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The INDIAN PANORAMA

will bring out a profusely illustrated edition in celebration of Diwali which falls on Thursday, October 31, 2024.

We invite from our patrons and readers articles and advertisements for publication in this special edition.

The last date for submission of articles is October 18, 2024. Articles with a picture and a brief bio of the author may please be emailed to editor@theindianpanorama.news

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# Biden to host QUAD summit at his Delaware home on September 21

## THE SUMMIT WILL FOCUS ON BOLSTERING THE STRATEGIC CONVERGENCE AMONG MEMBER NATIONS



From left, U.S. President Joe Biden, Australian PM Anthony Albanese, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida and Indian PM Narendra Modi hold Quad talks at the G7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan, May 20, 2023. The four will meet again Saturday, September 21, at Biden's Delaware home.

File photo

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Joe Biden will host the fourth in-person Quad Leaders summit at his Delaware home next week, in a rare gesture for his counterparts from Australia, India and Japan, a presidential spokesperson announced Thursday.

India, which was scheduled to host QUAD this year, would host the summit next year. QUAD leadership summit is an initiative of Biden and is one of the key foreign policy legacies for the outgoing American president.

"President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. will host the fourth in-person Quad Leaders Summit in Wilmington, Delaware, on Saturday, September 21. The President looks forward to welcoming Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia, Prime Minister Narendra

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## United Nations General Assembly Overwhelmingly Adopts Historic Text Demanding Israel End Its Unlawful Presence, Policies in Occupied Palestinian Territory within One Year



UNGA adopted by a two-thirds majority in a recorded vote of 124 in favor to 14 against, with 43 abstentions, the text on ending Israeli presence in occupied Palestinian territory.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 UNITED NATIONS

(TIP): Adopting a historic text demanding that Israel bring to an end its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, no later than 12 months from the adoption of the resolution, the General Assembly, on September 18, heard speakers stake out a range of positions regarding the best way to resolve this enduring crisis.

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## Widespread condemnation of vandalism of BAPS Hindu Temple in New York



India demands probe; calls temple attack a 'heinous act'

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): American lawmakers and community leaders Tuesday, September 17, condemned vandalism of a Hindu temple in New York and called for bringing the guilty to the book.

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha condemned the desecration of the temple in Melville, New York on Sunday, September 15 night. According to footage shared online, expletives have been sprayed on the road and the signage outside the temple.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and former President of United States of America Donald Trump -File photo

## Trump says he will meet with PM Modi next week

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): U.S. Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, that he will meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week. Trump announced the meeting at a campaign event in Flint, Michigan, while he was speaking about U.S. trade with India.

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## COMMENT

# Prime Minister Modi's U.S. Visit: Politics, Diplomacy, and a Message for the Diaspora

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepares to visit the United States from September 21 to September 23, anticipation is building around the potential significance of his engagements during this short but strategically important trip. According to a press note issued by the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C., the visit will feature a combination of diplomatic meetings, including the Quad meeting being hosted by President Joe Biden at his residence in Delaware on September 21, a notable address to the Indian diaspora in New York on September 22, and economic engagements with American business leaders. The focal points of Modi's visit reveal much about the state of U.S.-India relations, as well as the complex political undercurrents that surround the trip.

However, Modi's absence from the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), originally part of his itinerary, has raised eyebrows in both Indian and global diplomatic circles. It is now confirmed that India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, will be representing India and addressing the General Assembly instead. This shift comes at a time when the world is grappling with major crises, including two wars—the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, which now is two-year-old, and the Israel-Palestinian conflict, which has severely impacted the Middle East for almost a year. As the UNGA convenes to discuss these conflicts, as well as issues such as climate change, terrorism, and nuclear proliferation, Modi's decision to skip the General Assembly remains unexplained, sparking speculation and debate.

Modi's visit comes at a time of evolving geopolitics, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region, where both India and the U.S. share strategic interests. A key item on Modi's agenda will be the meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) on September 21. The QUAD, which includes the U.S., India, Japan, and Australia, has increasingly focused on countering China's growing influence in the region. While much attention will be paid to Modi's bilateral discussions with President Joe Biden, the QUAD meeting symbolizes India's growing role in regional security matters, especially as tensions in the Indo-Pacific continue to rise.

Modi is also expected to hold talks with American business leaders and chambers of commerce, emphasizing economic cooperation. India's rapid economic growth and aspirations to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025 will likely be a significant theme of these conversations. Modi has consistently portrayed India as a key investment destination, with its burgeoning tech sector, rising middle class, and ambitious infrastructure

BY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA

projects making it an attractive partner for the U.S.

However, beneath the surface, there are subtler political calculations that could shape the tone and outcomes of this visit. As the U.S. gears up for its 2024 presidential election, Modi's engagement with the Indian-American diaspora, especially in a politically sensitive environment, could have far-reaching consequences.

Perhaps the most significant and politically charged event of Modi's visit is his address to the Indian diaspora at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Long Island, New York, scheduled for September 22. This address is being touted as "historic" by Modi's followers, and it is expected to draw a large crowd from the Indian-American community, which has become a powerful force in U.S. politics. The Indian diaspora in the U.S. is both financially strong and politically active, particularly in states like New York, New Jersey, and Texas, which host large populations of Indian origin.

Many of these Indian-Americans, especially those aligned with Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), are ardent supporters of the Prime Minister's policies and leadership. Referred to colloquially as "Modi bhakts" (devotees of Modi), these supporters are often affiliated with the global Hindutva movement, which shares ideological roots with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist organization that has been a cornerstone of Modi's political career.

Notably, this address comes almost exactly four years after Modi's famous "Howdy Modi" rally in Houston, Texas, on September 22, 2019, where he shared the stage with then-President Donald Trump. During that event, Modi famously endorsed Trump's re-election bid with the slogan "Abki Baar Trump Sarkar" ("Next time, it's Trump's government"). While it remains to be seen whether Modi will issue a similar endorsement this time around, the timing of the event—just months before the U.S. presidential election—has led to speculation that Modi might subtly signal his preferences.

In the 2019 Houston rally, Modi's open support for Trump marked an unprecedented moment in Indian-American political engagement. Modi's presence and statements at that event were seen as a nod to Trump's popularity among sections of the Indian-American community, particularly those who subscribe to conservative or nationalist ideologies. Many of Modi's supporters in

the U.S. are known to have voted for Trump in both the 2016 and 2020 elections, and several organizations affiliated with Hindutva have been active in Republican circles.

This year, the question arises: Will Modi once again throw his weight behind Trump, or will he maintain a more cautious approach, given the political sensitivities of openly supporting a candidate in a foreign election? The Indian government has generally refrained from commenting on U.S. internal politics, but Modi's close ties with Trump, and the enthusiasm of his supporters, make it difficult to ignore the potential implications of his visit.

Several Indian-American organizations, particularly those affiliated with the Sangh Parivar (the broader family of organizations linked to the RSS), are expected to attend the Long Island event. These groups have been vocal in their support for conservative policies in the U.S., and many of them are rallying behind Trump's candidacy once again. Given this backdrop, Modi's address is likely to resonate with those who see him as a symbol of strong, decisive leadership, both in India and globally.

While Modi's supporters in the U.S. might be eagerly awaiting his address, it is also worth noting the potential diplomatic challenges that could arise from any perceived political endorsements. The Biden administration has sought to strengthen ties with India, viewing the country as a key ally in its Indo-Pacific strategy. At the same time, Modi's close ties with Trump could complicate these efforts, especially if his visit is seen as politically motivated.

Modi, who has built his political career on nationalism and strongman politics, is also navigating a complex domestic landscape. With elections approaching in India in 2024, Modi may use his U.S. visit to burnish his image as a global statesman, while also reaching out to the influential Indian-American community for political and financial support. His government has faced criticism from opposition parties in India, particularly over its handling of issues such as religious polarization, economic inequality, and rising authoritarianism. Modi's address to the diaspora is likely to emphasize India's achievements under his leadership, including its growing global stature and economic progress.

Prime Minister Modi's upcoming visit to the U.S. will be closely watched, not only for its diplomatic significance but also for its potential political undertones. As Modi meets with President Biden, addresses the Indian diaspora, and participates in high-level discussions on global security and economic cooperation, the visit represents a critical moment in U.S.-India relations.

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# 2024 Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists Announced

**A MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST FROM DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE, A CHEMICAL ENGINEER FROM UC BERKELEY, AND AN EARTH SCIENTIST FROM CORNELL UNIVERSITY ARE THIS YEAR'S LAUREATES**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Blavatnik Family Foundation and The New York Academy of Sciences named three women scientists as Laureates of the Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists, marking the second time since the launch of the awards ten years ago that all three Laureates are women. Each will receive \$250,000, the largest unrestricted scientific prize offered to America's most promising, faculty-level scientific researchers under 42. Three independent juries - one each for life sciences, chemical sciences, and physical sciences & engineering - composed of some of America's most distinguished scientists selected the three winning Laureates. An additional 15 Finalists will each receive \$15,000.

The 2024 Blavatnik National Awards received 331 nominations from 172 institutions in 43 U.S. states. Nominees must be faculty-level scientific researchers, 42 years of age or younger.

The Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists will celebrate the 2024 Laureates and Finalists and the 2024 Blavatnik Regional Awards Laureates and Finalists in a gala ceremony on October 1, 2024, at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

**THE 2024 WINNING LAUREATES ARE:**



2024 Laureate in Life Sciences: Cigall Kadoch, Ph.D., Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School & Howard Hughes Medical Institute (Molecular & Cellular Biology) Working to discover and

characterize chromatin remodeling complexes, understanding how their disruption leads to human disease, and developing a new class of therapeutics

Healthy cells rely on the intricate collaboration of millions of biological molecules; even minor perturbations in these interactions can lead to diseases like cancer. In a series of groundbreaking studies, Cigall Kadoch has decoded the role of ATP-dependent chromatin remodelers-complex molecular machines made up of dozens of interacting proteins-in regulating DNA accessibility and gene expression. The Kadoch Lab also unraveled how disease-causing mutations in these complexes impact their structure and function in an expanding list of diseases that includes cancer, neurodevelopmental disorders, and immunodeficiencies. Dr. Kadoch has



built upon these discoveries to develop novel therapeutics, which are being tested in clinical trials and could revolutionize the treatment of diverse maladies.



2024 Laureate in Chemical Sciences: Markita del Carpio Landry, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley (Chemical Engineering) Pioneering nanoscale chemical tools to

address disparate challenges in human health and sustainability

The behavior of chemicals within and between cells of the body still holds many secrets to how life operates. By manipulating these basic chemical interactions of life, using very small particles to uncover new insights and tools for biology, Landry has applied new nanobiotechnology towards a wide range of tasks, from measuring the transfer of chemicals between synapses in the brain to bioengineering plant genetics. Landry's strategies for applying nanobiotechnology tools are already paving the way for more resilient crops and new treatments for neurological disease ranging from neurodegeneration to autism spectrum disorders.



2024 Laureate in Physical Sciences & Engineering: Britney E. Schmidt, Ph.D., Cornell University (Physical Earth Sciences) Advancing climate science and planetary

habitability studies through groundbreaking research on ice-ocean interactions and innovative exploration of Earth's polar regions and icy planetary bodies

In order to better predict the impact of climate change we must understand the interactions between the Earth's oceans and ice. Britney E. Schmidt and her team designed, built, and deployed Icefin, a remotely operated vehicle that provides unprecedented insights into Antarctic ice shelf melting and ocean circulation. Schmidt's work solves key problems in ice dynamics and interaction with the ocean and offers novel comprehensive views of sub-ice environments. Critically, this research shows how interactions between the ice, ocean, and seafloor control how glaciers respond to the warming ocean. Schmidt also applies Earth-based ice studies to solar system icy worlds to further our understanding of extraterrestrial environments. Schmidt's contributions have earned widespread recognition, including inclusion in Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of 2023.

"On behalf of the Blavatnik Family Foundation, I congratulate this year's outstanding Laureates and Finalists for their exceptional research. They are among the preeminent leaders of the next generation of scientific innovation and discovery," said Len Blavatnik, founder of Access Industries and the Blavatnik Family Foundation and a member of the President's Council of The New York Academy of Sciences.

Nicholas B. Dirks, president and CEO of The New York Academy of Sciences, said, "The New York Academy of Sciences has always championed women in science. We are thrilled to celebrate, for the second time in the United States, that all three of the scientists named the 2024 Blavatnik National Awards Laureates are women working in their respective fields to use science to benefit the public good."

**FINALISTS**

The following scientists have been named Finalists in their respective categories:

**LIFE SCIENCES**

Wei Gao, Ph.D., California Institute of Technology (Biomedical Engineering & Biotechnology)

Developed advancements in wearable biomolecular sensors, allowing for continuous, real-time monitoring and early diagnosis of various health conditions without requiring invasive medical procedures.

Kaiyu Guan, Ph.D., University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Agriculture & Animal Sciences)

Developed revolutionary technology to enhance our understanding of agricultural production systems and innovating transformative solutions to achieve co-sustainability of agricultural productivity and environmental quality.

Sergiu Pa?ca, M.D., Stanford University (Neuroscience & Developmental Biology)

Uncovered transformative and therapeutically relevant insights into the molecular and cellular steps underlying the assembly of the human brain and the mechanisms leading to neuropsychiatric disease.

Sohini Ramachandran, Ph.D., Brown University (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology)

Established quantitative methods that reveal the causes and consequences of human genetic variation while advancing the goal of personalized medicine for all.

Christoph A. Thaiss, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania (Neuroscience & Immunology)

Made significant advances in decoding the mechanisms by which the communication between environment, body, and brain mediates the impact of lifestyle factors on common human diseases.

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

## Indian-origin trans chief Mridul Wadhwa resigns over failings at Scotland rape crisis center



Mridul Wadhwa stepped down as the chief executive officer of Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) after an independent report, commissioned by Rape Crisis Scotland (RCS), found a "failure to protect women-only spaces

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

**LONDON (TIP):** A Scotland-based Indian-origin transgender woman on Friday, September 13, resigned as the head of a rape crisis center at Edinburg after a review found that the unit set up to support victims of sexual assault had failed to protect women-only spaces.

Mridul Wadhwa stepped down as the chief executive officer of Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) after an independent report, commissioned by Rape Crisis Scotland (RCS), found a "failure to protect women-only spaces" as the CEO "did not understand the limits on her role's authority" and therefore "failed to set professional standards of behavior."

The review was commissioned in May in response to an Employment Tribunal case by a former member of staff of the ERCC charity over concerns about its systems and functioning.

"Mridul Wadhwa and the board have decided that the time is right for a change of leadership at ERCC," read a statement from the board of directors.

"Mridul has stood down from her role as CEO of ERCC. The recruitment of a new CEO will happen in due course. We are committed to delivering excellence while taking on board the recommendations from the independent review to ensure we place survivors' voices at the heart of our strategy.

In an earlier letter, the board apologized and admitted it "got things wrong."

The independent review, by legal specialist Vicky Ling, flagged "a strategy which did not put survivors first; a failure to protect women-only spaces; poor review of systems, procedures and document control; and a period of weak governance." Among its recommendations, the report notes: "In the light of the debate between those holding gender identity/affirmative and gender critical beliefs and the developing context of litigation, ERCC must take advice from RCS concerning the definition of 'woman' within its service. Women-only spaces and times must be protected and clearly publicized." *(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*

# Indian students face a bleak future as 150 ghost colleges in Oz shut down

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

**CHANDIGARH / NEW YORK (TIP):** Hundreds of students who recently went to Australia after paying lakhs as admission fee to "private colleges" are staring at an uncertain future. Recently, the Australian authorities shut down around 150 tertiary colleges "for failing to show proof that these were offering any regular training or studies to the students".

A few of these colleges were in direct contact or were co-owned by unscrupulous agents and study visa advisers from Punjab. For decades, illegal private colleges had been providing backdoor immigration and work rights to international students.

"Under our government, there is no place for anyone who seeks to undermine the sector and exploit students," the Minister for Skills and Training was quoted in the media.

According to information, the Albanese government cracked the whip against the vocational education institutes that were closed down as part of a crackdown by the Australian Skills Quality Authority. Hundreds of students from North India rush to these colleges every year "to take dummy admissions and instead work", while their attendance and course certificates are taken care of.

"I came to Australia two years ago as a student after being assured that I can work five days a week, while my attendance and course would be taken care of. Now, I have been told by my Punjab-based agent that the government has sealed the college," said one such student who hails from Sangrur. "The agent who sent us here has already shut



The number of students going in for IELTS has fallen following closure of many tertiary colleges in Australia -Credit: Tribune

operations in March after being booked in a visa cheating case," he said.

A student from Patiala studying in Australia said she and her brother were working at a cafeteria in Adelaide, but last month they had been asked to report back to the college. "The authorities later shut the college. Till now, we have no idea how to handle the situation. We have already paid the entire course fee," she said.

"I have already shut my operations in Punjab, after Canada and Australia tightened the noose around study visas. Many private colleges in Canada and Australia have funding from agents like us. We have told the students not to panic and there will be a way out soon," said an

agent, who has sent over 250 students to Australia over the past four years.

"The students know that college admission is a mere formality and that they are free to work there till they get residency," said another agent, who is now wanted in over six cases of travel frauds in Malwa.

In 2023, two Australian universities banned the recruitment of students from several Indian states in response to fresh concerns over a surge in fraudulent visa applications. Earlier, four universities had imposed a ban or restrictions on Indian students. These universities had identified Punjab, Gujarat and Haryana as regions presenting the highest attrition risk. (Source: Tribune, India)

## Pak-origin man convicted of killing Indian in UK

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024



Vignesh Pattabhiraman, 36, was killed by Shazeb Khalid with a "stolen Range Rover" while he was cycling back from his workplace-an Indian restaurant 'Vel'-in Reading.

**LONDON (TIP):** A 25-year-old man of Pakistani heritage has been convicted of murdering an Indian restaurant manager with a stolen car while the victim was cycling back home in south-east England on Valentine's Day this year.

Vignesh Pattabhiraman, 36, was killed by Shazeb Khalid with a "stolen Range Rover" while he was cycling back from his workplace-an Indian restaurant 'Vel'-in Reading.

The Indian man was declared dead at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and a murder investigation was launched.

Khalid was arrested on February 19 and charged with murder the following day.

He was on Wednesday found guilty of murdering Pattabhiraman following a trial at Reading Crown Court that lasted 28 days.

Khalid went on to plead guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter at an earlier hearing but was convicted of murder by the jury. Soiheem Hussain, 27, and Mya Reilly, 20, who were also arrested and charged in the case, appeared during the same trial.

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

## Get anti-Sikh Quebec law rescinded: Tarlochan Singh to Sikh MPs in Canada and Akal Takht Jathedar

"Wonder why Sikh MPs in Canadian Parliament haven't taken up the issue yet", asks ex-National Commission for Minorities chief

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

**CHANDIGARH (TIP):** Former chairman of the National Commission for Minorities Tarlochan Singh on Saturday, September 14, wrote to Sikh MPs in Canada and the Jathedar of Akal Takht urging them both to work in order to rescind a Quebec law that prevents public servants, including cops and teachers, from sporting religious symbols such as veils and turbans. The law had survived legal challenges in Canada and continues to be on the statute.

"I have come to know that in the State of Quebec in Canada a law was promulgated by which the Turban was been banned for all public servants, including teachers, police officers and judges. Quebec is the French-speaking province in Canada which looks up to France as a motherland. The Catholic Church has a strong hold on the people," Singh wrote in a letter to Sikh MPs of the Canadian Parliament and a separate missive to Akal Takht Jathedar.

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



A Quebec law prevents public servants, including cops and teachers, from sporting religious symbols such as veils and turbans.

Photo for representational purpose only : iStock

# Indian American Vattikuti Foundation donates \$2.8 million to establish advanced neurological institute at AIIMS

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

**MICHIGAN (TIP):** The Vattikuti Foundation, globally recognized for its pioneering work in robotic surgery, is poised to transform neurological care in India with a \$2.8 million (INR 24 crore) donation to establish the Vattikuti Institute of Advanced Neurotechnology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in New Delhi.

The initiative aims to address the urgent needs of patients suffering from movement disorders and neuropsychiatric conditions by making advanced healthcare accessible to all. AIIMS will be the first public institution in India to house this cutting-edge facility.

The Southfield, Michigan, -based foundation was founded by Indian American entrepreneur and philanthropist Raj Vattikuti and his wife, Padma.

The newly established institute at AIIMS will be equipped with the state-of-the-art Neuroblate 650, also known as Exablate-Neuro, a high-intensity focused ultrasound device developed by Insightec, according to a press release by the foundation.

"This cutting-edge, non-invasive technology uses magnetic guidance to target and treat neurological conditions without the need for surgical incisions,



Indian American entrepreneur and philanthropist Raj Vattikuti and his wife, Padma founded the Vattikuti Foundation

providing an innovative alternative for millions of patients suffering from conditions like tremors," the release stated.

India faces a substantial burden of movement disorders, with an estimated 30 million people affected by conditions such as essential tremor (ET), which can significantly disrupt daily life. Many ET patients find it difficult to perform simple tasks, like holding a cup of tea or a glass of water without spilling. While current treatments, including lifelong medications, are often accompanied by side effects and high costs, advanced

surgical options like Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) are invasive, expensive, and available only at specialized centers.

The Neuroblate 650 offers a transformative, non-invasive alternative that can treat tremors without surgery, providing lasting relief for approximately 60-70 percent of patients, according to the foundation. This treatment can be performed without anesthesia, allowing patients to return home the same day, free from the tremors that once dominated their lives.

"While the primary focus is on treating tremors, the potential of Exablate-Neuro extends beyond movement disorders," the release noted. "The technology has already shown promise in treating Parkinson's disease, neuropathic pain, epilepsy, and even enhancing the treatment of glioblastoma multiforme, a type of brain cancer, by disrupting the blood-brain barrier to allow chemotherapy access."

The Vattikuti Foundation is committed to expanding these boundaries further by supporting cutting-edge research at the new institute, focusing on additional applications such as epilepsy and substance and alcohol addiction, the release said.

(Based on a press release)

## Indian American Tejas Patwa elected to Gwinnett County Public Library Board



Tejas Patwa was recently elected to the board of the Gwinnett County Public Library

SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

**ATLANTA, GA (TIP):** Tejas Patwa, a well-known figure in Atlanta's technology and spiritual communities, was recently elected to the board of the Gwinnett County Public Library. A recent Facebook post by the Gwinnett County Public Library Foundation welcomed Patwa along with four other new board members.

Patwa's journey is marked by an illustrious academic and professional career. An electrical engineer by education, he later enhanced his skills by becoming a certified Software Programmer through IBM. After moving to Orlando, Florida, in 2001, he earned an AutoCAD certification from Mid Florida Tech, which opened doors for him in the control engineering field in Atlanta. Over the years, he has worked on numerous high-profile projects for the US government, power plants, automotive giants like Tesla, Volkswagen, and Ford, and has been involved in process automation in various industries. In July 2023, Patwa founded Radiant Control Systems, a company specializing in system integration, including waste and clean water automation, where he currently serves as CEO.

Patwa has also dedicated a significant portion of his life to his spiritual pursuits. He is one of the founding members of Gokuldharm - Pushtimargiya Haveli in Atlanta, established in 2008. Under his leadership as Executive Secretary, Gokuldharm has grown into the largest community of Vaishnavs in the Southeast region. He also serves as Principal of Gokuldharm Vidhyalaya, where more than 200 children from kindergarten to eighth grade learn about Indian culture and language. Patwa's community efforts extend to Austin, Texas, where he is also a founding member of Nandgam Haveli.

In November 2022, Patwa was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Management by University Azteca, recognizing his achievements in both professional and community leadership.

Patwa's appointment to the Gwinnett County Public Library Board aligns with the library's mission of providing creative, customer-friendly access to educational and informational resources that enrich the community. His diverse background in engineering, entrepreneurship, and community leadership is expected to bring a unique perspective to the board's efforts in furthering the library's vision.

## Indian-origin Mayor Aftab Pureval joins Senator Ossoff, actor BD Wong, and Georgia Democrats to mobilize voters in Atlanta



Mayor of Cincinnati Aftab Pureval joined Senator Ossoff, actor BD Wong, and Georgia Democrats to mobilize voters in Atlanta

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

**ATLANTA, GA (TIP):** Last weekend, U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff, Mayor of Cincinnati Aftab Pureval, actor, and activist BD Wong, U.S. Representative Jim Clyburn, U.S. Representative Wiley Nickel, and local leaders

joined Team Harris-Walz and the Democratic Party of Georgia for a Weekend of Action to mobilize voters in the state around electing Vice President Harris, Governor Walz, and Democrats. Events included a canvass launch and roundtable in South Georgia with U.S. Representative Wiley Nickel, a Fulton County Democrats dinner with U.S. Representative Jim Clyburn, and a canvass launch and small business block party in metro Atlanta to energize Georgia's fast-growing AANHPI community.

More than 40,000 people have signed up to volunteer on the campaign in Georgia since Vice President Harris became the nominee.

## Indian-origin pitcher Kumar Rocker scripts Major League Baseball history

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

**DALLAS (TIP):** To say India and baseball in the same breath is more than a little odd. But on Thursday, September 12, Kumar Rocker became the first player of Indian origin to appear in the Major League Baseball, representing a significant milestone in the history of one of America's most popular sports.

The 24-year-old pitcher, who was born to an African-American father and a mother of Indian descent, turned out for Texas Rangers against the Seattle Mariners in Seattle, and he impressed straightaway, culminating a journey that had its share of challenges.

Just two months ago, Kumar was undergoing rehabilitation, recovering from Tommy John surgery and hoping just to stay healthy while dreaming of making an impression in minor league games.

