, asset freezes, travel bans and a ban on producing nuclear-related technology.

The Security Council vote Friday has now set up eight days of intense diplomacy while world leaders, including Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, are in New York for the annual UN General Assembly.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is set to meet with his European counterparts on the sideline of the high-level gathering, Iranian UN Ambassador Amir Saeid Irvani told reporters after the UN Security Council vote Friday, adding that the door to diplomacy over Iran's nuclear program was still open.

Earlier, Araghchi said he had put forward a "fair and balanced" proposal to European powers to prevent the return of sanctions.

He said in a telephone call with the UN nuclear watchdog chief after the Security Council vote that Iran was subject to "unfair pressure" and "rejects any political action and unfair pressure that could lead to an escalation of tensions."

Pak says its nuclear program can be made available to Saudi Arabia under defense pact

DUBAI/ISLAMABAD (TIP)

Pakistan's defense minister says his nation's nuclear program "will be made available" to Saudi Arabia if needed under the countries' new defense pact, marking the first specific acknowledgment that Islamabad had put the kingdom under its nuclear umbrella.

Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif's comments underline the importance of the pact struck this week between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, which have had military ties for decades.

The move is seen by analysts as a signal to Israel, long believed to be the Middle East's only nuclear-armed nation. It comes after Israel's attack targeting Hamas leaders in Qatar last week killed six people and sparked new concerns among Gulf Arab nations about their safety as the Israel-Hamas war devastated the Gaza Strip and set the region on edge.

Minister's remarks touch on nuclear program

Speaking to Geo TV in an interview late Thursday night, Asif made the comments while answering a question on whether "the deterrence that Pakistan gets from nuclear weapons" will be made available to Saudi Arabia.

"Let me make one point clear about Pakistan's nuclear capability: that capability was established long ago when we conducted tests. Since then, we have forces trained for the battlefield," Asif said. "What we have, and the capabilities we possess, will be made available to (Saudi Arabia) according to this



agreement," he added. The two countries signed a defense deal on Wednesday, Sept 17, declaring that an attack on one nation would be an attack on both. The International Atomic Energy Agency, with which both nations have monitoring agreements, did not immediately respond to a request for comment over the Pakistani defense minister's remarks. Asif criticized Israel in the interview for not fully disclosing its suspected nuclear weapons program to the IAEA.

The pact comes after Israel's attack on Qatar

Israel has not commented on the two nations' defense pact. Pakistan long has criticized Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, but has not been directly involved in any war against it. And while neither nation has diplomatic ties to

Israel, American officials had sought to mediate a diplomatic recognition deal involving Saudi Arabia before Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel that sparked the war.

"We have not named any country whose attack would automatically trigger a retaliatory response. Neither has Saudi Arabia named any country, nor have we," Asif said in the interview. "This is an umbrella arrangement offered to one another by both sides: if there is aggression against either party — from any side — it will be jointly defended, and the aggression will be met with a response." The deal came a week after the attack in Doha as Gulf Arab countries weigh how to defend themselves. Israeli attacks since Oct. 7, 2023, have stretched across Iran, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories, Qatar, Syria and Yemen.

Asked if others could join the pact, the minister added: "I can say the door is not closed to others."

That idea was repeated by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar.

"It is premature to say anything, but after this development, other countries have also expressed a desire for similar arrangements," Dar told reporters in London in televised remarks. "Such things follow due process. Even with Saudi Arabia, it took several months to finalize."

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have longstanding ties

Saudi Arabia has long been linked to Pakistan's nuclear program. Retired Pakistani Brig. Gen. Feroz Hassan Khan has said Saudi Arabia provided "generous financial support to Pakistan that enabled the nuclear program to continue, especially when the country was under sanctions." Pakistan faced U.S. sanctions for years over its pursuit of the bomb, and saw new ones imposed over its ballistic missile work at the end of the Biden administration.

Pakistan developed its nuclear weapons program to counter India's atomic bombs. The two neighbors have fought multiple wars against each other, and again came close to open warfare after an attack on tourists in April in Indian-controlled Kashmir. India is believed to have an estimated 172 nuclear warheads, while Pakistan has 170, according to the U.S.-published Bulletin of Atomic Scientists. *Source: AP*

Blasts kill at least 11 in southwestern Pak

Separate blasts in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province killed at least 11 people, officials said on September 19.

Militancy has been rising in mineral-rich Balochistan, which sits on the border with Afghanistan and Iran, and it has been met with a sweeping counter-terrorism crackdown.

A suicide bomber drove an explosive-laden car into a convoy of paramilitary soldiers in Dasht, on Pakistan's southwestern tip near Iran, on Sept 18.

Two local government officials told AFP that three troops were among five people killed. The attack was claimed by separatist group the Baloch Liberation Army.

Another blast near an Afghan border crossing in the province killed six labourers on Thursday night, local government official Imtiaz Ali Baloch told AFP. Separatists have been fighting a decade-long insurgency against the Pakistan military with the aim of ending discrimination against the Baloch people.

Nepal interim PM Sushila Karki vows to fix 'failure' that led to deadly Gen Z protests

KATHMANDU (TIP)

Nepal's interim prime minister pledged on Friday, Sept 19, to fight corruption, create jobs and raise living standards in her first public comments since coming to office after youth-led protests toppled the government.

Sushila Karki said the protests — that left at least 72 people dead and forced her predecessor K.P. Sharma Oli to quit — had been triggered by frustration over growing corruption and other failings.

Authorities have said more than 2,100 people were injured in the unrest that raged for two days last week. Arson and vandalism caused extensive damage to private and public property, including the complex housing the prime minister's office, the Supreme Court and the parliament.

"We must accept the fact that the protests took place because of the failure to fulfil the spirit and objectives of providing good governance and



prosperity enshrined in the constitution," Karki said.

She spoke on Nepal's national day, marking the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of the constitution.

The former Supreme Court chief justice was appointed to the post last week following talks between representatives of the protesters, the president and the army chief.

Karki — the first woman to lead Nepal — was tasked with holding parliamentary elections on March 5.

She said the government was committed to creating employment, raising the quality of life and increasing transparency in its work.

Losses from the damage could reach \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion, Kulman Ghising, minister for energy, physical infrastructure, transport and urban development, said.

Ghising visited some public buildings set ablaze in the capital Kathmandu and appealed to Nepalis at home and abroad to contribute to the reconstruction.

A Supreme Court official said some hearings were taking place in tents as most court structures, documents and IT systems were destroyed during the unrest.

Police spokesperson Binod Ghimire said officers had received more than 30,000 emails after asking the public to send in videos, photographs and other documents to help them investigate the violence.



Nartan Rang Dance Academy

Presents

Navratri Celebration

LIVE with

RITESH RATHOD

MEDLEY ENTERTAINMENT



Friday, September 26th, 2025

VENUE

Levittown Hall
201 Levittown Pkwy, Hicksville, NY 11801

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Donation \$20

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
SWATI VAISHNAV
516 - 395 - 1209

MEDIA PARTNERS

The South Asian Times

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

SPONSORED BY



Chandrakant Shah, Renuka Shah

Shardiya Navratri: The auspicious nine nights of devotion, culture and celebration

In the vast panorama of India's cultural and spiritual heritage, few festivals capture the imagination and devotion of millions as profoundly as Navratri. Among its four seasonal variants, Shardiya Navratri, observed in the lunar month of Ashwin (September-October), is regarded as the most significant. This festival, extending across nine nights and ten days, is dedicated to the worship of the nine forms of Goddess Durga - collectively known as Navadurga.

More than just a religious observance, Shardiya Navratri is a multifaceted celebration of Shakti (divine feminine energy), embodying themes of victory over evil, seasonal transition, spiritual renewal, and cultural expression. From the Durga Puja pandals of Bengal and Garba nights of Gujarat to the Ram Lila enactments of North India and Golu doll displays of South India, Navratri has become a festival that transcends boundaries and unites India in devotion, art, and festivity.

Mythological Foundations of Navratri

The stories behind Navratri are drawn from Hindu mythology, primarily from the Devi Mahatmya (part of the Markandeya Purana), Devi Bhagavata Purana, and epics like the Ramayana.

The Battle of Durga and Mahishasura

The most well-known legend narrates the creation of Goddess Durga to destroy Mahishasura, a demon blessed with near invincibility against men. Empowered by his boon, Mahishasura wreaked havoc in heaven and on earth. Unable to control him, the gods combined their divine energies to create Durga, a radiant warrior goddess adorned with celestial weapons.

Durga fought Mahishasura for nine days and nights, defeating his various forms - buffalo, lion, elephant, and human.

On the tenth day (Vijaya Dashami), she slew him, symbolizing the eternal truth that good always triumphs over evil.

This legend underpins the very essence of Navratri, making it a festival of victory, resilience, and divine protection.

Lord Rama's Worship of Durga

In another significant tradition, narrated in the Ramayana, Lord Rama performed Durga Puja during Navratri before waging war against Ravana. Rama invoked Goddess Durga through intense worship to gain strength and blessings. This practice, called Akal Bodhan (untimely invocation), gave rise to Durga Puja traditions in Bengal and Eastern India. Rama's victory over Ravana is celebrated on the tenth day as Dussehra, coinciding with the goddess's victory over Mahishasura.



Other Scriptural References

- In the Devi Bhagavata Purana, Navratri is described as a sacred time for meditation, penance, and invoking Shakti for both worldly and spiritual gains.
- The Kalika Purana mentions

Navratri as a period when Goddess Kali and Durga protect devotees from evil forces.

- The Skanda Purana emphasizes observing Navratri fasts as a means of attaining purification and divine blessings.

The Nine Forms of Goddess Durga

Each day of Shardiya Navratri is devoted to one of the nine manifestations of the Goddess. Collectively, these forms represent the complete cycle of creation, preservation, and destruction, along with nurturing and bestowing blessings.

- Day 1 - Shailputri (Daughter of the Himalayas): Embodiment of strength and stability; rides a bull and carries a trident and lotus.
- Day 2 - Brahmacharini: Symbol of austerity, devotion, and wisdom; depicted with a rosary and water pot.
- Day 3 - Chandraghanta: Known for her third eye and crescent moon on her forehead; represents courage and bravery.
- Day 4 - Kushmanda: Believed to have created the universe with her divine smile; carries a pot of nectar.
- Day 5 - Skandamata: Mother of Lord Kartikeya (Skanda); seated on a lion with her child in her lap, symbolizing motherly love.
- Day 6 - Katyayani: Born to sage Katyayana; a fierce warrior goddess with four hands, vanquisher of demons.
- Day 7 - Kalaratri: Fierce, dark-complexioned goddess; destroys ignorance and removes fear of darkness.
- Day 8 - Mahagauri: Symbol of purity, serenity, and forgiveness; depicted with a white complexion.
- Day 9 - Siddhidatri: Bestower of siddhis (supernatural powers); worshipped by gods, sages, and devotees alike.

Each form signifies a stage in spiritual growth - from strength and discipline to fearlessness and ultimate liberation.

Rituals and Observances

- Ghatsthapana (Kalash Sthapana)
The festival begins with Ghatsthapana, symbolizing the invocation of the Goddess. A Kalash (pot) filled with water, mango leaves, and a coconut is placed on a bed of barley seeds. Over nine days, the sprouting grains signify fertility, prosperity, and renewal.

Daily Puja and Fasting

- Devotees observe fasts (either all nine days or on specific days like Ashtami and Navami).
- Foods consumed are typically satvik - devoid of onion, garlic, grains, and certain spices. Buckwheat, water chestnut flour, milk, fruits, and potatoes are common.
- Lamps are lit, prayers are chanted, and offerings of flowers, fruits, and

sweets are made to the Goddess.

Kanya Puja

On Ashtami or Navami, nine young girls (Kanyas), representing the nine forms of Durga, are worshipped. They are offered food (traditionally puri, chana, and halwa) and gifts. This ritual emphasizes reverence for the feminine principle.

Vijaya Dashami (Dussehra)

The festival culminates on the tenth day, celebrated as Vijaya Dashami or Dussehra. Effigies of Ravana, Meghnath, and Kumbhakarna are burnt across India, symbolizing the destruction of evil. In Bengal, Durga idols are immersed in rivers or seas in the ritual of Visarjan, bidding farewell to the Goddess as she returns to her heavenly abode.

Symbolism of Shardiya Navratri

Nine Nights: Symbolize the cosmic cycle of creation, preservation, and destruction, as well as the inner spiritual journey of a devotee.

Colors of Navratri: Each day is associated with a specific color (like red, yellow, blue, white, etc.), reflecting the qualities of the goddess worshipped that day. Devotees often wear clothing in these colors.

Seasonal Transition: Navratri coincides with the autumn equinox and changing agricultural cycles, signifying balance in nature.

Spiritual Cleansing: Fasting is not only an act of devotion but also aids in detoxifying the body as seasons shift.

Regional Celebrations

North India

- **Ram Lila Performances:** The life story of Lord Rama is dramatized through Ram Lila plays, culminating in the burning of Ravana effigies.
- **Dussehra of Varanasi, Delhi, and Ayodhya:** Known for grandeur, fireworks, and massive crowds.

West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Bihar

- Celebrated as Durga Puja, with artistic pandals, elaborate idols, and cultural programs.
- Kolkata's Durga Puja, recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage (2021), is globally renowned.
- Rituals like Sindoor Khela (vermilion smearing) mark the conclusion.

Gujarat and Maharashtra

- Known for Garba and Dandiya Raas - vibrant dances performed in circles around a symbolic pot (Garbo) representing the Goddess.
- Maharashtra blends traditional Ghat Sthapana with social gatherings and cultural programs.

