



## NDP'S JAGMEET SINGH ENDS SUPPORT TO TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT NDP IS FOCUSED ON BY-ELECTIONS FOR NOW



NDP leader Jagmeet Singh and Liberal leader Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

**OTTAWA (TIP):** Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau suffered an unexpected blow on Wednesday, September 4, when the small party helping keep his minority Liberal government in power withdrew its automatic support, forcing him to attempt new alliances to govern, says a Reuters report.

Promising to continue governing and pushing through social programs, Trudeau dismissed talk of early elections after the left-leaning New Democratic Party's leader Jagmeet Singh said he was "ripping up" a deal struck between the two men in 2022. But the move leaves Trudeau reliant on support from other

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## Feds Raid Homes of Top Eric Adams Deputies, Seize Police Commissioner's Phones

Bureau agents showed up at the homes of First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright and Deputy Mayor for Criminal Justice Philip Banks III and took devices from NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Federal authorities have raided the homes of some of the highest-ranking members of Mayor Eric Adams' administration, including two deputy mayors and the schools chancellor, and seized the electronic devices of New York City's police commissioner, sources familiar with the situation told THE CITY.

This extraordinary effort in the last two days to obtain evidence from some of the highest-ranking members of Adams' team - all of whom have longtime and close ties to the mayor - follows other federal raids and seizures that have swept up the mayor and other top aides in what appears to be a broadening investigation of City Hall.

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Federal agents sought information from top officials including Philip Banks III, left, David Banks and Sheena Wright. -Photo credit: NYT

## Supreme Court pulls up CBI, reserves ruling on Arvind Kejriwal's bail



The SC on September 5, 2024 reserved its order in the petitions filed by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal seeking bail and quashing of arrest in the CBI case linked to the Excise policy scam.

-Photo Credit: PTI

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The Supreme Court on Thursday, September 5, 2024, reserved judgment on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's petitions for bail and quashing of arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the excise policy case, shrugging off the

Central agency's pitch that he must first knock on the doors of the trial court.

The apex court reminded the CBI of a comment made in a recent judgment granting bail to Mr. Kejriwal's former deputy, Manish Sisodia, in the same liquor policy case. The court, in that judgment, had concluded that asking Mr. Sisodia to go back to the trial court for bail would be like "making him play a game of snakes and ladders". It had after all taken Mr. Sisodia 17 months and multiple trips up and down the court hierarchy to finally get bail.

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, part of the Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, clarified to the CBI that the 'snakes-and-ladders' remark in the August 9 judgment allowing Mr. Sisodia bail was not meant as a "charitable observation" about the prosecution in the excise policy case.

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## President of India confers national awards on teachers



President Droupadi Murmu said teachers had to prepare such citizens, who are not only educated but also sensitive, honest and enterprising. File photo : PTI

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** On the occasion of the National Teachers' Day, President Droupadi Murmu conferred National Awards on 82 educators, including 50 teachers, on Thursday, September 5. In addition, 16 teachers each from the Department of Higher Education and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship were also awarded. The President said teachers had to prepare such citizens, who are not only educated but also sensitive, honest and enterprising.

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People attend a vigil at Jug Tavern Park following a shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia on September 4, 2024.

## Georgia high school shooting: 14-year-old kills 4, arrested

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

**ATLANTA, GA (TIP):** A 14-year-old boy killed two fellow students and two teachers and wounded nine others in a shooting at a Georgia high school on Wednesday, September 4, jolting the

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# Will the United Nations General Assembly Find a Resolution to the Tragic Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?

BY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA

The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is set to convene on September 10, 2024, at a time when the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains one of the most pressing international concerns. This ongoing conflict has cast a long shadow over the Middle East for decades, and now, in 2024, it is yet again a focal point of global diplomatic discourse. While the world grapples with numerous other challenges, from climate change to nuclear proliferation, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to stand out due to its longevity, complexity, and the scale of human suffering involved.

The conflict, which has spanned over a century, has evolved through various phases, with efforts at peace frequently derailed by renewed hostilities. As we approach the 31st anniversary of the historic agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) on September 13, 1993, it is disheartening to observe how little progress has been made toward lasting peace. At that time, the world witnessed a landmark moment, as Israel and the PLO recognized each other's right to

exist. This event symbolized a new hope for an eventual resolution to the conflict, which had deeply divided Arabs and Jews in the Middle East for generations. However, three decades later, that promise of peace remains unfulfilled, with both sides locked in an increasingly destructive and violent cycle.

The human toll of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is staggering. In the past few years, particularly since the escalation of hostilities in 2021, the situation has deteriorated further, with a dramatic rise in civilian casualties, particularly in Gaza, where the population lives under severe blockade conditions imposed by Israel. The world has increasingly taken note of the suffering of the Palestinian people, with many human rights organizations and international observers raising concerns about what they describe as disproportionate and excessive use of force by Israel.

The 2024 conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has drawn renewed attention to the humanitarian crisis in the region. Israeli airstrikes have devastated entire neighborhoods in Gaza, leaving thousands of Palestinians dead, including women and children. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has documented severe shortages of food, water, and medical supplies in Gaza, which is home to over two million people, many of whom live

in refugee camps. The blockade has been in place for over 16 years, creating what the UN has described as an "open-air prison," where basic human rights are routinely violated.

As the 79th session of the UNGA approaches, the world waits anxiously to see if the assembly can finally play a pivotal role in finding a lasting solution to this painful and repetitive conflict. For decades, various peace plans, initiatives, and international interventions have sought to broker a resolution, but the conflict persists, leaving devastation in its wake.