Tommy John surgery is a procedure in which a partial or fully torn ulnar collateral ligament on the medial side of the elbow is replaced with a tendon from another part of a patient's body or from a cadaver.

Backed to the hilt by his supportive parents, Kumar recovered in time for his much-anticipated MLB debut.

His maternal grandparents immigrated to the United States from Andhra Pradesh.

His parents met when his mother, Lalitha, also known as Lu, was a student at the University of Maryland and his father Tracy was playing for the Washington Redskins.

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



The 24-year-old pitcher, who was born to an African-American father and a mother of Indian descent, turned out for Texas Rangers against the Seattle Mariners in Seattle, and he impressed straightaway, culminating a journey that had its share of challenges

# Middlesex College Kicks Off Yearlong Celebration for 60th Anniversary

**COLLEGEWIDE EVENTS WILL HIGHLIGHT DECADES OF STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES AND COMMUNITY MEMORIES, WHILE FOCUSING ON "BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE"**

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ (TIP):

The start of the 2024-25 academic term marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of Middlesex College, and the College is dedicating the year to a celebration of its history, accomplishments, and future plans.



Middlesex College kicks off yearlong celebration for 60th anniversary

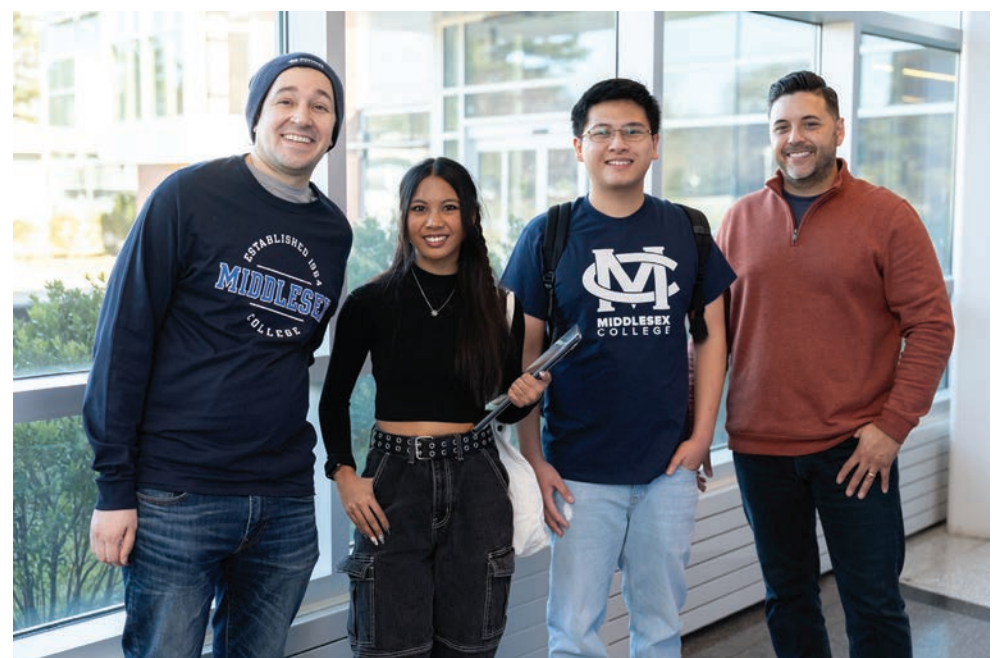


Campus life then

the season with hayrides, music, inflatable games, food trucks, a classic car show, and a pick-your-own pumpkin patch. Guests will also be able to explore the college's offerings, including credit and noncredit degree and certificate programs, as well as student clubs.

The biennial Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held in spring 2025 to honor Middlesex College student-athletes and administrators who have contributed to the success of the program, which is affiliated with the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

This year's inductees include former baseball coach Mike Lepore Sr. and alumni Woolly LaPointe (soccer), Angela Bradley (basketball), Steve Bonsall (wrestling), and Melissa Gromek (basketball, softball, and tennis). In addition, the 1981 Middlesex College Softball Team will become the first team inducted into the Hall of Fame, cited for their 25-3 record and spot in the NJCAA National Tournament.



Campus life today

Other celebratory events in 2025 include Casino Night, an annual fundraiser sponsored by the Middlesex College Foundation to increase resources for student scholarships and other forms of student aid, and Celebration Day, which recognizes outstanding employees of the College and their contributions to the campus and beyond.

Throughout the year, the College will continue to highlight current and future projects that reimagine its role as a center for community health, workforce development, and recreation.

At the center of these projects is the ongoing Community, Innovation, and Opportunity (CIO) Strategic Investment Plan, a partnership between Middlesex College, Middlesex County, Middlesex County Magnet Schools, Middlesex County Improvement Authority, and the State of New Jersey, which aims to make the College a regional destination.

The CIO Plan introduces cutting-edge teaching and learning spaces on the Middlesex College campus in Edison,

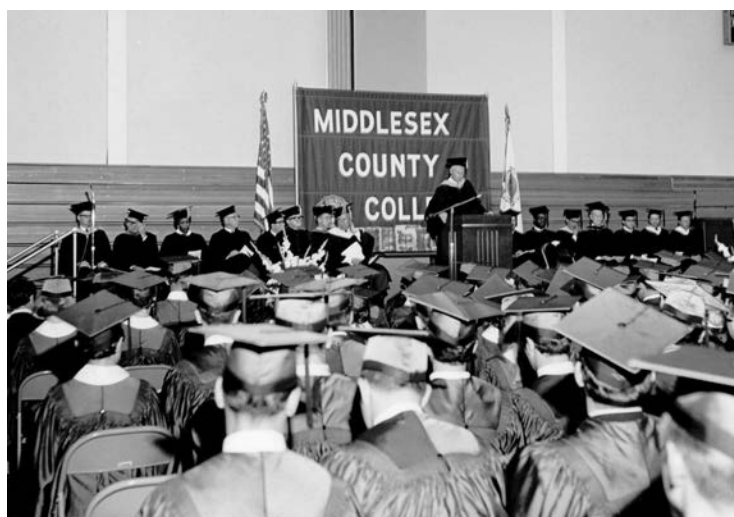
including an Academic Workforce Conference Center and new Student Center, as well as sustainable initiatives for existing and new infrastructure.

The plan also focuses on resources for Middlesex County residents, with initiatives including an open-air Multi-Purpose Community Venue for concerts, cultural events, and sports; a new park featuring an educational children's amenity; a new Middlesex County Magnet School; and an athletic complex in Thomas Edison Park featuring 14 multi-sport synthetic fields; 16 tennis courts and a 500-foot state-of-the-art recreational cricket field; and much more.

The College will continue to highlight notable moments from its founding and early years, including historic photos, as well as memories from graduates, faculty, and staff, on its website. For more information, visit [middlesexcollege.edu](http://middlesexcollege.edu).

**MIDDLESEX COLLEGE, NJ**

Middlesex College, established in 1964, is a public, two-year institution of higher education located in the heart of New Jersey. With a main campus in Edison and centers in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, Middlesex College offers over 85 degree and certificate programs encouraging its more than 10,000 students to explore, grow, and thrive. Middlesex College, through dedicated faculty, state-of-the-art educational facilities, and holistic student supports, is committed to providing a high-quality, affordable college education that provides every student an opportunity for growth and achievement. Middlesex College is Middlesex County's premier destination for lifelong learning and workforce training. Learn more at [middlesexcollege.edu](http://middlesexcollege.edu).



Graduation then



Graduation today

# COUNCILMEMBER SANDRA UNG & GLOW CULTURAL CENTER ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF UPCOMING FALL FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

FLUSHING, NY (TIP):

Councilmember Sandra Ung joined representatives from Glow Cultural Center and some of the 60-plus event sponsors last Sunday, September 15, to share details of the upcoming Fall Festival, which will be held on Saturday, September 21, from noon to 4 p.m. in Kissena Corridor Park (intersection of Colden Street and 45th Avenue).

"The annual Fall Festival has become one of the biggest community events of the year in Flushing, and I am happy to be co-sponsoring it again this year with Glow Cultural Center," said Councilmember Sandra Ung. "Thank you to the 60-plus supporters who help make this day possible, and I invite everyone in the community to join us and enjoy the family-friendly activities and multicultural performances that will take place throughout the afternoon."

The Fall Festival coincides with the Mid-Autumn Festival, which is widely celebrated throughout East Asia.

"The charm of the Fall Festival is that it highlights and celebrates the rich cultural diversity of Flushing, attracting thousands of people," said Liang Ming, Director of Programs for Glow Cultural Center. "In addition to



Councilmember Sandra Ung joined representatives from Glow Cultural Center and some of the event's 60-plus sponsors to share details of the upcoming Fall Festival.

interactive cultural programs such as making lacquer fans 'Qi Shan' and bamboo copters, there will be performances by artists representing China, India, Japan, Argentina, and the Philippines. I wish everyone in the community a healthy, happy, and bountiful Mid-Autumn Festival!"

The performances will include a Japanese folk dance from Yosakoi

Dance Project - 10tecomai, an Argentine Folk Dance by Silvana Brizuela Weigel and Oscar Magallanes, a Mindanao folklore presentation by Kinding Sindaw, and Kuchipudi & Kathak dances from Neela Dance Academy. Other performances include a magic show, Chinese yo-yo, dance and music performances, a special yoga showcase from Prime Fitness, and an opening



Councilmember Sandra Ung holds a traditional lacquer fan she created during the press conference. Fall Festival attendees will have the opportunity to make one of their own during the event.

ceremony lion dance.

The event will also feature a children's play area, a climbing wall, face-painting booths, games with prizes, popcorn & cotton candy, healthcare agencies offering free medical check-ups, and numerous community groups sharing information about the services they provide.

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# Western pressure no deterrent to India-Russia ties

**THE US SHOULD REMEMBER THAT GLOBALIZATION AND SANCTIONS ARE CONTRADICTIONARY AND MUTUALLY SELF-DEFEATING**

**"THIS IS A BIZARRE AND CHILDISH MINDSET, ESPECIALLY IF ONE RECALLS THE STATEMENT MADE BY US DEPUTY TREASURY SECRETARY WALLY ADEYEMO IN JULY, WHEN HE WROTE TO THREE OF INDIA'S TOP BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS, WARNING THEM THAT "ANY FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION THAT DOES BUSINESS WITH RUSSIA'S MILITARY INDUSTRIAL BASE RISKS BEING SANCTIONED ITSELF." PERHAPS THE WHITE HOUSE FAILS TO SEE THE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE BEING INFLICTED ON AMERICA'S GLOBAL INTERESTS AND THE IMPLACABLE HATRED AND HOSTILITY BEING GENERATED TOWARDS WASHINGTON. THIS RECKLESS BUSINESS OF SANCTIONS WILL NOT LEAD US VERY FAR. IT IS INSTANTLY TURNING EVEN A TRADITIONAL FRIEND INTO A POTENTIAL FOE. IT SMACKS OF UNACCEPTABLE DUPLICITY, HATEFUL HYPOCRISY AND INHERENT INSINCERITY OF THE US OF YORE; THE POST-WORLD WAR II WASHINGTON OF BRETTON WOODS AND THE MARSHALL PLAN - THE MASTERMIND AND FINANCIER FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE."**



The India-Russia defense partnership has flourished in the best and worst of times.

Credit: PTI

Austrian Chancellor Klemens von Metternich said two centuries ago: "When France sneezes, the rest of Europe catches a cold." The prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict has made the whole of Europe catch a cold. Does the West now expect even faraway neutral countries like India and other non-partisan, non-Western nations to follow suit? Else, why should the democracy-championing West betray an imperialistic impulse to forcibly draw sovereign nations into Europe's conflict? Why do these countries need to toe the line and pay obeisance to the West?

The message was loud and clear in a recent Financial Times report claiming that Russia had built a covert trade channel with India. The report said: "Russia has been secretly acquiring sensitive goods in India and explored building facilities in the country to secure components for its war effort." Elaborating on the modus operandi, the story obviously tried to show India's 'wrongdoing', thereby implying that it was damaging the 'just cause' of Western support to Ukraine against Russia. It was obvious that India was expected to mend its ways and do what the West wanted it to do.

The report, which implied that India and Russia had formed an 'unholy nexus', looked like an open threat with dire consequences for New Delhi. India is being painted as a villain for doing business with Moscow at a time when, in the eyes of the West, Russia is a pariah state. Hence, India is expected to choose between the US-led West and Russia. It is "my way or the highway". And the West wants India to discard Moscow.

This is a bizarre and childish

mindset, especially if one recalls the statement made by US Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo in July, when he wrote to three of India's top business organizations, warning them that "any foreign financial institution that does business with Russia's military industrial base risks being sanctioned itself." Perhaps the White House fails to see the irreparable damage being inflicted on America's global interests and the implacable hatred and hostility being generated towards Washington. This reckless business of sanctions will not lead US very far. It is instantly turning even a traditional friend into a potential foe. It smacks of unacceptable duplicity, hateful hypocrisy and inherent insincerity of the US of yore; the post-World War II Washington of Bretton Woods and the Marshall Plan - the mastermind and financier for the reconstruction of Europe.

How would US arms company General Dynamics (the original maker of F-16 fighter aircraft from the 1970s) and the supplier of Patton tanks have reacted if they had got an 'open threat' from India with regard to defense contractors doing business with military dictators of Pakistan?

One wonders how the US or Europe could not be aware that over the past seven decades, the Moscow-Delhi defense partnership has flourished in the best and worst of times. Logically, therefore, if India keeps buying defense equipment from Russia, what stops Moscow from purchasing military hardware from Delhi? Is India party to the Russia-Ukraine conflict? Is Delhi instigating and playing one against another? Can India's bona fide bilateral economic, commercial and military transactions



BY ABHIJIT  
BHATTACHARYYA

with a friendly Russia be scuttled by the US, which is also a friend of Delhi?

The Joe Biden administration must not forget the catastrophic damage done by Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger to the India-US ties in the 1970s and beyond. Let the sordid past remain buried in the annals of history. Do not reopen it. Mutual trust and respect are a must. It took several years to heal the wounds of humiliation - the American duo had used abusive language while referring to then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi - and revive robust relations between two great democracies.

True, the ongoing conflict in Europe is a matter of grave concern for the world. But the primary responsibility to stop the bloodshed lies with the nations that are members of NATO and/or EU, and not with distant neutral nations. It again boils down to the fundamental folly being repeated by the West. Sanctions are proving to be the prime cause for the decimation of a globalized economy and the interlinked chain of economics assiduously built over five decades through the 'free trade' theory.

The US should remember that globalization and sanctions are contradictory and mutually self-defeating. The former is a boon, the latter a bane. It will be most damaging for the globalized dollar and the universally accepted Belgium-based bank transaction system SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication). Yet, the US treasury "routinely orders banks to freeze wire transfers that look suspicious or in breach of sanctions," resulting in Russian President Vladimir Putin's prescient 2018 statement: "We are not aiming to ditch the dollar. The dollar is ditching us." Thus arises the need to skirt the greenback. Either way, time will reveal the repercussions of the story that could be anything but positive for 'the dollar that once was'. In the long term, the US is fairly and squarely creating a self-goal scenario.

Today, SWIFT handles 40 per cent of its payments in USD. Yet, it has to follow the diktats of America, thereby disrupting its business. The "business of the US threat" to India is also a bad omen. New Delhi is a friend of Washington. And Russia does not object to India's bonhomie with the US. Did Moscow express displeasure when India opted for Boeing, Lockheed or the Raytheon weapon system? Why, then, does the US employ archaic gunboat diplomacy of threats, sanctions and boycott of allies? Is America going against its own interests? Is the arm-twisting era of Kissinger back to hunt and haunt India?

*(The author is a Supreme Court lawyer, ex IRS Officer, Author and Columnist, Defense and Security Analyst and a China specialist)*



# WHEN SEPARATION OF POWERS TAKES A HIT

## THREATS TO INDEPENDENT AND EMPOWERED INSTITUTIONS MUST BE RESISTED



BY SHYAM SARAN

**"The acts of each branch of the government must be open to questioning by citizens, on whose behalf they are required to function. There is a tendency to evade accountability by hiding behind the need to uphold security. Freedom of expression is restricted on the grounds of preventing public disorder or citing possible hurt to the 'sentiments' of this or that community. This is a slippery road towards the arbitrary exercise of power. Indian democracy is a precious but fragile asset. It is incumbent on those who value the freedoms that are enshrined in the Constitution to work together to prevent the emergence of a predatory state which holds the citizen as accountable to and subordinate to the state. This is the very antithesis of democracy."**

The separation of powers among the executive, judicial and legislative branches of the government is indispensable to ensuring checks and balances, which in turn are essential for democratic governance. This is based on a fundamental principle of democracy - the state is accountable to the people and not the other way around. The people are accountable to the law of the land, administered according to the provisions and processes laid out by the Constitution.

In India, the Constitution is not a gift of the state to the people. It is "We the people", as stated in the Preamble, who have given themselves a Constitution whose provisions bind the state.

Those who value the freedoms enshrined in the Constitution should work together to prevent the emergence of a predatory state.

In addition to the separation of powers among the three branches, in a federal state like India, there are also checks and balances for the Centre and the states. The Constitution spells out the

jurisdiction of the Centre and the states with respect to various domains. The states prevent overreach in the exercise of power by the Centre and vice versa. The objective is to achieve a diffusion of power of the state in a manner which safeguards the exercise of the fundamental and inalienable rights of citizens without impairing efficient governance.

The role of independent and empowered institutions, including those that draw authority from the Constitution, such as the Election Commission, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India or the Union Public Service Commission, is another



The Constitution spells out the jurisdiction of the Centre and the states with respect to various domains. -Credit: Tribune

important safeguard against the arbitrary exercise of power by the state.

The political history of India since the adoption of the Constitution on January 26, 1950, has been a saga of inspiring wins for democracy, but also several setbacks.

The adoption of the principle of the Basic Structure of the Constitution is an important safeguard against the denial of fundamental rights of citizens by a predatory state. According to this principle, enshrined in the Kesavananda Bharati judgment (April 24, 1973) of the Supreme Court, there are certain fundamental features of the Constitution, such as its supremacy, the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, which cannot be amended or abrogated by Parliament through a constitutional amendment. This principle has been attacked in recent years, but it must be upheld. Without this principle, it is conceivable that relying on a brute majority, a government could eviscerate the very foundations of Indian democracy.

There are threats to independent institutions which must be resisted. In a

brilliant address to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai in December last year, eminent jurist Rohinton Fali Nariman drew attention to the danger in the passage of a law, which laid down the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India. According to a Bill passed in December 2023, the CEC would be appointed by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet minister nominated by the PM and the Leader of the Opposition (LoP). As Nariman pointed out, this provision means, in effect, that the CEC is appointed by the PM himself since the LoP will always be outvoted two to one. This would severely compromise the

independence and neutrality of the CEC and undermine the credibility of the election process. The Bill has been challenged in court.

The recent conduct of several Centrally appointed governors has also undermined Centre-state relations, weakened the federal structure and encouraged political horse trading and floor-crossing. Governors have sat on Bills passed by state legislators, openly obstructed the normal functioning of state governments and indulged in blatantly partisan behavior. This not only undermines democratically elected governments but erodes the very fabric of federalism, without which a highly diverse country cannot be managed. Justice Nariman also touched upon this unhealthy development in his address.

While there is the letter of the law which must be followed, there are also the more intangible dictates of constitutional morality and propriety. It is for a good reason that independent India opted for an apolitical bureaucracy and a judiciary which should maintain a certain distance from the other branches of government. A civil servant must be

**Those who value the freedoms enshrined in the Constitution should work together to prevent the emergence of a predatory state.**

enabled to offer the best professional advice on policy matters to his political masters, which may or may not be accepted. He must then implement the policy which the political leadership may have opted for to the best of his ability. His role is not to validate a political preference. In this context, the use of post-retirement sinecures and assignments to influence bureaucratic behavior has become pernicious. For the many positions that are usually filled by retired bureaucrats, why not have an open selection process in which applications are invited from a much larger catchment of suitable candidates, including retired bureaucrats? The selection committees could include non-government and eminent civil society representatives. This would add to the credibility and standing of persons leading various commissions, regulatory bodies and agencies.

There is a serious erosion of the apolitical character of civil servants, many of whom get identified with political masters belonging to one political party or the other. They function, not according to the law of the land and in public interest, but to advance the political agenda of a party. This blurs the separation of powers. Worse is the display of proximity of members of the judiciary to political leaders. The 'aloofness' that they are expected to maintain from other branches of the government is critical to retaining the trust of the public and serving as the conscience-keepers of the nation.

The acts of each branch of the government must be open to questioning by citizens, on whose behalf they are required to function. There is a tendency to evade accountability by hiding behind the need to uphold security. Freedom of expression is restricted on the grounds of preventing public disorder or citing possible hurt to the 'sentiments' of this or that community. This is a slippery road towards the arbitrary exercise of power. Indian democracy is a precious but fragile asset. It is incumbent on those who value the freedoms that are enshrined in the Constitution to work together to prevent the emergence of a predatory state which holds the citizen as accountable to and subordinate to the state. This is the very antithesis of democracy.

*(The author is a former Foreign Secretary of India)*

# Indian military export to Israel - aiding genocide



BY PRASHANT  
BHUSHAN AND  
CHERYL DSOUZA



**THE TOP COURT'S DISMISSAL OF A PETITION ON THE SUBJECT HIGHLIGHTS THE LIMITS OF JUDICIAL REVIEW OVER EXECUTIVE DECISIONS IN MATTERS OF FOREIGN POLICY, ESPECIALLY IN VIOLATIONS OF HUMANITARIAN LAW**

A Bench of the Supreme Court of India, headed by the Chief Justice of India, recently dismissed a petition filed by former civil servants, academics, and activists. The petition, in *Ashok Kumar Sharma and Others vs Union of India*, had sought the suspension of existing licenses and the withholding of further licenses by the government to public sector and private companies, for exporting military equipment to Israel during the ongoing war. While the Court made it clear that it was not ruling on the merits of the case, it went on to issue a somewhat detailed judgment. The dismissal raises important questions about the limits of judicial review over executive decisions in matters of foreign policy and especially where there are grave violations of international humanitarian law.

## ICJ OPINION

The challenge was in view of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in January, ordering provisional measures against Israel, for violations in the Gaza strip, of obligations under the Genocide Convention. The provisional measures included an immediate halt to all killings and destruction being perpetrated by Israel. In light of this judgment, United Nations experts warned against the transfer of weapons to Israel which may "constitute serious violation of human rights...and risk State complicity in international crimes". In July, the ICJ rendered a detailed opinion declaring that the sustained abuse by Israel renders "Israel's presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory unlawful". The ICJ observed that "all States are under an obligation not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by Israel's illegal presence".

Earlier, in an adjudication before it regarding military support by Germany to Israel (*Nicaragua vs Germany*), the ICJ had significantly stated that "the Court considers it particularly important to remind all States of their international obligations relating to the transfer of arms to parties to an armed conflict, in order to avoid the risk that such arms might be used to violate the above-mentioned Conventions". Following this there have been challenges to the export of arms to Israel in various global jurisdictions, with the Hague Court of Appeal ordering the Dutch government to halt the export of F-35 fighter jet parts to Israel given the risk that "components to be exported to Israel will be used to commit serious violations of international law".

Many countries that are parties to the Geneva and Genocide conventions have halted the supply of military equipment



The Court's failure to halt the military aid will have serious repercussions in this war'

Credit: The Hindu

to Israel, in furtherance of these binding obligations. Canada, Spain and even the United Kingdom have suspended licenses of companies supplying arms to Israel.

As a party to these Conventions, India has similar obligations incumbent upon it. India is obligated under the Genocide Convention to take all measures within its power to prevent genocide. Article III of the Convention makes states' complicity in genocide a punishable offence. The obligation not to supply weapons to states that are possibly guilty of war crimes is an obligation directly based on common Article 1 of the Geneva Convention. The principles in these Conventions are peremptory norms of international law. India, therefore, cannot export any military equipment or weapons to Israel, when there is a serious risk that these weapons might be used to commit war crimes.

## WHERE THE SUPREME COURT FAILED

In its judgments, the Supreme Court of India has held that India is under obligation to interpret domestic law in the light of the obligations under the conventions and treaties that India has signed and ratified. However, the Court while dismissing the present case has held, that first, international obligations are not binding, since the country (Israel) which is in violation of international law (the Genocide Convention), was not before the Court. The state of Israel not being a party before the Court in such a challenge is irrelevant, since no relief was being sought against Israel, but against the government of India and private companies exporting arms to Israel, thereby violating international law obligations. The Court further stated that the petitioner's submissions were with regard to the "conduct of an independent sovereign nation, namely Israel" and that to grant the reliefs sought, it would have to enter findings

with regard to the petitioner's allegations against Israel. Again, the allegations by the petitioner were with respect to the conduct of India in sanctioning military exports, thereby abetting genocide. And the determination of the conduct of the state of Israel was premised on the ICJ, that had in a detailed order of the full court, while ordering provisional measures against Israel, noted the numerous reports by UN Special Rapporteurs and international aid organizations documenting how Gaza was a place of "death and despair".

The Court's rationale is also indefensible given its judgments that "Constitutional provisions must be read and interpreted in a manner which would enhance their conformity with the global human rights regime...and the Court must adopt an interpretation which abides by the international commitments made by the country particularly where its constitutional and statutory mandates indicate no deviation" (2017) 10 SCC 1. The ICJ has also held that states that are party to a particular convention "whether or not it is a party to a specific conflict, is under an obligation to ensure that the requirements of the instruments in question are complied with." (*Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004 (I), pp. 199-200, paragraph 158). Such an obligation "does not derive only from the Conventions themselves, but from the general principles of humanitarian law to which the Conventions merely give specific expression" (*Nicaragua vs United States of America*).