South India

- Families arrange Golu (Kolu) doll displays, depicting mythological scenes, stories, and cultural tableaux.
- In Karnataka, the Mysore Dasara



is celebrated with grand processions led by decorated elephants carrying the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari.

Himachal Pradesh

- The Kullu Dussehra begins on Vijaya Dashami and lasts for seven days. Local deities are paraded in vibrant processions, showcasing Himachali traditions.

Spiritual Dimensions

- **Philosophical Meaning:** Navratri represents the journey from ignorance to knowledge, darkness to light, and bondage to liberation.
- **Devi Mahatmya Recitations:** The chanting of verses from scriptures emphasizes the protective and nurturing aspects of the Goddess.
- **Meditative Practices:** Yogis and devotees use this time for meditation, mantra chanting, and invoking inner Shakti.

Contemporary Significance

- In modern times, Shardiya Navratri has taken on new layers of meaning:
- **Cultural Festivals:** Garba nights and Durga Puja pandals have become hubs of social and artistic expression.
- **Women Empowerment:** The festival is increasingly seen as a celebration of feminine strength and equality.
- **Global Reach:** Indian diaspora communities celebrate Navratri in countries like the USA, UK, Canada, and Singapore, spreading cultural awareness.
- **Eco-Friendly Movements:** Growing emphasis on using biodegradable materials for idols and decorations to reduce environmental impact.

The Eternal Message of Navratri



Shardiya Navratri is not merely nine days of ritual observance - it is a spiritual journey, cultural celebration, and social unifier. It reminds humanity of the eternal truth: light always triumphs over darkness, virtue conquers vice, and divine feminine power sustains the cosmos. As devotees bow before the

Goddess, dance in circles of Garba, or immerse Durga idols with chants of "Durga Mai Ki Jai," they reaffirm faith in resilience, renewal, and righteousness. In its many forms - religious, cultural, philosophical, and ecological - Navratri continues to inspire, uplift, and unite people across centuries and continents.

Durga Puja: Grand festival of divine mother



Durga Puja, the biggest and most vibrant festival of Bengal and one of the grandest celebrations in India, is much more than just a religious occasion. It is a confluence of devotion, art, culture, heritage, and community spirit, bringing millions together across India and the world.

The festival celebrates Goddess Durga's victory over Mahishasura, the buffalo demon, and symbolizes the eternal triumph of good over evil. While its religious essence is rooted in the Devi Mahatmya and Puranic traditions, Durga Puja has evolved into a global cultural phenomenon that bridges spirituality with creativity.

Mythological Origins

The story of Durga Puja is woven into the narrative of the Devi Mahatmya (Chandi Path), part of the Markandeya Purana. According to legend, the demon king Mahishasura obtained a boon that no man or god could kill him. Empowered by this boon, he unleashed terror on earth and heaven.

Unable to subdue him, the gods combined their divine energies (shakti) to create a supremely powerful goddess-Durga. She was armed with weapons gifted by the gods: the trident of Shiva, sudarshana chakra of Vishnu, thunderbolt of Indra, conch of Varuna, and many more. Riding a lion, Durga fought Mahishasura for nine nights and finally vanquished him on the tenth day, known as Vijayadashami.

Thus, the festival celebrates the goddess as a warrior, protector, and mother, and as the embodiment of supreme feminine power (Shakti).

Historical Evolution of Durga Puja

- Ancient Roots - References to the worship of Devi are found in texts like Kalika Purana and Durgotsav Vivaran (around 16th century).
- Medieval Bengal - During the late medieval period, especially under the patronage of wealthy landlords (zamindars), Durga Puja became a public and community celebration. The barowari puja tradition



(organized by twelve families) later evolved into sarbojanin puja (for all people).

- Colonial Period - By the 18th-19th centuries, Durga Puja was celebrated with grandeur in Bengal's aristocratic households. The famous Sovabazar Rajbari Puja in Kolkata was even attended by British officials.
- Modern Era - Today, Durga Puja is a mega-festival of creativity and inclusiveness, marked by themed pandals, global participation, and recognition by UNESCO (2021).

The Ritual Calendar of Durga Puja

The festival is generally celebrated over five main days, but preparations begin a week earlier.

Mahalaya

- Marks the beginning of the festival.
- Early morning recitations of

Chandi Path and the iconic "Mahishasura Mardini" on radio (immortalized by Birendra Krishna Bhadra in Bengal).

- Belief: Goddess Durga descends from Mount Kailash with her children.

Sashthi (Sixth Day)

- The idol of the goddess is unveiled (bodhon).
- The goddess is welcomed into the pandals with rituals.

Saptami (Seventh Day)

- Begins with Nabapatrika Snan (ritual bathing of nine plants symbolizing Durga's forms).
- The day's puja marks the goddess as the destroyer of evil.

Ashtami (Eighth Day)

- The most important day of worship.



- Devotees offer flowers (pushpanjali) while chanting mantras.
- Kumari Puja (worship of a young girl as living Durga) is performed in some places.
- The grand Sandhi Puja is performed at the twilight junction of Ashtami and Navami, marking the exact moment when Durga killed Mahishasura.

Navami (Ninth Day)

- Rituals highlight the power of Durga in her victorious form.
- The day ends with preparations for bidding farewell to the goddess.
- Vijayadashami (Tenth Day)

The day of victory.

- The goddess is bid farewell with much emotion.
- Sindoor Khela takes place on this day.
- Sindoor Khela: Ritual, Symbolism, and Modern Perspectives
- One of the most iconic rituals of Durga Puja is Sindoor Khela (literally "vermillion play"), performed on Vijayadashami, just before the immersion (visarjan) of the goddess's idol.

The Ritual

- Married women first offer vermillion (sindoor) to the goddess, applying it on Durga's forehead and feet.
- Afterwards, they smear sindoor on each other's foreheads, cheeks, and hair partings (sindoor daan), wishing long life and prosperity for their husbands.
- The ritual ends with sweets and embraces, amidst festive music and dance.

The Symbolism

- Sindoor, a traditional mark of marriage in Hinduism, symbolizes marital bliss, fertility, and power.
- By applying sindoor to Durga, women identify themselves with the goddess, invoking her blessings.
- It represents sisterhood, shared joy, and communal harmony.

Modern Perspectives

- Traditionally restricted to married women, the ritual has seen debates in recent years.
- Many argue that it excludes widows, unmarried women, and LGBTQ+ individuals.
- Some modern pujas, especially in Kolkata, have made Sindoor Khela more inclusive, allowing women of all backgrounds to participate.
- Thus, it reflects how cultural traditions adapt to contemporary values of equality and inclusiveness.

Cultural Grandeur of Durga Puja

Durga Puja is not just about rituals but also about celebration in multiple dimensions:

Pandal Art

Kolkata is famous for themed pandals-replicas of temples, palaces, historical



monuments, or abstract artistic creations.

Pandals reflect social messages-on environmentalism, education, women's empowerment, or cultural heritage.

Idols

Idols of Durga are crafted with incredible artistry, often depicting the goddess in varied forms-from traditional clay figures to experimental modern art.

Kumartuli in Kolkata is world-famous for idol-making.

Dhak and Dhunuchi Naach

- The beating of the dhak (drum) sets the festival's rhythm.
- Devotees perform dhunuchi dance with incense burners, swaying to the beats in ecstatic devotion.

Food Culture

- Bhog (sacred food offering) usually includes khichuri, labra (mixed vegetable), chutney, payesh (rice pudding), and sweets.
- Street food stalls offer rolls, biryani, fish fry, momos, and sweets, making Puja a gourmet's paradise.

Community Spirit

- Durga Puja transcends religious boundaries-people from all communities join the celebrations.
- Cultural programs like plays, poetry recitals, Rabindra Sangeet, and folk performances add richness to the atmosphere.

Global and Economic Impact

- Worldwide Celebrations - From New Jersey to London, Singapore to Melbourne, Bengali diaspora communities celebrate Durga Puja, making it a global event.
- Economic Boost - In Kolkata alone,



Durga Puja generates thousands of crores of rupees through pandals, tourism, decorations, food, and retail. It is a major driver of the local economy.

UNESCO Recognition

In December 2021, "Durga Puja in Kolkata" was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. UNESCO described it as a "confluence of art, spirituality, and community involvement", acknowledging the festival's global cultural significance.

Symbolism and Philosophy

- Victory of Good over Evil - The slaying of Mahishasura is a reminder of eternal truth: evil may rise, but it will be destroyed by righteousness.
- Shakti as Feminine Power - Durga

Puja celebrates the goddess as the supreme energy, empowering women and symbolizing resilience.

- Cycle of Creation and Dissolution - Idol immersion represents the philosophy of impermanence, reminding us that life is cyclical.

Durga Puja is not merely a religious festival-it is a season of joy, devotion, creativity, and togetherness. From the chants of Chandi Path on Mahalaya to the emotional farewell on Vijayadashami, from the rhythm of the dhak to the color of Sindoor Khela, every moment resonates with deep cultural meaning.

For Bengalis, Durga Puja is more than a celebration-it is an emotion, a homecoming of the goddess, and a celebration of life itself. With its recognition by UNESCO and its global presence, Durga Puja has become not just Bengal's pride, but the world's cultural heritage.

Make nourishing hair pack at home for shiny locks

Healthy, strong, and glossy hair is not only a sign of beauty but also of good self-care. While the market is full of chemical-based products that promise instant results, they often strip the hair of its natural oils in the long run. The good news is that you can create nourishing hair packs right at home with simple kitchen ingredients. These DIY packs are cost-effective, chemical-free, and packed with natural nutrients that rejuvenate your scalp and strengthen your hair.

Why Choose Homemade Hair Packs

- Natural Ingredients - Free from harsh chemicals, parabens, and sulfates.
- Affordable - Uses easily available items from your kitchen or pantry.
- Customizable - Can be tailored for dry, oily, or damaged hair.
- Rich in Nutrients - Packed with proteins, vitamins, and minerals.

Banana and Honey Pack for Dry Hair

- 1 ripe banana
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

Method

- Mash the banana into a smooth paste, mix in honey and olive oil, and apply to hair from roots to tips. Leave for 30 minutes before rinsing with mild shampoo.

Benefits

- Banana moisturizes and softens.
- Honey locks in hydration.
- Olive oil repairs split ends.

Yogurt and Fenugreek Pack for Dandruff

- ½ cup plain yogurt
- 2 tablespoons fenugreek seeds (soaked overnight and ground)



Method

Mix yogurt with fenugreek paste and apply to the scalp. Leave for 30-40 minutes before washing with lukewarm water.

Benefits

- Yogurt cools the scalp and reduces flakiness.
- Fenugreek fights dandruff and itchiness.

Aloe Vera and Coconut Oil Pack for Hair Growth

- 3 tablespoons fresh aloe vera gel
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil

Method

Blend aloe vera gel with coconut oil and apply thoroughly to scalp and hair. Massage gently and leave for 1 hour before shampooing.

Benefits:

- Aloe vera soothes scalp irritation and promotes growth.
- Coconut oil penetrates the hair shaft, reducing protein loss.

FOOD CORNER

Paneer chaman

Ingredients

500 gm paneer, 40 gm crushed coriander leaves, 40 gm garlic paste, 2 de seeded green chilli, 1 teaspoon thymol seeds, 3 clove, 1 teaspoon, turmeric, 150 gm fresh cream, 40 gm crushed to paste mint leaves, 30 gm ginger paste, 150 gm sliced onion, 50 gm ghee, 1/2 cup beaten yoghurt (curd)

Method

- Heat ghee in a deep-bottomed pan. Deep fry the paneer pieces and keep aside. They should be lightly golden in color and not completely browned. In the remaining ghee, add ajwain (thymol seeds), clove and allow them to splutter. Now add onions and cook on low flame till the oil separates. Add turmeric, coriander, salt and green chillies at this point.
- You can always adjust the amount of green chillies depending on whether you like to have your food spicy or mild. Now, when the onions are almost cooked, add ginger-garlic paste, mint and cook for 2-3 minutes more. Once the raw smell of the spices disappear, add beaten curd.
- But it is very important to keep the flame low or the curd will curdle. Once the curd is partially absorbed, add the paneer and cream. Mix well and garnish with coriander leaves/mint leaves or kasoori methi.
- The gravy should neither be too thick nor too thin, so you can accordingly adjust the amount of water. In fact you can even use some milk to make the gravy richer. Serve hot.



From sweat to sweet: Remedies to eliminate armpit odor



Body odor, particularly from the armpits, is a common but often embarrassing issue. While sweating is a natural cooling mechanism of the body, unpleasant odor arises when sweat interacts with bacteria on the skin. Factors such as diet, hygiene, stress, and even underlying health conditions can worsen the problem. The good news is that smelly armpits can be managed and even eliminated with the right care and hygiene practices.

Anti-bacteria body wash

It's the bacteria that smells and not the perspiration. Look for body washes with Benzoyl Peroxide, which can help to reduce bacteria and prevent the body odour.

Apple cider vinegar

You can also apply some apple cider vinegar to fight off the bacteria. It will help to reduce the odour by balancing the pH level of the skin. Don't worry about the smell of apple cider vinegar, as it fades out when dry. Avoid this hack on days you have recently shaved or waxed.

Always dry before applying anything

Not drying properly before applying antiperspirant or deodorant can also trigger the bad odour. Make sure you dry yourself properly before applying the stick.

Try a different brand

A lot of times, a specific deodorant or antiperspirant doesn't blend with our skin. If you feel that your stick or spray is not making the cut, then you must change your brand or product.

Sometimes the chemistry of your skin and fragrance doesn't work and makes you smell bad instead.