The diplomacy of nations is on trial, as leaders from across the globe convene to address this enduring crisis. The UNGA, as the foremost forum for international diplomacy, has the opportunity to reignite peace talks and push for a comprehensive resolution. However, achieving consensus among member states, particularly those with vested interests in the region, will be a monumental challenge. The world is watching to see if, after decades of failure, the 79th session can chart a new course that might finally bring justice, peace, and dignity to both Israelis and Palestinians.

For now, the question remains: Will the UNGA rise to the occasion, or will the world continue to witness the cycle of violence, destruction, and despair? Time will tell, but the stakes could not be higher.

## GUEST COMMENT

# Vigilante Justice -The Dangerous Rise of Cow Protectors

The recent killings in Haryana, allegedly at the hands of cow vigilantes, have reignited a critical debate on the dangerous interplay of religious fervor and law enforcement in India. In two incidents within a span of a few days in the state, a student of Class XII, Aryan Mishra, was gunned down and a 26-year-old migrant worker, Sabir Malik, beaten to death by self-appointed protectors of the cow. Aryan was out with friends when they were chased by a group of cow vigilantes, who mistook them for cattle smugglers. The group was relentlessly pursued for 30 km before Aryan was shot dead in Faridabad. In the other tragic loss to senseless violence, Sabir, suspected of eating

beef, was lured to a bus stand and then lynched by the vigilantes in Charkhi Dadri.

These incidents are a part of a broader and disturbing trend that has taken root. Cow vigilantism, which ostensibly aims to protect an animal considered sacred in Hinduism, has increasingly become a pretext for extrajudicial violence, mostly targeting a minority community. Efforts have been made to curb it, including arrests and legal proceedings, Supreme Court directives for stricter enforcement and pressure on governments to act. However, inconsistent implementation and the political influence of vigilante groups hinder progress, leaving members of

the minority community vulnerable to violence.

The rise of cow vigilante mobs correlates with the growing influence of Hindu hardliners in the past decade. These groups operate with alarming impunity, often sidestepping law enforcement and judicial processes. The fact that several of their leaders have found success in local politics in the past seven years raises troubling questions about the erosion of democratic principles and the protection of minority rights. The government must act decisively to curb this menace before it further destabilizes social harmony.

(Tribune, India)

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# 'Threads of Sustainability' Focused on The Artisanal Approach to Fashion



From left, Ajay Shrivastav, Fashion Designers, Sandy Dalal and Carmen Artigas, during a panel discussion on the "Threads of Sustainability," in fashion.

Photo:-Jay Mandal/On Assignment



From left, Rachel Cooper, of Asia Society, Ajay Shrivastav, Sandy Dalal and Carmen Artigas during a panel discussion on the "Threads of Sustainability," in fashion.

Photo:-Jay Mandal/On Assignment

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** Asia Society, Fempowerment Foundation and Gingerlu organized on Thursday, September 5, a discussion -"Threads of Sustainability :Fashion Ethics and the Environment"- about role of Indian textiles , sustainability and artisans in the world of Global Fashion.

Speakers included Carmen Artigas, Climate-positive fashion consultant and biocultural designer, Sandy Dalal, Creative + Management Consultant, Entrepreneur, Investor and Designer, and Ajay Shrivastav, Creative Director, Gingerblu; Co-founder, Fempowerment Foundation.

Mr. Shrivastav told The Indian Panorama that the aim of organizing the event was "to bring together influential voices and to raise awareness and support for our cause to uplift women and lead them towards financial independence



From left, Ajay Shrivastav and Sandy Dalal during a panel discussion on the "Threads of Sustainability," in fashion.

Photo:-Jay Mandal/On Assignment

while supporting and preserving our arts and culture"

The discussion was followed by a



From left, Sandy Dalal, Carmen Artigas, Rachel Cooper, Ajay Shrivastav and Dia Radhakrishna posed for a photo

Photo:-Jay Mandal/On Assignment

A captivating fashion show

Photo:-Jay Mandal/On Assignment



Fashion show displaying collection from Gingerblu, Betsey Johnson , Anna Sui , Marchesa , Krishna Mehta, to name a few t international designers, who have been working with Indian artisans which was showcased along with a display of textiles.

Mr. Shrivastav explained that "Gingerblu is a hand-woven collection for the global urban women and men by

artisans in India and stitched by women trained in our centers".

"Fempowerment Foundation", Mr. Shrivastav said "is an organization of global priorities focused on outcome of social impact, sustainability, and environmental conservation, operationalized by the empowerment of socioeconomically disadvantaged populations".

**Announcing Rocky Hill's newest Workforce Housing Program at their brand-new luxury apartment Homes, Kelson Row. A Fitness Room, pool and outdoor activity areas are a few of the many amenities that cater to a total lifestyle fulfillment. There are 21 one- bedroom and 25 two-bedroom apartment homes being offered as qualified for those with incomes at either 80% , or 100% of the Area Median Income.**

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**Two Bedroom:**

2 People - Minimum Income: \$71,928 -  
Maximum Income: \$77,952 - Monthly Rent: \$1,998  
3 People - Minimum Income: \$71,928 -  
Maximum Income: \$87,696 - Monthly Rent: \$1,998

**100% of Area Medium Income (AMI)**

4 People - Minimum Income: - \$71,925 -  
Maximum Income: - \$97,440 - Month Rent: \$1,998

**One Bedroom:**

1 Person - Minimum Income: - \$75,420 -  
Maximum Income: \$85,260 - Monthly Rent: \$2,095  
2 People - Minimum Income: - \$75,420 -  
Maximum Income: \$97,440 - Monthly Rent: \$2,095

**Two Bedroom:**

2 People - Minimum Income: - \$93,420 -  
Maximum Income: \$97,440 - Monthly Rent: \$2,595  
3 People - Minimum Income: - \$93,420 -  
Maximum Income: \$109,620 - Monthly Rent: \$2,595  
4 People - Minimum Income: - \$93,420 -  
Maximum Income: - \$121,800 - Month Rent: \$2,595

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## 80-YEAR-OLD BRITISH-INDIAN MAN DIES AFTER ASSAULT, 5 CHILDREN ARRESTED



Bhim Sen Kohli was walking his dog in a park when he was assaulted

SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

**LONDON (TIP)** : An 80-year-old Indian-origin man assaulted while walking his dog in a park in an eastern England town near the city of Leicester has died of the injuries, leading to the arrest of five children as the police launched a murder investigation on Tuesday.