Second, the Court reasons that seeking a suspension of licenses with regard to contracts with international entities, including with the state of Israel, may involve a breach of contracts and other fallouts. Certainly, that is what the

petitioners prayed for - a halt to all licenses for the export of military arms to Israel in view of the genocide and yes, pending contracts. The Court's fear that this would lead to a breach of contract is misplaced, because any party to a contract to export of arms can always claim force majeure (here, due to the outbreak of a war and genocide by Israel). The same situation would arise if the Government of India were to itself suspend the licenses, which it can do in such situations, as done by many other countries. Being aware of the serious risk that acts of genocide could have been committed by Israel, the government is bound to employ all means reasonably available to it to prevent genocide, which would include suspension of export licenses for military aid to Israel. No contracting party can argue and let alone the court endorse as it does in this case, that licenses cannot be suspended by the government (in a situation of genocide) because it affects the "financial viability" of the companies concerned.

And, third, the "self-imposed restraint on Courts entering areas of foreign policy" was raised as another bogey to dismiss the challenge. India has binding commitments under international law, especially in the context of the application of Conventions that it has signed and ratified, and once the Supreme Court has held that such international law obligations which are not contrary to municipal law, must be read into the law of our land, the Court must step in to exercise its judicial discretion and caution the executive government when it acts in violation these laws.

## THE FALLOUT

In the midst of an unimaginable humanitarian crisis in Palestine and the international outcry against Israel's continuing genocide, the Supreme Court's failure to ensure that the Indian government halts its military aid to Israel and complies with its commitments under international law, will have serious repercussions in this war and its devastation that continues unabated.

The top court's dismissal of a petition on the subject highlights the limits of judicial review over executive decisions in matters of foreign policy, especially in violations of humanitarian law

*(Prashant Bhushan, a public interest lawyer in the Supreme Court of India, and Cheryl Dsouza, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, Secretary, Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms, were the counsels for the petitioners in the challenge to export of arms to Israel)*

# Sriniketan Foundation to Host 'Sangeet Mahotsav' 2024 - A Classical Music Extravaganza Featuring Internationally Acclaimed Artists



"This year the organization is paying a special tribute to Late Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhathkhande ji": Purnima A Desai, Founder and President of Sriniketan Foundation

**BIDISHA ROY**  
**SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Sriniketan Foundation of New York, which is renowned for promoting Classical music in the United States, will host its annual Indian classical music gala 'Sangeet Mahotsav' on September 29 at Flushing Community Center. The event which will span from 10 am to 10 pm covering morning, afternoon and evening Ragas, will feature 24 internationally acclaimed artists from India. They will be performing in three different parts - Part one from 10:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M., Part two from 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M., and Part three from 6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

"This year the organization is also paying a special tribute to Late Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhathkhande ji", said Purnima A Desai, Founder and President of Sriniketan Foundation.



Purnima A Desai, Founder and President of Sriniketan Foundation

A motivating and dedicated teacher in vocal and instrumental music, dance, languages, and Indian philosophy, Purnima A Desai is the founder and President of Shikshayatan Cultural

Center and Sriniketan Foundation, both based in New York. The philanthropic organizations, instrumental in encouraging and supporting Indian culture through music and art, promote the beauty, good will, and tranquility of Indian art and culture through in-depth educational workshops teaching children and women Hindi, violin, dance, poetry, and painting.

Born in a Brahmin family in Kolkata, India in 1949, Purnima lived in there for 19 years, then moving to Delhi where she lived for 4 years. In 1972 she got married to Ashok C Desai, a pharmacist by profession. It was a brief one year stay in Mumbai, before she moved to New York in 1973.

Purnima's liaison with the cultural world started in Kolkata at a very early age when she started learning Bharatnatyam, Manipuri, and Kathak dance. Highly educated with a number of degrees under her belt, Purnima, who is a B.A. (Edu. Hons.), C.C.O.S.W., M.B.A., Real Estate Manager, and Computer Programmer, never got disconnected from her cultural roots.

After a brief corporate career in New York, Purnima took a hiatus for her children. Mother of three daughters, Purnima founded the cultural organization-Shikshayatan, which means house of learning, in 1988 as she felt the need for such an organization to impart knowledge about Indian Culture to the young generation who are born and brought up in U.S. A. and who are deprived of the rich Indian cultural heritage. Shikshayatan opened its doors to all nationalities to come together for peace, harmony and team spirit and successfully and continuously offered vocal and instrumental lessons flexibly throughout the calendar year since its inception, providing a stage for young and old performers alike. As a program director of cultural events, Purnima has produced and directed more than hundred cultural programs for youngsters and adults for various organizations, institutions, ashrams, temples, churches, libraries, schools, delegates.

In 2015, she founded Sriniketan Foundation with the objective of building awareness through mind, body and soul evolution through various therapies. Each year, the organization showcases the talent of internationally renowned artists and recognizes their phenomenal talent, unrivaled contributions, and dedication to preserving the heritage of Hindustani Classical Music.

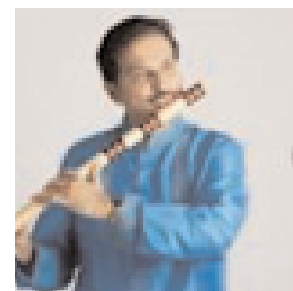
**THIS YEAR'S EVENT WILL FEATURE 24 INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED ARTISTS WHO WILL PERFORM IN MORNING, AFTERNOON AND EVENING SESSIONS. THE ARTISTS ARE:**

## ARCHANA JOGLEKAR- KATHAK



Archana Joglekar, Founder-Director, Archana Nrityalaya, The Kathak Dance Academy, USA, is one of the top Kathak dancers of India, is the first Kathak dancer to perform at The Elephanta Festival, Mumbai and the first and perhaps the only Indian classical dancer to perform at the Reykjavik Art Festival in Iceland, besides various prestigious art festivals in India. She has conducted lectures and demonstrations at Duke University, North Carolina and Princeton University, New Jersey. She was invited to teach Kathak during the spring semester at Princeton University for two consecutive years. She has performed at Lincoln Center by invitation from Julliard. She is an accomplished choreographer in the field of live stage shows, feature films and television. Her choreographies have been highly acclaimed by critics.

## PANDIT RUPAK KULKARNI - FLUTE



Pandit Rupak Kulkarni, an extraordinary flute maestro, stands as a vibrant testament to the timeless tradition of Indian classical music. His journey is one of profound mentorship and exceptional talent, having trained under the legendary Padma Vibhushan: Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia. Rupak Kulkarni's artistry is characterized by his unique ability to recreate and compose ragas, bringing a fresh sensuality and creativity to each performance. His training in Dhrupad and Khayal Gayaki allows him to infuse his recitals with a rare combination of melodious Aalap and scintillating Tatkar (tonguing technique used for Jhala). His innovative improvisations are accompanied by mesmerizing Layakari, creating an unforgettable musical experience.



## SANJIB HATTACHARYA - DANCE

Sanjib Hattacharya, recipient of President's Awards from Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam in 2006 and Smt. Pratibha Patil in

2011 is an accomplished Manipuri Dance Exponent, Guru and well-known Choreographer of India and abroad. He has received his training under the tutelage of Guru Bipin Singh, Padmashri Darshana Jhaveri, Kalavati Devi, Manjushree Chaki Sircar and Mamata Shankar. He is currently an established performer of great repute having extensively performed across India and abroad. He is not only performing as a solo artist but is also performing with eminent Gurus and Icons of Indian Classical dances like Padma Vibhushan Sonal Mansingh, Padmashri Darshana Jhaveri, Padmashri Ranjana Gauhar, Sadanam Balakrishnan and other eminent gurus all over India and abroad. He runs several dance academies and institutions in India and Abroad while conducting Lecture Demonstrations and workshops regularly across the Globe.

## SUPRIYO DUTTA - VOCAL



Supriyo Dutta is a distinguished performer in Hindustani Vocal Classical music and has performed extensively in India as well as in the United States of America, Australia, Europe, Sri Lanka. He is trained under some of the finest and legendary icons of Indian classical music, namely Pandit Ramkrishna Basu (Indore gharana), Padmashri, & Sangeet Natak Academy Ratna awardee Pandit Vijay Kichlu & Vidushi Subhra Guha. He was a National Scholar under Ministry of Culture as a student and also a recipient of the Gold Medal from the Governor for securing M.A. (1st position in Vocal Classical music). Other than all these Supriyo has won many prestigious awards in his musical journey so far and is also an empaneled artist of the ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations).

## VIDUSHI KANKANA BANERJEE - VOCAL



Kankana Banerjee inherited a keen sense of music from her very childhood and had early lessons of Classical Hindustani Music from her mother. Early in 1955, when Kankana was a child, she had the privilege to be introduced to Late Ustad Amir Khan of Indore. In a

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**CONTD FROM PAGE 11**

very informal gathering, the Late Maestro discovered an in-born musical talent, and a seven-year-old Kankana won his heart by skillful attachment to the masterly tune of the Maestro. Eventually it became apparent that Amir Khan was looking for a disciple to whom he would impart his own ideas of music to be carried on to the next generation. Gifted with a sweet and sonorously rich voice stretching over an amazing wide range, Kankana would in - turn, fathom the intricacies of Indore Gharana and won a cherished place in the sphere of Hindustani Classical Music.

**PANDIT ARUP CHATTOPADHYAY - TABLA**

Student of Pandit Sankar Ghosh of Farrukhabad gharana, Arup Chattopadhyay has established himself as a top-class accompanist and a formidable soloist.

His performances are admired for their tonal quality, crystal clear sound of bols (tabla syllables) even at an electrifying speed, and tremendous sense of rhythm and melody. He was a professor of tabla at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in London. Since 1998 he has been a visiting lecturer of tabla at the University of California, San Diego. His performances with most of the leading artists like Late Pandit Ravi Shankar, Ustad Ashish Khan, Ustad Shahid Parvez, Ustad Rais Khan, Pandit Rajan and Sajjan Mishra, Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty, Pandit Manas Chakraborty, Pandit Viswamohan Bhat, Ustad Rashid Khan, Pandit Tejendra Narayan Majumder, Pandit Nayan Ghosh and Pandit Kushal Das among others, has established him as a top-notch accompanist throughout the world.

**ANJAN SAHA-SITAR**

An empaneled artist of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, SpicMacay and Eastern

Zonal Cultural Centre, Anjan has started learning Sitar under the tutelage of Pt Debiprosad Chatterjee at a very tender age. Anjan was awarded National Scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India in the year 1992. He has achieved the rare feat of obtaining National Scholarship for the second time in the year 1998 from the same ministry. A graded artist of All India Radio and Television, Anjan has been performing extensively in India, USA, UK, Germany, France, Belgium, Slovenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Qatar, East Asia and Bangladesh. He regularly conducts workshop in schools in Germany. Besides performances Anjan is a Music Director. His compositions Surya, Kautuk, water, Vasanti Sringar, Sristi Sthiti Pralaya, Anandachakram are noteworthy.

**INDRAJIT ROY CHOWDHURY- SITAR**

Birendra Kishore Roy Chowdhury and Pandit Subroto Roy Chowdhury. He is based out of New York and maintains a rigorous tour schedule across the continents. As an international artist, Indrajit has performed in a range of distinguished venues. Brought up between USA and India, Indrajit has a rich diversified background to draw from which is clearly observed in his collaborations and own compositions. As a versatile and creative musician, he has performed with distinguished artists from other genres including the acclaimed Jazz artist, Wynton Marsalis. Indrajit has also collaborated with the Orchestra- Jazz at Lincoln Center and the same was featured in the film "Song of Lahore" which was premiered in Tribeca Film Festival.

**PHIL SCARF - SAXOPHONE**

Phil Scarf is pioneering the performance of North Indian classical music on soprano saxophone, exquisitely capturing the music's subtlety and depth. Phil is a master jazz saxophonist, and leads world-jazz ensembles; Natraj and the Lewis Porter-Phil SCARF Group. Phil has performed with icons of Indian classical music including Ronu Majumdar, Shashank, Kadri Gopalnath, Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman, Trichy Sankaran, Chitravina Ravikiran; as well as African master drummers Godwin Agbeli, Abubakari Lunna, Nani Agbeli, and Lamine Toure. Phil performs and records with creative jazz ensembles including Aardvark Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Composers Alliance, Filmprov, and OddSong. Phil received extensive training Hindustani music in Pune, India, from vocalist Pt. Shreeram Devasthali, leading sundri artist Pt. Suryakant Khaladkar, and shehnai master Pt. Shyamrao Lonkar, and in Boston, USA, from sitar master Peter Row, and vocalists Kalpana Mazumdar and Warren Senders.

**APRATIM MAJUMDAR - SAROD**

Sarod virtuoso Apratim Majumdar is a composer of very special quality, and a brilliant performer. Apratim was initially tutored and groomed by Prof Rabin Ghosh, disciple of Ustad Alauddin Khan in strict

discipline and style of Senia Maihar Gharana. He also received training from Shree Partho Sarothy, disciple of Ustad Dhyanes Khan and Pandit Ravi Shankar. Presently he is under training of Dr. Pradip Kumar Chakraborty, one of the senior-most disciples of Pt. Ravi Shankar. Apratim is an empaneled artist of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Govt. of India was awarded "SUR MANI" Title by Sur Singar Samsad (Mumbai). He is recipient of JADUBHATTA AWARD (Kolkata) and NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY AWARD (NEW YORK). At the moment, being one of the busiest Artists, he is performing throughout India and regularly traveling on concert tour to Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, Austria, Netherlands and USA.

**MRS. CHANDRIKA KURUP - DANCE**

She is Assistant Director of Noopura Institute and Head of the Department of

Mohiniyattam. She was instructed in Mohiniyattam by Smt. Kalamandalam Kalyanikutty Amma and in Odissi by Guru Trinath Maharana. She also received training in Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi. Mrs. Kurup is one of the foremost exponents of Mohiniyattam and has performed all over India, USA, West Germany, Bahrain, and UAE.

**MS. LAKSHMI KURUP - DANCE**

Lakshmi has won numerous awards including one from Sangeetha Nataka Academy. She specializes in Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi. Her Kuchipudi dance 'Tharangam' is noted for grace, expression, and poise. Lakshmi is a recipient of a Mohiniyattam Scholarship from the Department of Culture, Government of India.

**PANDIT RAMESH NARAYAN - VOCAL**

Ramesh Narayan is an Indian classical vocalist, composer and music producer who works predominantly in Malayalam cinema. Ramesh began his initial training in Carnatic music and later mastered the classical Hindustani style under the renowned Pandit Jasraj ji. Ramesh began his career composing score music for documentaries, films and Indian television programs in Hindi, Malayalam and Tamil. His film-scoring career began in the early 1990s with the Malayalam film Magrib. Ramesh Narayan has earned National Film Awards, four Kerala State Film Awards, and two Kerala Film Critics Association Awards. He has received the Indian Music Academy Award for popularizing Hindustani classical music in Kerala from the then President of India Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Ramesh became popular

by performing a 36-hour vocal recital as part of celebrating the 100 years of Indian Cinema at the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune. This performance got him an entry to the Limca Book of Records 2013 for completing the 24-hour raga cycle.

**MADHUSHREE NARAYAN - VOCAL**

Madhushree Narayan was born to the Classical singer and music composer, Ramesh Narayan and Karnatic music artist Hemal.

Madhushree has been singing from the age of three and began learning music formally from her father Ramesh Narayan and later from Pandit Jasraj. Presently, she is learning nuances and styles of Thumri from Pandit Ajoy Pohankar. Madhushree started her career as a singer when she was just four, making her debut in Malayalam for the movie Makalkku She has won Kerala State Film Awards for Best Female Playback Singer in 2015 and 2019 and received Kerala Film Critics Award 2014.

**ADITYA NARAYAN BANERJEE -TABLA**

Aditya Narayan Banerjee is an M.A. in Instrumental Music (percussion) from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata. Aditya turned to tabla at the

early age of five when he started his training under the guidance of Sri Shivshankar Karmakar, a prominent disciple of Late Ustad Karamatullah Khan of Farrukhabad Gharana. Since 1990 he has been under the able guidance of the great table maestro Pandit Swapan Choudhuri, a great Exponent of Lucknow Gharana. Aditya is Sangeet Prabhakar from Proyag Sangeet Samity, Allahabad and M. Mus from Troilokya Sangeet Parishad, Kolkata. Aditya led a Tabla Workshop for visually Impaired children at LaVoy Exceptional Center in Tampa, Florida, USA.

**VINAY DESAI - SANTOOR**

In 2011, with blessings and direct guidance of Padma Vibhushan Pandit Shivkumar Sharma, Vinay began his studies under Takahiro Arai. He later moved back to USA to learn from Kunal Gunjal. To expand his knowledge in music, Vinay has learnt from many different Maestros. Vinay's

**CONTD FROM PAGE 12**

passion and dedication to Santoor allowed him to be under the tutelage of Pt. Shivkumar Sharma for several years. After his demise there is now a task upon the few people who really learned Santoor in this way to keep this music and this legacy alive. Vinay has previously performed throughout India, Argentina, Canada, The Bahamas and the USA including Hawaii. He is known for his meditative and dynamic musical phrases. His devotion to the purity and the depth of Shivkumar Sharma's style comes forth in performance.

**STEVE GORN - FLUTE**



Steve Gorn's bansuri is featured on the 2011 Grammy winning recording, "Miho - Journey to the

Mountain," with Dhruba Ghosh and the Paul Winter Consort, as well as the Academy Award winning Documentary film, "Born into Brothels." He has performed Indian Classical Music and new American Music on the bansuri bamboo flute in concerts and festivals throughout the world. His gurus are the late bansuri master Sri Gour Goswami, of Kolkata, and Pt. Raghunath Seth of Mumbai, who he often accompanied in concert. He also studied with the late Ustad Z. M. Dagar. He has often performed in India, appearing at Bharat Bhavan in Bhopal, Habitat Center and Triveni Hall in New Delhi, The Sangeet Research Academy in Kolkata, NCPA, and The Nehru Center in Mumbai, and numerous other venues. In 2013, he was awarded the Pandit Jasraj Rotary Club of Hyderabad Award for Cross Cultural Achievement. His numerous recordings include Luminous Ragas, Rasika, (with tabla by Samir Chatterjee,) Illuminations, (with Nepali bansuri wallah, Manose,) the landmark Indian-Jazz fusion recording, Asian Journal, and Pranam, a jugalbandi with Barun Kumar Pal playing Hansaveena, and Samir Chatterjee, tabla.

**ANUBRATA CHATTERJEE - TABLA**



Son of renowned tabla player Anindo Chatterjee, Anubrata's debut as an accompanying artist was alongside Hariprasad

Chaurasia, and he has subsequently collaborated with eminent musicians in the Indian classical music realm, including Amjad Ali Khan, Birju Maharaj, Shivkumar Sharma, Shahid Parvez, T. H. Vinayakram, and others worldwide. Chatterjee has performed both as a soloist and an accompanist through his tabla renditions, participating in numerous duet performances with his father. Internationally, he made his solo debut on BBC World Radio in the UK in 1991,

subsequently performing at venues and festivals globally, including Carnegie Hall in New York City, Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Esplanade Theatres in Singapore, Rietberg Museum in Zurich, the World Percussion Festival in Chicago, Jerash Festival in Jerash, Jordan, Corfu Festival in Corfu, Greece, Dubrovnik Festival in Croatia, Namaste India Festival in Japan, among others.

**DR. KABERI SEN - DANCE**



A dancer of immense potential, Kaberi is a devoted disciple of Guru Smt Alok Kango. Kaberi has

received training in Rabindra Nritya from Guru Smt Poly Guha also. She is also fortunate to attend workshops conducted by Late Padma Vibhushan Guru Shri Kelucharan Mahapatra, Padma Vibhushan Guru Smt. Sonal Mansingh, Guru Smt. Sujata Mohapatra. Graded artist of Doordarshan Kendra & Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kaberi was awarded National scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, Govt of India in the year 2002 and Rabindra Bharati University in 2005. She has been performing at several Dance & Music Festivals in India and abroad, like USA, Doha, Kuwait, Germany, France, England etc. Moreover, she conducts workshops at schools in Germany and she has taken a Dance Therapy Class in Milwaukee, USA for the patients who are suffering from Parkinson Disease. Presently she has been working on the relation between Vedic Sanskrit Literature, Classic Sanskrit Literature and Dance.

**HINDOLE MAJUMDAR - TABLA**



Hindole occupies a commendable position amongst the young tabla players of his generation. Inspired by his maternal

grandfather, Late Sri Chittaranjan Roy, an ardent music lover, and his mother, Late Sunanda Majumdar, a teacher by profession and a Kathak dancer disciple of Pandit Ramgopal Mishra of the Jaipur gharana, Hindole started learning tabla at the tender age of 5. In his very first performance at the age of 10, he completely enthralled the audience. He received his first formal training from Shri Shibshankar Karmakar, a disciple of Ustad Karamatullah Khan, Farrukhabad Gharana. He continues to receive training from the great tabla maestro Pandit Sankha Chatterjee (of the Punjab and Farrukhabad Gharana) in a guru-shishya parampara. He has also had the opportunity to learn South Indian Rhythm style from the Mridangam exponent Pandit S. Shekhar. Hindole has founded the Hindole Majumdar School of

Music and Dance in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in USA where he teaches Tabla and Indian Rhythm on a regular basis.

**AMIT CHATTERJEE - TABLA**



Amit Chatterjee, is a highly gifted Tabla player of India, regularly performs with some of the greatest names in Indian Classical Music. With a unique blend of both Farukhabad and Punjab's rich musical flavor in his music, he got these rare opportunities to receive blessings of great stalwarts and maestros of the likes of Late Ustad Allarakha Khan, Late Ustad Vilayat Khan, Pandit Chinmoy Lahiri, Late Ustad Munawar Ali Khan, Late Pandit V.G.Jog, Late Pandit Kishen Maharaj, and living legends such as Ustad Zakir Hussain and Ustad Ashish Khan. Equally brilliant within traditional as well as experimental genres, Amit has carved out a unique niche for himself in his diverse avatars as classical musician. Amit is one of those rare tabla players who have been fortunate enough to acquire the intricacies and subtleties of both Farukhabad and Punjab Gharana.

**ANIRBAN CHAKRABARTY - HARMONIUM**



Anirban Chakrabarty hails from a family of Musicians. He was initially trained by his father, Amal Chakrabarty, a dedicated musician and guru and then he got taalim under the tutelage of Pandit Manas Chakraborty, the doyen of Kotali Gharana. After a post-graduate degree in music with first class from the Rabindra Bharati University. Anirban has been performing across the world. He has accompanied Pt. Manas Chakrabarty, Gaan Saraswati Sreela Bandyopadhyay, Pt. Venkatesh Kumar, Vidushi Ashwini Bhide, Vidushi Arati Ankalikar, Pt. Ganpati Bhatt, Pt. Jayateerth Mevundi among others in major concerts like Dover lane Music Conference, Uttarpara Sangeet Chakra, Dakshinee Music Festival, Hariballabh Music Festival, Saptak, Sangeet Piyasi, Saltlake Music Conference and in major concerts in USA and Europe year after year. Anirban also composes and

arranges music in lighter forms.

**BISHNUPRIYA CHAKRABARTY-VOCAL**



Bishnupriya Chakrabarty is a renowned Indian classical singer. With a musical journey spanning over 25 years, she has trained under esteemed gurus and received accolades for her exceptional talent in khayal, thumri, dadra, and bhajan.

**ROSY DUTTA-VOCAL**



Rosy Dutta Pandit is a Hindustani classical vocalist from Kolkata, West Bengal, India. She has performed at many prestigious concerts in Kolkata and other renowned musical conferences in India, including the Uttarpara Sangeet Chakra, Salt Lake Music Festival, and Sangeet Piyasi. Dutta Pandit has received training from many legendary artists, including Pandit JVS Rao, Pandit Biresh Roy, and Dr. Sunanda Patnaik, also known as the 'Tarana Queen'. She was born into a musical family and received her first training from her mother, Smt. Sabita Pandit. Dutta Pandit has a rich tonal voice and a keen sense of music.

**SHOUVIK MUKHERJEE - SITAR**



Shouvik is a sitar player and classical music enthusiast. He got inspired by his parents to come

into this field and is determined to bring innovation to the field of sitar playing. Shouvik is a classical sitar player from Kolkata. He generally plays Hindustani music. He has performed at several prestigious music festivals in India and abroad. He has performed alongside legendary artists like the Latin Grammy award winner Ivan Santos and Padma

Shri Sonu Nigam.

# Voter Registration Drive at Minnesota State Capitol with League of Women Voters

SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

**MINNESOTA (TIP):** High school student volunteers joined the League of Women Voters of Edina (LWVE) and community workers to educate and register voters at the Annual IndiaFest Festival at the Minnesota State Capitol grounds in St. Paul.

Edina High School senior Anoushka Jha and her sister Aditi Jha, a sophomore, regularly participate in voter registration drives at naturalization ceremonies and community events. "I have been volunteering for a while, and am excited to vote when I'm 18," said Anoushka. "While the nation's focus is on the presidential election, I believe that local elections are equally important."

Anoushka and Aditi credit their parents Drs. Vaishali and Gautam Jha, preeminent physicians and distinguished members of the community for their support.

"We talk about politics frequently and often have spirited discussions about current issues," said Aditi, who wants to be a lawyer and is very interested in public policy. She continued, "My parents support my passion for policy and regularly take time off from their busy schedule to support me."