Hand sanitizer

If you don't have an antiperspirant or deodorant handy, you can use a hand sanitizer for a quick hack. This germ-fighting solution can help to tame bad odour. However, if you have recently shaved or waxed, you should avoid this hack as it can burn.

Apply antiperspirant at night

The antiperspirant stick is applied under the arms to reduce sweating. Applying this stick at night, makes it even more effective. As we are less active at night, this gives the product more time to work.

Autism is not a scare story: Here's what parents need to know

Over the past couple of months, headlines have warned expectant parents that something as ordinary as a pain reliever or an antidepressant taken during pregnancy could “cause autism.”

The stories have focused on acetaminophen (also known as paracetamol or the brand name Tylenol) and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), such as Prozac (fluoxetine) and Zoloft (sertraline).

But here is what the headlines leave out: acetaminophen is commonly used during pregnancy to manage fever, pain or stress, all of which can themselves affect fetal development. Similarly, SSRIs are prescribed for depression or anxiety, conditions that also influence pregnancy outcomes. In many cases, it may well be the illness, not the treatment, that shapes child development.

Both classes of medications have been studied extensively for decades. Yet despite what the headlines suggest, the evidence that acetaminophen or SSRIs cause autism is weak, inconsistent and easily misinterpreted.

With a background in genetics and clinical teratology — the scientific study of birth defects — a researcher's study examines how maternal exposures in pregnancy interact with genetic and environmental factors to influence child development.

From this perspective, he wants to explain why the research on acetaminophen and SSRIs is often misunderstood, and why reducing complex science to alarming headlines does more harm than good.

With the recent US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) panel on SSRIs in pregnancy, and the public claims made by United States Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. regarding acetaminophen and autism, there is a need for evidence-based information. While the expert's focus will be on autism, the same issues apply to media coverage linking pregnancy exposures to attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Association is not causation

Much of the research behind these headlines is observational. Such studies can spot associations but cannot prove cause and effect. The associations they identify are usually small to modest, and other factors are often responsible.

Confounding is a good example. Pregnant women may take acetaminophen because they have a fever, but fever itself has been linked to higher risks of neurodevelopmental outcomes such as neural tube defects. Similarly, someone prescribed SSRIs may be experiencing depression or anxiety, which on their own are associated with differences in pregnancy outcomes and child development. Here, the medication may appear to be the cause, when in reality it is the condition being treated.

Another problem is misclassification. Most studies rely on mothers recalling how often they used acetaminophen during pregnancy.

Memory is imperfect: some under-report, others over-report and details about dose or timing are often missing. With SSRIs, misclassification can arise when prescriptions are used as a proxy for exposure. A woman may fill a prescription in early pregnancy but stop taking the medication later, while records still count her as continuously exposed. Both scenarios distort results.

Even the outcomes themselves are not always measured consistently. Diagnoses like autism spectrum disorder vary across countries and over time. Some studies use parental questionnaires instead of medical diagnoses, which can be subjective. Two children with the same traits might be classified differently depending on who reports them.



When researchers adjust for these kinds of factors, the apparent risks often shrink or even disappear.

Understanding autism

Autism is not caused by a single medication or choice. It is a complex neurodevelopmental difference with a strong genetic basis. Heritability estimates are around 70–80 per cent, meaning much of the variation in risk is tied to parental traits and shared family environments.

Autism also clearly runs in families: siblings of autistic individuals are 10 to 20 times more likely to be diagnosed, and many parents or relatives show autistic traits even without formal diagnoses. This familial pattern reinforces that genetics and shared environment play a major role.

Sibling studies add weight by comparing siblings where one was exposed to a medication in pregnancy, and the other was not. If the medication were truly causing autism, clear differences would appear. But often they shrink or disappear, pointing instead to shared genetics and environment.

Of course, environmental factors can still play a role. But to suggest that a common medication like acetaminophen “causes” autism oversimplifies the picture and risks stigmatising families, while fuelling guilt among mothers who already face intense scrutiny during pregnancy.

Communicating risk responsibly

One of the greatest challenges is not the research itself, but how its results are communicated.

Studies often report risks using relative measures. For example, a study might report that acetaminophen use is associated with a 30 per cent increase in autism risk. That sounds alarming. But in absolute terms, the difference is much smaller.

Autism affects about three in every 100 children. Even taking the highest reported increase in studies — a 30 per cent relative rise — that number only goes up to about four in 100. In other words, instead of 97 children without autism, you'd have 96. So while the increase is real, the absolute change in risk remains small.

Therefore, balanced communication matters. When parents hear only the alarming side, some may stop taking needed medications abruptly, which can be dangerous. Others may endure untreated illness out of fear. Clinicians and researchers should emphasize absolute risks, acknowledge limits, and aim to inform, not frighten.

The lesson isn't that acetaminophen or SSRIs are risk-free. No medication is. But decades of research show that, when clinically indicated, they are generally safe in pregnancy. The risks of untreated illness are often greater.

Autism is a condition caused by many factors, including genetics, not something to blame on common medications — or mothers.



How gut is the overlooked piece in the heart health story

For decades, high blood pressure has been explained mainly through salt intake, obesity, stress, and family history. While these remain important, emerging research highlights another key player—our gut. The trillions of microbes in the digestive tract are not passive residents; they actively influence blood vessel function, kidney activity, and inflammation, all of which directly affect blood pressure.

India Today spoke with Dr. Hardik Ahuja, Consultant, Gastroenterologist, Kailash Hospital, who explained why gut health is an often-overlooked piece of the heart health puzzle.

“What was once a curiosity has now become a convincing scientific story,” says Dr. Ahuja. “Studies show that an altered gut microbiome is consistently linked to higher blood pressure, and animal experiments confirm that changing the microbiome can directly raise or lower blood pressure.”

Certain gut-derived molecules actually support heart wellness. “Short-chain fatty acids, produced when fibre is broken down in the colon, help relax blood vessels, regulate immunity, and support kidney function,” explains Dr. Ahuja. “But others, like trimethylamine (TMAO), can stiffen arteries, fuel inflammation, and worsen salt retention.”

WHEN BALANCE TIPS THE WRONG WAY

A disturbed microbial balance, which doctors call dysbiosis, can have harmful effects. “When we lose fibre-fermenting bacteria, the body produces fewer protective fatty acids,” Dr. Ahuja says. “At the same time, TMA-producing species increase, pushing up TMAO levels and raising the risk of arterial stiffness and clotting. A leaky gut barrier also lets bacterial toxins seep into the bloodstream, fuelling chronic inflammation.”

Over time, this can make blood pressure harder to control and heighten the risk of heart failure, stroke, or kidney disease.

PAGE SPONSORED BY

DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

GITANJLI ANAND
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com

YouTube rolls out biggest Live update yet with new streaming tools and AI-powered highlights

YouTube is taking things one step further with live streaming. On Tuesday at the Made on YouTube event, the streaming platform announced a host of new changes, making it easier for creators to go live, while also adding more convenience for viewers. The first addition is a new practice feature for creators.

Before going live, a creator can rehearse their stream. This will allow creators to check their setup without facing issues once the stream goes live, creating a seamless experience for viewers.

The YouTube Playables feature is also getting an update. Playables on Live brought some lightweight games to the platform for a creator to play while streaming. YouTube claims that the feature now has over 75 games. A stream with Playables works like any other YouTube livestream, with the same monetization tools and live chat.

So far, YouTube Live has given more prominence to horizontal stream layouts. This is convenient for creators who are streaming while playing games on a PC, or for an audience watching it on desktop or TV. However, the vertical viewing format has gained much more popularity in recent years, particularly with YouTube Shorts.

YouTube will now broadcast a live stream in two viewing layouts simultaneously. Viewers will be able to view on the layout of their choice, with a unified chat ensuring that the creator does not miss a message. Thus, a creator will no longer need to worry about the layout in which they go live.

Another addition is react live. Creators can now react to a livestream in real-time on the platform. This can be particularly useful for live reactions for a launch event. Creators can also live react to another creator who is live.

Windows 10 is ending soon and Microsoft is putting millions of users at risk, consumer watchdog says

Millions of Windows 10 users are facing an uncertain future as Microsoft prepares to end free security updates on October 14, 2025. Consumer Reports has addressed a letter to Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, urging the company to reverse its decision and continue providing free support for Windows 10 machines. The organisation argues that ending support will risk the security of countless users with devices unable to upgrade to Windows 11, drawing criticism over both the timing and the cost of extended coverage options now being offered by Microsoft.

According to Consumer Reports, the end of support could leave a significant proportion of global PC users exposed to cyber threats. The organisation's appeal follows data indicating that roughly 46.2 per cent of people worldwide were still using Windows 10 as of August 2025. Many of these devices cannot be upgraded to Windows 11, largely due to missing hardware requirements. This widespread incompatibility is at the centre of Consumer Reports' concerns, as it questions how Microsoft caters to its existing customer base.

Microsoft's hypocritical approach

Consumer Reports has described Microsoft's approach as "hypocritical" in urging customers to upgrade for cybersecurity, yet leaving Windows 10 devices vulnerable. The letter also draws attention to the \$30 fee Microsoft is charging for "a mere one-year extension to preserve their machine's security." The organisation has further criticised the company's free support options, contending that these require users to utilise Microsoft products, allowing the company to "eke out a bit of market share over competitors."

A key point in the letter highlights the potential for millions to be adversely affected. Consumer Reports warns that ending free support will "strand millions of consumers" who have computers incompatible with Windows 11. This sentiment is echoed by public advocacy groups, who argue that the move could have broad environmental and social implications.

In support of Consumer Reports, the Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) has petitioned for an extended



support deadline. PIRG estimates that "as many as 400 million perfectly good computers that can't upgrade to Windows 11 will be thrown out." This raises concerns about unnecessary electronic waste and the practical impact on users reliant on older hardware that remains functional.

Hurdles in switching to Windows 11

At the centre of the debate is the balance between cybersecurity and accessibility. While Microsoft maintains that moving to Windows 11 is the safest option, the hardware barriers for upgrading remain substantial for many. Consumer Reports contends that Microsoft's current strategy fails to adequately address the needs of those without the means or ability to replace their devices.

Consumer Reports' letter draws particular attention to the cost of maintaining security, with the \$30 annual support fee seen as a barrier for some. The organisation is asking Microsoft to provide security support for Windows 10 computers at no additional cost until a larger proportion of users have upgraded.

As the October 14, 2025, deadline approaches, Microsoft has yet to respond publicly to the requests laid out by Consumer Reports and PIRG. The ongoing debate underscores the challenges faced by both industry and consumers as software lifecycles shorten and hardware upgrade requirements become more stringent.

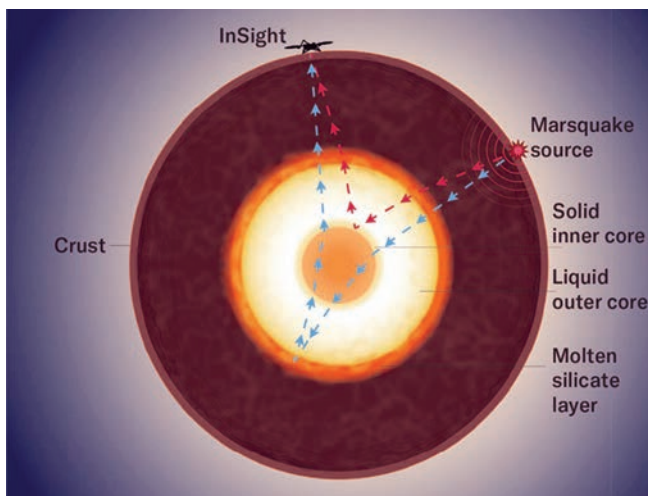
Seismic waves suggest Mars has a solid heart

Mars may have a hardened heart. Marsquake reverberations detected by NASA's InSight lander revealed that the Red Planet probably possesses a solid inner core, researchers report in the Sept. 4 *Nature*. That firm interior, tucked within a liquid outer core, could help researchers better understand Mars' evolutionary history.

From late 2018 to late 2022, InSight sat atop Mars' surface and listened to tremors from more than 1,300 Marsquakes to probe the planet's innards. When seismic waves travel through Mars' interior, they can bounce off or bend at the boundaries of different layers, uncovering clues about what lies deep within.

"We're building a picture of the inside of the planet, but we hadn't yet seen evidence of ... a solid inner core," says seismologist Vedran Lekic of the University of Maryland in College Park, who wasn't involved in the new study. InSight data previously hinted at the presence of a liquid metal core, but researchers remained unsure if it also has a solid component, like Earth's center.

Seismologist Daoyuan Sun of the University of Science and Technology of China in Hefei and colleagues examined 23 low-frequency Marsquakes



whose epicenters — the surface locations at or above the quakes' origins — were about 1,600 to 2,400 kilometers away from the lander.

Some of the Marsquake waves traveled through the planet's core, reflecting off its far side. Tremors travel more quickly through a hard medium than a fluid one,

and the studied waves arrived at InSight around 50 to 200 seconds earlier than they should have if the core was purely liquid. "That gave us some ideas that [there] must be some faster stuff in the very center," possibly something solid, Sun says. Further analysis revealed waves that had ricocheted off a border between an inner core and an outer core, which could be there only if Mars has a solid heart.

Based on various seismic waves' travel speeds and paths, Sun and his colleagues calculated that the inner core's radius is roughly 600 kilometers, about one-fifth of Mars' thickness. Computer simulations considering core density and wave speeds through the planet's heart hint that the mostly iron-and-nickel core might contain the lighter element oxygen within its hard interior, and certain percentages of sulfur, oxygen and carbon are present in the liquid outer region.

"I'm more convinced [by the findings] than I thought I would be," Lekic says. The authors have "clearly detected something cool." Still, he questions whether the specified percentages of elements could realistically exist in the core at temperatures consistent with prior knowledge about Mars' interior.