The victim, named locally as Bhim Sen Kohli, was walking his dog at Franklin Park in Braunstone Town when he was attacked on Sunday and died in hospital on Monday night.

Leicestershire Police said following several enquiries, its officers have arrested a boy, and a girl aged 14, and one boy and two girls aged 12 on suspicion of murder, and all five are currently being interviewed by police.

"Sadly, following the death of the victim last night, this has now become a murder investigation," said Detective Inspector (DI) Emma Matts, Senior Investigating Officer at Leicestershire Police.

"Officers are continuing to work at speed to establish the details of the attack, and we have made several arrests as we continue to understand what has happened. We still need people who were in the area to come forward if they have seen anything or have any information which could assist. According to the police, the victim -- wearing a black jumper and grey jogging bottoms -- was walking his dog when he was seriously assaulted by a group of young people. They left the scene before emergency services arrived.

"Were you in the area of Franklin Park or Bramble Way around 6.30 pm on Sunday night? Did you see the attack itself? From the description given, did you see the victim before the incident or possibly a group of young people leaving the area after? A scene preservation will remain in place at the park while our investigation progresses. Local officers are also in the area carrying out reassurance patrols and can speak to anyone in the local community who has concerns," DI Matts added in her appeal for information. *(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))*

# British Indian man chargesheeted for Indian High Commission attack in London

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

**DELHI (TIP)**: In a major step in the probe into the 2023 attack at the Indian High Commission in London, the NIA on Thursday, September 5, charge-sheeted a key accused in the incident, an official statement said. The chargesheet was filed in a special NIA court in Delhi.

Inderpal Singh Gaba, a UK national residing in Hounslow and originally hailing from New Delhi, was chargesheeted as one of the agitators who actively participated in the anti-India protest on March 22, 2023, in front of the Indian High Commission in London, as part of the Khalistani secessionist agenda, it said.

The accused was arrested by the



The accused was arrested by NIA on April 25 after exhaustive investigations that established his role in secessionist activity  
Photo for representational purpose only

National Investigation Agency (NIA) on April 25 after exhaustive investigations that established his role in the secessionist activity.

He was detained in December 2023 by immigration authorities at the Attari border upon his arrival from London via Pakistan, based on a lookout circular against him.

Investigations were then initiated against Gaba and he was asked not to leave the country while the probe continued, said the NIA statement.

During the months-long investigation, the NIA seized his mobile phone and scrutinized the data, including several incriminating videos/photos of the incident, and eventually established his involvement in the incident, it said.

# Four Indian-origins burnt alive in US crash; they had connected through carpooling app

SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

**FRISCO, TX (TIP)**: Four Indian-origins, including a woman, were killed in a massive crash involving five vehicles in the US.

The crash involving multiple vehicles happened on a highway in Texas' Anna when a speeding truck allegedly collided with the victims' car from behind. Soon after the crash, the car burst into flames and the victims were trapped inside. The bodies of the victims were reportedly charred. The victims have been identified as Aryan Raghunath Orampati, Farooq Shaik, Lokesh Palacharla and Darshini Vasudevan.

As per Texas media reports, the four had connected via a carpooling app and were heading to Bentonville.

Aryan and Farooq, both residents of Bentonville, were returning from a trip to Dallas. Lokesh Palacharla was travelling to Bentonville to meet his wife and Darshini Vasudevan was on her way to visit her uncle.

Darshini's father had sought help from External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in a Twitter post to locate his daughter.

"Dear Sir, My daughter Dharshini Vasudevan holding Indian passport No-T6215559 have been in USA for the last 3 years, 2 years of MS studies and later 1 year of Employment and stays 3150 Avenue of the stars Apt 1110-Frisco, Texas-75034.

"Yesterday evening she took a carpooling along with 3 others around 3pm; till 4pm



Darshini Vasudevan is from Tamil Nadu and Aryan Raghunath Orampati from Hyderabad were among the four who died in the crash

she was actively messaging and reachable on phone; after 4pm no further contacts could be established with her as well other 3 people who were travelling with her," he said in the three-day old post.

Orampati's father Subhash Chandra Reddy owns a Hyderabad-based firm named Max Agri Genetics Private Limited. According to the Collin County Sheriff's Office, the accident involving five vehicles occurred on the northbound US 75 just past White Street at Anna near Dallas.

Consul General of India in Houston D C Manjunath confirmed the identities and shared that the Consulate General of India (CGI) is in touch with the families and community organizations, providing full support during this tragic moment. According to witnesses and preliminary

reports, traffic was at a standstill on the highway and an SUV was among those vehicles that were halted when the accident took place on Friday afternoon.

A truck travelling at a high speed failed to slow down and struck the rear of the SUV. The force of the collision was such that the SUV caught fire, and the four occupants were trapped inside which resulted in their deaths.

It took days to officially identify the victims as the bodies were charred beyond recognition. Several others sustained non-life-threatening injuries though the exact number remains unclear. The identification of the victims was delayed due to the long weekend and the need for DNA fingerprinting, using bone remnants to confirm their identities. "Darshini's uncle Ramanujam lives in Bentonville, Arkansas. She was going to visit him. Darshini had just completed her master's and had started her job in Frisco, Dallas," Manjunath said.