"We are happy to join local student-leaders in enlisting citizens to register and vote," said Gopal Khanna, former National Vice President of the Association of Indians in America (AIA) who is currently chairing AIA's national initiative on civic responsibility and community service. "Democracy is strong when people are engaged. It's a privilege and responsibility of every citizen to participate in the electoral process of the country." He continued, "I am heartened to see high schoolers taking the lead to work with LWVE and volunteering at the voter registration booth. I am inspired by their sense of duty and civic responsibility."

Anoushka wants to pursue a career in medicine but is equally interested in politics and public policy. "I am concerned about the future of healthcare," she said. "It constitutes about 17% of GDP and will be about 25% of the nation's economy by the time I enter the practice. It's an unsustainable model. My generation of future physicians need to think about policy as well, and be part of defining the future of medicine."

Her sister chimed in, "As nextGen Americans and children of immigrants we need to continue that legacy of service to our country. The best way to do that is by exercising our right to vote."

"In addition to voting we have a unique opportunity to participate in the upcoming elections at polling



High school student volunteers joined the League of Women Voters of Edina (LWVE) and community workers to educate and register voters at the Annual IndiaFest Festival at the Minnesota State Capitol grounds in St. Paul

stations," said Khanna. "Precinct and caucus in every state need polling judges. People can call their city council and sign up to be an election judge. There is no better way to experience first-hand the workings of our electoral process, and to ensure its sanctity. I urge people across the country to sign up at their respective city hall as soon as possible. Time is of the essence."

"AIA remains committed to helping anyone who wishes to participate in voter registration drives or participate in polling booths", said Gobind Munjal, National president of AIA. He added, "AIA has a long-standing tradition of leading and supporting voter registration drives." Added Khanna, "As a community our goal needs to be the one that has the highest rate of voter participation in the country. That's a true hallmark of engaged citizenry."

Minnesota, land of 10,000 lakes, is home to over 40,000 people of Indian origin. Minnesota's growing and thriving Indian-American community has enriched the state in all walks of life from art, music, science, technology, medicine, education, research, academia, entrepreneurship and politics and policy.

#### ABOUT AIA:

Established in 1967, the Association of Indians in America is the oldest national organization of Indian Americans whose motto is: "Indian Heritage and American Commitment."

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:

Gobind Munjal, National President, AIA  
M: 646-209-8244; Email: gpmunjal@gmail.com

## "We must step forward: the situation is not hopeless, and we are not helpless": UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous on Afghanistan



This law introduces a new low where we thought there was nowhere lower to go.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** UN Women Executive Director, Sima Bahous, has delivered today powerful remarks at the UN Security Council during the meeting to present the Report of the Secretary-

General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security.

We have heard and will continue to hear today about the Taliban's new morality law, made public this August 21st by the de facto Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. While much of the law was already in place in prior decrees or edicts of the de facto authorities, this law introduces a new low where we thought there was nowhere lower to go.

It requires women and girls to cover their entire bodies and faces everywhere outside their homes.

It forbids them speaking in public, using public transportation alone, or even looking at men to whom they are not related by blood or marriage.

As you know, this comes on top of edicts issued over the past three years segregating women and men in daily life, prohibiting women from using gyms, parks, or public baths and more.

The new morality law does not only segregate women from men. It isolates them from other women too. In our surveys, only 22 per cent of Afghan women report meeting with women outside their immediate family on a daily or weekly basis, while 18 per cent

never do.

Not surprisingly, 90 per cent of Afghan women and girls report that their mental health is bad or very bad, with a majority of women reporting that their mental health is getting worse every quarter, and 8 per cent knowing at least one woman or girl who has attempted suicide.

In our surveys, 64 per cent of women felt completely unsafe leaving their house by themselves, a percentage that has increased in recent months and will likely increase with the new law.

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

## Suozzi Challenges Trump to Urge Republicans in Congress to Reinstatement the SALT Deduction Now



SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP):

Congressman Tom Suozzi (D - Nassau, Queens), on September 18,

released a statement in response to a social media post

from the former president where he reverses his position on the cap on State and Local Taxes (SALT):

"I am happy that the former president is saying that he has finally reversed his devastating decision in 2017 to cap the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction. It has been a body blow to my constituents for the past 7 years. If he is truly serious he should urge 100 Republicans in the House and 25 in the Senate to join me to restore the full SALT deduction now!!"

Congressman Suozzi Comments on Trump Reversal on SALT

# Attacks in Lebanon threaten to derail Gaza talks: Antony Blinken

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed frustration on Wednesday at surprise escalations that he said threaten to derail efforts to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. He said the US is still assessing the previous day's deadly pager explosions, linked to Israel, in Lebanon.

Blinken spoke in Egypt, where he travelled for talks on the Gaza cease-fire negotiations and US-Egyptian relations. The United States and international partners, including Egypt, are working to broker a cease-fire in the nearly year-old war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, and to tamp down tensions as Israeli leaders threaten to step up military action against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

"Time and again" when the US and other international mediators believe themselves



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed frustration on Wednesday, at surprise escalations that he said threaten to derail efforts to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

to be making progress in a cease-fire deal for Israel's and Hamas's war in Gaza, "we've seen an event that makes the process more difficult, might derail it," Blinken said, speaking in answer to a question about the previous day's explosions in Lebanon.

Explosive attacks using personal pagers used by members of the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon killed at least 12 people Tuesday, including a child. Israel has not publicly spoken on whether it was responsible.

Blinken spoke of Hamas' killing earlier this month of six of the several dozen hostages that Hamas-led militants have held in Gaza since capturing them October 7, in the attack in Israel that launched the war.

Blinken on Wednesday repeated administration statements that the US was still gathering information on the circumstances of the pager attacks.

## Indian American Rep. Pramila Jayapal joins local leaders to host New Way Forward Campaign events across Georgia



U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal on campaign trail in Georgia

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): As the race for the White House enters its final stretch, U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal took center stage in Georgia this weekend, emphasizing the high stakes for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community in the upcoming presidential election. Speaking at campaign events across multiple cities, including Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah, Jayapal urged voters

to rally behind Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as part of the Democratic Party's "New Way Forward" tour.

Jayapal joined local elected officials and community members for an AANHPI-focused phone banking event in Norcross, Georgia, where she highlighted the significant impact, the election could have on minority communities. "We know that the AANHPI community in particular has so much at stake here," she stated during her speech. She pointed out the dangerous implications of a potential nationwide abortion ban under Trump, especially for AANHPI women, while addressing the rise of anti-Asian hate crimes. "But what is also at stake is the bright vision Vice President Harris and Governor Tim Walz offer for our country. It is a close race, and it is really close here in Georgia. If we win Georgia, we can win the contest against Donald Trump and put him in our rearview mirror once and for all."

Other notable figures who joined the campaign included Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, actor Keith Powell, and actress Lexi Underwood. They helped energize voters across Georgia, calling for active participation in phone banking, canvassing, and turnout efforts. Powell highlighted the need for civic engagement, urging voters to "do something" and take action.

The battleground tour reflects the Democrats' push to secure Georgia's crucial electoral votes, with only weeks remaining until Election Day.

## Indian American telecom pioneer Sam Pitroda unveils autobiography of tech leader Javad K. Hassan

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American telecom pioneer Sam Pitroda unveiled the autobiography of Javad K. Hassan, a renowned Indian American tech innovator, at an event in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, September 11. The book, titled "The Art of The Possible: A Maverick's Journey to Success, Innovation, and Fearless Leadership," chronicles Hassan's journey from Kerala, India, as a graduate student to his rise as a global business leader.

In the memoir, Hassan shares the story of his career, highlighting his relentless pursuit of innovation, leadership, and breaking conventional barriers. The book offers insight into his philosophy of success and his fearless approach to leadership in some of the world's top technology companies.

Hassan, a former senior executive at IBM and former president of Global Inter Connect Systems at AMP Inc (now TE Connectivity), is the chairman of the McLean, VA, -based NeST Group.

Hassan first came to the United States in 1966 to pursue a master's degree in material engineering at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut. After completing his studies, he began his career as a young engineer at IBM's East Fishkill campus in New York.

Over the next 25 years, Hassan climbed the corporate ladder at IBM before leaving to join connector manufacturing giant AMP in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. At AMP, his unconventional strategies and leadership style sparked groundbreaking innovations and facilitated key mergers, transforming the company's trajectory.

After his time at AMP, Hassan embarked on an entrepreneurial journey by founding the NEST Group, a conglomerate based in Kochi, Kerala. Over the years, he acquired more than a dozen companies, reshaping industries such as fiber optics, software, healthcare IT, and digital media.

Comparing Hassan's journey to his own odyssey, Pitroda, who is credited with modernizing India's telecommunications industry, said: "I see this as a



Sam Pitroda unveiled the autobiography of Javad K. Hassan, a renowned Indian American tech innovator, at an event in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, September 11

journey of India in many ways, coming from a very simple background, humble background, fighting it along, struggling and making something happen, and then in the process helping others, bringing other from the mainstream. And that journey is what this book is about. It is not just about his journey, but [the] journey of a nation. Many people like him came here, made a contribution, made money ... help people back in India, brought some people from India to here, created jobs in India and that multiplying effect is what India is today."

Hassan was born on October 7, 1940, in Aluva, located in Kerala's Ernakulam district, as the eldest child of M.M. Khadijoo and Assanu Nagoor Rawther, a police officer. His maternal grandfather, Mackar Pillay, was a prominent businessman in the Travancore-Cochin region and a member of the Sree Moolam Praja Sabha (Popular Assembly).

In 1962, Hassan earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the College of Engineering, Trivandrum. He worked for two public sector companies in India for a few years before coming to the United States.

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

# Delhi gets its 3rd woman CM as Arvind Kejriwal hands over charge to Atishi

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The frontrunner was the chosen one. In an expected turn of events, the AAP legislative party on September 17 elected finance and education minister Atishi, 43, as its leader, paving the way for her to become the eighth chief minister of Delhi.

Outgoing Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal later met lieutenant governor VK Saxena at Raj Niwas along with his council of ministers - Atishi, Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Imran Hussain - to submit his resignation.

Chief minister -designate Atishi then submitted a letter to stake her claim to form govt. She will remain at the helm for a maximum of five months in this term if the assembly polls are held as per schedule in Feb 2025.

"Now, Atishi steps up to lead Delhi till the upcoming elections, carrying the weight of both CM Arvind Kejriwal's vision and the national capital's future," said AAP in a statement.

AAP functionaries said an assembly session will be convened on Sept 26 and 27, and the new govt under Atishi will prove its majority. This is a mere formality, considering AAP's brute majority of 59 legislators in a 70-member House. Three MLAs have resigned from AAP in the past five months. Leaving Raj Niwas, Atishi told reporters: "Had it



Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and AAP leader Atishi with Delhi LG VK Saxena at the LG House. Arvind Kejriwal resigned as Delhi chief minister, while Atishi stakes a claim to the position.

been any other CM, he would have immediately sat on the CM's chair after coming out of jail. No one in the world would have taken a decision like Kejriwal ji (to step down)."

"This is an emotional moment for the party and the people of Delhi. At the same time, the people of Delhi have resolved to make Arvind Kejriwal chief minister again. Till elections are held, I will be looking after Delhi," she added.

Atishi will be the second youngest to become the CM after Chaudhary Brahm Prakash (1952-55) who was just shy of 34 when he was sworn in as CM. She will

also be the third woman chief minister of the capital.

Her name was proposed by Kejriwal at the meeting of the legislative party, which was held at his camp office at Flag Staff Road. It was unanimously accepted by all legislators.

Kejriwal had on Monday held one-on-one meetings with members of AAP's political affairs committee, including all ministers, to seek their view on prospective successors.

Kejriwal had announced his decision to step down on Sunday, in less than 48 hours of his release from Tihar Jail after

getting bail in the excise policy case. He had told party workers that he would sit in the CM's chair only after obtaining a "certificate of honesty" from the electorate in the upcoming polls. He had ruled out deputy CM Manish Sisodia, who was also in jail for over 17 months in the same case, taking over from him. Kejriwal had also urged Election Commission of India to hold elections in Delhi in Nov.

A first-time MLA from Kalkaji, Atishi forayed into electoral politics in 2019 when she unsuccessfully contested against BJP's Gautam Gambhir. In 2020, she contested the assembly polls from Kalkaji and won. She was inducted into the cabinet only after Sisodia and former health minister Saytendar Jain resigned due to their incarceration in separate cases.

She was initially given six departments which later ballooned to 13. While Kejriwal, even during his first stint of 49 days and 2015 onwards, never kept any portfolio with himself, Atishi is likely to hold on to some departments.

Officials said the LG will forward Kejriwal's resignation and Atishi's claim for forming govt to the President and to the Union ministry of home affairs. Once the approvals are received, Raj Niwas will invite her to take the oath of office.

## SEBI chairperson's explanations raise even more questions: Cong

NEW DELHI (TIP)

A day after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Buch and her husband, Dhaval Buch, had "answered" most of the allegations against them, the Congress on Tuesday (September 17, 2024) said their explanation raised "even more questions".

In a post on X, Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said "the facts" put out on their financial dealings had not been contradicted so far by anyone.

"The Finance Minister has finally broken the Union government's silence on the issue of the multiple conflicts of interest of the SEBI Chairperson. She has said that the SEBI Chairperson and Mr. Buch are 'answering on allegations of conflict of interest'. But these answers raise even more questions," Ramesh said.

"The question now is whether the Finance Minister and the non-biological PM were aware of these facts since 2022 at least. Do they really think that these facts are trivial and do not, in any way, compromise the functioning of the capital markets regulator?" he said.

Has the Supreme Court-mandated SEBI investigation into the Adani Group really been fair, impartial, and complete, Ramesh asked, adding, "The last has not been heard on this matter."

In a separate statement, the Congress general secretary said the first 100 days of the Modi government's third term was marked by a litany of U-



Jairam Ramesh

turns and a series of scandals. He said the government had "failed to act on India's mass unemployment crisis".

Ramesh said "the non-biological PM and his drumbeating economists" had consistently attacked the idea of jobless growth but the reality since 2014 was even more stark - "job-loss growth".

He said the crisis was of the government's own making, caused by the decimation of job creating MSMEs through the "Tughlakiandemonetisation", a hastily rushed through goods and services tax, an unplanned COVID-19 lockdown, and rising imports from China.

"The final straw has been the non-biological PM's economic policy of favoring large conglomerates. India's unemployment rate today is the highest it has been in 45 years, with the unemployment rate for graduate youth at 42%," he said. Source: *The Hindu*

## Bihar: Over 20 Dalit homes torched over land dispute; Mallikarjun Kharge, Mayawati react

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar ordered the additional director general of police (ADG) law and order to visit Nawada to inspect Nawada where around 21 homes of Dalits were set on fire on Wednesday, September 18 over an alleged land dispute. Shots were also fired in the air as miscreants went on to torch homes one after the other.

The incident happened in Manjhi Tola in Mufassil Police station area and no injuries have been reported so far. Police said a case has been registered and investigation is underway. 15 people have been detained so far and search operations have been launched to nab other accused persons.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge condemned the crime against Dalits and alleged that the BJP and its NDA allies remain indifferent to such crimes.

"The BJP and its allies' utter indifference towards the Dalits and the deprived, criminal neglect and promotion of anti-social elements is now at its peak. Prime Minister Modi is silent as usual, Nitish is carefree in his greed for power and the NDA allies are speechless," Kharge wrote in a post on X.

BSP chief Mayawati said the incident is "extremely sad and serious" and called for rehabilitation of victims. "The incident of burning down many houses of poor Dalits in Bihar's Nawada by the goons and ruining their lives is extremely sad and serious. The government should take strict legal action against the culprits," she posted on X. Source: *HT*



# J&K Assembly phase I poll peaceful; records a 61.13% turnout

JAMMU/SRINAGAR (TIP)

A voter turnout of 61.13 pc was registered in the first phase polling in Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls, which were held on 24 constituencies in seven districts.

According to Election Commission data, the voting percentage was 61.13 per cent. Voting started across 24 seats at 7 am today, including 16 seats in the Kashmir region and eight seats in the Jammu region. The voting was peaceful.

"Building on the successful foundation of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, peaceful and enthusiastic voting marked the beginning of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir," EC said in a release.

"Voters from all sections of society responded to the 'call of democracy' wholeheartedly, reaffirming the confidence expressed by CEC Rajiv Kumar during the announcement of assembly elections that the people of J-K will give a befitting reply to the nefarious forces attempting to disrupt the electoral process," it added.

The poll panel said that the long queues of voters at the polling stations showcased to the entire world, the deep trust and confidence of the people of J-K in the democratic exercise.

Kishtwar district recorded the highest



turnout at 80.14 per cent followed by Ramban at 70.55 per cent, Doda at 71.34 per cent, Kulgam at 62.60 per cent, Anantnag at 57.84 per cent and Shopian at 55.96 per cent

The Pulwama district recorded the lowest at 46.65 per cent.

J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also expressed happiness over a good voter turnout in the first phase.

In a post on X, LG Sinha said, "Congratulations J-K for a historic voter turnout! I would like to thank all voters,

who exercised their franchise in 1st Phase. Record polling in the peaceful, free and fair election attests to the strength of Indian democracy and people's faith in democratic values. I must congratulate all my sisters & first-time voters for participating in large numbers to celebrate the festival of democracy. Heartfelt gratitude to outstanding security forces, JKP & Election Officials. Approx 59% polling in the first phase shows 'Jamhoriyat' (democracy) is flourishing in J-K."

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Rashid contested the Lok Sabha elections as an Independent and defeated National Conference leader Omar Abdullah from the Baramulla seat. The National Conference and PDP leaders have taken digs at the BJP following Rashid's release from jail on bail.

Voting for the second and third phases in J-K will be held on September 25 and October 1, respectively. Votes will be counted on October 8.

Source: ANI

## RG Kar: Medics to continue strike after 2nd round of talks remain inconclusive

The second round of talks between junior doctors and officials of the West Bengal government failed to break the medics' strike over the RG Kar issue, following the state's refusal to give written minutes of the meeting, the doctors alleged. After the meeting, the medics announced they will continue with their agitation and 'cease work' movement till the government issues written directives on the safety of doctors in state-run hospitals as agreed in the meeting.

"While the talks went smoothly, the government refused to hand over signed and written minutes of the issues which were discussed. We are feeling let down and disappointed with the government's attitude," Dr Aniket Mahato, one of the agitating doctors, said on Wednesday, September 18 night.

"We will send an email tomorrow detailing our demands based on which the government has assured it will issue directives. We will continue our agitation and take a call on it if and when those directives are issued," Mahato said. The state also refused to accept the doctors' demand to initiate a departmental inquiry against health secretary N S Nigam in the wake of the alleged rape-murder of an R G Kar hospital PG trainee.

The state capital has been rocked with massive protests ever since the alleged rape and murder of the trainee doctor and subsequent allegations of widespread corruption at government health care facilities and arm-twisting of students and trainee doctors.

## Nadda to Kharge: Where was political morality when PM was abused 110 times

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The BJP on Thursday, September 19, fielded its president JP Nadda to rebut a letter Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge wrote to the prime minister highlighting BJP leaders' abuses directed at Rahul Gandhi.

In a strongly worded three-page rebuttal to Kharge, Nadda asked why the Congress chief never mentioned political morality and decorum when his colleagues hurled over "110 abuses at PM Modi".

Nadda went on to list these abuses, including Rahul Gandhi's "thieves" reference for "Modis (who are OBCs) and his mother Sonia Gandhi's 'maut ka saudahar' remarks meant for Modi and said, "The so-called products being sold in Rahul Gandhi-led Mohabbat ki Dukaan which solely aims to acquire power are the poison of casteism, seeds of animosity, spices of anti-nationalism, toxins of defamation of India and the sledgehammer of breaking up the nation," Nadda wrote to Kharge, adding: "Hope my letter answers the questions raised by you and your party leader."

In serial swipes at the Congress chief, Nadda described Rahul as a "failed product" asking Kharge "what his compulsion was in repeatedly relaunching a failed product".

"What is your compulsion in defending a person whose history has been of abusing the entire OBC

segment as thieves; using unsavoury references for the PM, including speaking of beating him up with sticks?" asked Nadda.

He said Rahul Gandhi's mother Sonia Gandhi used "maut ka saudahar" remarks for the PM and the Congress continued to glorify these shameless remarks.

"Why did the Congress then forget political morality when Rahul Gandhi openly said, 'We will soil Modi's image.' I understand it is your compulsion to keep relaunching a failed product but as party president you should introspect," the BJP chief said, adding that India's oldest political party under the pressure of the dynasty has been reduced to a "copy and paste party".

"The Congress and company have hurled over 110 abuses at PM Modi. Top Congress leaders are involved in this. Why do words like political morality, dignity, discipline, courtesy vanish from your dictionary when the Congress abuses the PM?" Nadda asked, accusing Kharge of double standards.

Listing the slurs Congress leaders used for Modi, Nadda said no other political leader in India's history has been insulted as much as PM Modi.

"And the Congress has rewarded abusers of Modi with top posts. I would need to write a book to cover this topic," said Nadda, asking if these abuses have not shamed India.

Source: TNS



# India in history this Week

## SEPTEMBER 20 TO SEPTEMBER 26

### 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 Wadekar became the first woman to lay down her life for the country's independence.

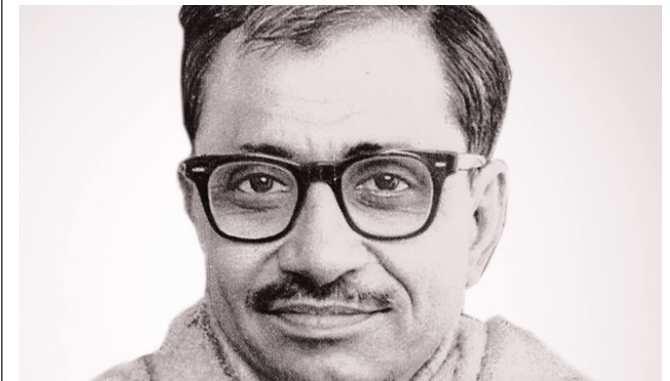
2009 India's first Chandrayaan-1 discovered water on the lunar surface.

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 as Viceroy.



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 of India 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.

2006 Demand for Indian citizenship to Dalai Lama.

### 26 SEPTEMBER

1820 Indian social reformer, educationist and freedom fighter Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was born.

1923 Bollywood actor Dev Anand was born in Punjab (Pakistan).



1932 Manmohan Singh, the 13th Prime Minister of the country, was born in a village in the Punjab province of undivided India.

1998 Sachin Tendulkar broke Desmond Haynes' world record by scoring an 18th century in a one-day cricket match against Zimbabwe.



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# NJ SYMPHONY CELEBRATES SEASON OPENING GALA

BY MABEL PAIS

"This extraordinary volume ('Music and Mind: Harnessing the Arts for Health and Wellness,') edited by Renée Fleming is the most comprehensive compilation of the role of music in every aspect of life, from biological evolution to our own mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. The meaning of life is in the music of life." -Deepak Chopra, MD



Renée Fleming

The New Jersey Symphony celebrates the start of the 2024-25 season with a Gala Celebration on Sunday, October 6 at 1 pm at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC), Newark, NJ.

Join the Symphony for a breathtaking nature-filled season opener featuring international superstar Renée Fleming. As fall colors flare, America's most celebrated soprano adds the exquisite hues of her voice to this concert, inspired by her 2023 GRAMMY Award-winning album, 'Voice of Nature: the Anthropocene.' This special performance spans Classical, Romantic and contemporary music, exploring nature as both inspiration and victim of humanity. Be immersed as

the music will be accompanied by a film by the National Geographic Society.

Attendees will enjoy a special pre-concert brunch before experiencing the nature-filled season opening concert with Xian Zhang, Renée Fleming and the New Jersey Symphony.

Net proceeds of this benefit event will support the New Jersey Symphony's education and community engagement programs. Each year, these programs provide unparalleled opportunities for nearly 60,000 youth, families and community members from all backgrounds to learn, listen, perform and develop a love of music.

## CELEBRATION PROGRAM

Download the Event Details, Reservation Form and Advertising information at [njsymphony.org/assets/doc/Season-Opening-Celebration-Sponsorship-Brochure-434ae59f8d.pdf](https://njsymphony.org/assets/doc/Season-Opening-Celebration-Sponsorship-Brochure-434ae59f8d.pdf)

1 pm: Season Opening Celebration Brunch  
3 pm: Season Opening Concert

## CONCERT

Voice of Nature: the Anthropocene with Renée Fleming

Season Opening Gala & Concert  
Xian Zhang conductor  
Renée Fleming soprano  
New Jersey Symphony  
Newark - Sunday, October 6, 3 pm, New Jersey Performing Arts Center

The New Jersey Symphony presents 'Voice of Nature: the Anthropocene' with Renée Fleming on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, beginning at 3 pm. The program includes National Geographic Society visuals. The performance will be preceded by the Symphony's Season Opening Celebration, which begins at 1 pm at the same location.

Music Director Xian Zhang will conduct the program, which features the Symphony alongside renowned soprano, Renée Fleming. This concert is inspired by her 2023 GRAMMY Award-winning album, 'Voice of Nature: the Anthropocene.' The concert spans Classical, Romantic and contemporary music, exploring nature as both inspiration and victim of humanity.

Pieces on the program include Björk's 'All is Full of Love,' 'Twilight and Shadow' from 'Lord of the Rings,' Burt Bacharach's 'What the World Needs Now,' Puccini's 'O mio babbino caro' from Gianni Schicchi and Richard Rodgers' 'You'll Never Walk Alone' from Carousel among many other works.