Adani Group stocks climb after SEBI's clean chit in Hindenburg case

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Adani Group stocks gained between 1 per cent and 9.6 per cent on Friday, a day after markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) dismissed allegations levelled by US short seller Hindenburg Research against Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani and the group's companies, including Adani Enterprises, Adani Ports and Adani Power.

Adani Total Gas led gains among the nine entities with its 10 per cent climb. Adani Enterprises, the flagship firm, rose 4.3 per cent. Adani Power, which climbed 7.4 per cent, was among the top gainers. Adani Ports rose 2 per cent, while Adani Green and Adani Energy Solutions rose nearly 4 per cent each.

In January 2023, Hindenburg Research had alleged the group had used three companies - Adicorp Enterprises, Milestone Tradelinks, and Rehvar Infrastructure - to route money between Adani group firms.

Laying out its conclusions in two orders, SEBI said there were no violations, noting that the transactions took place at a time when such dealings with unrelated parties did not qualify as related party dealings. The definition was changed later.

Noting that all loans were repaid, funds were used for intended purposes, and there was no fraud or unfair trade practice, SEBI dropped all proceedings against the Adani Group.

Gautam Adani said the SEBI findings have reinforced that the short-seller's claims were baseless. He also expressed sympathy with investors who lost money because of the motivated report.

"After an exhaustive investigation, SEBI has reaffirmed what we have always maintained, that the Hindenburg claims were baseless. Transparency and integrity have always defined the Adani



Group. We deeply feel the pain of the investors who lost money because of this fraudulent and motivated report. Those who spread false narratives owe the nation an apology," he posted on X.

Emaar to Form JV with Adani, Not Selling Stake

Dubai-based Emaar Properties has asserted that it will not sell stakes in its Indian entity but the company is considering forming joint venture with big business houses in India including Adani Group.

In a regulatory filing on September 18 at Dubai Financial Market, Emaar Properties said the company "is no longer considering sale of any stake in its Indian entity."

"Alternatively, the company is considering joint venture with other large companies /groups in India, including Adani Group," it added.

Dubai-based Emaar Properties entered the Indian real estate market in 2005 in partnership with India's MGF Development and had invested around

Rs 8,500 crore through the joint venture firm Emaar MGF Land.

In April 2016, Emaar Properties decided to end the joint venture through a demerger process.

Emaar India has a large portfolio of residential and commercial spaces across Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Mohali, Lucknow, Indore and Jaipur.

Adani Group is active in the Indian real estate market through its unlisted entities Adani Realty and Adani Properties.

The group has also bagged redevelopment projects, including Dharavi which is one of Asia's largest slums in Mumbai.

Emaar Properties PJSC is one of the leading real estate companies in the world, with a significant presence in the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia.

The company has a land bank of about 1.7 billion square feet in the UAE and key international markets.

Emaar has delivered over 1,22,000 residential units in Dubai and other global markets since 2002.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal likely to visit Washington soon for trade talks

With the India-US trade talks moving in the right direction, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is expected to visit Washington soon, sources said.

The visit comes in the backdrop of recently concluded daylong discussions here between US Chief Negotiator Brendan Lynch and his Indian counterpart Rajesh Agrawal on the proposed bilateral trade agreement. "The commerce minister's visit is likely soon... may be in the next few days... for the trade talks," sources told PTI. On September 16, the commerce ministry stated that daylong discussions with the visiting US team on a bilateral trade deal were positive, and both sides agreed to push for an early and mutually beneficial conclusion of the agreement.

"It was decided to intensify efforts to achieve early conclusion of a mutually beneficial trade agreement," the ministry said in a statement after a seven-hour meeting with US officials.

The talks were important as the US has imposed a steep 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods.

The visit of the high-ranking US trade officials was first after the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff and an additional 25 per cent penalty on Indian goods entering the American market for buying Russian crude oil.

Nvidia to invest \$5 bn in struggling Intel

Nvidia announced on Thursday it will invest \$5 billion in Intel through a strategic chip partnership that signifies one of Silicon Valley's most strategic power shifts. As per the deal, Nvidia will purchase Intel stock at \$23.28 per share, on a 6.5 per cent discount. The two companies will collaborate on PC and data centre processes with Intel embedding Nvidia's graphics into consumer chips and manufacturing specialised processors for Nvidia's AI systems.

Intel, once the undisputed king of chip-making, has fallen from grace as it is now valued at just under \$100 billion.

Nvidia, meanwhile, holds a market value of \$4 trillion, making it the world's second-most valuable company.

"This historic collaboration tightly couples Nvidia's AI stack with Intel's x86 ecosystem," said Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang, referring to Intel's dependence on Nvidia.

The investment follows recent lifelines including US government backing in the form of buying a 10 per cent stake in Intel and SoftBank's \$2 billion injection as the firm struggles to fund its manufacturing ambitions.

EU seeks faster Russian gas phase-out after Trump push

BRUSSELS (TIP)

The European Union (EU) proposed on Friday (Sep 19) to bring forward by a year a ban on Russian gas imports as part of new sanctions to sap Moscow's war chest and please United States President Donald Trump.

The 19th package of EU sanctions targeting Moscow since the 2022 invasion of Ukraine also seeks to hit firms as well as banks and traders in China, India and other third countries accused of helping Russia circumvent sanctions.

Under the proposal, which needs approval by the bloc's 27 member states, the European Commission aims to phase out liquefied natural gas (LNG) purchases from Russia by January 2027.

"Russia's war economy is sustained by revenues from fossil fuels. We want to cut these revenues," commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said.

"It is time to turn off the tap".

The new sanctions package comes as the US pressures the EU to end fossil fuel imports from Russia - and the bloc seeks in turn to coax Trump to take a tougher stance on Moscow over the Ukraine war.

The US leader has so far held back from upping pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin, but said last week he was ready to do so if allies stopped buying Russian oil and hit China with tariffs.

RUSSIAN OIL IMPORTS SLASHED

The EU has already banned most

Russian oil under previous rounds of sanctions - slashing the share it imports from 29 per cent in early 2021 to two per cent by mid-2025.

Only Hungary and Slovakia, friendly to Moscow and Trump, still buy Russian oil.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Brussels was bringing forward by 12 months a previous pledge to end all imports of LNG from the end of 2027 to the end of 2026.

"Moscow thinks it can keep its war going. We are making sure it pays the price for it," she wrote on X.

Despite a push to end decades of European dependency, Russia still supplied 19 per cent of the EU's gas in 2024 - down from 45 per cent before the war.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - SEP 22 TO SEP 28, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



Aries

ARIES

Ganesha says this week will be great for you from a collective perspective; your confidence and enthusiasm will be at their peak. During this time, your relationships with the people around you will strengthen. There will be clarity in your thoughts, and you will be able to establish better communication. Working together with others will strengthen your relationships. Your participation in social life will increase, and you will enjoy spending time with your loved ones. This week will bring a golden opportunity for you, where you will experience new enthusiasm and love in your personal relationships. There will be harmony and happiness in your relationships, which will also keep your mind happy. If you want to start a new relationship, then this is the perfect time. There will be an atmosphere of love and positivity around you, which will give you new energy from the people around you. Enjoy this week and make your relationships stronger.

TAURUS



Taurus

Ganesha says this week will bring overall positive changes in your life. This week will be full of new hopes and opportunities for you. Your thinking and approach will get a new turn, which will strengthen your personal and social relationships. Your insight and understanding will help you communicate better with others. Moments spent with family and friends will fill your heart with happiness. Do not hesitate to share your thoughts; your message will have a deeper meaning. A cordial atmosphere will be created for you during this time, which will inspire you to express your feelings. Remember, small efforts made by you can bring big results. This week will see an increase in social activities and personal relationships, which will give satisfaction to your soul. Celebrate small joys for your loved ones; this will strengthen your relationships. Overall, this week will mark depth and understanding in your relationships.

GEMINI



Gemini

Ganesha says this week may be full of some challenges. Some unplanned activities may be seen in your social life, which may make the environment around you tense. There may also be some sourness in relationships with friends and family, which may distract your mind. However, this is the time to self-analyze and clarify your thoughts. Try to identify your intentions and

desires this week. You may find some partners and friends who will understand your feelings and support you. Try to find solutions to problems through conversation, as communication will be extremely important during this period. Keep your mind calm and try to move forward with positive energy. If you work with patience and understanding, you will be able to face any challenge. Keep faith in yourself this week and keep trying to bring positive changes in relationships.



Cancer

CANCER

Ganesha says this week is going to be very good. There will be a flow of positive energy in your life, which will make you feel confident and happy. You will establish better relationships with people around you. Time spent with friends and family will make your mind happy. During this time, the feeling of love and affection will flow deeply in your heart. This is the time to spend time with your loved ones, which will strengthen your relationships. You will express your feelings openly, which will increase mutual understanding. Chances are that your ideas and ideals will take creativity to new heights. Your way of expressing yourself will inspire others. This week brings a message of moderation and balance, so channel your emotions in a positive direction. Overall, this week will be great for your overall life. Take this as an opportunity to strengthen your relationships and spread your positivity.

LEO



Leo

Ganesha says this week is overall normal. You may face some challenges in your life, which may affect your mental balance. This is the time when you need to understand your relationships more deeply. People around you, especially close relatives or friends, may experience some difficulties in understanding your feelings. Amidst tension, patience and communication are important for you. If you can express your thoughts and feelings clearly, you may be able to solve problems. Keep in mind that every challenge can be an opportunity. With a positive attitude, you can overcome difficulties and infuse new energy in your relationships. During this time, emphasize mutual understanding and a sense of cooperation. Spend time with your close ones and do not hesitate to share your feelings with them. This is a great time for you to strengthen contacts and relationships.

VIRGO



Virgo

Ganesha says this week will be very good. You will be able to establish strong relationships with people around you. Your sensitivity and understanding will make your relationships stronger. This week is a time to move towards harmony and balance. There will be better

communication and cooperation in your personal relationships, which will increase mutual understanding and love. This is the time to spend time with your loved ones and focus on them. You will be able to spend more time with your friends and family, which will increase your emotional gratitude and satisfaction. Your hard work and efforts will help you face the challenges of this time easily. So, forget the worldly hassles and try to bring depth and dedication to relationships. This week, there will be new energy and enthusiasm in your relationships, which will fill you and your loved ones with happiness. In short, this week will be great and satisfying for your relationships.



Libra

LIBRA

Ganesha says this week will bring mixed results. While the people and relationships around you will support you, some minor problems may also arise. This is the time for self-analysis and understanding relationships. Try to establish communication with your loved ones, so that any kind of misunderstanding or conflict can be avoided. You need to focus on your emotional health; Recognize your inner insights and refine your relationships as needed. High expectations are natural, but remember that balance is important. This week, try to find joy in small moments that can strengthen your relationships. Maintain a positive attitude and keep yourself away from negativity. This is the time to add depth to your relationships, but keep in mind that differences are also possible. Only with honesty and openness can you move forward. All this will help balance your overall experience.



Scorpio

SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week will be a little challenging. There may be tension and confusion in your personal relationships. This week, you will feel the need to control your emotions. Open communication and dialogue are important in relationships so that misunderstandings can be resolved. You have to face problems by keeping yourself positive and finding the right way out of them. There is a depth and intensity within you that you need to display in your relationships at this time. Some relationships are not working out as per your expectations, but patience is needed. This is the time to recognize your inner strengths and channel them in the right direction. Try to find solutions to existing problems. Staying focused this week will help you save your relationships. Adopt a positive attitude and maintain love and compassion in every situation.



Sagittarius

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week is going to be unique and encouraging. There will be a flow of

positive energy in your life, which will make your overall personality even more attractive. During this time, you will experience your inner strength, and this will also make the environment around you light and cheerful. Your thoughts and feelings will be clear and clear, which will add more depth to your relationships. The desire to spend time with friends and family will increase, which will help in building strong relationships with your loved ones. Your empathy and understanding will have a positive impact on the people around you this week, creating an atmosphere of harmony and love. This week will provide you with an opportunity to share your thoughts in dialogues and conversations. In short, this week will mark the beginning of an overall excellent experience for you. Focus and promote positivity in your relationships. This week will bring you happiness and enthusiasm.



Capricorn

CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week the situation is going to be extremely positive and enthusiastic. You will be able to channel your energy in the right direction, which will improve your personal and social relationships. Your confidence will increase, which will help you build better relationships with others. This is the time to spend time with your loved ones and strengthen new relationships. You will be able to make a special place in the hearts of others due to your wisdom and true emotional connection. Family relationships will be strong, and with cooperation, you will be able to solve all the problems. This week, it will be important for you to communicate and share your feelings. Overall, this week will be friendly and cordial for you. You will be happy and experience new energy in relationships. The strength of true relationships will give you a reason to move forward in life. Enjoy this happy state of relationships and spread positivity.



Aquarius

AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week's wonderful experience can be challenging for your social and personal relationships. This time indicates some tension and confusion for you. Differences and misunderstandings may arise in relationships, due to which you may feel mentally tired. However, there will also be an opportunity to learn and become better from this situation. You will need to adopt a positive attitude towards your loved ones. Communicate openly and express your feelings clearly. This difficult time will help you understand your relationships more deeply. Your creativity may be slightly affected at this time, yet try to take it positively. If you want to share your thoughts, find the right way to express your feelings. Try to handle yourself patiently in social

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : SEP 22 TO SEP 28 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

SEPTEMBER 22

Ganesha says you strike the ideal balance between religion and logic. You will spend a lot of time traveling in the coming year. You will be fascinated by both music and literature and listening to music can bring you peace. You love to support those who are oppressed. You will have many possibilities to help those less fortunate in the coming year. The subject of your choice will be available for study, and you will be able to delve deeper into it. As a result of this, you will be successful in your academic subject. You are obsessed with maintaining law and order.