"The other two, Umar Farooq Sheikh and Aryan Raghunath Orampati, were recent graduates from the University of Texas at Dallas, with Sheikh completing his MS in Business Analytics in Spring 2023, and Orampati pursuing his MS in Finance, set to graduate in Spring 2024. Lokesh, who was driving the vehicle, was also a working professional," Manjunath added.

The loss is deeply felt within the Indian diaspora, especially the shocked Telugu community.

## INDIAN-ORIGIN WOMAN ADMITS TO KILLING MINOR DAUGHTER IN UK

AUGUST 30, 2024

**LONDON (TIP)**: A 33-year-old Indian-origin woman on Friday, August 30, admitted to the killing of her 10-year-old daughter, who was found dead at their



Jaskirat Kaur, also known as Jasmine Kang, had been charged with the murder of Shay Kang on March 4

Photo for representational purpose only

home in a town in the West Midlands region of England earlier this year.

Jaskirat Kaur, also known as Jasmine Kang, had been charged with the murder of Shay Kang on March 4 when the West

Midlands Police said the girl had been found with injuries at an address in the town of Rowley Regis and pronounced dead at the scene. Kaur has now told Wolverhampton Crown Court in a short hearing via video link from her prison that she pleads guilty to her daughter's manslaughter on the basis of diminished responsibility. Judge Michael Chambers has set her sentencing on that charge for October 25.

# Indian American Indra Nooyi to keynote at ITServe's Synergy 2024 in Las Vegas

SEPTEMBER 2, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP)** Former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi is slated to deliver the keynote address at ITServe Alliance's Synergy 2024, the flagship annual conference set for October 29-30 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, the event organizers announced. The conference, known for its rich history of providing pivotal business insights and networking opportunities for the IT services and solutions sector, will host over 3,000 attendees this year.

Synergy 2024 will convene under the theme "Join, Collaborate, Accelerate," emphasizing the event's role in fostering strategic relationships and promoting innovation within the technology industry. Suresh Potluri, Director of Synergy 2024, highlighted the importance of the conference in connecting industry leaders and developing solutions tailored to the unique challenges of the IT sector.

"[With] an esteemed panel of keynote speakers, industry experts, and thought leaders, who will share their insights and best practices on a diverse range of



Indra Nooyi will deliver the keynote address at ITServe Alliance's Synergy 2024, the flagship annual conference set for October 29-30 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas

topics, Synergy 2024 will focus on developing strategic relationships with our partner organizations, sponsors, and supporters, to work for a better technology environment by building greater understanding," said Potluri.

Nooyi, who led PepsiCo through a transformative era, will share her extensive experience in driving growth and innovation at one of the world's leading food and beverage companies. The Indian American executive, credited with redefining PepsiCo by focusing on healthier alternatives and sustainable

practices, grew the company's revenues by 80 percent during her tenure. Her keynote is expected to provide valuable insights into strategic leadership and market adaptation.

The conference will feature a series of panel discussions critical to IT entrepreneurs, covering topics such as immigration, mergers and acquisitions, financial strategies, and startup incubation. These sessions aim to equip IT business leaders with knowledge and strategies to thrive in a competitive market.

As Synergy 2024 approaches, ITServe Alliance invites IT professionals across the nation to join in Las Vegas for a chance to network, learn, and be inspired. With a lineup of esteemed speakers and a comprehensive agenda tailored to the contemporary IT landscape, the conference promises to be a pivotal event for professionals looking to navigate the complexities of the tech industry.

For more information on Synergy 2024 and to register, visit ITServe's official website, [www.itserve.org](http://www.itserve.org).

## INDIAN AMERICAN SONALI SHAH APPOINTED CEO OF COBALT



Cobalt has appointed Sonali Shah as its new Chief Executive Officer

AUGUST 29, 2024

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA (TIP):** Cobalt, a leader in the Pentest as a Service (PtaaS) sector and a provider of advanced offensive security solutions, has appointed Indian American Sonali Shah as its new Chief Executive Officer, the company announced on Thursday, August 29. Shah, a seasoned cybersecurity executive and member of Cobalt's board, steps into her new role during a period of significant growth and innovation for the firm.

Hailing from Potomac, MD, and currently residing in Boston, Shah brings over two decades of experience in the tech industry, notably in scaling high-growth technology firms. A former investment banker with Credit Suisse, her prior roles include pioneering work at Bitsight Security Ratings, where she developed the first cybersecurity risk rating platform, and significant contributions to evolving application security technologies at Veracode and Invicti.

"Cobalt is uniquely positioned to help enterprises manage the risk of their expanding attack surfaces with efficient and continuous offensive security programs," Shah stated. "I am excited to work with Cobalt's excellent team to usher in the next phase of the company's growth-one that will focus relentlessly on providing maximum value to customers as their offensive security needs continue to evolve."

Shah succeeds Chris Manton-Jones, who has led Cobalt since April 2022. Under his leadership, the company expanded into new areas of offensive security, achieving significant growth in revenue and profitability.

Gajan Rajanathan, Partner at Highland Europe and a member of Cobalt's board, praised Shah's strategic vision and deep expertise in cybersecurity as critical for Cobalt's future. "Sonali brings the right experience to this team," Rajanathan remarked. "Our entire board looks forward to working with her, and we thank Chris for his contributions to Cobalt."

Shah, who earned her MBA from the Wharton School and a master's in economics from the London School of Economics, is also a Board member at Shibumi and an advisor on the Board of ThreatX.

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

## Indian-origin jailed in Singapore for molesting 13-yr-old girl



A 52-year-old Indian national has been sentenced to 14 months of jail for molesting a teenage girl

Photo for representation only

SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

**SINGAPORE (TIP)** : A 52-year-old Indian national has been sentenced to 14 months of jail for molesting a teenage girl from a known family.

For molesting a child aged below 14, an offender can be jailed for up to five years, fined, caned or receive any combination of such punishments. The man cannot be caned as he is over 50.