## RENÉE FLEMING

Renée Fleming is one of the most highly acclaimed singers of our time, performing on the stages of the world's great opera houses and concert halls. A 2023 Kennedy Center Honoree, winner of five GRAMMY Awards and the US National Medal of Arts, she has sung for momentous occasions from the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to the Super Bowl. In 2023, the World Health Organization appointed her as goodwill ambassador for Arts and Health.

In May at the Metropolitan Opera, Fleming starred in 'The Hours,' an opera based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel and award-winning film. In 2023 Fleming received the GRAMMY Award for Best Classical Vocal Solo for her album 'Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene,' with Yannick Nézet-Seguin as pianist.

Fleming's new anthology, 'Music and Mind: Harnessing the Arts for Health and Wellness,' was published this spring. "This extraordinary volume edited by Renée Fleming is the most comprehensive compilation of the role of music in every aspect of life,

from biological evolution to our own mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. The meaning of life is in the music of life." -Deepak Chopra, MD

A prominent advocate for research at the intersection of arts, health and neuroscience, as artistic advisor to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Fleming launched the first ongoing collaboration between America's national cultural center and its largest health research institute, the National Institutes of Health. She created her own program called 'Music and the Mind,' which she has presented in more than 60 cities around the world.

Listen to Renee perform 'Voice of Nature: The Anthropocene' - [youtu.be/LkVsUX1bIWA](https://youtu.be/LkVsUX1bIWA).

Learn more about Renée Fleming at [reneefleming.com](https://reneefleming.com)

## TICKETS

Patrons can attend the Season Opening Celebration event on Sunday October 6, at 1 pm which includes hors d'oeuvres, food stations and an open bar at the same location. Guests will enjoy access to premiere concert seats. For more information on the Season Opening Celebration event, visit [njsymphony.org/opening](https://njsymphony.org/opening).

**All tickets include brunch and parking.**

The following tickets are available for purchase - VIP ticket package for two (includes Box Seats) Celebration ticket includes premiere section seat Brunch Add-On ticket (for those already holding concert tickets)

Next Gen ticket for ages 21-40 includes front orchestra seat

For more information on concerts and tickets: [njsymphony.org/events](https://njsymphony.org/events)

Concert tickets are available at [njsymphony.org/voiceofnature](https://njsymphony.org/voiceofnature).

## THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

The Emmy and GRAMMY Award-winning New Jersey Symphony is redefining what it means to be a nationally leading, relevant orchestra in the 21st century. The Symphony is renewing its deeply rooted commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion by championing new, and often local, artists; engaging audiences for whom the inspiring depth and breadth of classical music will be a new experience; and incorporating the broadest possible representation in all aspects of our organization-all to better reflect and serve our vibrant communities.

Internationally renowned Chinese American conductor Xian Zhang began her tenure as the New Jersey Symphony's current music director in 2016. Since her arrival, Zhang has revitalized programming with an industry-leading commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in mainstage concerts. Since 2021, Zhang has worked together with composer, violinist, educator and social-justice advocate Daniel Bernard Roumain, the orchestra's Resident Artistic Catalyst, to offer programming that connects with diverse communities in Newark and throughout New Jersey. In 2024, Allison Loggins-Hull succeeded DBR as the orchestra's Resident Artistic Partner.

## CONNECT WITH THE NJ SYMPHONY

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Email: [information@njsymphony.org](mailto:information@njsymphony.org)

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

# INDIGENOUS SOUNDS OF INDIA FUSE WITH CHORAL MUSIC

BY MABEL PAIS

New York City's leading chamber choir, Musica Viva NY, launches its 2024-25 season with **SOUNDSCAPES**, a multicultural project fusing choral music with the indigenous sounds of India on Sunday, September 29, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., at Manhattan's All Souls (address below). (Seven Musica Viva NY soloists will be joined by special guest alumna Shabnam Abedi (Trinity Wall Street chorus/The VOCES8) in a crossover of Hindustani classical, raga, and jazz music led by Musica Viva NY's intrepid Artistic Director/Conductor Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez.

Celebrating a decade at the helm, Alejandro curates a program of works and composers that are personally meaningful to him while showcasing the diversity that has been a hallmark of Musica Viva NY for the past 10 years. "Shabnam Abedi is a one-of-a-kind artist," says Alejandro. "Equally at home in jazz, classical, and Indian classical music, Abedi first came to my attention in 2016 while she was an undergraduate student at Rutgers University. From the first moment I heard her pure and crystalline voice, I knew Shabnam would be a major player in the music scene."

## PROGRAM

WHEN: Sunday, September 29, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

Pre-concert talk at 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: All Souls, 1157 Lexington Avenue (at 80th Street), New York City,

(Train 6 to 77th Street or N/Q/R to 86th Street)

WHO: Performers

## MUSICA VIVA NY SOLOISTS

Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez, artistic director and conductor

Shabnam Abedi, soloist + harmonium

Joe Block, piano

## TICKETS

For Tickets visit [MusicaViva.org](http://MusicaViva.org). Discounts are available for Students with valid ID.

## SHABNAM ABEDI



Shabnam Abedi

Credit: Courtesy, Amt PR

Described by 'The New York Times' as having "a lovely warmth," Shabnam Abedi is a highly sought after soprano and recent addition to The Choir of

Trinity Wall Street. She received her Master's Degree from Juilliard in Jazz Studies making her Juilliard's first South-Asian American jazz voice graduate. A versatile artist with a reputation for high-level music making in a wide variety of genres, Shabnam also studied opera at Mason Gross School of the Arts. "Shabnam spent eight years as Musica Viva NY's soprano 1 soloist, delighting audiences with her perfect intonation and purity of tone as a classical singer, jaw-dropping skills as a classical Indian music artist, and remarkable artistry as a jazz vocalist. This not-to-be-missed performance will showcase the uncanny versatility and flexibility of this remarkable artist," said Artistic Director/Conductor Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez. Having played and sung Indian Classical Music since the age of five, Shabnam's first album 'Amar Bijon Ghore' was released to wide acclaim in India and Bangladesh. Learn more at [shabnamabedi.com](http://shabnamabedi.com).

## MUSICA VIVA NY

Musica Viva NY is a non-profit arts organization that was established nearly 50 years ago. Its mission is to bring world-class music to a wide community through an annual concert series, an



Musica Viva Choir

Credit: Courtesy Amt PR

active community engagement program, and an ambitious artistic vision. Under the baton of Artistic Director Alejandro Hernandez-Valdez ([musicaviva.org/about-us/artistic-director](http://musicaviva.org/about-us/artistic-director)) since 2015, Musica Viva NY strives to offer joy, solace and renewal in a complex world by presenting new compositions and classic masterworks in transformative interpretations that ennoble the human spirit.

Musica Viva NY's superb chamber choir and world class collaborating instrumentalists make their concert home in Manhattan's historic 'All Souls Church'.

The organization was founded as an annual concert series in 1977 by Walter Klauss, who directed the group for 38 years, and adopted the name 'Musica Viva' in 1985. Under Walter Klauss' baton the choir toured in Paris (2004), Germany and Czechoslovakia (2006) and Italy (2012).

# ICONIC PERFORMER WITH COMPANY SINGS LOVE GOSPEL OF JAMES BALDWIN

BY MABEL PAIS



MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO

Credit: Courtesy Amt PR

Iconic bassist, singer, and composer MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO makes her New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) debut on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Her only performance in the New York City area this Fall, this one-night only concert is part of NJPAC's year-long Dodge Poetry initiative - an expanded

partnership with the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation that celebrates poetry as a catalyst for communities to advance social change. Accompanied by some of today's top jazz artists, Meshell will present works off of her second Blue Note album 'No More Water: The Gospel Of James Baldwin' ([meshellndegeocello.lnk.to/NoMoreWater](http://meshellndegeocello.lnk.to/NoMoreWater)), a striking homage to the eminent writer and activist James Baldwin.

Released on Baldwin's Centennial August 2, 2024, this visionary work is at once a musical experience, a church service, a celebration, a testimonial, and a call to action. With 'No More Water,' Ndegeocello embarks on a prophetic musical odyssey that transcends boundaries and genres, delving headfirst into race, sexuality, religion, and other recurring themes explored in Baldwin's canon. Following 2023's 'The Omnichord Real Book,' her acclaimed Blue Note debut which won the inaugural 2024 GRAMMY Award for Best Alternative Jazz Album, the multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter, and producer renders an immersive and palpable document that is as sagacious, unabashed, and introspective as Baldwin

was in life.

Ndegeocello performed songs from the Baldwin album during her recent NPR (National Public Radio) Tiny DeskConcert

([meshellndegeocello.lnk.to/TinyDeskConcert](http://meshellndegeocello.lnk.to/TinyDeskConcert)) - [youtu.be/XBuOd2MzdT4](https://youtu.be/XBuOd2MzdT4).

Nearly a decade in the making, the album's origins began in 2016 during a performance at The Harlem Stage Gatehouse as part of their annual showcase honoring Baldwin. Ndegeocello had delved into Baldwin's work the year before, including the seminal nonfiction work 'The Fire Next Time,' which she considers "life-changing" and carries with her as a "spiritual text." Ndegeocello says, "It was just a revelation to me, and it softened my heart in so many ways."

'No More Water' marks a significant moment of self-discovery for Ndegeocello. She adds that Baldwin entered her life at precisely the right time. "It came when I was ready to look in the mirror. I've had to play 'Plantation Lullabies' at a few shows. Looking back, I had an interesting perspective, but the dialogue was limited. It was more like a cathartic experience for a

young person of color, whereas now I'm going, 'How can I get us all to love each other? How can I get us all to see this for what it is?'"

## THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Learn more at [NJ PAC.org](http://NJ PAC.org).

## THE GERALDINE R. DODGE FOUNDATION

Established in 1974, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation envisions a just and equitable New Jersey where people of all races and communities have equitable access to opportunities to thrive. Over its 50-year history, the Dodge Foundation has distributed more than \$500 million in grants and technical support to New Jersey nonprofits. Today, building on decades of learning, the organization focuses its support on those who are directly addressing the root causes and repair of structural racism and inequity to transform lives in New Jersey.

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

# NPR HOST KAI WRIGHT PRESENTS PROGRAM TO DRAW YOUNG VOTERS TO BALLOT BOX

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) will host an in-person 'Standing in Solidarity' (SIS) program that is also a live broadcast of 'Notes from America' with Kai Wright on Sunday, September 29, at 6PM in the Chase Room. 'Standing in Solidarity' is NJPAC's ongoing series of social justice conversations and film screenings.

'The Young Vote', a documentary that follows a diverse group of students and activists in 2020 to understand young people's perceptions of voting and civic engagement, will screen at 4PM.

Following the film, Wright will moderate a conversation with a panel of experts about the political priorities of the youngest generation of American voters. What can be learned about the emerging politics of Gen Z? What new debates and concerns are top of mind? Audience members will be invited to participate in the live radio show.



KAI WRIGHT

Credit: NJPAC.org

"NJPAC is honored to welcome Kai Wright and 'Notes from America' to Newark," says Donna Walker-Kuhne, Senior Advisor, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, at NJPAC. "Wright is a skilled interviewer and he will draw insights from our expert panelists on the mindset and mentality of our young voters so that we can encourage them to show up to the ballot box in November. Exercising our freedom to vote is the one of the best ways to effect change."

'Notes from America' is about the unfinished business of U.S. history and how we break its grip on our future. The live, weekly program is hosted by veteran journalist Kai Wright and is heard by an estimated 250,000 listeners each week on 140 public radio stations across America.

## PANELISTS

The panel includes Alexis Williams, NYU engineering student, computer coder, social media influencer and activist who works at the intersection of technology and social justice. To learn about each panelist, visit [njpac.org/event/notes-from-america-with-kai-wright](http://njpac.org/event/notes-from-america-with-kai-wright).

## MORE ACTIVITIES

The 'Standing in Solidarity' event also includes activations in the Prudential Hall lobby including voter registration and other resources from the NAACP

([njpac.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2c11140bec28b9475d4783dab&id=91593225bf&e=d1d576769e](http://njpac.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2c11140bec28b9475d4783dab&id=91593225bf&e=d1d576769e)) and Project Ready ([projectreadynj.org](http://projectreadynj.org)).

"I've covered electoral politics for decades, and what interests me most now, is the opportunity young people have to break free from the tired political debates of past generations and invest fresh energy in what's important and relevant to them as engaged citizens," says Wright, host of 'Notes from America.' "We are poised to learn a lot about the issues that will shape our electorate from the way they engage in 2024, whether it's voting, community and campus organizing or some other civic action. I'm so excited to speak with young Americans about their political priorities in a pivotal election year."

## RSVP

To RSVP and for more information, visit 'Standing in Solidarity' ([njpac.org/series/standing-in-solidarity](http://njpac.org/series/standing-in-solidarity)).

## THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

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

## NOTES FROM AMERICA WITH KAI WRIGHT

'Notes From America with Kai Wright' is a show about the unfinished business of our history and how we break its grip on our future. The live, weekly program is hosted by veteran journalist Kai Wright and is heard by an estimated 250,000 listeners each week on 140 public radio stations across America. Offering insight and connection in divisive times, 'Notes From America' delivers on the promise to present diverse perspectives and narratives by inviting its audience to be a part of the conversations it convenes each Sunday live on the air, and part of a community of people who embrace living in a plural society. Previous live shows have included tapings of the program for WNYC's annual Martin Luther King Day celebrations at The Apollo Theater in Harlem, NY in 2023 ([wnycstudios.org/podcasts/anxiety/episodes/young-gifted-and-black](http://wnycstudios.org/podcasts/anxiety/episodes/young-gifted-and-black)) and 2024 ([wnycstudios.org/podcasts/anxiety/episodes/reclaiming-woke-celebrating-legacy-martin-luther-king-live-apollo](http://wnycstudios.org/podcasts/anxiety/episodes/reclaiming-woke-celebrating-legacy-martin-luther-king-live-apollo)), and a Juneteenth special from Houston, TX in 2024 ([wnycstudios.org/podcasts/anxiety/articles/how-black-people-built-american-democracy-a-juneteenth-celebration](http://wnycstudios.org/podcasts/anxiety/articles/how-black-people-built-american-democracy-a-juneteenth-celebration)).

## WNYC

With an urban vibrancy and a global perspective, WNYC is New York's public radio station, broadcasting and streaming award-winning journalism, groundbreaking audio programming and essential talk radio to the city and beyond. WNYC is a leading member station of NPR and broadcasts programs from the BBC World Service, along with a roster of WNYC-produced programs that champion the stories and spirit of New York City and the surrounding region. From its state-of-the-art studios, WNYC is reshaping audio for a new generation of listeners, producing some of the most beloved nationally-syndicated public radio programs including 'Radiolab', 'On the Media', 'The New Yorker Radio Hour', 'Notes from America with Kai Wright' and local radio shows and podcasts 'The Brian Lehrer Show' and 'All of It'. WNYC broadcasts on 93.9 FM and AM 820 to listeners in New York and the tri-state area, and is available to audiences everywhere at [WNYC.org](http://WNYC.org) ([wnyc.org](http://wnyc.org)), the WNYC app and through major digital radio services.

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

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## Chal Kudiye: Diljit Dosanjh, Alia Bhatt reunite for inspiring Jigra song

The much-awaited Jigra song, Chal Kudiye, which marked the reunion of Diljit Dosanjh and Alia Bhatt, is out. The film, which also features Vedang Raina along with Alia, is set for release on October 11, 2024. Eight years after their successful collaboration on the hit track Ikk Kudi, the duo is back with Chal Kudiye, which has quite an infectious energy.

Chal Kudiye is an uplifting anthem that celebrates the resilience and strength of women. With its captivating beat and powerful vocals by Diljit Dosanjh and Alia Bhatt, the song is sure to inspire and motivate listeners. The music video features Diljit Dosanjh in a striking all-white ensemble and Alia Bhatt in a T-shirt emblazoned with the word 'ghar'. The song is written by Harmanjeet Singh and composed by Manpreet Singh.

Jigra is directed by Vasan Bala and stars Alia Bhatt in the lead role, with Vedang Raina playing her brother. The film is presented by Viacom18 Studios, Dharma Productions, and Eternal Sunshine Productions, and produced by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Alia Bhatt, Shaheen Bhatt, and Somen Mishra.

# Stree 2 becomes 'highest grossing' Hindi film ever in India, pips SRK's Jawan

Maddock Films, one of the production companies of Stree 2, has confirmed that the film has become the 'number one Hindi film of all time' in India. Taking to X on Wednesday, September 17, it shared a poster of the film and also penned a note. The film has surpassed the lifetime collections of Shah Rukh Khan's film Jawan (only Hindi language earnings).

The poster read, "Indian box office's no. 1 Hindi film of all time!" written on it. The caption read, "Woh Stree hai aur usne aakhir kar dikhaya... Hindustan ki sab se sarvashresth (She is Stree and she has finally done it...India's best film) No. 1 Hindi film of all time!!!"

"Yeh itihaas humare saath rachane ke liye sab fans ko bahut bahut dhanyavaad (thanks a lot to all fans for scripting this history with us)... Stree 2 is still running in cinemas successfully... theatre aao, kuch aur naye records rachate hain (come to theatres, lets make some more new records)!" it also read.

Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkummar Rao's Stree 2 has collected Rs 586 crore at the Indian box office, as per trade analyst Taran Adarsh. He confirmed the news on his X (formerly Twitter) account. Sharing a poster of the film, he wrote, "#Stree2 scripts HISTORY... Becomes the HIGHEST-GROSSING \*HINDI\* FILM EVER... Crosses \*lifetime biz\* of #Jawan [#Hindi version]... Next stop: Inaugurating the ₹600 cr Club. [Week 5] Fri 3.60 cr, Sat 5.55 cr, Sun 6.85 cr, Mon 3.17 cr, Tue 2.65 cr. Total: Rs 586 cr. #India biz. #Boxoffice."

### Jawan's earnings

As per Sacnilk.com, Jawan's nett collection in India, for all languages (Hindi, Tamil and Telugu) is Rs 640.25 crore. In Hindi, its lifetime collection in India is Rs 582.31 crore nett.

Jawan (2023) is an action thriller film directed by Atlee. The film stars Shah Rukh Khan in dual roles as a father and his



son. Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, Deepika Padukone, Priyamani and Sanya Malhotra also feature in the film.

### About Stree 2

Stree 2, directed by Amar Kaushik, also has cameos by Varun Dhawan and Akshay Kumar. The first instalment, Stree (2018), was already a massive hit, setting high expectations for the sequel. However, Stree 2 has managed to exceed those expectations, capturing the hearts of fans across the country. The film also stars Pankaj Tripathi, Abhishek Banerjee and Aparshakti Khurana. *Source: HT*



## Jacqueline Fernandez makes singing debut with single stormrider

Surprising audiences once again, actor Jacqueline Fernandez has now made his singing debut with single Stormrider. Jacqueline will be seen picking up the mic with her debut single Stormrider, released in collaboration with LA.

Titled Stormrider, Jacqueline's debut single is produced in association with LA-based record label Myst Music. Taking to Instagram, Jacqueline treated fans with the teaser of the song and captioned the post, which read, "This is just the beginning #Stormrider."

Jacqueline shared the inspiration behind her debuting in the world of music in a press note shared by her team, "Growing up in a household filled with music, especially with my dad being a part-time DJ, I was surrounded by an eclectic mix of sounds from a young age. Our home was filled with vinyl records, CDs, and music from different genres and cultures. This exposure to diverse musical influences sparked my passion for music and performance."

Sharing what music means to her, the actor stated, "For me, music is about storytelling and connecting with emotions, which is why I decided to launch my music. I wanted to create something that resonates deeply with

listeners, just as the music I grew up with did for me. Music has always been my way of expression, and now I get to share my voice and story with the world." The music video is slated for launch on September 20.

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Jacqueline Fernandez will share screen space with actor Sonu Sood in their upcoming film 'Fateh'.

'Fateh', which marks Sonu Sood's debut as a director, will delve into the real-life instances of cybercrime. The film is made under the banner of Zee Studios and Shakti Sagar Productions.

Jacqueline will also headline the much-anticipated multi-starrer series 'GOATS'.

Directed by Abhishek Sharma, the star-studded cast Neil Nitin Mukesh, Boman Irani, Siddharth Nigam and Sumedh Mudgalkar in the lead, along with Bhavin Bhanushali, Anusha Mani, Kunwar Amar, Santana Roach, Yukti Tareja, and Arnav Maggo.

Not only this, she has also joined the star cast of 'Housefull 5'. The film will feature an exciting lineup of leading ladies, including Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Sonam Bajwa, Chitrangda Singh, and Soundarya Sharma.





## Sean 'Diddy' Combs indicted on sex trafficking and racketeering charges

Sean "Diddy" Combs was due in court Tuesday, September 16, on federal sex trafficking and racketeering charges that accuse him of hitting and abusing women for over a decade and presiding over an empire of sexual crimes.

The music mogul "engaged in a persistent and pervasive pattern of abuse toward women and other individuals," according to an indictment unsealed Tuesday.

Detailing allegations dating to 2009, the indictment accuses him of abusing, threatening and coercing women for years "to fulfill his sexual desires, protect his reputation, and conceal his conduct."

Combs had been arrested late Monday in Manhattan, roughly six months after federal authorities conducting a sex trafficking investigation raided his luxurious homes in Los Angeles and Miami.

Over the past year, Sean 'Diddy' Combs has been sued by people who say he subjected them to physical or sexual abuse. He has denied many of those allegations, and his lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, said outside the courthouse Tuesday morning that Combs would plead not guilty and that he would "fight like hell" to try to get his client released from custody.

Of Combs, Agnifilo said, "His spirits are good. He's confident."

The indictment accuses Combs of striking, punching and dragging women on numerous occasions, throwing objects and kicking them — and enlisting his personal assistants, security and household staff to help hide it all.

The indictment describes Combs as the head of a criminal enterprise engaged in or attempting to engage in activities including sex trafficking, forced labor, interstate transportation for purposes of prostitution, drug offenses, kidnapping, arson, bribery and obstruction of justice.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs, 54, was recognized as one of the most influential figures in hip-hop before a flood of allegations that emerged over the past year turned him into an industry pariah.

In November, his former girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, whose legal name is Cassandra Ventura, filed a lawsuit saying he had beaten and raped her for years.

# Jennifer Lopez's first husband advises her to 'stay single for a while'

Amid Jennifer Lopez's split with Ben Affleck, her first husband has weighed in on her relationships' trajectory. In an interview with DailyMail, Ojani Noa advised his ex-wife that she should "stay single for a while" instead of jumping into another marriage.

"I can tell you in my own -experience, we would have -disagreements in the car and then 20 minutes later, we'd have to sit and pretend everything was fine. But you can only pretend so much. When we were going through hell and going out as a couple, I was in a bad mood too. Because I knew inside we were not good. I hated going on the red -carpet. She would try and get me to come and I'd say: 'No way. I'm not going to pretend,'" Ojani said.

He added that Ben Affleck also looks similarly disturbed on the red carpet with Jennifer. He said he understands Ben as both of them have tried to uplift Jennifer's confidence over the years. Ojani said that he doesn't know how much more love she needs or is looking for, since she's already been married four times.

"Stay single for a while, take 12 months off. If she meets someone new, maybe keep it private and not get -married again. She has an amazing career and she's a hard-working, beautiful woman, but when you're with



someone, you have to spend quality time with them and not think about being on camera," Ojani added.

### Jennifer's relationships

Ojani, a Cuban waiter, was married to Jennifer for less than a year from February 1997 till January 1998. They had a bitter split as Jennifer went to court to prevent Ojani from writing a book about their marriage and from using their honeymoon footage for a documentary.

She then married her former back-up

dancer Cris Judd in 2001, but they split up two years later. She was already in a relationship with Ben by the time her divorce was finalised. They got engaged in 2002, but called it off in 2004. Her longest marriage was with singer Marc Antony, with whom she shared two kids.

Jennifer reunited with Ben in 2021, got married last year, before filing for divorce last month. On the work front, Jennifer will be next seen in Unstoppable and Kiss of the Spider Woman.

## James Cameron to adapt Charles Pellegrino's book Ghosts of Hiroshima after Avatar sequels

Filmmaker James Cameron, who is known for his award winning projects like Titanic and Avatar, has reportedly bought the rights to Charles Pellegrino's upcoming book 'Ghosts of Hiroshima', reported Variety.

James Cameron will merge and adapt Ghosts and Pellegrino's 2015 book 'Last Train From Hiroshima' into a single film, which he will shoot when the "Avatar" production schedule allows.

The film will portray the true story of a Japanese man who survived two atomic blasts during World War II. After witnessing the Hiroshima explosion, he boarded a train to Nagasaki and had to face another blast.

Pellegrino was a science consultant to Cameron on both "Avatar" and "Titanic," and Cameron has been interested in bringing this story to the big screen for over 20 years.

Cameron has directed the Terminator franchise and Aliens, as well as three of the top four most successful films of all time, Avatar, Avatar: The Way of Water, and Titanic.

The project would mark Cameron's first non-'Avatar' franchise project as a narrative feature director since 1997 when he released 'Titanic' starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet.

His other remarkable works are 'The Abyss', and 'True Lies'. His documentary projects include 'Ghosts of the Abyss', 'Aliens of the Deep' and 'Expedition: Bismarck'. 'Avatar: Fire and Ash' is an upcoming science fiction film co-produced, co-



edited, co-written, and directed by James Cameron, reported Variety.

Meanwhile, James Cameron's next film in the Avatar franchise will hit the theatres on December 19, 2025. The official title for the third Avatar film is Avatar: Fire and Ash. Avatar (2009) holds the record for the highest-grossing film of all time. Its sequel, Avatar: Way of Water, released in December 2022.