SEPTEMBER 23

Ganesha says your character and an optimistic outlook toward life will enable you to surround yourself with a large number of friends. Proximity to water bodies will benefit you financially in the coming year. Try to get a job in a city or town near a river or sea. Those of you who are single can guess to get married. In the coming year, you will roam among intelligent people. This will benefit you in every way. After your marriage, you will be prosperous.

SEPTEMBER 24

Ganesha says your friends will notice your humility and humility and will

come to you for help and guidance. However, you sometimes get restless and make hasty decisions as a result. It only gets worse as a result. You do not enjoy exercising your authority because you are submissive and meek by nature. However, you also hate people interfering in your matters. You value privacy and like to be alone. Your passion for reading and thirst for information will be your assets in the coming year. You will be able to harness this powerful power of observation so that you will be able to notice small movements around you.

SEPTEMBER 25

Ganesha says you will experience many events in the coming year, but it is best not to overreact to unimportant issues. White, blue, purple, and cream are auspicious colors for you. You are naturally a studious person, and you are happy when you are surrounded by literature. You will be willing to defy tradition and decide what you think is best in matters of love. Those who will get married this year should look forward to a happy and prosperous life in marriage. Your dedication and hard work will be noticed by your managers, and you will be rewarded for your efforts. You are naturally good at teaching. You enjoy doing it professionally and find fulfillment in it.

SEPTEMBER 26

Ganesha says in the coming year, you can expect changes both on the professional and domestic front. Some of you may suffer financial loss by betting. It is advised that you lend money only when you are sure that you will get it back. In the coming year, you will be able to make your own decisions because of your independence. You are serious by nature, and you value some level of solitude in your life. You like to spend time alone working on your projects. The suffering of physically challenged persons is unbearable. You will spend a lot of time in the coming year working as a social worker for hospitals and non-profit organizations.

SEPTEMBER 27

Ganesha says although you tend to have a practical approach and take your obligations seriously, you need to rein in your tendency to act stubborn and jealous at times. Your spouse gives you love and affection, and your children excel and make you proud. If there is a sudden deterioration in the health of an elderly relative, there may be a concern. Be extra careful while driving at night. You have the potential to invest extensively in the coming year not only in speculative industries but also in real estate. Benefit in kind and cash from



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

family and friends.

SEPTEMBER 28

Ganesha says in the coming year, your self-assurance will help you become popular and successful. Family and friends will come to you for guidance and support. The domestic front will be filled with a lot of happiness and love, especially for your children. Colors Like Yellow, Purple, and Green Are Lucky for You. Some of you are likely to inherit property in the coming year, especially from your father's side. Your career will involve a lot of travel in the coming year. You enjoy developing your spiritual abilities and using them to help groups of people.

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at www.bejandaruwala.com
info@bejandaruwala.com | +91 81412 34275

CONTD FROM PAGE 40

situations. This week is also a time of growth, in which you can get a new perspective on understanding your emotions and relationships. Focus your energy on positivity and be cooperative.

PISCES



Ganesha says this week is bringing mixed experiences. During this time, you need to pay attention to your emotions and mental state. The circumstances around you may be a little challenging, due to which you may feel stressed. This is the time when you need to recognize and reveal your inner strength. There may be some normal ups and downs in your relationships. You need to be careful while communicating with your partner or family members. Express your feelings openly; this can improve your situation. Understand the time positively and do not let disappointment dominate you. This week will teach you to face crises. Try to

increase empathy and understanding in your relationships. The positive efforts you make will not only improve

relationships but will also have a positive impact on your mental health. It is important to control your emotions at

this time so that you can cope with different aspects of life.

AUTHOR BIO

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

II SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH II

Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit www.BejanDaruwalla.com

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp **+91 8141234275**
Email: info@bejandaruwalla.com

World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

Sikh History This Week

SEPTEMBER 19 TO SEPTEMBER 25

19th September

1922 Sri Madan Mohan Malvia visited the injured GurSikhs in Guru Ka Bagh incident and organized a huge procession to pay homage to the Shaheeds.

1923 Harbans Singh of Sirhala Khurad arrested.

20th September

1843 Raja Hira Singh Dogra murdered Ajit Singh and Lehna Singh Sandhawalia to avenge his father's death.

1981 Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalae courted arrest at Mehta Chowk.



Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalae offered himself for arrest by police in public presence at Mehta Chowk. Before his arrest, Jarnail Singh addressed the public gathering and appealed for peace. On this occasion, Chowk Mehta had 10,000-strong police force, including members of the Border Security Force. Jarnail Singh's arrest was followed by police harrasment, arson, cane-charges, and even shooting at random. 12 Sikhs (according to some sources, 22 Sikhs) were killed and several others injured. Police fired 800 rounds from 60 guns.

21st September

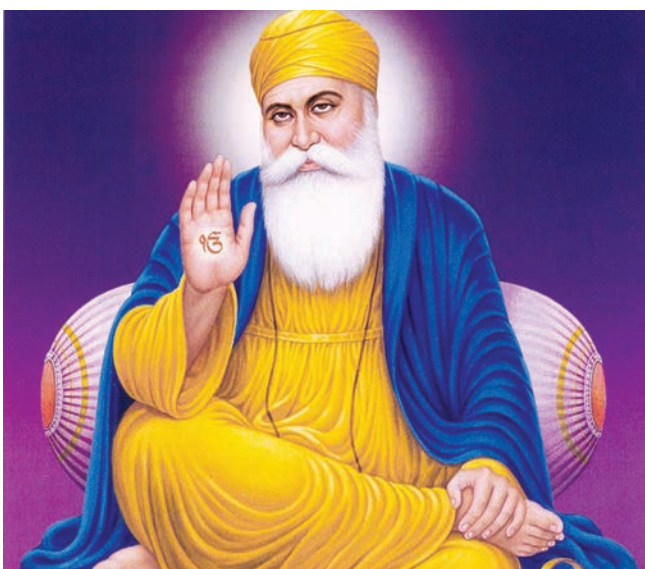
1845 Raja Gulab Singh Dogra got Jawahar Singh killed by Mia Prithi Singh Dogra. Jawahar Singh was brother of Rani Jindan Kaur. Jawahar Singh had become very unpopular. So Rani Jindan had abandoned Jawahar Singh. As a result Jawahar Singh and some of his followers were murdered.

1922 Babbar appeal to Sikhs in British forces to join the Babbar Akali ranks. This appeal was delivered through Babbar Akali Doaba newspaper.

1923 Udham Singh of Jandoo Singha, a member of the SGPC was arrested.

1960 Kaka Inderjeet Singh killed by forcibly dropping him in a well at Karnal.

22nd September



JOTI JOT, Patshahi First, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. First Patshahi, Guru Nanak Dev Ji, left this world for heavenly abode. Today is the actual date of first Patshahi's Joti Joti, though it is observed on a different day by Guru Khalsa Panth. 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

1970 Bhai Sahib Dayal Singh was killed in a car accident.

1981 Indira Gandhi, then prime minister of India, visited Chandigarh. She invited Akali Dal for talks. However, Akali's demanded an unconditional release of Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalae before any talks.

1987 Sant Baba Bhag Singh Ji, a close associate of Sant Baba Sewa Singh Ji passed away.

1989 Singh Sahib, Prof. Manjit Singh assumed the responsibilities of Jathaedar Kesgadh Sahib.

23rd September



1637 Bhai Gurdas, the great Sikh Scholar and Poet, passed away. Bhai Gurdas was one of the true Sikhs, a true saewak, and an example for the Panth. Bhai Gurdas enjoys a prominent place in Sikh history and Sikh faith. His writings (Vara) have been accorded the status of key to Guru Granth Sahib by Guru Arjun Dev Ji. He also enjoyed the pleasure of composing Sri Guru Granth Sahib under the guidance of Guru Arjun Dev Ji. Bhai Gurdas's writings enjoys such a prominent status in Sikh world that no kirtan is considered complete without reciting either one of his writings or those of Bhai Nanad Lal. Despite such prominence, Bhai Gurdas requested Sri Guru Hargobind Ji to disallow the establishment of any place of remembrance for him.

24th September

1494 Baba Sri Chand Ji Maharaj (Udasiyan), the eldest son of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, was born to Matta Sulakhni. He was a "baal brahmchari" and prominent tapasvi. He founded the Udassi sect.

1534 Guru Ramdas Ji enlightened this planet with his prakash. In 1546, at the age of twelve, Bhai Jetha came to Goindwal to visit Guru Amar Das with his village folks and never went back. He requested Guru Amar



Das to accept him as his disciple. Later he became Guru Amar Das's most trustworthy devotee and a sincere and dedicated follower.

1543 PRAKASH UTSAV, Patshahi Fourth, Guru Ram Das Ji.

1809 Maharaja Ranjit Singh conquered Kangra Fort.

1898 Akal Chhalana of Professor Gurmukh Singh, the chief organisers of Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Lahore.

1898 Professor Gurmukh Singh, the chief organisers of Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Lahore, passed away.

1980 Gurcharan Singh Tohra, the SGPC chief, met Indira Gandhi and demanded "Holy City" status for Amritsar.



25th September

1984 The control of Sri Harminder Sahib was returned to Sharomani Gurudwara Prabhandak Committee after the operation Bluestar.

1985 Elections of Punjab Assembly were held. It was a friendly election of Surjit Barnala-Congress conspiracy that made Surjit Singh Barnala the Chief Minister. He was sworn on Sep. 29, 1985.



The role of Shakti in creation

Shakti in Sanskrit means, power or energy. In Hinduism energy belongs to the domain of Prakriti or the female aspect of Creation. Popularly known as the Mother Goddess, Shakti is worshipped in her various manifestations by millions of Hindus.

God is pure and undivided consciousness. You may even say from a perceptual perspective that He is nothingness. In His purest state devoid of qualities He is Nirguna Brahman, that is (nir+guna) devoid of any distinguished features or appearances. Divisions of time and space and the impurities of ego consciousness created by the gunas do not exist in Him. For inexplicable reasons, as He wakes, He sets in motion Prakriti, the universal energy, that was so far latent in Him, and then enters into it. From this union arises ultimately all this reality that we know as the universe. This is something like the modern theory of the origin of the universe. The big bang is actually what sets in motion the latent energy hidden in the cosmic egg (Hiranyagarbha).

All the matter that exists in this universe, that is tangible, sensible, unstable, with in the domains of sensory world and can be transformed from one state to another, is an aspect of Prakriti only. Matter is energy in its grossest form. (The scientific world took thousands of years to arrive at the same conclusion.). The human body and the mind and the various constituents that go into their making are also manifestations or aspects of Prakriti only, but at a higher level.

The energies of the divinities are still higher on the evolutionary scale than the energies in the human beings, while the energies of the Trinity stand probably above the rest. At the highest level is the combined source of their distinguished energies. This is the energy of the Mother Goddess, acting as the Shakti of Isvara. Isvara is the awakened Brahman, Brahman in his dynamic and creative aspect, who provides the field for the play of Shakti. This in brief is the structure and origin of Shakti.

How Shakti manifests things and beings

Now about Her ways of working and how the diversity arises in the manifested universe. According to our beliefs, creation arises out of the union of the Pure Self (Purusha) with matter or energy (Prakriti). Pure Self enters into matter and then awakens the various energies in the matter leading to the formation of a false self called the ego.

This happens over a period of time through the differentiation and combination of the five Mahabhutas (the five gross elements), Panchendriyas (the five sense organs), the karmendriyas (the five organs of action), the tanmantras (the five subtle elements), manas (mind), ahamkara (deluded self) and buddhi (discriminating intelligence).



This is how individual beings come into the world and evolves gradually towards liberation. Before the individual beings are created this way, the same process takes place at macro levels, resulting in the creation of worlds and higher divinities.

Prakriti develops the ego consciousness by this process to make it an important tool in its armory. The ego is driven by the interplay of the three gunas, namely sattva, rajas and tamas, nourished by the activity of the senses and motivated by the force of desires. These things give it a false sense of identity, through the formation of mind and the mind's awareness of the body.

Prakriti, bondage and delusion

Thus the mind and the body become the field in space and time for the ego to distinguish itself from the rest of the creation and act as if it is the real self and as if it is different and separate from the rest of the creation. This is what we call ignorance that leads to the deluded belief that the individual ego is the real self where as in reality it is not. All the while, the Real Self exists inside, having lost itself in its own reflection in the buddhi or higher intelligence, doing practically nothing, but keeping the body, the mind and the false ego alive and breathing by its mere presence.

The delusion of the individual ego leads to the bondage of the self. The bondage of self does not mean that the Soul suffers. The Self is pure consciousness and there is no suffering in it. No one can touch it and no one can punish it. We say it suffers because it is caught in the cycle of births and deaths and cannot go back to its source. It is a suffering for the soul from our point of

view, not for the soul actually. Whether it exists in the heavens or in Timbaktu, for the soul the experience is one and the same. It is eternal, unchanging and pure bliss consciousness.

What actually suffers or believes that it is suffering is the false self or the ego. Suffering however does not prevent the ego from indulging in its desire driven actions unless the suffering becomes too unbearable to force to turn to spiritualism. Normally otherwise, it is so attached to the world that given an opportunity it would not mind to live for thousands of years. But unfortunately this is not possible because of the logistics and the physical limitations.