The man, who cannot be named due to a gag order to protect the girl's identity, pleaded guilty to a molestation charge, said a media report.

The 13-year-old girl trusted him enough to go on a motorcycle ride with him one evening in October 2022, when he molested her near a playground in Sembawang, northern Singapore, Deputy Public Prosecutor Suriya Prakash told the court.

## Indian American man arrested in fatal shooting of 21-year-old Nepali student in Houston

AUGUST 31, 2024

**HOUSTON, TX (TIP):** A 21-year-old Nepali student was fatally shot in her Houston apartment during an alleged robbery. The suspect, identified as 52-year-old Indian American Bobby Sinh Shah, has been arrested and charged with murder, according to the Houston Police Department.

The victim, Muna Pandey, a student at Houston Community College, was found dead in her apartment on Monday evening with multiple gunshot wounds. Staff at her apartment complex contacted authorities after receiving an anonymous call about a body inside. Emergency responders declared her dead at the scene.

Further details have emerged as part of the investigation. According to court documents, Pandey's cell phone was missing from her apartment, and calls to her number went straight to voicemail. One of her friends told police that Pandey's phone had been set to "Do Not Disturb." This friend had planned to meet her for a birthday party on Saturday night and texted her when she didn't show up. Pandey's manager at a phone store, where she worked, also noted it was unusual for her not to respond on Sunday.

A neighbor reported hearing "loud thumping" sounds between 8:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Saturday night. On Tuesday, investigators accessed Pandey's home security system and obtained footage from outside her apartment door on Saturday night. The video captured Pandey and Shah approaching her door



Bobby Sinh Shah, has been arrested and charged with murder of Muna Pandey, a student at Houston Community College

around 8:40 p.m. Pandey was carrying a shoe box, shopping bag, black jacket, and purse, while Shah was holding a black pistol. Shah can be heard repeatedly ordering Pandey to open the door, and at one point, he racked the slide of his pistol, according to police reports.

Once Pandey opened the door, Shah allegedly forced her inside and locked the door behind them. About an hour later, security footage showed Shah leaving the apartment, believed to be carrying the black purse Pandey was holding earlier.

On Wednesday, police released a security image of the suspect. A former employer of Pandey, who owns a local restaurant, reported that another individual recognized Shah as a frequent patron of the establishment. This individual had been in discussions with Shah about starting a business and provided police with Shah's Texas driver's license and phone number.

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

# "HOMETOWN HEROES!" SUOZZI HONORS 10 LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS WHO HAVE DISPLAYED EXEMPLARY HEROISM

**RECOGNIZES, HONORS, AND THANKS POLICE OFFICERS FROM GLEN COVE, NASSAU COUNTY, AND NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENTS;**

**SINCE FIRST ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE, SUOZZI HAS VIGOROUSLY WORKED TO SUPPORT AND HONOR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS AND OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE.**

SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

**GLEN COVE, NY (TIP):** On Tuesday, September 3, outside the Glen Cove Police Department, Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-Long Island, Queens) hosted his annual "Hometown Heroes" event, where he honored and thanked 10 law enforcement officers from across New York's 3rd Congressional District who displayed exemplary heroism in the line of duty in service to our communities. During the ceremony, Suozzi shared how the exceptional work of each officer saved the lives of New Yorkers.

"Every day, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, members of our local police departments are protecting us, and serving us. Police have some of the hardest jobs in the country. These are tough times for them. We must support them and understand they are protecting our communities. We cannot allow the 'defund the police' or any anti-police rhetoric to discourage them," said Suozzi. "Today, we are highlighting just a few police officers who represent the good work done by members of our local police departments every day, and we say, 'thank you.'"

The officers Suozzi honored were from the Nassau County Police Department, Glen Cove Police Department, and three precincts in the New York City Police Department (105th, 109th, and 111th). Each officer was presented with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol, as well as a Congressional citation.

## THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS WERE HONORED BY SUOZZI AT TUESDAY'S CEREMONY:

Police Officer Joseph T. Ragolia  
Second Precinct

Nassau County Police Department

On May 26, 2024, Police Officer Joseph Ragolia was on his way to work when he came upon an auto accident involving two cars overturned on the side of the road. PO Ragolia stopped and checked everyone for injuries. One male had severe lacerations to his arm and was bleeding excessively. PO Ragolia retrieved a tourniquet and applied it to the injured person's arm, tightening it until the bleeding stopped. He remained with the injured parties until the Nassau County Police Ambulance arrived.

PO Ragolia then continued on his way to



The honored police officers included Joseph T. Ragolia, Quincy Caton, Joseph Tomlinson, Kasey Koerner, Detective Anthony Cutaia, Christopher Padro, Brian Gallart, Owen Valance, Peter Michaleas, and Detective Gregory Denk,

work, calling the desk officer to let him know he would be a few minutes late, but not telling him why. Later that day, one of the Police Medic Supervisors called the precinct to leave a message letting PO Ragolia know that his quick action saved the injured person's life - that he would have bled out in a few minutes. PO Ragolia was not looking for praise or acknowledgement for going above and beyond on the morning of May 26, but his actions saved a life.

## POLICE OFFICERS QUINCY CATON AND JOSEPH TOMLINSON

105th Precinct

New York City Police Department

On January 5, 2024, Police Officers Quincy Caton and Joseph Tomlinson were assigned to Field Unit Training. While conducting a routine patrol at 7:15 pm, they were approached by a female holding an infant who was suffering seizures. PO Caton immediately began rendering aid to the infant, noting that the pulse was weak and becoming fainter until it could no longer be detected. PO Canton immediately began CPR and was able to get the infant's heart rate back. At the same time, PO Tomlinson contacted the authorities over the radio to request EMS assistance. He also set up a route to get the infant to the hospital as quickly as possible.