## ISRAELI DEFENCE MINISTER DECLARES START OF 'NEW PHASE' OF WAR

**GAZA (TIP):** Israel's defense minister has declared the start of a "new phase" of the war as Israel turns its focus toward the northern front against Hezbollah militants in Lebanon.

Speaking to Israeli troops on September 18, Yoav Gallant made no mention of the mysterious explosions of electronic devices in Lebanon in recent days. But he praised the work of Israel's army and security agencies, saying "the results are very impressive."

He said that after months of war against Hamas militants in Gaza, "the center of gravity is shifting to the north by diverting resources and forces."

"We are at the start of a new phase in the war, it requires courage, determination and perseverance," he said. The statement from Israel comes an hour after hand-held radios used by the armed group Hezbollah detonated across the country killing nine people. "The new wave of walkie-talkie explosions... killed nine people and wounded more than 300," the ministry said in a statement. Hand-held radios were purchased by Hezbollah five months ago, at around the same time as the compromised pagers, a security source has now revealed. (AP)

## DEADLY PORTUGAL WILDFIRES FORCE NEW EVACUATIONS

**LISBON (TIP):** Deadly wildfires raging in Portugal have forced more people to evacuate their homes as crews battled dozens of blazes on September 18 in the nation's north.

Stifling heat and strong winds have fanned a spate of forest fires across the north and centre of the country that have killed seven people dead since the weekend. Civil protection authorities listed 42 active fires on its website on Wednesday and said they had mobilised around 3,900 firefighters and over 1,000 vehicles. In the Gondomar municipality, just outside Porto, authorities carried out more evacuations on Tuesday night. Firefighters battling blazes in Arouca in the hard-hit Aveiro region told local media outlets the situation there was "uncontrollable". Around 20,000 hectares (49,400 acres) of vegetation have burned in the region, south of Porto, since Monday, according to data from the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS). A total of 15 separate fires have passed the 1,000-hectare threshold since the fires began over the weekend, EFFIS data also showed. Authorities in Aveiro said Tuesday evening that firefighters were on the verge of bringing one group of fires that had spread across a 100-kilometre (60-mile) perimeter under control. (AFP)

# Taiwan, Hungary firms deny making Hezbollah pagers

**BUDAPEST (TIP):** A Taiwanese company and its Hungarian partner on September 18 reportedly denied making pagers that exploded while being used by Hezbollah members in Lebanon.

The New York Times, citing American and other anonymous officials, reported that Israel had inserted explosive material into a shipment of pagers from Taiwan's Gold Apollo.

Taiwanese prosecutors launched an investigation.

Gold Apollo denied producing the devices and instead pointed the finger at its Budapest-based partner BAC Consulting KFT.

Gold Apollo head Hsu Ching-kuang said the pagers were "100 percent not" made in Taiwan.

"They are not our products from beginning to end. How can we produce products that are not ours?" Hsu told reporters in Taipei.

The company said in a separate statement that it has established a "long-term partnership" with the Hungarian company to use its trademark and the model mentioned in media reports "is produced and sold by BAC".

But BAC Consulting CEO Cristiana Barsony-Arcidiacono told US broadcaster NBC News that her company worked with Gold Apollo but did not make pagers.

"I don't make the pagers. I am just the intermediate. I think you got it wrong," NBC cited Barsony-Arcidiacono as saying on the phone.

Barsony-Arcidiacono did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment.

The explosions in Lebanon killed 12 people, including two children, and wounded up to 2,800 others.

Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah has blamed Israel for the attack.

Sole employee

At BAC Consulting's registered postal



address in a Budapest suburb, a woman there told reporters that the two-storey semi-detached building belongs to a company providing virtual business addresses.

Barsony-Arcidiacono appears to be the only employee of the company founded in 2022, according to legal documents consulted by AFP, which also report an annual revenue of 210 million forints (\$590,000) and profit of around 18 million forints.

On an archived version of a currently inaccessible website, the consultancy described itself as "agents of change with a network of consultants", while Barsony-Arcidiacono touted her experience as a "strategic advisor" for international organisations.

The Times reported about 3,000 pagers were ordered from Gold Apollo, mostly its AR924 model.

"Our company only provides the brand trademark authorisation and is not involved in the design or manufacturing of this product," Gold Apollo said.

The company declined to comment further, citing ongoing investigations.

"We have assigned the case to the chief

prosecutor of the national security team to actively investigate. Our office will clarify the facts of the case as soon as possible," Taipei's Shilin District Prosecutors Office said in a statement.

"If there is any illegality involved, it will be severely punished in accordance with the law," the office added.

Taiwan's economic affairs ministry said Gold Apollo's pagers made in Taiwan only have "a receiving function" and the capacity of their built-in battery "is about that of an ordinary AA battery that is not possible to explode to cause death or injury".

"After reviewing media reports and pictures, we think it's very questionable that (the model used) is the company's product," the ministry said, adding that there is no record of the company directly exporting to Lebanon.

A source close to Hezbollah, asking not to be identified, previously told AFP that "the pagers that exploded concern a shipment recently imported by Hezbollah of 1,000 devices" which appear to have been "sabotaged at source".

There was no immediate comment from Israel on the explosions. (AFP)

## Four Namibian children die after being trapped in freezer

**NAMIBIA (TIP):** Four young children died after becoming trapped inside a disused freezer while playing hide and seek in northeastern Namibia, police said September 17.

**THE CHILDREN, AGED BETWEEN THREE AND SIX, CLIMBED INTO THE FREEZER ON MONDAY AND WERE LOCKED INSIDE, ZAMBEZI REGIONAL POLICE COMMANDER ANDREAS SHILELO TOLD AFP.**

"There was a hook on the freezer that could only be opened from the outside,"



Shilelo said. "They were stuck for about an hour and a half and suffocated."

Two of the children died inside the freezer while the other two "were found barely conscious but were declared dead when they arrived at the hospital," the provincial police chief said.

The mother of one of the children made the gruesome discovery when she went looking for her son after he did not respond to her calls.

"When I came in, I saw paramedics attending to my daughter and another girl. They rushed them to the hospital, while the other two were loaded in police mortuary vehicles," Aranges Shoro, the father of the children, told privately owned The Namibian newspaper.

# France's new PM warns of 'very serious' financial situation

**PARIS (TIP):** France's budgetary situation is "very serious", Prime Minister Michel Barnier told AFP on September 18, saying more information was needed to gauge the "precise reality" of French public finances.

France was placed on a formal procedure for violating European Union budgetary rules before Barnier was picked as head of government this month by President Emmanuel Macron.

And the Bank of France warned this week that a projected return to EU deficit rules by 2027 was "not realistic".

France's public-sector deficit is projected to reach around 5.6 percent of GDP this year and go over six percent in 2025, which compares with EU rules calling for a three-percent ceiling on deficits.

"I am discovering that the country's budgetary situation is very serious," Barnier said in a statement to AFP.

"This situation requires more than just pretty statements. It requires responsible action," he said.

The new prime minister, who has yet to appoint a cabinet, is scheduled to submit a 2025 budget to parliament next month, in what is expected to be the first major test for the incoming administration.

Out of the question

Within days of taking office in early September, Barnier said in an interview that "French people want more justice" in terms of fiscal policy, while several politicians have reported the prime minister mentioning possible tax



increases in private conversations.

Such a move would be a red rag to allies of Macron, who oversaw cuts in the corporate tax rate from 33.3 percent to 25 percent as well as tax reductions for households, including the wealthiest taxpayers.

Macron has claimed a reduction in the overall tax burden by 50 billion euros (\$56 billion) since he became president in 2017.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin, a staunch Macron ally, said Wednesday that it was "out of the question" to join, or even back, a government that raised taxes.

But years of extra spending during the Covid pandemic combined with sluggish growth have caused the French deficit to balloon, sparking the "excessive deficit

procedure" by the EU, which is designed to force a country to negotiate a plan with Brussels to get their deficit or debt levels back on track.

Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire, who is to be replaced soon, promised to bring the deficit back below three percent by 2027 but many analysts have dismissed the plan as implausible.

France's central bank governor, Francois Villeroy de Galhau, said this week that the objective was "not realistic" unless the government was willing to risk "stopping growth in its tracks".

Apparently backing Barnier's approach, Villeroy de Galhau called for an "exceptional and reasonable effort asked of some major companies and wealthy taxpayers" to help a recovery in

finances. France, he said, could no longer afford "unfunded" tax cuts.

But tighter fiscal policies could put Barnier on a collision course with Macron, who appointed the experienced politician -- best known internationally as the EU's former chief Brexit negotiator -- in the hope that he can survive an early no-confidence vote in parliament.

'Dreadful error to go back'

"We want a stable fiscal policy that does not undermine policies that caused unemployment to fall and our country's attractiveness to rise," said Jean-Rene Cazeneuve, a National Assembly deputy and Macron ally. "It would be a dreadful error to go back on this."

Laurent Wauquiez, head of the conservative Les Republican (LR) parliamentary group on whom Barnier will depend for support, said last week that "our conviction is that in a certain number of areas we need rightist policies". This, he said, meant "no tax rises".

The tax question is likely to deepen budding tensions between Macron and Barnier, who is said to have been irritated that the president did not consult him about nominating Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne to the EU Commission.

"Knowing where Michel Barnier stands on Europe and the loss of French influence, I think he's just suffered his first humiliation," said one LR deputy on condition of anonymity. (AFP)

## 34 Iranian women stage hunger strike on Mahsa Amini's death anniversary to protest hijab rules

**TEHRAN (TIP) :** On September 16, 2022, Mahsa Amini died while in the custody of Iran's morality police after being arrested for not adhering to the country's strict Islamic dress code. Her death ignited widespread outrage, and now, two years later, 34 Iranian women prisoners have begun a hunger strike, while many others are defying the hijab mandate to mark her anniversary.

In Tehran, a significant number of women are seen walking the streets without their mandatory Islamic headscarves, even after sunset. This defiance is particularly striking given the strict enforcement of Islamic dress codes since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Women across Tehran, from affluent northern suburbs to working-class southern neighborhoods, are choosing to go unveiled, a bold move against the regime's norms.

Despite the Iranian government's severe crackdown on dissent, including house arrests and restrictions on Mahsa Amini's parents, who are barred from holding memorial events, the protest movement remains resilient. Security in



Saqez, Amini's hometown, has been intensified, with the local cemetery where she is buried being cordoned off.

Among the notable acts of defiance, 34 women inmates in Tehran's Evin Prison have launched a hunger strike in

solidarity with the broader protest movement. Prominent activists, such as Narges Mohammadi and Parivash Muslimi, are participating, hoping to draw international attention to Iran's repressive policies.

The crackdown extends to social media, where women who post images without their hijabs face severe repercussions. One such woman, Alef, was arrested and tortured after sharing a photo of herself with her hair uncovered. Authorities have used drones and surveillance to monitor public spaces and penalize those who defy dress codes.

Despite recent promises from Iran's reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian to ease restrictions, the ultimate authority still rests with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has firmly opposed any relaxation of hijab laws. However, the increasing number of women defying these regulations suggests a shift in public sentiment.

As the Women, Life, Freedom movement continues to grow, it represents a broader struggle for individual rights and freedoms in Iran. This movement, symbolized by the slogan "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" (Woman, Life, Freedom), remains a powerful force despite ongoing repression. (NIE)

## THE TALIBAN HAVE SUSPENDED POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS IN AFGHANISTAN, THE UN SAYS

**DUBAI (TIP):** The Taliban have suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, the U.N. said September 17.

Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralyzing disease has never been stopped. The other is Pakistan.

News of the suspension was relayed to U.N. agencies right before the September immunization campaign was due to start. No reason was given for the suspension, and no one from the Taliban-controlled government was immediately available for comment.

A top official from the World Health Organization said it was aware of discussions to move away from house-to-house vaccinations and instead have immunizations in places like mosques.

The WHO has confirmed 18 polio cases in Afghanistan this year, all but two in the south of the country. That's up from six cases in 2023.

"The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is aware of the recent policy discussions on shifting from house-to-house polio vaccination campaigns to site-to-site vaccination in parts of Afghanistan," said Dr. Hamid Jafari from the WHO. "Partners are in the process of discussing and understanding the scope and impact of any change in current policy."

Anti-polio campaigns in neighboring Pakistan are regularly marred by violence. Militants target vaccination teams and police assigned to protect them, falsely claiming that the campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children. (AP)

## BANGLADESH'S INTERIM GOVT GIVES ARMY MAGISTRACY POWERS

**DHAKA (TIP):** Bangladesh's interim government has granted magisterial powers to the Army for two months to improve law and order in the country and prevent "subversive acts". The Ministry of Public Administration issued a notification on the government's decision on September 17, saying it will be applicable with immediate effect. The powers will be given to commissioned officers of the Army. The order will remain in force for the next 60 days. Section 17 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, or CrPC, which awards Army officers the status of special executive magistrates, says these officers shall be subordinate to the district magistrates, or deputy commissioners, bdnews24.com reported. This authority including arrest and dispersal of unlawful rallies has been conferred upon commissioned officers of the Army. (PTI)

# Pakistan court grants bail to 10 MPs linked to jailed ex-PM Imran Khan

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan granted bail September 17 to 10 lawmakers from jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's party, an AFP journalist witnessed.

At least 30 people from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party -- including the 10 MPs -- were remanded in custody last Tuesday, two days after they led a major rally in the capital, Islamabad.

The anti-terrorism court granted them bail of 30,000 rupees (\$100).

PTI has faced a sweeping crackdown since Khan was jailed in August last year on a series of charges he says are politically motivated and designed to keep him from power.

The 10 MPs, some detained at their offices in the National Assembly, were charged under a new protest law and the anti-terrorism act.

They were accused of violating the Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Act, passed just days before the rally was



held, in a move rights groups say was an attempt to curb freedom of expression and peaceful protest.

PTI has sparred with the military since Khan was deposed two years ago.

The confrontation came to a head after the former cricket star's first arrest on corruption charges in May 2023.

His supporters waged days of

sometimes violent protests and attacked military installations, sparking a sweeping crackdown on PTI led by the army -- Pakistan's most powerful institution.

But the clampdown failed to diminish Khan's popularity and candidates backed by the former premier won the most seats in 2024 polls -- marred by allegations of widespread rigging.

Khan rose to power in 2018 with the help of the military, analysts say, but was ousted in 2022 after reportedly falling out with the generals.

A United Nations panel of experts found this month that his detention "had no legal basis and appears to have been intended to disqualify him from running for political office".

A number of convictions against him have been overturned by the courts.

Several members of the PTI's social media and press team were rounded up last month and accused of "anti-state propaganda". (AFP)

## Casualties in Myanmar push Southeast Asia's death toll from Typhoon Yagi past 500

**BANGKOK (TIP):** Floods and landslides in Myanmar triggered by last week's Typhoon Yagi and seasonal monsoon rains have claimed at least 226 lives, with 77 people missing, state-run media reported September 17. The new figures push the total number of dead in Southeast Asia from the storm past 500.

The accounting of casualties has been slow, in part due to communication difficulties in the affected areas. Myanmar is wracked by a civil war that began in 2021 after the army seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Independent analysts believe the ruling military controls much less than half of the country's territory.

Typhoon Yagi earlier hit Vietnam, northern Thailand and Laos, killing almost 300 people in Vietnam, 42 in Thailand and four in Laos, according to the ASEAN Coordinating Center for Humanitarian Assistance. It said 21 people were killed in the Philippines, with another 26 missing.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said on Monday that an estimated 6,31,000 people may have been affected by flooding across Myanmar. There were already 3.4 million displaced people in Myanmar at the beginning of September, according to the U.N. refugee agency, mostly because of war and unrest in recent years.

Heavy rains from the typhoon and the seasonal monsoon brought widespread flash floods to Myanmar, especially the central regions of Mandalay, Magway, Bago and the Ayeyarwaddy Delta; the



eastern states Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon; and the country's capital, Naypyitaw.

Some flooded areas have started to see water levels recede but others in the Shan and Kayah states remain critical.

More than 1,60,000 houses have been damaged and 438 temporary relief camps have been opened for more than 160,000 flood victims, Myanmar Alinn reported. The military government announced that nearly 240,000 people have been displaced.

Myanmar Alinn said 117 government offices and buildings, 1,040 schools, 386 religious buildings, roads, bridges, power towers, and telecom towers were damaged by the floods in 56 townships.

It also said nearly 130,000 animals were killed and more than 259,000 hectares (640,000 acres) of agricultural land were damaged by the floods.

The U.N.'s humanitarian affairs agency said food, drinking water, medicine, clothes, dignity kits, and shelters are urgent needs for the flood victims but alleviation efforts are hampered by blocked roads, damaged bridges and ongoing armed clashes.

Vice Senior Gen. Soe Win, the second-ranking member of Myanmar's ruling military council, said the country had received relief aid from other countries, and some humanitarian assistance from the Association of Southeast Asia, will arrive soon.

Soe Win, speaking at a meeting of the National Disaster Management Committee on Monday, said that the extent of flooding in the capital was unprecedented, and cleaning and rehabilitation activities in the flooded areas began Thursday as the water level declined. (AP)

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# Detox skin and hair with your favorite beverage

While a shot of coffee instantly uplifts your mood and a cup of tea can relax you after a hard day at work, have you ever imagined the wonders it can do if you applied these on your skin and hair? Read on to know more about these beauty secrets...

## Coffee

For your skin: "Caffeine helps in treating dark circles and is often found in most cosmetics, which are imported. It also helps reduce the build-up of blood under your eyes, which contribute to eye shadows," says beauty professional Nishi Karamchandani. Apart from this, it contains anti-ageing properties, which delay the signs of ageing. Phytosterols (friendly plant sterols and stanols that blocks cholesterol absorption in our system) promote moisture and provides chemical-free sun protection. It also reduces the appearance of cellulite and tightens the skin. One can also use coffee beans as scrubs for the face and body.

For your hair: It has rich antioxidant properties, which aid in repairing damaged hair and prevent



breakage. Coffee also stimulates hair growth and thickens the mane. One can use coffee in hair packs as well. Several beauty parlours use coffee along with other ingredients when applying henna on a client's hair.

## Tea

Green: Apart from aiding in weight loss, tea also protects the skin from damage and reactivates dying skin cells.

For your skin: EGCG (epigallocatechin gallate) in the green tea reactivates your dying skin cells. It also protects your skin from the harmful UV rays of the sun. Moreover, it gives a glow to your skin. It contains antioxidants, which help rejuvenate your skin and protects it against free radicals.

Karamchandani says, "Green tea is also used as a skin toner, especially for those with oily skin. Soak green tea leaves in hot water for half an hour. Cool, strain and use the liquid to tone your skin." Green tea bags can be dipped in water and applied over your eyelids like eye pads for instant cooling and relaxation. They help reduce the puffiness around your eyes and add brightness. Neha Matang, skin professional, says, "Green tea also serves as an exfoliator. If you use it in the form of a face mask, it will naturally help in getting rid of unwanted toxins and make you look healthy and add shine."

For your hair: This tea may also be used as a hair rinse, as the tannin in the tea helps to add lustre to your hair. Boil used tea leaves again in enough water. After boiling, cool and strain the water. Then add lemon juice to it and use this as a last rinse after shampoo. Matang says, "Green tea helps in reducing dandruff. It also stimulates hair growth and softens your hair. It contains vitamin C, vitamin E and panthenol, which are used as common ingredients in hair conditioners.

# Ways to use yogurt for smooth, supple skin

Yogurt is rich in lactic acid and anti-bacterial properties which can keep all your skin woes at bay and help you achieve glowing, flawless skin which you've always dreamt of.

## Honey

Got dull and dry skin? Start off by mixing 1 tsp honey with 1 tbsp of besan and one teaspoon of curd.

Apply the mask and leave it on for 15-20 minutes before washing your face with lukewarm water.

## Oatmeal

If you've any skin woes, then this face mask is your best bet. Simply, mix one tsp of yogurt with 1 tsp oatmeal and 1 tsp of honey. Apply it on your face and let it sit until dry. Wash it off with cold water and pat dry.

## Lemon Juice

Lemon's antibacterial properties help reduce the appearance of blemishes to maintain flawless skin. It also has bleaching qualities which will lighten and brighten your skin. Add 1 tsp of lemon juice to a tablespoon of curd. Apply it on your face and let it sit for 15-20 minutes. Rinse it off with cold water.

## Turmeric

Turmeric helps in enhancing your skin's texture and makes it soft. Add some turmeric powder in your usual face mask and voila, hello to glowing, baby soft skin! Start off by mixing 2 tbsp of sandalwood powder with one tablespoon of turmeric powder and 2 teaspoons of



curd. Apply it onto your face and let it sit for 15-20 minutes. Rinse it off with cold water.

## Bananas

Banana has super hydrating, nourishing and skin tightening properties. It also acts as an astringent to reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. Add one tablespoon of curd and one tsp of lemon juice to mashed banana. Apply it on your face and let it sit until dry. Wash it off with cold water and voila, hello to baby soft skin.

## FOOD CORNER

# Banana Burfi

## Ingredients

5 banana, 100 gm sugar, 1/4 cup butter, 1 teaspoon pistachios, 1/4 cup milk powder, 1 tablespoon cocoa powder, 1 teaspoon crushed lightly cashews, 50 gm ghee

## Method

- To make this delicious Navratri special recipe, heat 1 tsp ghee in a pan over moderate flame. Add crushed pistachios and cashews to the pan. Lightly fry them till they turn golden in color.
- Now take another heavy bottomed pan and heat it over medium flame. Add the remaining ghee and the bananas in it. Mix well. Add sugar and stir well. After a minute, add cocoa powder, milk powder and butter. Reduce the flame and gently stir till all ingredients are evenly combined.
- When the mixture starts to leave the sides of the pan and the bananas are well mashed, remove and transfer to a greased plate. Allow it cool. Before the mixture hardens completely, cut it into desired shapes and garnish with cashewnuts and pistachios.



# Doodhi Ka Halwa

## Ingredients

Lauki 300 gms, Milk 500 ml, Sugar 20 gms, Khoya 5 gms, Kishmish 2 gms, Cashewnuts 2 gms, Saffron 5 strands, Desi ghee 5 gms, Cardamom powder 1 gm

## Method

- Remove the outer skin of bottle gourd (lauki) and grate it. Squeeze to remove excess water.
- Heat 3 grams of desi ghee in a handi.
- Add the grated lauki and saute for few minutes till it starts to get translucent.
- Now add milk and stir, till the milk boils and starts reducing. Keep stirring as the lauki has to be mashed in the milk and the milk gets completely reduced, this might take 20-30 minutes. Now add sugar and stir till the sugar dissolves completely. Soak the saffron in luke warm water for 10 minutes and add to the halwa.
- Heat the remaining desi ghee and once it is heated, pour over the halwa, mix moderately so that the desi ghee flavor gets infused.
- Finish with cardamom powder.



# Debunking the myth of menopause and mental illness

For decades, some women have endured an enormous amount of unnecessary suffering around menopause. There have been countless stories of healthcare professionals failing women, for instance through dismissing menopausal symptoms and failing to provide adequate care. So this attention is long overdue.

But with this spotlight has come a lot of messaging that menopause is catastrophic for mental health.

For example, in a submission to the 2024 Australian Senate Inquiry into menopause, which is due to hand down its findings on September 17, this life stage was described as a time of "damage, despair and death" due to untreated menopausal mental illness.

Changing estrogen levels over menopause have been reported to cause a "destabilising" effect on the brain and mental health.

But while research shows some women may be more mood-sensitive to estrogen changes than others, overall the best available data shows that mental illness is not a core or common experience over the menopause years.

## Anger is not mental illness

Some midlife women self-report feelings of anger or rage around the



time of menopause.

Anger is not a mental illness, but should be followed up if it becomes severe or is negatively affecting your daily life.

Being dismissed in a doctor's office because "my wife coped fine with menopause" or because a GP explains they are not trained to manage menopause and refers on to a specialist clinic that has a 12-month waitlist are legitimate triggers for anger and unnecessary suffering.

As a society, this anger can be mobilised to demand improved care for menopause and ageing women's health issues, while providing

appropriate care for distressing or impactful symptoms as needed.

## Most women remain mentally well

A Lancet Series paper on menopause and mental health reviewed findings from prospective studies that tracked changes in women's mental health across the menopause transition.

Specifically, depressive symptoms and disorders were looked at, as well as anxiety, bipolar, psychosis and suicide.

It found rates of depressive symptoms remained relatively low over perimenopause, which is the time of irregular periods culminating in the final menstrual period at menopause.

In the studies reviewed, 17 per cent to 28 per cent of perimenopausal women reported depressive symptoms compared to 14 percent to 21 per cent of premenopausal women.

Only two studies have investigated the risk of developing major depressive disorder assessed uniformly by a clinician, and neither found that women were at increased risk of new-onset depression over menopause.

Women typically start to go through menopause in their late 40s.

Source: PTI



# New AI tool to help reduce death risk in hospitalised patients

A team of researchers, led by one of Indian origin, has developed a novel artificial intelligence (AI) based system that can help reduce the risk of unexpected deaths by identifying hospitalised patients at high risk of deteriorating health.

Rapid deterioration among hospitalised patients is the primary cause of unplanned admission to the intensive care unit (ICU).

But CHARTWatch, acted as an early warning system to improve patient health, and alert healthcare workers to reduce unexpected deaths, said the team in the paper published in CMAJ (Canadian Medical Association Journal).

"As AI tools are increasingly being used in medicine, it is important that they are evaluated carefully to ensure that they are safe and effective," said lead author Dr Amol Verma, a clinician-scientist at St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto, Canada.