So at the end of each life, the ego becomes frustrated at the approach of old age and dies against its own wishes. It dies unhappily because it leaves behind a lot of tasks unfinished, dreams unrealized and the fruits of its past actions untasted. Nature too does not seem to like this happening since it would not let the self escape from its clutches and since perpetuation of delusion by all means is its chief design.

So it has worked out a compromise by which each created ego is permitted to come back again to the earth through another rebirth and continue its unfinished work. When a being dies, its ego would not dissolve completely. A small portion of it survives containing its basic tendencies, desires and impulses, which becomes attached to the soul as a kind of program file and after passing through the doors of death, heaven or hell as a subtle body is reborn again. This is in essence the cycle of Prakriti.

At the human level, Prakriti keeps us in delusion through the combination of

elements and through the interplay of the triple gunas. At the higher levels She enacts the same drama by becoming the Shakti of various worlds and divinities. Since these divinities are awakened souls she would not delude them, but become a force in their consciousness to help them in their assigned responsibilities.

Thus in the world of Brahma, She becomes Saraswathi to assist Brahma in his acts of Creation. In the world of Vishnu, She becomes Lakshmi to help him manage the world by providing the required amounts of wealth and resources. In the world of Siva, she becomes a yogini or a siddhi and helps him in his task of destroying our illusions.

At the same time, being divine in origin and nature, she also helps individuals who worship her directly and seek liberation from bondage through her grace. Since she is the cause of illusion the logic is she is in a better position to relieve us from the bondage. Hence the ascendance of Shaktism as time went by.

Is Shakti really female? Shakti is pure energy, neither male nor female. This interpretation is purely human, figurative and relative and should not be taken literally. It is also wrong to believe that Self is male and the energy is female. Purusha exists in males as well as females and so does Prakriti exists in males also. They are like the two sides of the same truth. It is also difficult to say who is superior to whom. Without energy Self is practically immovable and without Self energy does not have any field for its movements. The Truth at the highest level: pure energy (PRAKRITI) is undivided consciousness (PURUSHA).

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Trump signs Executive Order Imposing...

The Trump administration said that the \$1,00,000 fee is aimed at ensuring that the people being brought into the country are "actually very highly skilled" and do not replace American workers.

The move is aimed at protecting American workers while ensuring that companies have a pathway to hire "truly extraordinary people" and bring them to the United States. Companies pay to sponsor H-1B applicants. "We need workers. We need workers. We need great workers, and this pretty much ensures that that's what's going to happen," Mr. Trump said, as he signed the proclamation in the Oval Office in the presence of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

Mr. Lutnick said that historically, the employment-based Green Card programme let in 2,81,000 people a year, and those people earned \$66,000 a year on average and were five times more likely to participate in assistance programs of the government.

"So we were taking in the bottom quartile, below the average American. It was illogical; it was the only country in the world that was taking in the bottom quartile," Mr. Lutnick said.

"We are going to stop doing that. We're going to only take extraordinary people at the very top, instead of those trying to take jobs from Americans. They're going to create businesses and create jobs for Americans. And this programme will raise more than \$100 billion for the treasury of the United States," he added.

Mr. Trump said that the country will use that amount to cut taxes and pay down debt. "We think it's going to be very successful," he said.

Mr. Lutnick added that the fee of \$1,00,000 will be charged annually. The move is going to significantly impact Indian technology workers who are hired by tech companies and others on H-1B visas. The visas are valid for three years and can be renewed for another three years. If a company sponsors an employee for the Green Card, the visas can be renewed till the permanent residency comes through. However, Indians on work visas in the U.S. are caught in a decades-long wait for Green Cards and the new move could have an impact on whether they can continue to stay in the US if their companies decide not to pay the \$1,00,000 fee annually now required to retain the visas.

"So the whole idea is, no more will these big tech companies or other big companies train foreign workers. They have to pay the government \$1,00,000, then they have to pay the employee. So it's just not economic. If you're going to train somebody, you're going to train one of the recent graduates from one of the great universities across our land, train Americans. Stop bringing in people to take our jobs. That's the policy here. And all of the big companies are on board. We've spoken to them about it," Mr. Lutnick said.

Mr. Trump said that the tech companies "love it. They really love it. They really love it. They need it".

"The main thing is, we're going to have great people coming in." Mr. Trump also signed an executive order entitled 'The Gold Card', aimed at setting up a new visa pathway for foreigners of extraordinary ability who are committed to supporting the United States.

Under the Gold Card programme, individuals who can pay \$1 million to the U.S. Treasury, or \$2 million if a corporation is sponsoring them, will get access to expedited visa treatment and a path to a Green Card in the country.

"We're taking in hundreds of billions of dollars. The Gold Card will be taking in hundreds of billions of dollars, and companies will be able to keep some people they need. They need people of expertise, great expertise. I think it's going to be a fantastic thing, and we're going to take that money and we're going to reduce taxes, we're going to reduce debt," Mr. Trump said. When asked if the new \$1,00,000 fee will apply to the H-1B visa holders already in the country, to renewals or to those applying for the first time from abroad, Mr. Lutnick said, "Renewals, first times, the company needs to decide. Is that person valuable enough to have \$1,00,000-a-year payment to the government, or they should head home and go hire an American. "It can be a total of six years, so \$1,00,000 a year. So either the person is very valuable to the

company and America, or they're going to depart and the company is going to hire an American. That's the point of immigration - hire Americans and make sure the people coming in are the top, top people. Stop the nonsense of letting people just come into this country on these visas that were given away for free. The President is crystal clear. Valuable people only for America. Stop the nonsense," Mr. Lutnick said.

On whether the technology CEOs, who hire foreign workers on H-1B visas, are concerned about the new move, Mr. Trump said they're going to be very happy.

"Everyone's going to be happy. And we're going to be able to keep people in our country that are going to be very productive people. And in many cases, these companies are going to pay a lot of money for that, and they're very happy about it," he said. (Source: PTI)

Sikh leaders submit report to PM on...

I was deeply privileged to call on Hon'ble PM Sh @narendramodi Ji to submit the recommendations of the committee for the safekeeping and befitting display of holy 'Jore Sahib', belonging to the founder of Khalsa Panth, Dasam Pita Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj and his wife Mata Sahib Kaur Ji.

"The holy 'Jore Sahib' are a footwear each of Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj (right foot 11" by 3½") and his revered wife Mata Sahib Kaur Ji (left foot 9" by 3").

The Puri family has been immensely blessed and fortunate to perform seva of these holy relics from the time these were bestowed upon our ancestors by Guru Sahib and Mata Ji themselves more than 300 years ago.

Our ancestor had the great divine blessing to be in the direct service of Dasam Pita. Legend has it that pleased with his seva, Guru Maharaj commanded him to ask for any reward in return.

Our ancestor requested Guru Sahib to kindly grant him his divine permission to keep the sacred 'Jore Sahib' so that the direct blessings of Guru Sahib and Mata Ji continue in his family and their generations to follow. The last custodian of the 'Jore Sahib' was my late cousin Sardar Jasmeet Singh Puri Ji who lived in Delhi's Karol Bagh on a street which was subsequently named 'Guru Gobind Singh Marg' to honor the sanctity of the precious holy relics.

Since I am one of the eldest members of the family now, his wife Manpreet Ji wrote to me to find an appropriate home for these holy relics so that the faithful could pay their obeisance to the revered 'Jore Sahib' in greater numbers.

Subsequently, with utmost humility and reverence, I had the holy relics carefully examined by the Ministry of Culture. Carbon testing has also been done to establish their authenticity and supreme religious and spiritual importance. Members of the committee have made their recommendations and have presented a report for a decision befitting the holy 'Jore Sahib' to PM Modi Ji who has always expressed respect towards teachings of our Guru Sahibs and affection towards members of the Sikh Sangat.

PM Modi Ji's unmatched affection towards our Sangat reflects in several compassionate & visionary decisions taken under his farsighted leadership in the last transformative eleven years.

PM Modi Ji has also taken keen personal interest in matters pertaining to enhancement of several Sikh religious places and in ensuring better connectivity and accessibility to these centers of pilgrimage.

Posting about his meeting with Sikh community leaders, the PM wrote on X that he is very happy with the meeting in which he was given recommendations with regard to the safekeeping and display of the "immensely sacred and invaluable holy Jore Sahib of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, and Mata Sahib Kaur Ji."

"Holy relics as significant and spiritually important as the Jore Sahib are as much a part of the glorious Sikh history as they are of the cultural ethos of our nation," the PM added.

US attorney Erik Siebert under pressure...

paperwork discrepancies on her Brooklyn townhouse and a Virginia home. The Justice Department has spent months conducting the investigation but has yet to bring charges, and there's been no indication that prosecutors have managed to uncover any degree of incriminating evidence that could support bringing an

indictment. James has long been a particular source of outrage for Trump, in part because of a lawsuit she filed against him and his company that resulted in a massive financial penalty.

That penalty was thrown out last month by an appeals court that narrowly upheld a judge's finding that Trump had engaged in fraud by exaggerating his wealth for decades.

The case has taken a series of unorthodox turns. It emerged last month that Ed Martin, who helms the Justice Department's Weaponization Working Group and is helping coordinate the investigation, had sent a letter urging James to resign from office "as an act of good faith" after starting his mortgage fraud investigation of her. He later turned up outside James' Brooklyn townhouse in a "Columbo"-esque trench coat. A New York Post writer at the scene observed him tell a neighbor: "I'm just looking at houses, interesting houses. It's an important house."

James' lawyer, Abbe Lowell, told Martin in a letter that the request for James' resignation defied Justice Department standards and codes of professional responsibility and legal ethics.

The Justice Department "has firm policies against using investigations and against using prosecutorial power for achieving political ends," Lowell wrote. "This is ever more the case when that demand is made to seek political revenge against a public official in the opposite party." A former District of Columbia police officer, Siebert joined the Eastern District of Virginia, an elite Justice Department prosecution office with a history of sophisticated national security and criminal cases, in 2010. He was nominated to the role of U.S. attorney by Trump this year with the backing of the state's two Democratic senators, Mark Warner and Tim Kaine. (With inputs from AP)

India, U.S. to intensify efforts for a trade...

the 2018 waiver for the Chabahar port of Iran and said India was studying the latest order from the U.S. that has said that persons working in the Chabahar port may expose themselves to sanctions under the IFCA (Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act) after September 29.

"A team from United States Trade Representative led by Assistant USTR Brenden Lynch had meetings at the Ministry of Commerce on September 16, 2025 to take forward the ongoing negotiations for a trade deal with the U.S. The discussions were positive and forward-looking, covering various aspects of the trade deal. It was decided to intensify efforts to achieve early conclusion of a mutually beneficial trade agreement," said Mr. Jaiswal. The remarks from the Indian side came as uncertainties continue regarding India-U.S. trade ties after President Donald Trump imposed 25% penalty tariffs on India in the first week of August.

Mr. Trump ever since has repeatedly referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as his "friend" and held a telephone call with Mr. Modi on his birthday, but there has been no resolution on the tariffs that remain in place as the U.S. maintains that these penalties on India for buying Russian crude are necessary to bring Russia to the negotiating table over the war in Ukraine.

Mr. Jaiswal did not clarify on Friday (September 19, 2025) whether Mr. Modi would travel to New York for the annual session of the U.N. General Assembly where Mr. Trump is scheduled to speak, saying, "Let's wait for our press release, where we will announce our participation in these events. As far as India-U.S. relationship is concerned, let me tell you that we remain committed to take this very special partnership - the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership that we have with the United States forward, and to newer heights."

Mr. Jaiswal also answered questions about the September 16 revocation of sanctions exception issued in 2018 under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act (IFCA) that had given India the space to continue its vital connectivity corridor plans for Central Asia and beyond through the port of Chabahar in Iran.

"We have seen the U.S. press statement regarding revocation of sanctions waiver for Chabahar port. We are presently examining its implications for India," said Mr. Jaiswal in response to a question.

Hyderabad: A blend of heritage, culture and modernity

Known as the "City of Pearls" and the "City of Nizams," Hyderabad is one of India's most captivating destinations. Situated on the banks of the Musi River, the city presents a fascinating mix of royal history, vibrant culture, delectable cuisine, and modern technology hubs. From its iconic Charminar to the bustling IT district of HITEC City, Hyderabad seamlessly blends the old with the new, making it a must-visit for travelers seeking both heritage and modern experiences.

A Glimpse into History

Founded in 1591 by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, Hyderabad grew into a flourishing cultural and commercial hub under the Qutb Shahi dynasty and later under the Asaf Jahi Nizams. The city became famous for its pearls, diamonds, and grand palaces, many of which still stand as testimonies to its regal past.

Places to visit

Charminar

The Charminar is the icon of Hyderabad as the Taj Mahal is for Agra or the Golden Temple for Amritsar.

The monument was built in 1591 by Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah, the fifth leader of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, after transferring his capital from Golkonda to Hyderabad. The Charminar was built at the intersection of the historic trade route that connects the markets of Golkonda to the port city of Machilipatnam. Originally, the town was divided around the Charminar in four quadrants.

The structure is of Indo-Islamic architecture, integrating Persian architectural elements. It has a mosque and 45 prayer rooms.

Mecca Masjid

Two hundred meters south-west of Charminar, one sees the Mecca Masjid (the mosque of Mecca), called this way because the bricks were brought back from Mecca to build the central arch. The Qutb Shahis rulers never finished building the mosque, it was completed by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in 1694.

Laad Baazar

Laad Baazar is the oldest market of the city nestled in one of the arteries that lead to the Charminar. He has been active since the days of the Qutub Shahis and Nizams. This bubbling and colorful market is famous for its pearls, semi-precious stones and traditional glass and stone bangles.

'Laad' indeed means 'resin' in reference to the resin used to insert the artificial stones and diamonds on the bracelets. If you have to buy bangles, the laad market is the perfect place.