Due to the police officers training and composure under pressure, the infant made a full recovery.

## POLICE OFFICER KASEY KOERNER AND DETECTIVE ANTHONY CUTAIA

109th Precinct

New York City Police Department

On Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at approximately 1:30 am, Detective Anthony Cutaia and Police Officer Kasey Koerner began pursuing two subjects on an unregistered moped. The subjects were masked and driving in a reckless manner. The officers attempted to conduct a lawful stop but the moped operator fled. The officers followed and saw the moped operator discard a fanny pack onto a pedestrian bridge. The officers kept in touch with the precinct via central radio. A coordinated effort involving several Crime Reduction posts and the 109th Public Safety Team resulted in reduced traffic flow and congestion at the intersection of 126th Street and Roosevelt Avenue where the two subjects were apprehended. The police recovered the discarded bag. It contained a loaded HR .22 caliber revolver with a defaced serial number.

The coordinated action and keen observation of Detective Cutaia and Police Officer Koerner resulted in the apprehension of two suspects in

possession of a loaded firearm.

## POLICE OFFICERS CHRISTOPHER PADRO AND BRIAN GALLART

111th Precinct

New York City Police Department

Police Officers Padro and Gallart were working the overnight shift when they got a call at 4:20 am that a 3-day old baby was unconscious and not breathing. They were the first on the scene and found the father performing CPR on the newborn with the aid of a 911 operator. Officer Padro took over performing CPR until the FDNY and EMS arrived. The police officers then rushed to Flushing Hospital to alert them that the infant was on his way. When the officers checked back with the family a month later, they learned that the infant did not suffer brain damage or any other infirmity due to lack of oxygen. Due to the officers quick thinking and CPR skills, the life of this infant was saved.

## POLICE OFFICERS OWEN VALANCE AND PETER MICHALEAS, DETECTIVE GREGORY DENK

Glen Cove Police Department

On February 27, 2024, the Glen Cove Police Department received a call that smoke was billowing from the second floor of a home and that there was a man inside. GCPD Chief Whitton, Deputy Chief Ortiz, Detective Gregory Denk, Police Officers Owen Valance and Peter Michaleas arrived at the home at about the same time. Chief Whitton knocked on the door and could see a man and dog inside the house. After the man repeatedly refused to open the door, the police broke it down. The officers were confronted with thick clouds of smoke and could see flames. The man was in distress, acting erratically and screaming at the officers. He grabbed a large piece of wood containing nails and started swinging and stabbing it toward the officers. The man lunged at the officers and Officer Valance deployed his taser. The man fell to the floor and the officers were able to control him, handcuff him, and remove him from the burning home. The scene was then rendered safe for the fire department to extinguish the fire. It was later determined that the man suffered from dementia and had set the fire himself.

## UN Women at the 79th session of the UN General Assembly

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79) marks a crucial opportunity to put gender equality at the center of the global discussions towards Sustainable Development.

UNGA79 will take place from 10th to 30th September 2024, under the theme, "Leaving no one behind: acting together

GENERATION  
EQUALITY

for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations".

Heads of State and Government will explore solutions to intertwined global

challenges at the Summit of the Future, to advance peace, security, and sustainable development. World leaders are expected to adopt the Pact for the Future, which will include a Global Digital Compact where the importance of

gender equality will be front and center.

As the 30th anniversary of the visionary Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action approaches, UN Women will convene partners at UNGA 79 to strengthen and deliver on the commitments made to advance equal rights for women and girls.

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# The Debashish Bhattacharya Trio - The Legacy Tour 2024

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Debashish Bhattacharya Legacy Trio: Debashish Bhattacharya (Chaturangui, Pushpa Veena), Anandi Bhattacharya (Vocals, Swarmandal), and Subashis Bhattacharya (Tabla) presents a unique tribute to the pioneering Indian recording artists of the early 1900s. In those days, small shellac discs captured succinct renditions of Hindustani classical ragas and popular songs, creating a sensation among the wider populace. This golden era saw the rise of the first celebrity musicians; household names of the time.

The Trio will recreate the spirit and character of these early recordings. Dressed in the fashion of the period, they will transport us to those early days, where a family might have huddled around a radio to hear their favorite stars in, say, 1915.

With lilting, elegant vocal lines, labyrinthine slide guitar, driving complex rhythms of tabla, and the luminous sparkle of the Swarmandal (small harp), the evening will feature various combinations of members and instruments: the full ensemble, duets, and solo pieces. On full display in each work will be the combination of virtuosity, finely filigreed ornamentation, and emotional expression that makes Hindustani music so appealing.

Another major highlight will be the ornate stringed instruments of Debashish's own design. These include the Chaturangui (Chat = 4, ang = color; "gui" from guitar), a 26-string slide guitar; Pushpa Veena (Pushpa = "flower" Veena = "stringed instrument"), a 25-string hybrid of the sarod and slide guitar; and the delicate Anandi, a 4-string slide ukulele.

Rounding out the Ensemble are Debashish's daughter Anandi, a gifted vocalist and a rising star in her own right, and Debashish's younger brother Subhasish, recognized as one of the greatest Indian classical percussionists of his generation.



The Debashish Bhattacharya Trio: Debashish Bhattacharya - Chaturangui, Pushpa Veena; Anandi Bhattacharya - Vocals, Swarmandal; Subashis Bhattacharya - Tabla



Debashish Bhattacharya

and Asia Pacific world music top 10, Amazon top 100 albums, 2016 Songlines Music Award, 2007 BBC Planet Award, 2005 Asiatic Society Gold Medal, the 1984 President of India Gold Medal, 2022 World Music Hall of Fame, and is an Empaneled Artist of the Indian government's Indian Council of Cultural Relations.