"Our findings suggest that AI-based early warning systems are promising for reducing unexpected deaths in hospitals," Verma said.

CHARTWatch's efficiency was evaluated on 13,649 patients aged 55-80 years who were admitted to the general internal medicine (GIM) (about 9,626 in the pre-intervention period and 4,023 used CHARTWatch). About 8,470 admitted to subspecialty units did not use CHARTWatch.

Regular communications helped reduce deaths as CHARTWatch engaged clinicians with real-time alerts, twice-daily emails to nursing teams, and daily emails to the palliative care team, said the researchers.

A care pathway was also created for high-risk patients which prompted increased monitoring by nurses, and enhanced communication between nurses and physicians. This encouraged physicians to reassess patients.

Source: IANS

# High-protein diet isn't all good news; new study reveals a dangerous flipside

Usually for people looking to build muscle mass, such as athletes, body builders and individuals, health experts recommend a high-protein diet. The diet usually consists of animal-based foods such as meat, eggs, and milk – food items with high protein content. However, a high-protein diet may not be as healthy as we think. A recent study conducted by scientists of University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine showed that excess protein in the daily diet can contribute to heart ailments.

## What is Atherosclerosis?

Atherosclerosis is a heart condition where there is significant hardening and narrowing of arteries that happens due to plaque buildup. The study demonstrated that diets consisting of more than 22 percent of calorie intake obtained from protein can accelerate the risk of this heart condition.

The study demonstrated a complex molecular mechanism



where consumption of high-protein diet can lead to increased activation of immune cells implicated in the formation of atherosclerotic plaque – this can enhance the risk of heart diseases.

## High protein and the risk of health ailments

Dr. Babak Razani, senior and co-corresponding study author,

professor of cardiology at the University of Pittsburgh, in a media release stated that when we boost the amount of protein intake in the diet in order to improve metabolic health, we run the risk of damaging the arteries.

The study further challenges the notion that a high protein diet can lead to health benefits such as muscle maintenance and weight loss. The study further pointed out that protein obtained from animal sources can have unintended health consequences. It also raises concerns about the amount of protein intake that is considered healthy for the body, exploring dietary factors that can have cardiovascular effect. Especially for people with risk of heart diseases and vessel disorders, it is important to have a balanced diet with all nutrition, instead of focusing only on protein intake. Considering the molecular impact of diet on health – one of the leading causes of mortality - it is essential to observe diets as a whole.

Source: HT

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ChatGPT

## ChatGPT maker OpenAI rolling out o1-mini model for free users

OpenAI, the company known for bringing us the popular AI powered chatbot ChatGPT recently unveiled o1-mini, its latest large language model.

Part of the company's Project Strawberry, the new model is actually a family of new large language models that consists of two versions – o1-preview and o1-mini, a smaller and more efficient version that is aimed at code generation.

Previously limited to ChatGPT Plus, Team, Education and Enterprise edition users, OpenAI is now rolling out o1-mini for ChatGPT users who are on the free tier. The Sam Altman led company claims its new AI model is capable of reasoning and can solve complex problems faster than a human can.

While previous ChatGPT models GPT-4 were trained to offer answers by detecting patterns in the training data, the new model is based on a system of rewards and penalties. The company says o1 was also taught to process user queries by breaking them down and analyzing them one step at a time, similar to how humans do when approaching a problem.

At the moment, the new model cannot browse the internet or generate images from scratch, but OpenAI claims it is more accurate than its other large language models.

### How to use o1-mini on free ChatGPT account?

- To use o1-mini, users will have to open ChatGPT from their desktop and initiate a conversation.
- Once done, click on the option named "ChatGPT Auto" at the top of the window and under "Alpha Models", choose "o1-mini".
- When done, you will see that the ChatGPT Auto text has been replaced with ChatGPT Alpha (sign).

OpenAI seems to be gradually rolling out o1-mini access for free ChatGPT users, so it might take a while before the new model is available on your account.

# iOS 18 is here, and these features stand out the most

No matter whether you buy the new iPhone 16 series or skip it, if you have an eligible device that supports iOS 18, you'll still get all the new software features available on the latest iPhones. Think of it this way: you don't need to buy a new iPhone, but your existing device will still receive all the latest software features.

The good news is that iOS 18 is a reasonably big update, offering new features like personalisation options, including custom icons, a revamped Control Center, and support for locked and hidden apps. However, those hyped 'AI' features aren't ready—at least, not yet. That being said, iOS 18 offers a lot of brand-new features but six stood out the most for us.

First up, go download iOS 18 and update your iPhone

In case you didn't notice, iOS 18 has been rolling out for a couple of hours. But don't worry; if you have enabled automatic updates, your phone will notify you when it's ready to install. If you want to download iOS 18 manually, open the Settings app and tap General &gt; Software Update.

One request: before you download iOS 18, make sure your phone is eligible to receive the update. If you own a second-gen iPhone SE, iPhone XR, iPhone XS, iPhone XS Max, or any newer models from iPhone 11 through 15, you will be able to run iOS 18.

### Fully personalise your home screen

Perhaps the most noticeable change when you update to iOS 18 is the slightly different home screen. For the first time, iPhone users can place app icons anywhere on the grid rather than being locked to a fixed pattern. That's not all. You can also tint your app icons to match your phone's wallpaper, set them to dark mode, or let them adjust automatically from morning to night.

To edit your home screen, simply long-press on the screen, and when the apps start to jiggle, tap the Edit button in the upper-left corner. You can also adjust the app size and the brightness of your background. Additionally, iOS 18 introduces changes to the Control Center, which can now be fully customised. All toggles are now replaceable, and some offer multiple sizes.

The larger toggles and tiles mean you may run out of space sooner, but don't worry—you can create multiple pages and customise them as needed. To customise the Control Center, swipe down from the top-right corner and then long-press on the screen. You can resize controls with rounded edges and reposition all of them across any of the pages. Tap "Add a Control" at the bottom of the screen to see all available controls.

You can also remove or replace the camera and flashlight toggles on the Lock Screen, though it might not be as



significant an update as some had hoped. Android users may poke fun at it, but Apple is finally making it easy to customise your iPhone's home screen. We'd say it's a step in the right direction (thank you, Apple!).

### Send cash with a tap

Imagine sending money by simply touching and tapping another iPhone. It may sound unbelievable at first, but the feature is actually live and can be used in iOS 18. The condition is that both iPhones need to be running iOS 18 to use Tap to Cash, which more or less makes it obvious what the feature is all about.

To use the new Tap to Cash option in Apple Wallet, you need to have money stored in Apple Cash and can only send money to an iPhone running iOS 18. The feature takes advantage of the iPhone's NFC chip, if you're curious about how it works. To enable it, go to Wallet > Apple Cash > Send or Request > Tap to Cash. Enter an amount, tap your iPhone to the receiver's iPhone, and you are all sorted. Apple notes that sending cash simply by touching your iPhones together is safe and the feature transfers money without having to share any personal info—a nice privacy element.

### AI transcription for voice memos

When you update your iPhone to iOS 18 and open the Voice Memos app, you will notice that it now displays a live transcript of your speech while recording audio. Previously, iPhone users had to download a third-party app to transcribe voice memos, but that's no longer necessary.

The recording interface is straightforward to use, and you can get text transcriptions by tapping on the speech bubble icon. You can similarly record audio and view the transcript in the Notes app as well. It's a great feature for journalists, students, or anyone who wants to record meeting minutes. This is an AI feature, similar to what you get on a Google Pixel smartphone.

### Notes can solve math for you

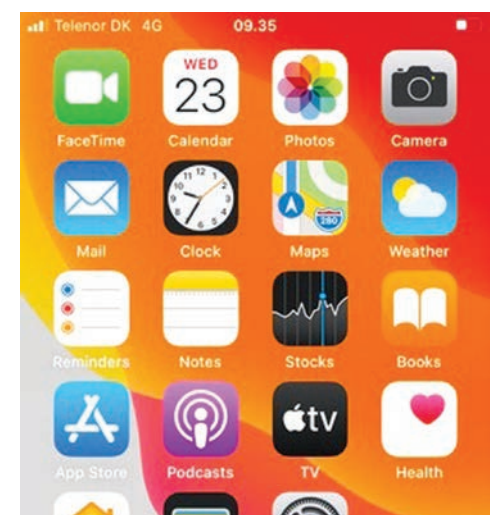
The iPhone can double as a diary or

ledger to record monthly expenses, such as how much you spent on groceries when to pay your iPhone EMI, and more. You can already log your daily expenses in the iPhone's Notes app, but there is a new addition in iOS 18 that crunches numbers for you automatically.

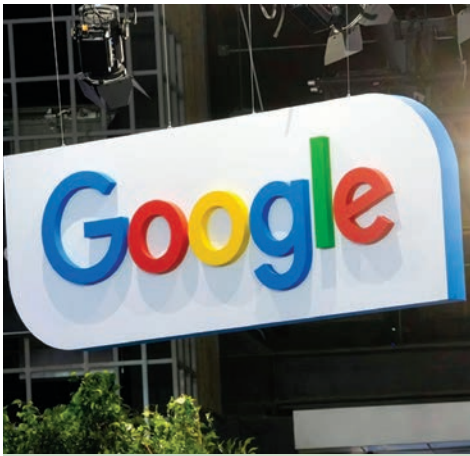
No need to use a calculator. For example, you can type a problem like '90+30=' and the Notes app will display the answer on the screen. You can use the equals sign to set values for variables (for example, 'EMI = Rs 2500', 'Netflix = Rs 200'). By using these variables in a math problem, Notes solves it and updates the result if you change the amounts assigned to the variables. Forget about making spreadsheets for your monthly budget—Notes can handle it all with ease.

### Reorganise your photos

The Photos app has received a major revamp in iOS 18, and it's quite drastic. For starters, the library still has the same feel as in the previous version, but as you scroll down, you will see new automatically generated groups of pictures. You will find albums as before, but now there are also collection folders such as Recent Days, People & Pets, Pinned Collections, Memories, Trips, Utilities, and Media Type. You can customize the visibility and order of these items. However, the new changes to the Photos app have faced some backlash.







## Google wins fight over €1.5 billion EU fine for ads abuse

Google won a court fight with the European Union over a Euro 1.5 billion (\$1.7 billion) fine for thwarting competition for online ads, partly atoning for last week's crushing defeat in a separate judgment for abusing its monopoly powers.

Judges at the EU's General Court in Luxembourg backed the Alphabet Inc. unit's challenge to a fine doled out in 2019, saying regulators made mistakes in their probe.

The European Commission had alleged that Google — as a dominant online ad broker — illegally prevented rivals such as Yahoo Inc. and Microsoft Corp. from placing ads on third-party websites. Wednesday's ruling can still be appealed at the bloc's top tribunal, the Court of Justice.

The decision comes on the heels of two court successes for antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager and her bid to rein in Silicon Valley. Last week she won victories at the top court against Google's attempt to avoid a Euro 2.4 billion antitrust penalty for favoring its own product results on search and Apple Inc.'s bid to skirt a Euro 13 billion Irish tax bill.

The EU's case into Google AdSense service is the last of a trilogy of court disputes over cases that set the course for Vestager's tenure, which is about to end after a decade.

EU regulators targeted Google's role as an ad broker for websites, where the AdSense for Search product placed advertising on platforms including newspaper websites, blogs and travel sites.

When the Brussels watchdog hit Google with the Euro 1.49 billion penalty in 2019, it said Google's contracts with websites prevented them from accepting rival search ads from the likes of Microsoft and Yahoo. When a user would input a query on a Google search box on websites, ads from such rivals were blocked. The problematic contracts were all dropped by 2016, when the EU escalated the investigation.

Despite confirming most of the EU's reasoning, judges in Wednesday's ruling said that regulators blundered in their assessment of the duration of the disputed clauses, as well as the part of the market covered by them during 2016.

# US Fed slashes interest rates by 50 bps in first cut since 2020

NEW YORK (TIP)

The US Federal Reserve cut its key lending rate by half a percentage-point Wednesday in its first reduction since the pandemic, sharply lowering borrowing costs shortly before November's presidential election.

Policymakers voted 11-to-1 in favor of lowering the US central bank's benchmark lending rate to between 4.75 percent and 5.00 percent, the Fed announced in a statement.

They also penciled in an additional half-point of cuts before the end of this year, and an added percentage point of cuts in 2025.

The Fed's decision will affect the rates at which commercial banks lend to consumers and businesses, bringing down the cost of borrowing on everything from mortgages to credit cards less than two months before the US presidential election.

The Fed said its rate-setting committee "has gained greater confidence that inflation is moving sustainably toward 2 percent, and judges that the risks to achieving its employment and inflation goals are roughly in balance."

The central bank has a dual mandate from Congress to act independently to tackle both inflation and employment.

In updated economic forecasts published alongside the Fed's rate decision, policymakers' median forecasts pointed to an unemployment rate of 4.4 percent, on average, in the fourth quarter of this year, up from 4.0 percent in the last update in June.

Officials also penciled in an annual headline inflation rate of 2.3 percent, slightly lower than in June.



## Sensex, Nifty scale fresh peaks

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surged to their fresh record high levels in early trade on Thursday, September 19, after the US Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate after more than four years.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 735.95 points to scale a new all-time high of 83,684.18 in early trade. The NSE Nifty also surged 209.55 points to hit a fresh record peak of 25,587.10.

From the 30 Sensex firms, NTPC, Axis Bank, Tata Motors, Tata Consultancy Services, Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Infosys and HDFC Bank were the biggest gainers.

Bajaj Finserv emerged as the only laggard from the pack.

In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong rallied while Seoul quoted marginally lower.

# Brookfield adding \$13 billion to its bet on India infrastructure

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Brookfield Asset Management Ltd. plans to add to the \$13 billion it has already invested in Indian infrastructure, describing it as the "brightest spot" in emerging markets.

"There's no reason why we can't keep up with that trajectory," Arpit Agrawal, head of the Canadian investment firm's India infrastructure business, said in an interview. Brookfield has ramped up spending in the sector across India from just \$100 million eight years ago.

Brookfield's wider themes for infrastructure that focus on digitalization, decarbonization and deglobalization play well in India, according to Agrawal. The firm will explore investments in fiber optics, where demand is projected to increase as more data shifts to the cloud, he said.

It may also partner with semiconductor manufacturers and increase investment in gas pipelines, Agrawal said. The firm has already invested in transmission towers, pipelines and data centers, and is looking at smart meters, he added.

Brookfield's local team of 15 investment and operations professionals has faith in India's growth prospects and



demographics, while "predictable depreciation" in the rupee makes it easier to factor in returns, and currency hedges are easier to put into place, Agrawal said.

Toronto-based Brookfield has nearly \$29 billion of assets across infrastructure, real estate, renewable and private equity investments in India. Towers account for between \$10 billion and \$11 billion of the infrastructure assets, followed by pipelines at \$2 billion. The rest is in data centers that are being built.

The Indian government has made a push to upgrade poor infrastructure, and

private capital has been crucial to that strategy. A World Bank report in 2022 estimated that the country needed to spend \$840 billion over the following 15 years on urban infrastructure.

Regulatory and policy changes have eased infrastructure investment and are leading to a deeper pool of players in securities like infrastructure investment trusts. Brookfield's InvITs command a third of the roughly 1.8 trillion rupees (\$21.5 billion) market value of the asset class, Agrawal said. InvITs are designed to support funding for costly infrastructure projects.

Brookfield didn't need permission from the telecom department for its recent \$2.2 billion acquisition of American Tower Corp.'s portfolio in India thanks to a regulatory change in 2021, Agrawal said.

"Incrementally, it's becoming better," he said. "We see India just going forward. There's really no turning back."

The firm is also dipping into its global investments to build out opportunities in India. Two years ago, Brookfield invested in Triton International Ltd., a freight container company that gives it access to data on the movement of goods around the world, Agrawal said.



**BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA**



**ARIES** : Ganesha says this week will be good for unmarried people, their marriage proposal may get approved. Your love life is not looking anything special. Married people will have to face stressful situations in domestic life due to some other person. Your financial condition will be good. You have to budget all your expenses. If you have made any investment earlier, you will get full benefit from that also. People doing jobs will receive good news from higher officials in their workplace. People doing business will get new contacts. Talking about health, your health is going to be a little weak. If you make some changes in your daily routine, your health will improve. You will get support from family and with that, your work will also start getting done. There will be a situation of going out with friends. Will try to convince family members for some new work. Will try to go out. Avoid taking new loans.



**TAURUS** : Ganesha says this week will be good for people with the Taurus zodiac sign. There will be sweetness in love relationships. You will look very happy with each other. There will be happiness and peace in the lives of married people. Will get support from family. Will spend time with family members and learn to save money, so that there is no problem in the future. Your financial condition will be good. You will get new contracts in business. Employed people will get opportunities for promotion in the job. Your health will be good this week. You will be able to complete all your work on time. Students will be interested in studies, but their attention will get distracted due to some friends. You will invest money in the education of your siblings. You will also spend a lot of money on home decoration and repairs.



**GEMINI** : Ganesha says this week, single people will get a chance to choose their desired life partner. There will be sourness in love relationships. Married people will seem happy in their domestic life. Your financial condition will be good. Expenses will remain. We have to move forward with budget planning. Time is going to be good for higher education students, you will get a chance to study the subject of your choice. This week you will get a lot of relief and will get rid of old diseases. You will get the company and support of your parents. Parents will invest money for the better future of their children. You will participate in bhajan-kirtan in the neighborhood. There are chances of going on a business-related trip,

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - SEPTEMBER 23 - 29, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

which will be pleasant for them. There are signs of unemployed people getting good employment.



**CANCER** : Ganesha says this week you will get support from family members. You will plan to go to some religious place with your family, where everyone will look very happy. Your love life will be full of happiness. This week is going to be favorable for married people. This week you are likely to make financial gains in many ways. The economic situation will be strong. Your pending work will be completed. This time is a bit weak for employed people. You will have to pay more attention to your work. There will be success in taking the business forward. Time will be even better for higher education students. Some big achievements are about to be achieved. Nothing special is visible in health. Take care of your health. People who are working away from home will miss their families.



**LEO** : Ganesha says this week is going to be good for married people. You will spend some time alone with your spouse. You have to be a little careful in matters of love. You should avoid investing money anywhere, as it may hurt your business. This is a good time for employed people. Your relationship with your business partner will also become stronger. Students will have to avoid overconfidence. This week will be full of health problems. You will get good news from a distant relative. People working will be confused about a job change. You will take some time for yourself from your busy day, in which you will do your favorite things. Due to this, your mind will be happy. You will get the company of your mother.



**VIRGO** : Ganesha says this week is going to be pleasant for people with the Virgo zodiac sign. There will be happiness in family life. You may remain worried about your spouse's health. This week will not be anything special for love relationships. People doing business will get the desired profits. There are signs of unemployed people getting good employment. There are chances of job change. The efforts you were making to expand your business will be successful. There is a very good possibility of getting success in the competition. Don't let your mind wander. There are chances of success in politics. The ongoing dispute between brother and sister will end. Parents will be seen as troubled by the wrong company of their children. You will also go to the park and picnic with the children.



**LIBRA** : Ganesha says this week you will have to face some problems in life. Your spouse's behavior will appear to have changed a bit. Your love life will not be anything special. There will

be tension between the two. Your financial situation will bring mixed results. Income will increase, but expenses will also remain high. This week is going to be moderate for employed people. There are chances of job change. There are signs of unemployed people getting good employment. Students will seem very conscious about their studies. Time is good for higher education. There will be opportunities to get education from abroad also. You will be seen working with your spouse for the welfare of the family. Small businessmen will get the desired profits in business. Worship will be organized at home. Everyone will keep coming and going.

**SCORPIO** : Ganesha says this week will be full of ups and downs. People living a love life will seem happy with their beloved. Married people will feel

tension in their life. Interference from another person can also cause discord. You will get the full benefit of your first investment. You can also expect big profits from the government sector. People doing business will get success in the plans they were making to take the business forward. New contracts will be available. Employed people will have to face problems in the workplace. Students will get guidance from a guru this week, with whose help you will be able to continue your studies. Your health will be fine. It would be better if you include morning walks, yoga, and meditation in your daily routine. Will share his thoughts with his father.



**SAGITTARIUS** : Ganesha says there will be ups and downs in love relationships this week. A misunderstanding may arise between the two regarding some issues. Married people will have to face problems in life. Your spouse will start some new work, in which you will fully support him/her. This week will be good from a financial point of view. There will also be an inflow of money, due to which the economic situation will remain strong. This time does not seem to be anything special for the students. Your mind will remain away from studies. Time is good for higher education. Will get support from family. All the family members will together participate in some religious program, which will bring peace to your mind. You can also visit your grandmother's house with your mother, where she will look happy. Will get support from my brother.



**CAPRICORN** : Ganesha says time is going to be very good for love relationships. The distance between you and your loved one will reduce. Married people will feel stressed due to interference from another person in their domestic life. You will get the happiness of having children. You will share your thoughts with your father. People who are doing ancestral business will make some changes in their ancestral business. You

will have some sources from which you will see an increase in income day by day. Employed people will get a chance to change jobs. Students will take great interest in their studies. If you are preparing for the competition then you will be successful. Your health will be better. After a lot of worship, the obstacles coming in the way of the sister's marriage will end. Auspicious programs will be organized at home, where everyone will be coming and going.



**AQUARIUS** : Ganesha says this week you will feel full of energy, due to which you will complete all your pending tasks. You can also take your lover for a walk somewhere, where you will be seen talking lovingly. There will be happiness in the family. Everyone will live together happily and peacefully. You will get full support from your spouse. You will be seen working with your spouse for the welfare of the family. Some more family responsibilities will be assigned to you, which you will fulfill. All your work will be completed by touching the feet of senior members and taking their blessings while leaving home. Your financial condition will be good. You may benefit from a business partner. People doing business from abroad will get a lot of benefits from traveling. Time will be favorable for higher education. Health will improve.



**PISCES** : Ganesha says this week is going to be very good for the people of Pisces. You will get full support from your spouse. Will get support from family. The ongoing dispute between brother and sister will end. Your love life will be better. The economic situation will be strong. The pending money will be returned. You will get the full benefit of the investment made earlier. You will get full support from your children. Health will improve. Time is very good for higher education. A lot of money will also be spent on travel. Will invest money for the future of children. The obstacles coming in the way of the brother's marriage will be removed. You will take some time for yourself from your busy day, in which you will do your favorite things. Health may fluctuate due to changing weather. Your love life will be better.

### 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](http://chiragdaruwalla.com). He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: [info@chiragdaruwalla.com](mailto:info@chiragdaruwalla.com)

## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : SEPTEMBER 23 TO SEPTEMBER 29 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

### SEPTEMBER 23

Ganesha says don't chase a career because of fame or money. Doing what you love can help you achieve success. You may be in a positive frame of mind, which may help you identify opportunities for proper growth coming your way. You can commit to working on multiple tasks at the same time, which is likely to improve your productivity in all aspects of life. The day may bring important events for you.

### SEPTEMBER 24

Ganesha says today can be your best day. Your boss can be cooperative today. You are likely to get a promotion for your continuous hard work. You can plan for a family trip. Today your enthusiasm can be at its peak and you can try something new at work. Your communication with your colleague can be good, due to which you can get to learn new things. You can see a lot of changes today, which can give you more time to relax and channel your positive energy. This is the right time to plan for the future.

### SEPTEMBER 25

Ganesha says may this day be very auspicious for you. You may be in a good position as far as professional and personal success is concerned. May peace and harmony bring good progress in all areas of your life. Your happiness level can make solid progress in areas of concern today. Today you can enter a new phase of life. This phase can motivate you to work hard and make you competitive. Today you can see a lot of success. Your hard work can impress your boss. Today you can show interest in spiritual activities.

### SEPTEMBER 26

Ganesha says today can be a very promising day for you. Your communication skills may be able to impress everyone around you. You may be in a sociable mood today, ready to network with people who can help, both professionally and personally. Today you can lead the project at work. You may start new tasks and show great ease in executing them. Today a plan can be made to go somewhere with friends.

### SEPTEMBER 27

Ganesha says today can be your best day. This day can bring a lot of opportunities at the workplace which can lead you towards a good plan. Your energy level may be at an all-time high today, which is likely to help you move forward. May today bring lots of happiness and joy to your life. May your day start with lots of positivity. You can dedicate the day to yourself and your interests. A changed approach towards work is likely to keep you ahead of your competitors.

### SEPTEMBER 28

Ganesha says today can be your best day. You may be able to solve a problem at the workplace, which may make your boss happy. You may plan a business trip with your colleague. Today can be a good day, you can meet some new people in the office. You can learn something new from them and share different stories related to work. You can travel to a destination in a completely different climate zone.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA

### SEPTEMBER 29

Ganesha says today you can get good mental strength. You can enjoy working in the office. You are likely to implement new ideas in the family business. Today your hard work can help you to implement the plan successfully. You may choose to work hard today, and the financial gains you make today may stay with you for a long time. Your love life can be as wonderful as your professional life today.