Chowmahalla Palace

Located in the old city of Hyderabad near the Charminar, the Chowmahalla



Palace is surely the most beautiful heritage building in Hyderabad. It consists of 4 palaces (Afzal Mahal, Mahtab Mahal, Tahniyat Mahal and Aftab Mahal) and was the seat of the Asaf Jahi dynasty and the official residence of the Nizams of Hyderabad when they ruled the city.

The palace remains the property of Barkat Ali Khan Mukarram Jah, heir to the Nizams.

Salabat Jung initiated its construction in 1750 and was completed during the reigns of Afzal ad-Dawlah and Asaf Jah V

between 1857 and 1869.

Chowmahalla is unique for its style and elegance; Its architecture blends harmoniously different architectural influences. This is one of the first examples of European neo-classical architecture in Hyderabad.

The Khilwat Mubarak or Durbar hall, the hall of ceremonies, is the heart of the Chowmahalla Palace. It is adorned with 19 huge crystal chandeliers from Belgium and a platform of white marble on which the Takht-e-Nishan or the royal seat is

laid.

Badshahi Ashurkhana

Hidden in a corner near the Charminar this "house of mourning" is worth the detour. The Badshahi Ashurkhana is a mourning place for the Shia Muslims built in memory of the martyr Imam Hussain. Iman Hussain was the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad and the son of Ali ibn Abi Talib, the first Imam Shiite. The exterior aspect of the building is modest but the mosaics inside are splendid.

Golkonda Fort

Golkonda is one of the famous forts of India and was the capital of the rulers Qutb Shahi. The origins of the fort date back to the Yadava dynasty of Deogiri and the Kakatiyas of Warangal. The first three Shahi kings of Qutb rebuilt Golkonda over a period of 62 years. Golkonda consists of four distinct forts surrounded by a 10 km long outer wall. Inside are several apartments and royal halls, temples, mosques, stables, etc. It is said that Golkonda fort possessed a safe where the famous 'Koh-i-Noor' and 'Hope' diamonds were locked up. The fort remained the capital of the Qutb Shahi dynasty until 1590 when the capital was transferred to Hyderabad. The fort will fall in ruin from 1687 after a long siege of a year leading to the capture of the fort by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

The seven tombs of Qutab Shahi kings

About one kilometer from the Golkonda Fort are the seven tombs of the kings of the Qutb Shahi dynasty. These granite tombs are part of the oldest historical monuments of Hyderabad. Very elegant, they are built in Persian and Hindu architectural styles.

Hussain Sagar Lake

Hussain Sagar is a heart-shaped lake built by Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah in 1563. It is spread over an area of 5.7 square kilometers and is fed by the river Musi. A large monolithic statue of Gautama Buddha, erected in 1992, stands in the middle of the lake. the lake also separates Hyderabad from its twin city Secunderabad. Boats often return from the lumbini garden to the statue.

Birla Mandir

Birla Mandir is a Hindu temple, built on an 85-meter hill called Naubath Pahad. The construction lasted 10 years and was inaugurated in 1976 by Swami Ranganathananda of the Ramakrishna Mission. The temple was built by the foundation of the wealthy industrial Birla family, who also built several similar temples in India, all known as Birla Mandir. The temple, built with 2000 tons of pure white marble is a mixture of dravidian, rajasthani and odishi architecture.

INYANA Launched to Empower & Uplift Indian and Nepali Youth in America

Prominent Indian and Nepalese leaders joined hands to launch the Indo-Nepal Youth Association of North America (INYANA) to shape a shared future for the next generation. Invited by INYANA Founder Nishant Garg, BJP leader Shri Tarun Chugh performed the founding ceremony.



Tarun Chugh, National Secretary of India's ruling BJP party, did the ribbon-cutting honor at the launch of Indo-Nepal Youth Association of North America. He was invited by Nishant Garg, founder of INYANA.

FOREST HILLS, NY (TIP): In a historic celebration of cross-cultural collaboration and youth empowerment, the Indo-Nepal Youth Association of North America (INYANA) was officially launched on August 23 in New York City, marking the start of a bold movement to unite and uplift Indian and Nepalese youth across the continent.

The importance of the new initiative was underlined by the presence of Tarun Chugh, National Secretary of India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who was invited by INYANA's Founder Nishant Garg to perform ribbon-cutting. The founding ceremony saw active participation from leaders in both the Indian and Nepalese diasporas, including prominent figures from the Nepalese associations of America, further reinforcing the new body's mission of inclusive growth and joint celebration.

Besides Nishant Garg, INYANA's Board includes Pradip Shrestha, President of the Greater New York Nepali Chamber of Commerce, Deepak Shrestha, Shailendra Shrestha, and Lakpa Wanomo Tamang.

Tarun Chugh commended the INYANA initiative as a "powerful platform to build bridges and strengthen the Indo-Nepal voice in the diaspora." Commending Nishant Garg's initiative, he noted that the involvement of Indian youth overseas reflects India's growing influence and underscores their pivotal role in the nation's transformative journey. Amit Taneja, a BJP leader from Punjab, accompanied Chugh.

Nishant Garg, a successful entrepreneur, recent appointee to the CTIA (RLSQ) Leadership Council, and founder of the Telecom Institute of New York (T.I.N.Y.) and Delta Enterprise USA, in his address at the launch, said, "INYANA is more than an organization, it's a movement. A movement to inspire, uplift, and unite Indo-Nepal youth to be proud of who they are and to lead with purpose on the global stage."

INYANA: VISION THAT GOES BEYOND BORDERS

INYANA has been established to empower the next generation of Indian and Nepalese youth across the US and Canada through cultural celebration, leadership development, mentorship, and collaborative community service. It aims to create a future where youths in America from the two neighboring countries grow up with pride in their heritage, strength in their unity, and access to opportunities that help them thrive personally, professionally, and culturally.



At the launch, Tarun Chugh was joined by Nishant Garg, founder of INYANA, and Nepalese diaspora leaders, including Pradip Shrestha, President of the Greater New York Nepali Chamber of Commerce

INYANA will serve as a vehicle for positive transformation by

- Promoting Unity: Strengthening ties between Indian and Nepalese youth through collaborative cultural, educational, and social initiatives.
- Celebrating Culture: Hosting festivals, artistic showcases, and heritage events that amplify Indo-Nepal traditions.



(L to R): Tarun Chugh, National Secretary of India's ruling BJP party, Pradip Shrestha, President of the Greater New York Nepali Chamber of Commerce, and Nishant Garg, founder of INYANA.

- Recognizing Excellence: Honoring achievements in academics, expression of the arts, entrepreneurship, and community leadership.
- Empowering Youth: Offering mentorship, scholarships, and resources to support students, differently-abled youth, and young professionals.
- Advancing Representation: Elevating Indo-Nepal voices across education, politics, business, and civic life.

The Road Ahead: Building with Purpose

INYANA's next phase of development includes:

- Establishing local chapters in universities and major cities
- Partnering with U.S. authorities to formalize its nonprofit structure
- Launching national programs in mentorship, entrepreneurship, and leadership
- Facilitating networking between Indo-Nepal professionals and students
- Creating platforms for youth to engage in service, storytelling, and advocacy.

Whether you are a student, entrepreneur, artist, educator, or simply someone who believes in unity and empowerment, INYANA welcomes all to become part of this growing family.

To learn more & get involved, contact Nishant Garg, INYANA Founder, Office Ph: 844-631-8469 and follow Garg on this LinkedIn Handle: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nick-garg-delta/>

Catskill Mountain Railroad Fall Foliage Adventure September/October 2025

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Our trains are fun for adults and children! Take a spectacular journey along the former Ulster & Delaware Railroad corridor and see the natural beauty of the Catskills from our railroad's unique perspective. Join us as we travel through some of the oldest farmlands in the United States where we will cross the Esopus Creek on the restored C9 Bridge and go through the Hurley Flats and into the foothill of Hurley Mountain, says a Catskill Mountain Railroad press release.



As the leaves begin to change color, a great way to view the beauty is on a Fall Foliage Adventure Train ride on the Catskill Mountain Railroad.

Fall Foliage Trains will operate on September 20th, 21st, 27th, 28th, October 3rd, 4th, 5th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th. Check our website for daily departure times. Train fares are \$19.00 Adult, \$18.00

Adult Discount (senior, military, veteran) \$13.00 Children 2 to 12 years, and Toddlers under 2 years on the lap are free

Check our website at <https://catskillmountainrailroad.com> for Fall Foliage Train schedules and to purchase tickets. All trains depart from Westbrook Station at 55 Kingston Plaza Road, Kingston, NY 12401 and then return. Rides are about an hour and fifteen minutes long and are approximately 8 miles round trip. All Aboard!

Legislator Davis Presents ARPA Grant to RVC's Sharon's Pantry

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y.

(TIP): Nassau County Legislator Scott M. Davis (D - Rockville Centre) presented a \$7,000 grant to the Rockville Centre-based Anti-Racism Project, which administers Sharon's Pantry, on Tuesday, Sept. 16. The presentation was made during September as part of Hunger Action Month in America.

Sharon's Pantry is named after Sharon Sheppard, the current assistant director of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Rockville Centre. The pantry helps address hunger in the community and was founded in the spring of 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with Rena Riback and her team at the Anti-Racism Project.

"Everyone at Sharon's Pantry wants to express sincere gratitude for the grant for our local food pantry. This funding is especially vital as food costs continue to rise and many families struggle and we are seeing an increase in families needing food," said Sharon Sheppard and Karen Mobley, who run the



Legislator Davis Presents ARPA Grant to RVC's Sharon's Pantry

Photo credit: Office of Legislator Scott M. Davis

pantry together. "Thanks to your efforts, the pantry can continue to provide food to our community. Your commitment to addressing food insecurity is making a tangible difference in the lives of our neighbors, and we are very grateful for your dedication."

The full Nassau County Legislature voted unanimously on Dec. 16, 2024 to authorize the grant, which was drawn from federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that, at the Democratic Minority's urging, were set aside for eligible not-for-profit organizations and special districts that deliver ARPA-approved services.

"Sharon's Pantry was formed to meet a tremendous need that

emerged during one of the most challenging times in our recent history," Legislator Davis said. "Through my work with the Rockville Centre MLK Center, I know firsthand how great the need still is, and how Sharon, Karen and their entire team work selflessly to ensure no family goes hungry. I am proud to have secured these funds and know they will be put to excellent use across our community."

CALL FOR ALL YOUR LIFE INSURANCE NEEDS!

"MAKING FRIENDS THROUGH SERVICE"



SHIV KUMAR SAHANI

Agent, New York Life Insurance Co.

646-644-0174

OUR TEAM OF AGENTS ARE READY TO HELP!

PRIYA SAHANI - (917) 723-6684

RAVI SURTI - (614) 578-7070

ARISH K. SAHANI - (718) 271-0453

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1972



INDO US EXPRESS, INC.

Worldwide Couriers / Freight Forwarders
Domestic Rush Delivery / Import / Export
Custom Clearance / Trading Consultant

Gurinder Singh
CEO

SALES OFFICE

224 West 30th St., #604, New York, NY 10001

Mail: P.O. Box 7304, Hicksville, NY 11802

Office: 212.447.5720 Fax: 516.932.3750

Delhi: 98.1849.0552

Mumbai: 92.2453.1807

New York: 347.538.7041

Visit US Online: www.indousexpress.com

Email: indousexpress@gmail.com

NOTICE OF NAME CHANGE

I, Venkata Sai Mihika Grandhi, daughter of Venkata Anil Kumar Grandhi, currently residing at 126 Schneider Ln, Hauppauge, NY 11788 and born on Aug 10th, 2006, have changed my name to Mihika Venkata Sai Grandhi. Be it known to all concerned.

Indian Visa Center

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

DEEPAK BANSAL

Email: deepakbansalny@gmail.com

Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009

Get
to the
Point



The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

Widest Coverage

Your Trusted Partner in Business

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458
Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012

www.theindianpanorama.news



**The Indian Panorama
FOR FREE AT**

www.theindianpanorama.news

History This Week

SEP 19 - SEP 25

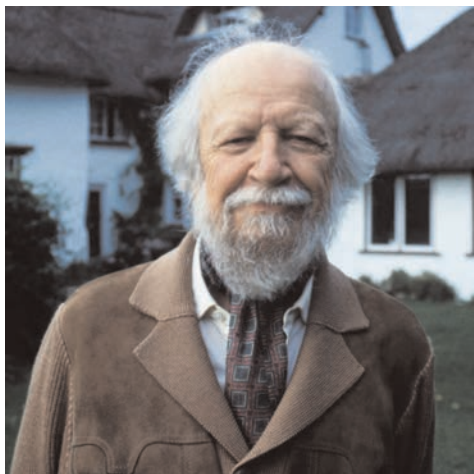
SEPTEMBER 19

September 19, 1676 - Jamestown, Virginia, was attacked and burned during a rebellion led by Nathaniel Bacon against the Royal Governor, Sir William Berkeley.

September 19, 1893 - New Zealand became the first country to grant women the right to vote.

September 19-20, 1985 - Earthquakes in Mexico City killed an estimated 5,000 to 20,000 persons and left more than 100,000 homeless, causing \$4 billion in damage. The quakes registered 8.1 and 7.5 on the Richter scale.

September 19, 1994 - U.S. troops invaded Haiti, with the stated goal of restoring democracy.



Birthday - British author William Golding (1911-1993) was born in Cornwall, England. Best known for *Lord of the Flies*, he received a Nobel Prize in 1983.

SEPTEMBER 20

September 20, 1873 - The New York Stock Exchange was forced to close for the first time in its history as a result of a banking crisis during the financial Panic of 1873.