## ABOUT DEBASHISH BHATTACHARYA

Pandit Debashish Bhattacharya is arguably the greatest slide guitarist in the world. He is an undisputed master of the demanding technique and discipline of both Hindustani classical music and modern world fusion. A "virtuoso's virtuoso," he has revolutionized a number of technical aspects of performance on the instrument. He also has designed and patented four types of guitar for performing raga music, which he has named Chaturangui, Ghandharvi, Anandi, and Pushpa Veena. These guitars are played lap style, with a small steel bar and finger picks.

Debashish has played extensively around the globe, logging in over 3000 live performances and 27 albums. He has performed both live and on recordings with musical icons such as Ustad Zakir Hussain, John McLaughlin, Jerry Douglas, Derek Trucks, and many other world-renowned musicians. In India, he has performed for Pandit Ravi Shankar and also appeared in countless Indian music festivals.

His large body of work has garnered extensive recognition, including two Grammy nominations, the Billboard top 10, Songlines Magazine top 10, Central Asia

## NYC DATES

**Sunday, October 20 4:00pm**

Ragas Live | Pioneer Works | 159 Pioneer St. Brooklyn  
\$59.00- \$200.00

<https://ragaslive.com/2024>

Subashish Bhattacharya (Tabla) will also be featured in a tribute to Badal Roy at 1:00PM

**Thursday, October 24 7:00pm**

Joe's Pub | 425 Lafayette St. NYC

<https://publictheater.org/productions/joes-pub/2024/d/the-debashish-bhattacharya-trio>  
\$30.00

In addition to the above, the Debashish Bhattacharya Trio will appear on WNYC Soundcheck on Tuesday, October 22.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Mark Gorney | Worldisc | (510) 665-4211

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# ECHOES OF REBELLION

**THE SURGE IN DEADLY ATTACKS BY THE BALOCHISTAN LIBERATION ARMY IN PAKISTAN'S LARGEST PROVINCE HAS DEEP HISTORICAL ROOTS AND IS DRIVEN BY DEMANDS FOR INDEPENDENCE AND CONTROL OVER RESOURCES**



BY  
PRABHU DAYAL

Pakistan's Balochistan province is again seeing a surge in deadly attacks, fueled by demands for independence and control over local resources. The most recent attacks, which took place on August 26, resulted in at least 70 deaths. The coordinated assaults targeted police stations, railway lines and highways. The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility for these deadly attacks. Significantly, the attacks coincided with a visit to Islamabad by General Li Qiaoming, Commander of the Ground Forces of the People's Liberation Army of China. Who are these rebels and what is the conflict all about?

The Baloch are a Sunni Muslim ethnic group who live on both sides of the Iran-Pakistan border, and also in parts of southern Afghanistan. For decades, efforts for autonomy or independence have been met with violent suppression on both sides of the border. In Pakistan, such efforts are viewed as attempts to fragment the nation, while in Iran, the situation is further complicated by the Baloch being a Sunni Muslim minority in a predominantly Shiite country. Balochistan is the most sparsely populated province of Pakistan. Although it occupies 44 per cent of the land area, its population is just 7 per cent of Pakistan's population. Balochistan is rich in mineral resources. Coal, Sulphur, chromite, iron ore, barite, marble, quartzite, and limestone are all abundant in the province. Balochistan has significant oil and natural gas reserves, and also considerable quantities of copper and gold.

Baloch separatism is deep rooted in history. Balochistan consisted of four princely states under the British Raj - Kalat, Makran, Las Bela and Kharan. In 1947, the Khan of Kalat, the ruler of the largest of these princely states chose independence, which was an option given to all the 535 princely states of British India. The other Balochi chiefs

also expressed their preference for a separate identity. However, Pakistan sent in its army which forced the Khan of Kalat to give up his independence. The Khan signed the instrument of accession on March 27, 1948, over seven months after the formation of Pakistan. Even after the accession of Kalat to Pakistan, Baloch separatism has continued to rear its menacing head from time to time. Major conflicts between Baloch separatists and the Pakistan army have taken place regularly.

I was posted as Consul in Karachi in the early 1980, and I had travelled to Balochistan a few times. I had observed that the Balochis nursed grievances that they are being exploited by the Punjabi-dominated ruling elite which includes the army, the political class and their business interests. Their resentment has only grown over time and taken more and more militant forms. The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) is the most well-known Baloch separatist group. Other separatist groups include Lashkar-e-Balochistan and the Balochistan Liberation Front. These separatist

groups argue that the local population does not receive a fair share of the profits from the resources of the province, and that as a result poverty is rife there.

The BLA is the largest Baloch militant group and has been fighting an insurgency against the Pakistani government for decades, seeking independence for Balochistan. It is now allied with the Pakistan Taliban, and both target the Pakistan security forces. Chinese cooperation with the Pakistan government is seen by the BLA as a threat to their cause. The region of Balochistan is a major focus of the China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor(CPEC). The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) opposes the Chinese investments in the province, saying they do not benefit the local people. The influx of Chinese nationals for developing the CPEC has caused conflicts with the Balochistan Liberation Army and other separatist groups which perceive China as a joint oppressor. The Balochistan Liberation Army has severely criticized China for

exploitative plans in Balochistan". In July 2021, a bus carrying Chinese engineers was hit by another bus which was carrying explosives, killing 13 people, including 9 Chinese engineers. In August 2021, a suicide bomber from the BLA targeted a vehicle carrying Chinese nationals in Gwadar. Two children were killed. In April 2022, a female suicide bomber killed three Chinese teachers in Karachi. The BLA claimed to have carried this attack through its "first female suicide bomber." In August 2023, a convoy of vehicles carrying Chinese engineers working on the Beijing-financed Gwadar Port in Pakistan was attacked by the militants of the Balochistan Liberation Army. The BLA has said it is conducting attacks to get Chinese-backed projects out of the province and to establish an independent Baloch government.