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|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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# Sikh History This Week

## SEPTEMBER 20 TO SEPTEMBER 26

### 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.

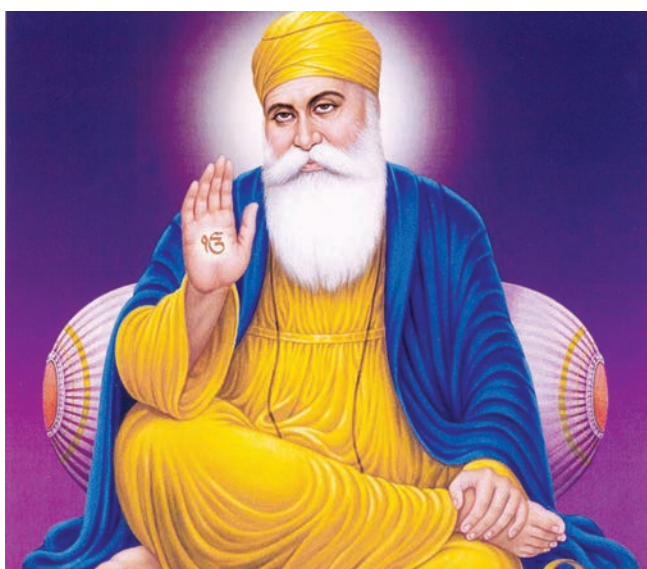
### 21st September

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 Babbars 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 Keshgadh 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 Chalna 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.

### 26th September

1563 Bhai Budha Ji was born in village of Ramdas.

BABA BUDHA JI: born on 7 katak sanmat 1563 at Kathunangal (Dist. Amritsar) to father Sudhae and mother Gora. Parents named the child as Budda. In sanmat 1574, Guru Nanak Dev Ji visited Kathunangal village. While grazing cattle, Budda met Guru Nanak and served milk in sewa. During their conversation, Guru Nanak declared that though young in age, he was "Budha" in terms of understanding and wisdom. Since then he came to known as Budha.

1914 Kamagata Maru ship arrived at Calcutta where the Budge Budge incident took place.

Kamagata Maru arrived in Calcutta. The forcibly returning ship "Nanak Nam Jahaj" (Koma Gata Maru) was fired upon by the British forces. The police insisted that all returning passengers should board the train bound for Punjab. Only 50 men and 2 children boarded the train while others defied the police. In the combat 19 were killed, 203 were arrested and 32 absconded. Baba Gurdit Singh was one of those who escaped the police net.

1978 8 Sikhs were massacred by Nirankaris while police killed 10 sikhs at Kanpur. The U.P. police arrested a very large number of Sikhs instead of Nirankaris.

# Pitru Paksha: honoring and remembering ancestors

**P**itru Paksha is a 15-16 day period in the Hindu calendar that's dedicated to honoring and remembering ancestors. It's a time when Hindus perform rituals to offer food and peace to the souls of their ancestors, who are believed to descend to Earth during this period.

Pitru Paksha has a special significance in Hinduism. On the days of Shradh, in Hinduism, our ancestors are remembered and their gratitude is expressed. In Hindu religion, if the Pitrus is satisfied, then he blesses his family, due to which happiness, opulence and peace remain in the family.

In Hindu religion, one must do Shradh rites and Pind Daan of one's ancestors. There is a tradition of performing Shradh and tarpan of loved ones on Pitru Paksha. There is also a tradition of performing Shradh on Pitru Paksha. Shradh means reverence. When the Pitru Paksha begins, reverence for the ancestors is expressed. Blessings of ancestors are obtained in Pitru Paksha.

## Recognition

According to Hinduism, the souls of three preceding generations of one's ancestors reside in Pitru-loka, the region between heaven and earth. The region is governed by Yama, the god of death, who carries the soul of a dying person from the earth to Pitru-loka. When the person of the next generation dies, the first generation goes to heaven and is reunited with the Lord, so the offering of Shradh is not given. Thus, only three generations in Pitru-loka are given the shraadh rites, in which Yama plays an important role. According to the sacred Hindu epics, at the beginning of Pitru Paksha, the Sun enters Virgo. With this moment, it is believed that the souls leave Pitru-loka and stay in the homes of their descendants for a month until the Sun enters the next zodiac sign - Scorpio - and there is a full moon. Hindus are expected to appease the ancestors in the first half of the dark fortnight.

## Story Related to Shradh

When the great donor Karna died in the epic Mahabharata war, his soul went to heaven, where he was offered gold and gems as food. However, Karna needed real food to eat and asked Indra, the lord of heaven, the reason for serving gold as food. Indra told Karna that he had donated gold throughout his life, but had never donated food to his ancestors in Shradh. Karna said that since he was unaware of his ancestors, he never donated anything in his memory. To make amends, Karna was allowed to return to Earth for a period of 15 days, so that he could perform Shradh and donate food and water in his memory. This period is now known as Pitru Paksha.

## Rites of Shradh

The man who performs the Shradh should have done the purification beforehand and is expected to wear a dhoti. He wears a ring of Darbha grass. The ancestors are then invited to reside in the ring. Shradh is usually performed with bare chest, as the position of the sacred thread worn by them has to be changed several times during the ceremony. The Shradh includes Pind Daan, an offering to the ancestors of the Pindas (balls of cooked rice and barley flour mixed with ghee and black sesame seeds). In which water is thrown around the food by hand. This is followed by the worship of Vishnu (in the form of Darbha grass, a gold idol, or Shaligram stone) and Yama. The food is divided into several parts, a portion of which is given to the crow. The crow is believed to be the messenger of Yama or the soul of the



ancestors. A cow and a dog are also fed, and Brahmin priests are also fed. After all this the family members can have food.

## Rituals

Some rituals performed during Pitru Paksha include:  
Shraddha: A primary ritual performed with devotion and respect to seek blessings from ancestors

- Tarpan: An offering of water
- Aasan Shuddhi: The purification of the seat where rituals are conducted

## Activities to avoid

Some activities to avoid during Pitru Paksha include:

- Starting new ventures
- Celebrating events
- Purchasing new items
- Consuming non-vegetarian food or alcohol
- Cutting hair or nails
- Engaging in arguments or sexual activities
- Night travel
- Eating Shradh offerings prematurely

## Why Please Ancestors?

You may ask why you should please the ancestors or whether there is life after death? If they are dead then why should we bother about them? Well when your ancestors are not resting in peace you too will not be able to be in peace. You will often face some problem or the other. There will be disputes in the family. Women will not be able to bear children. The family members will be meeting with unforeseen

**“Everyone thinks how to become a better son or daughter, mother or father, brother or sister, husband or wife, and man or woman. But no one puts actual thoughts on that they are all HUMAN and how to become a better HUMAN. What can we do to learn how to be a better humanRs ”**

**-- Arish K Sahani**

accidents and the list will just go on.

When the ancestors are resting in peace you can see that your home and family will be prospering. Just because the ancestors are dead we should not forget them. They should be prayed to and offered food and water. If the deceased do not have a son then the immediate family members can also do the shradha puja. This puja also cleans the sinful deeds of the deceased soul and ensures that they rest in peace. The person who is performing the shradha puja during the pitru paksha must do it with complete dedication and with whole heart. You could also do it under guidance of a learned priest.

You must keep handy the list of your ancestors who have left for their heavenly abode. Try to keep the names of at least the previous seven generations. The puja must be offered to both the men as well as the women. After the puja food must be offered to the ancestors. We will deal in more details with the shradha puja done in pitru paksha in our next article.

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**“If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save itRs ”**

**“If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard itRs ”**

**“Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one.”**

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

**Biden to host QUAD summit at his...**

Modi of India, and Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

"This will be President Biden's first time hosting foreign leaders in Wilmington as president - a reflection of his deep personal relationships with each of the Quad Leaders, and the importance of the Quad to all of our countries," she said.

QUAD is a diplomatic partnership between four countries-Australia, India, Japan, and the United States.

The Biden-Harris administration has elevated and institutionalized the Quad as a top priority, from the first-ever Quad Leaders Summit at the White House in 2021 to annual Summits since then.

In recent years, Quad Foreign Ministers have met eight times, and Quad governments continue to meet and coordinate at all levels, she said.

"The Quad Leaders Summit will focus on bolstering the strategic convergence among our countries, advancing our shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and delivering concrete benefits for partners in the Indo-Pacific in key areas. These include health security, natural disaster response, maritime security, high-quality infrastructure, critical and emerging technology, climate and clean energy, and cybersecurity," Jean-Pierre said. (Source: PTI)

**United Nations General Assembly...**

Adopted by a two-thirds majority in a recorded vote of 124 in favor to 14 against, with 43 abstentions, the text titled "Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from Israel's policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and from the illegality of Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" (document A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1) welcomed that opinion, which was issued on 19 July.

Introduced Tuesday, September 17, by the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine in an emergency special session of the Assembly, the text seeks to implement the Court's advisory opinion (for background, see GA/12625). It sets out numerous obligations on States and international organizations, including the obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of Israel in the Territory. By its other terms, the Assembly decided to convene during its seventy-ninth session an international conference for the implementation of UN resolutions pertaining to the question of Palestine and the two-State solution.

Prior to its adoption, the Assembly Secretary said that in the absence of modalities, it is not possible to estimate the potential cost implications of convening an international conference. Once modalities are known, the budgetary implications will be assessed and the Assembly advised accordingly, she said.

The adoption was hailed by several delegates, including that of Syria, who said it is an expression of international solidarity with the Palestinian people and a global rejection of Israeli occupation. Further, it renews the United Nations' unequivocal support for the establishment of a Palestinian State, he said. The representatives of Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Marshall Islands and Thailand also reaffirmed the Palestinian right to self-determination.

Voicing support for the International Court of Justice, Belgium's delegate underscored that the resolution is in keeping with its advisory opinion. Israel's multidecade illegal occupation undermines the human rights of Palestinians and compromises any chances of a peace process in the Middle East, he said. The adoption does not mean a reduction of Israel's security, he pointed out, adding that terrorist groups, such as Hamas, feed on oppression and hopelessness. This text offers a realistic prospect of restoring hope in a population that has been left at the mercy of extremist ideology, he said.

The representatives of Japan, Latvia, France, Estonia, Cyprus and Monaco also underscored the need to uphold international law and the key role of the World Court.

While cognizant of Israel's security needs, Greece's delegate said, his country nevertheless voted in favor of the text because of its principled belief that the Court's work should be respected. Singapore's delegate said that his delegation also voted in favor because of its respect for the Court, even though it has serious reservations about the use of the institution's advisory jurisdiction to bypass the need for States' consent. Calling for measures that have not been negotiated by the Israelis and Palestinians may only harden positions, he warned.

New Zealand supported the resolution, that country's delegate said, even though it is not perfect. The 12-month time frame set out in the resolution for Israeli withdrawal from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, is "frankly unrealistic", she said, adding: "However, in the next 12 months, we expect Israel to take meaningful steps towards compliance with international law." The Palestinian Authority must also take meaningful steps to ensure political and security control of the occupied territories, she said.

However, several delegates who voted against the text said it fails to address the immense security challenges that Israel faces. The representative of the Czech Republic regretted that the text does not acknowledge Hamas' use of the Gaza Strip as a "launching pad for its rampage of killing of Israelis while systematically using Palestinian civilians as human shields". A negotiated agreement is the best path to fostering a better future in the Middle East, he said, as did the representatives of Argentina and Hungary.

The speaker for Papua New Guinea said the draft demands that Israel make unilateral concessions without any reciprocal steps from the other parties involved. Such unbalanced demands will perpetuate the conflict and reinforce views that the advisory opinion proceedings may have been biased, given the Court's sole focus on the actions of Israel, he added. He also pointed to dissenting opinions from the Court judges.

A significant number of countries who abstained from today's vote expressed concerns about the language in the text itself - among these the delegates of Canada, Bulgaria, Austria, Japan, Republic of Korea, Guatemala, India, Sweden, Italy, Germany, Kiribati and Costa Rica. While there is no doubt about the illegality of Israel's occupation, the representative of Switzerland said, the one-year timeline referenced in the text for the withdrawal of Israel does not acknowledge that country's legitimate security concerns. The representative of the United Kingdom said her delegation abstained because the text does not provide sufficient clarity to advance a negotiated solution. Stressing that the reunification of Gaza and West Bank is a fundamental step towards a two-State solution, she also expressed concern about extremist Israeli settlers.

Australia's delegate said: "We are concerned that, by making demands of the entire United Nations membership that go beyond the scope of the advisory opinion, the resolution distracts from what the world needs Israel to do." His country has insisted that Israel must cease settlement activity and has sanctioned extremist Israeli settlers. "We have not supplied weapons to Israel in at least the last five years," he added. However, Australia will continue to call out unilateral actions that it believes undermine the prospect for peace, he said, while the representative of the Netherlands pointed to reservations regarding operative paragraph 5b of the text. While it remains of utmost importance that Israel retains its ability to defend itself, this must be done in accordance with international law, including humanitarian law, she stressed. (Based on an UNGA Press Release)

**Trump says he will meet with PM...**

He gave no details on where they would meet. Nor is there a word from the External Affairs Ministry about a Modi-Trump meeting.

According to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in the U.S. from September 21-23 to attend the Quad summit in Wilmington, hosted by American President Joseph Biden for leaders of the U.S., India, Japan and Australia.

On September 23, Prime Minister Modi will address "Summit of the Future" at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. The theme of the summit is "Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow".

In addition, Prime Minister Modi will hold bilateral meetings with several world leaders on the sidelines of UNGA. He is also scheduled to engage with CEOs of major US-based companies to strengthen collaborations in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, and biotechnology.

On September 22, in New York, Prime Minister Modi will address the Indian community and is expected to interact with thought leaders involved in India-US bilateral relations.

**Widespread condemnation of ...**

The temple held a prayer meeting on Monday noon following the incident.

The Indian Consulate in New York has condemned the vandalism of the BAPS Swaminarayan Temple, saying it has raised the matter with the US law enforcement authorities for prompt action against perpetrators of the "heinous act".

"The vandalism of the BAPS Swaminarayan Temple in Melville, New York, is unacceptable," the Indian Consulate said on Monday, September 16, in a post on X.

It added that the Consulate "is in touch with the community and has raised the matter with the US law enforcement authorities for prompt action against the perpetrators of this heinous act".

The Hindu American Foundation said on Monday in a post on X that the Justice Department and Department of Homeland Security "must investigate" the attack on the temple "after recent threats to Hindu institutions as a large Indian community gathering is planned in nearby Nassau County this weekend".

"It is hard to comprehend the absolute cowardice of those who would attack a Hindu temple to air hatred for an elected leader. This attack, following recent threats at Hindu and Indian institutions, must be seen in the context of that threat scenario," executive director of the Hindu American Foundation Suhag Shukla said in a post on X.

It also mentioned that Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun had recently shared a video threatening Hindu and Indian institutions.

It said that the vandalism incident in New York is similar to attacks on temples that happened in California and Canada.

"Gurpatwant Pannun, of "Sikhs for Justice," recently posted a video threatening Hindu and Indian institutions, including HAF, as the community event approaches. The vandalism is similar to that seen in attacks on temples in New York, California and Canada & called out by @CongressmanRaja @RoKhanna @ShriThanedar @PramilaJayapal @BeraForCongress @shuvmajumdar and other political leaders," Hindu American Foundation posted on X.

Hindu PACT also demanded an FBI investigation into the incident.

Gujarati Samaj of New York condemned the vandalism at BAPS temple.

Earlier in July, the BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir was vandalized in Canada's Edmonton.

Canadian MP Chandra Arya voiced deep concern over the escalating incidents of hate-fueled violence directed at Hindu-Canadian communities.

In a post on X, Chandra Arya said, "The Hindu temple BAPS Swaminarayan Mandir in Edmonton is vandalized again. During the last few years, Hindu temples in the Greater Toronto Area, British Columbia, and other places in Canada are being vandalized with hateful graffiti."

The recent bias attack against the BAPS Swaminarayan Temple on Long Island is not only unacceptable, but unfortunately is part of a growing pattern of angry violence against people and groups some might disagree with.

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

# Hyderabad, the city of pearls

Sixth largest city of India by population, Hyderabad nevertheless is still not very touristy and we must insist a little so that it reveals its beautiful face. A face with oriental features, reflecting its past as “city of pearls”, when it was a hub of the Indo-Persian culture under the reigns of the Golkonda and Nizams Muslim rulers. Hyderabad was founded by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah in 1591 near Golkonda which was the capital of the Sultanate Bahmani, the first independent Muslim kingdom of southern India. Hyderabad is often referred to as the ‘city of pearls’, but it can be as well as referred to as the ‘city of diamonds’ as there was a time when India possessed the only known diamond mines in the world. The legendary Golkonda mines, 11 km from Hyderabad, are home to one of the biggest diamonds in the world, including the Koh-i-Noor (British crown), the Darya-i-Noor (the biggest pink diamond in the world), the Hope diamond, Pitt, and the 187-carat Jacob diamond.

## 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. 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.

## Paigah tombs

Paigah tombs or Maqbara Shams al-Umara are the tombs of members of the Paigah family, aristocrats, loyalists of the Nizams. The Paigah had the task of defending and securing the princely state of Hyderabad. The ties between the Nizams and the Paigahs were such that one of the Paigahs, Fakhrudin Khan, married the daughter of the second Nizam of Hyderabad in 1797.

The marble tombs are adorned with genealogical trees or decorated with beautiful Persian geometric designs and jalis reflecting the aesthetic and artistic taste of the nobility of the time.

## 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. The divinity presides over the temple is Lord Venkateswara, a form of the god Vishnu.



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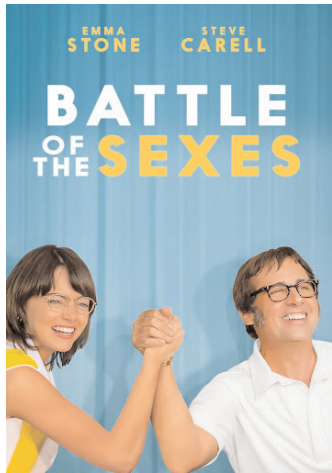
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# History This Week SEP 20 - 26

## 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.

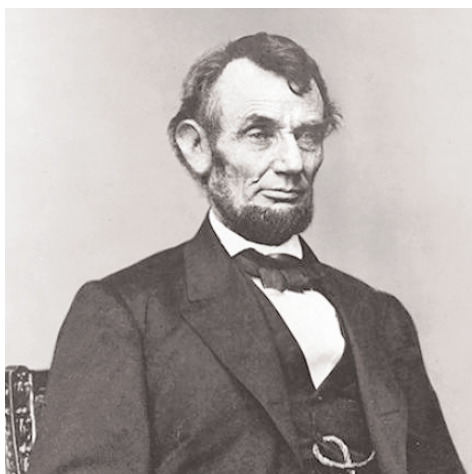
## SEPTEMBER 21

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

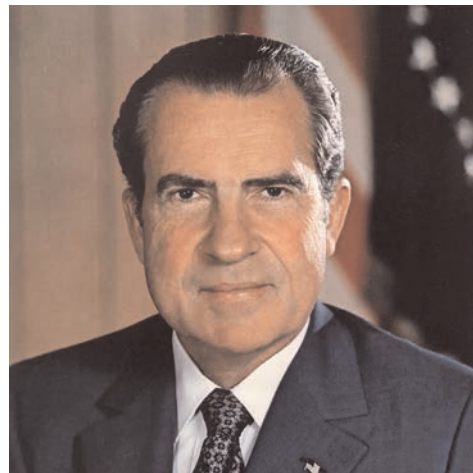
becoming Kaiser of the new German Empire.

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.

## SEPTEMBER 26

September 26, 1687 - The Acropolis in Athens was attacked by the Venetian army attempting to oust the Turks, resulting in heavy damage to the Parthenon.

September 26, 1918 - The last major battle of World War I, the Battle of the Argonne, began as a combined force of French and Americans attacked the Germans along a 40-mile front.

September 26, 1960 - The first-ever televised presidential debate occurred between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. Many who watched were inclined to say Kennedy 'won' the debate, while those who listened only to the radio thought Nixon did better. Nixon, who declined to use makeup, appeared somewhat haggard looking on TV in contrast to Kennedy.

September 26, 1984 - Britain agreed to allow Hong Kong to revert to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Birthday - American folk legend Johnny Appleseed (1774-1845) was born in Leominster, Massachusetts (as John Chapman). For 40 years, he traveled through Ohio, Indiana and into Illinois, planting orchards. He was a friend to wild animals and was regarded as a "great medicine man" by Native Americans.



Birthday - Writer T.S. (Thomas Stearns) Eliot (1888-1965) was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He rejected conventional verse and language in favor of free expression.

Birthday - Composer George Gershwin (1898-1937) was born in Brooklyn, New York. Along with his brother Ira, he created enduring songs including The Man I Love, Strike Up the Band, I Got Rhythm and the opera Porgy and Bess.

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## Champions League: Mbappe leads Real to victory

**K**ylian Mbappe renewed his quest to win a European title by scoring for Real Madrid in his first Champions League match with the club.

Mbappe found the open net after a cross by Rodrygo just seconds into the second half of Madrid's 3-1 win over Stuttgart at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

"It was a great night," Mbappe said. "It was a tough match, as they always are in the Champions League, but it was important to start with the win at home."

Mbappe celebrated with a gesture in which he appeared to blow candles and sending a kiss. Spanish media said it was to honour his mother's 50th birthday.

The goal gave defending champions Madrid a 1-0 lead before Stuttgart equalised with Deniz Undav in the 68th. Antonio Rudiger put Madrid back in front in the 83rd and substitute Endrick closed the scoring deep into stoppage time to seal the victory for the defending champions.

It was Mbappe's 49th Champions League goal, putting him in the top-10 of top scorers all time in the competition. He has scored in three consecutive matches and has five goals in seven games with Madrid so far in all competitions.

## Ponting joins Punjab Kings as head coach

**R**icky Ponting, the former Australian captain, has signed a deal with Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League.

Punjab Kings have been searching for a new coach and a fresh direction after parting ways with Trevor Bayliss. With a mega IPL auction on the horizon, the franchise, which has struggled to find consistency in the league, has been looking for a leader/mentor/head coach who can guide them in this new cycle and help shape their future.

"I am grateful to Punjab Kings for presenting me with the opportunity to be the new Head Coach. I am excited to take up the new challenge. I had great conversations with the owners and the management about the way forward and was truly elated to see the alignment of our visions for the team. We all want to repay the fans who have stayed with the franchise over the years and we promise that they will see a much different Punjab Kings going forward," Ponting was quoted as saying in a media release.

# India beat China 1-0 in Asian Champions Trophy final to claim record 5th title

HULUNBUIR (TIP)

India edged past hosts China and registered a narrow 1-0 win to win a record-extending fifth Asian Champions Trophy title on Tuesday. The Indian team fought hard in the summit clash against a spirited Chinese side who put everything on the line to make a statement. Jugraj Singh, who entered the field as a substitute player, broke the Chinese deadlock in the final quarter to help India prove their supremacy in Asia. Although a rare field goal, Jugraj finding the back of the net came at a crucial time when the other Indian stars were finding it tough to get past China's goalkeeper Wang Weihao.

Meanwhile, China, ranked 23rd, put up an incredible fight against India, the top-ranked Asian team. The players didn't disappoint the home fans and produced solid defensive efforts to keep India at bay for the first three quarters. China showed immense promise and dominated the possession, but failed to get past the Indian defensive line.

China looked a bit shaky in the initial minutes of the match, but India couldn't take advantage of it. The home crowd also put some pressure on Harmanpreet Singh and Co. as the fans came in big numbers to support the hosts. However, as the clock ticked, China started to look more comfortable with the ball, even though they lacked the intensity off the ball



and allowed the Indian players to breach their defence and take shots at the goalkeeper. Sumit took the first clear aim on target in the sixth minute but was denied a goal by Weihao.

India's first penalty corner came in the 10th minute of the match, but Harmanpreet Singh failed to breach the Chinese defence. As the ball hit the defender's foot, India and Harmanpreet were awarded another PC, only this time for the ball to fly wide of the post. The Indian team got another chance to open the scoring in the 14th minute, but Weihao made another sensational save, leaving Sukhjeet stunned. The Chinese goalkeeper stood tall as a rock-solid

wall for his side to deny India a goal in the first quarter.

India continued to play with a high-line press in the second quarter and took control of the possession to frustrate the Chinese players. Jarmanpreet Singh did make a couple of in-behind runs to exploit the defensive line, but China remained compact and didn't give much space. Skipper Harmanpreet, who scored a brace against South Korea in the semi-final, missed opportunities to score from penalty corners in the first half. He was very close to putting India ahead in the final minutes of the second-half but the closest he came was hitting the goalpost.

## Chess Olympiad: Indian teams seal seventh successive wins

BUDAPEST (TIP)

Grandmaster R Vaishali and Vantika Agrawal came up with splendid efforts to down Lela Javakhishvili and Bella Khotenashvili, respectively, as Indian women's team continued its unbeaten run with a thumping 3-1 victory over Georgia at the 45th Chess Olympiad here on Wednesday, September 18. The Indian women have now all their seven rounds.

On a day that saw D Harika settling for a draw with Nana Dzagnidze, Divya Deshmukh held by Nino Batsiashvili from a better position, it was Vantika who handled her time pressure extremely well to play almost 20 moves with just about a minute on her clock to win her game.

It was finally left to Vaishali to record a fine technical win. The Indian women took their tally to 14 points and stayed ahead of nearest rival Poland.

In the open section, the Indian men drew on the last three boards after some intense games and World Championship finalist D Gukesh won a drawn endgame against Wei Yi of China to give the team its seventh successive victory.



R Vaishali, Vantika Agrawal and D Gukesh picked up crucial victories in the seventh round.

Speculation was rife about a possible clash between Gukesh and Ding Liren — the two contestants in the next World Championship — but the Chinese think tank decided to rest the reigning world champion.

R Praggnanandhaa played out a quick draw as black against Yangyi Yu of China while P Harikrishna pressed for some time before the position petered out to be equal in the ensuing rook and pawns endgame against Wang Yue.

Earlier, Arjun went for the kill against an alert Bu Xiangzhi and the latter found a nice piece sacrifice to force a draw through repetition.



## An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting 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**



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