September 20, 1973 - The much-hyped "Battle of the Sexes" took place in the Houston Astrodome as tennis player and women's rights activist, Billie Jean King, defeated self-styled male chauvinist Bobby Riggs in three straight sets. Riggs, a retired tennis champion, had been critical of the quality of women's tennis.



September 20, 1989 - F.W. de Klerk was sworn in as president of South Africa. He began an era of reform aimed at ending apartheid and was succeeded by Nelson Mandela.

SEPTEMBER 21

September 21, 1949 - The People's Republic of China was proclaimed by its Communist leaders.

SEPTEMBER 22

September 22, 1776 - During the American Revolution, Nathan Hale was executed without a trial after he was caught spying on British troops on Long Island, his last words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

September 22, 1828 - Shaka, chief of the Zulus and founder of the Zulu empire, was killed by his two half-brothers.

September 22, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation freeing the slaves in territories held by Confederates as of January 1, 1863.

September 22, 1862 - Otto von Bismarck became premier of Prussia. He forged a loose confederation of German states into a powerful nation, with Wilhelm I becoming Kaiser of the new German Empire.



September 22, 1996 - Australian Bob Dent, a cancer victim, became the first person to commit legally assisted suicide, via a lethal injection, under a voluntary euthanasia law.

Birthday - British scientist Michael Faraday (1791-1867) was born in Surrey, England. His discovery of electromagnetic induction proved that moving a magnet through a coil of wire produces a current, resulting in the development of electric generators.

SEPTEMBER 23

September 23rd - Autumn (Sept. 23-Dec. 21) begins in the Northern Hemisphere with the autumnal equinox, at 1:37 a.m. EDT. In the Southern Hemisphere today is the beginning of spring.

September 23, 1952 - Vice-presidential candidate Richard Nixon delivered his Checkers Speech on television and radio to address accusations of financial misdeeds.

September 23, 1991 - Armenia declared its independence from the Soviet Union.

Birthday - American journalist and influential commentator, Walter Lippmann (1889-1974) was born in New York. "Without criticism and reliable and intelligent reporting, the government cannot govern," he once stated.

Birthday - Friedrich von Paulus (1890-1957) was born in Breitenau, Germany. In 1942, Adolf Hitler chose Paulus, a desk officer, to lead the German 6th Army in



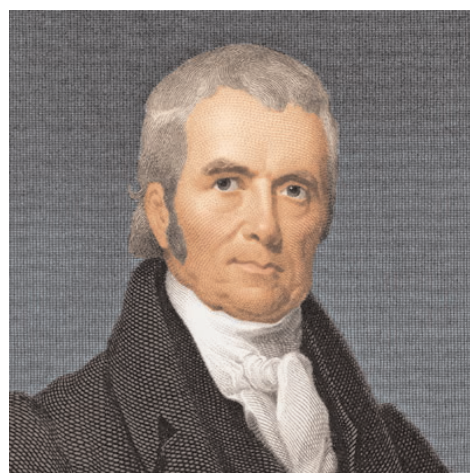
an all-out attack against Stalingrad, deep inside Russia. Although his troops captured most of Stalingrad, they became trapped within the city. On January 31, 1943, the day Hitler made him a field marshal, Paulus surrendered to the Russians, marking the first big defeat of Hitler's armies. After the war, Paulus appeared as a witness for the Russian prosecution at the Nuremberg war crime trials.

SEPTEMBER 24



September 24, 1957 - President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the National Guard to enforce racial integration of schools in Little Rock, Arkansas.

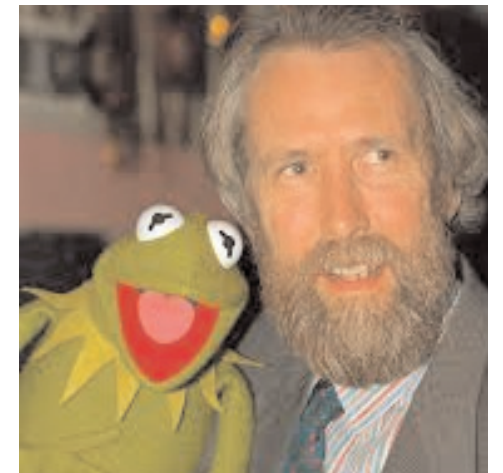
September 24, 1980 - War erupted between Iran and Iraq as Iraqi troops crossed the border and encircled Abadan, then set fire to the world's largest oil refinery.



Birthday - John Marshall (1755-1835) was born in Germantown, Virginia. He was appointed by President John Adams to the position of Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in January 1801. He

became known as "The Great Chief Justice," largely responsible for expanding the role of the Supreme Court through such cases as *Marbury vs. Madison* and *McCulloch vs. Maryland*.

Birthday - American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was born in St. Paul, Minnesota (as Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald). Best known for *This Side of Paradise*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Tender is the Night*.



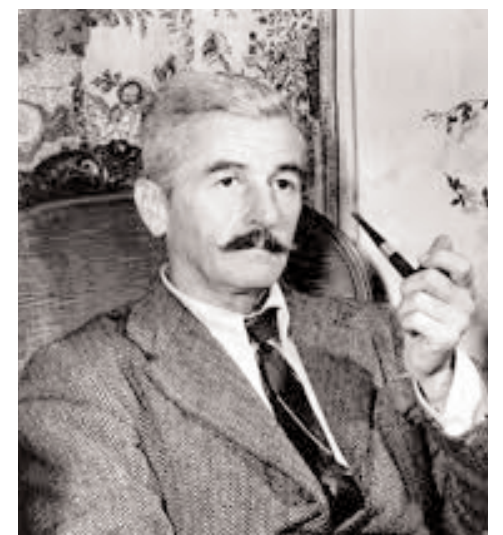
Birthday - Puppeteer Jim Henson (1936-1990) was born in Greenville, Mississippi. He created the Muppets, including Kermit the Frog, and Bert and Ernie, entertaining and educating generations of children via the daily TV show *Sesame Street*.

SEPTEMBER 25

September 25, 1513 - Spanish explorer Vasco Nunez de Balboa first sighted the Pacific Ocean after crossing the Isthmus of Panama.

September 25, 1690 - The first American newspaper was published. A single edition of *Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick* appeared in Boston, Massachusetts. However, British authorities considered the newspaper offensive and ordered its immediate suppression.

September 25, 1789 - The first U.S. Congress proposed 12 Amendments to the Constitution, ten of which, comprising the Bill of Rights, were ratified.



Birthday - American writer William Faulkner (1897-1962) was born in New Albany, Mississippi. Best known for *The Sound and the Fury* and *The Reivers*.

Birthday - Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975) was born in St. Petersburg, Russia. He witnessed the Russian Revolution and went on to become one of the greatest Soviet composers.

Samson's fifty, Arshdeep's milestone; India beat Oman by 21 runs

ABU DHABI (TIP)

Sanju Samson's battling half-century and a historic landmark for Arshdeep Singh powered India to a 21-run victory over Oman in the Men's T20 Asia Cup 2025 at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Thursday, September 9, night, extending their unbeaten run in the tournament.

Samson anchored India's innings with 56 off 45 balls, while Arshdeep became the first Indian men's cricketer to claim 100 wickets in T20 internationals, reaching the milestone in the final over that also sealed the win.

India posted 188-8, their third-highest total against an Associate side in T20Is, after being given an early scare. Vice-captain Shubman Gill fell for 5 in the second over to Faisal Shah, but Abhishek Sharma restored momentum with a rapid 38 from 15 deliveries before Jiten Ramanandi struck.

A surprise promotion for Hardik Pandya ended in disappointment when he was run out for 1 after a deflection off Ramanandi's fingertips.

Samson found support from Axar Patel, who counterattacked with 26 off 13, the pair adding 45 from 23 balls. Tilak Varma, unusually batting at seven, contributed a brisk 29 off 18 as India pushed towards a competitive total. Samson, battling the heat, completed his fifty off 41 balls, the third slowest for India in Asia Cup T20 history, before falling for 56. Harshit Rana added a final flourish with a towering six, lifting India to 188.

Oman responded with fight, reaching 56 in the Powerplay as captain Jatinder Singh and Aamir Kaleem built a 44-run



Kaleem fifty in vain as Oman fall short against India in Asia Cup.

stand. Kuldeep Yadav broke the partnership in the ninth over, but Kaleem carried on, adding 93 with Hammad Mirza.

Kaleem brought up his fifty in 38 balls before falling for 64 in the 18th over, while Mirza hit a counterattacking 51 off 30 before Pandya dismissed him in the penultimate over. Despite Jiten Ramanandi's late boundaries, Oman closed on 167-4, 21 runs short.

India's bowlers were tested on a flat pitch. Hardik Pandya finished with 1-26, Kuldeep Yadav claimed 1-23, and Harshit Rana impressed with 1-25. Arshdeep, entrusted with the final over, held his nerve and collected his 100th T20I wicket, surpassing all previous Indian

bowlers.

Oman's spin trio kept India in check, with Faisal Shah (2-23), Ramanandi (2-33) and Kaleem (2-31) sharing six wickets, but their efforts were not enough to deny India another win on a record-making night.

Brief scores:

- India 188-8 in 20 overs (Sanju Samson 56, Abhishek Sharma 38; Aamir Kaleem 2-31, Jiten Ramanandi 2-33)
- Oman 167-4 in 20 overs (Aamir Kaleem 64, Hammad Mirza 51; Hardik Pandya 1-26, Kuldeep Yadav 1-23)
- India won by 21 runs.



Back problem bogged Neeraj Chopra down

India's javelin star Neeraj Chopra has been suffering from a back problem for the past two weeks, and that might have affected his performance in the World Championships finals in Tokyo on Thursday, Sept 18.

An Athletics Federation of India (AFI) official said Chopra has been facing back issues, and after his competition, the two-time Olympic medallist also admitted to it. "Yes, it is true that Chopra has been troubled by a back problem for the last couple of weeks. He kept us informed about it. The back problem must have affected his performance, but he should not worry about it. Win and loss happen in sports. Moreover, javelin is such an event that you may not click very well on a particular day," the official said.

Chopra, who was defending the World Championships gold he had won in 2023, endured a horrendous outing at the finals to end eighth.

According to the AFI official, Chopra had informed the federation about the back problem that had arisen while training in Czech Republic before the World Championships. His current coach, the legendary Jan Zelezny, is from Czech Republic.

Satwik-Chirag pair storms into China Masters semifinals

SHENZHEN (TIP)

India's top men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty continued their consistent run to advance to the semifinals of the China Masters Super 750 badminton tournament but PV Sindhu bowed out after falling yet again to Olympic champion An Se Young here on Friday, Sept 19.

Satwik and Chirag, the former world No.1 Indian duo, who recently clinched their second World Championships bronze in Paris and finished runners-up at the Hong Kong Open last week, produced a clinical performance to outclass Chinese pair of Ren Xiang Yu and Xie Haonan 21-14 21-14 in the quarterfinals.

"We felt quite comfortable out there. Our goal was just to focus on our game and see how they responded. Right now, the way we're playing, it feels great — especially being able to play back-to-back matches freely, without any niggles, really happy with how we played today," Satwik said.

Chirag added: "I think we made it tough for them right from the start. We didn't allow them to settle into the game at all. They're definitely a strong pair, but our plan was to keep things simple and take an early lead — and we managed to do that. So yes, really happy with the performance."

Currently ranked ninth in the world, Satwik and Chirag will face their arch-rivals and second seeds



Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia in the semifinals on Saturday.

Earlier, double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu's woeful run against world No.1 An Se Young continued, as the Indian suffered her eighth straight defeat against the Korean, going down 14-21 13-21 in the women's singles quarterfinals.

"Last week wasn't great for me, but this week has been really positive. Reaching the quarterfinals has been encouraging, and I think the key now is to maintain that level and stay consistent in everything I do," Sindhu said.

Satwik and Chirag got off to a flying start, unleashing

a flurry of smashes to race to a 7-0 lead. A couple of errors allowed the Chinese to close in at 3-8, but the Indians maintained their rhythm to enter the interval with an 11-5 advantage.

While Ren and Xie attempted to change the pace with quick flat rallies and front-court play, the Indians remained sharp and aggressive. Chirag's flick serve made it 13-7, and another intense rally ended with the Chinese hitting wide to give India a 17-10 lead.

A sharp body attack and a precise toss saw the Indians surge ahead, and they pocketed the opening game after converting their second game point.

The second game was a closer affair in the early exchanges, with both pairs level at 7-7. However, the Indians pulled away to lead 11-9 at the mid-game interval courtesy of disciplined net play and sharp smashes.

After the break, Satwik and Chirag upped the ante, with Chirag firing two consecutive smashes to make it 19-13. They sealed the match after converting their first match point with another aggressive stroke.

Sindhu's struggles against An Se Young continued, as the Korean dominated proceedings from the start.

Sindhu started poorly and trailed 1-6 before narrowing it to 5-9 with a delicate cross-court drop.

However, An used her trademark smashes to open up an 11-5 lead at the interval. Sindhu managed to close in at 11-14 but the Korean maintained her grip and sealed the opener when the Indian buried one into the net.



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 beautifully 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 building to be constructed 2024

3.5 + million served
325,000 + vision restoring surgeries
30,000 + surgeries on children

Services Include:

- Treating disease and vision problems
- performing free cataract surgeries
- distributing glasses and visual aids
- conducting community research
- providing education to physicians and the public

Join our Vision.
Give the gift
of sight today.

Visit eyefoundationofamerica.org

695 WESTVIEW AVENUE, MORGANTOWN, WV 26505
 TAX ID # 55-062-1735



In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for 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.