A large number of Balochi guerrilla fighters and civilians have been killed in the operations conducted by the Pakistan army. Thousands of Balochis have also disappeared after they were abducted by Pakistani security forces. The Voice for Baloch Missing Persons, a non-profit organization representing family members of those who disappeared in Balochistan, says approximately 7,000 cases have been registered with them since 2004. Another risk is whether the BLA attacks will spark Pakistani cross-border raids into Iran to target BLA positions. It may be recalled that on January 18, Pakistan conducted retaliatory missile attacks in Iran, asserting that it had targeted militants of the Balochistan Liberation Army and the Balochistan Liberation Front in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchistan. These strikes were perceived as a retaliation for the Iranian missile strikes in Pakistan which took place two days earlier. Iran asserted that it had targeted militants of the Baloch separatist group Jaish



ul-Adl in the Pakistani province of Balochistan. ignoring its warnings not to enter into deals and agreements with Pakistan regarding Balochistan. They also accuse Beijing of exploiting their resources and land, and fear that the influx of Chinese investments and workers might further marginalize the Baloch people. A large number of Chinese are working in Gwadar, the port in the restive Balochistan province which is being linked to China's Xinjiang province as part of the USD 65 billion CPEC.

Attacks by the militants from the BLA, and also from the Pakistan Taliban, targeting Chinese nationals had occurred earlier too but they increased sharply since 2018 after construction work on the CPEC projects picked up steam. Chinese nationals have been the victims of terror attacks more commonly in Pakistan than in any other country. In Nov 2018, the Chinese consulate in Karachi was attacked by the militants of BLA. Two police officers were killed in the attack. In 2020, the Balochistan Liberation Army also took responsibility for attacks on the Pakistan Stock Exchange, calling it an attack against "Chinese

In his Independence Day speech in 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that Pakistan must be held accountable for the atrocities committed in Balochistan, and that India would continue to highlight the Balochistan problem. His remarks were met with angry reactions from Islamabad. The Pakistani government accused India of bankrolling the "Free Balochistan" advertisement campaign in Europe and the US. Pakistan also alleged that India is supporting the BLA. What Pakistani leaders fail to realize is that unnecessary finger pointing at India is not the answer, and that long term peace is not possible without meeting the legitimate aspirations and demands of the people of Balochistan.

(First published in Millennium Post : <https://www.millenniumpost.in/opinion/echoes-of-rebellion-578512>)

(The author is a retired Indian diplomat and had previously served as Consul General in New York)



# Narendra Modi's Forgotten Promise: "Na Khaonga, Na Khane Doonga"



BY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA

**THE PEOPLE OF INDIA DESERVE ANSWERS, AND THEY DESERVE LEADERSHIP THAT UPHOLDS THE VALUES OF HONESTY, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY. IT IS TIME FOR MODI TO PROVE THAT HIS ANTI-CORRUPTION STANCE WAS NOT JUST AN ELECTORAL SLOGAN, BUT A GUIDING PRINCIPLE FOR HIS GOVERNANCE**

In 2014, when Narendra Modi was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India, his rise to the country's highest office was accompanied by a firm promise to end corruption. Modi's bold declaration—"Na khaonga, na khane doonga" (neither will I indulge in corruption, nor allow anyone else to indulge in it)—resonated with millions of Indians fed up with systemic corruption and graft. This promise, combined with his image as a strong, decisive leader, catapulted Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to victory.

However, more than a decade later, critics argue that Modi's tenure has been marked not by a reduction in corruption, but by a culture of selective governance where perceived favoritism, lack of transparency, and the alleged shielding of corrupt officials have become the new normal. Several political parties and civil society organizations have raised concerns about the government's inaction in addressing corruption among those close to power. These concerns raise questions about whether Modi has truly lived up to his promise.

## ALLEGATIONS OF FAVORITISM AND BILLIONAIRE CONNECTIONS

Since his rise to power, opposition parties have frequently accused Modi of maintaining close relationships with a select group of billionaires in India. The most notable of these names include industrialists like Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani, whose businesses have grown exponentially during Modi's tenure. The opposition alleges that these businessmen have benefited from government policies that favor their interests, enabling them to amass wealth and power while ordinary Indians struggle with economic difficulties.

While there is no concrete evidence directly linking Modi to any wrongdoing, the opposition claims that the use of state resources has primarily benefited these billionaires, with little regard for equitable economic growth. A key example cited is the meteoric rise of the Adani Group, which has expanded its reach into various industries, including airports, ports, and energy, during Modi's tenure. These claims of crony capitalism have fueled criticism of Modi's leadership, with detractors arguing that his anti-corruption rhetoric now rings hollow.

## ALLEGATIONS OF SUPPRESSING DISSENT AND MISUSING INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES

Another significant criticism leveled against Modi is the alleged misuse of investigative agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Enforcement Directorate (ED), and

the Income Tax Department to target political rivals. Opposition leaders, including Congress's Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress's Mamata Banerjee, and Aam Aadmi Party's Arvind Kejriwal, have frequently accused the government of using these agencies as political tools to suppress dissent.

These agencies have been accused of disproportionately targeting leaders from opposition parties while turning a blind eye to corruption and irregularities involving those aligned with the ruling BJP. For example, in 2023, Rahul Gandhi was disqualified from parliament after being convicted of defamation, a move widely seen as politically motivated. Similarly, leaders like Delhi's chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, and deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia have been arrested on corruption charges that their parties

delayed response and lack of government action.

## THE TREATMENT OF MINORITIES

Modi's government has also come under intense scrutiny for its treatment of religious minorities, particularly Muslims. The rise of Hindu nationalism under the BJP's leadership has coincided with a series of violent incidents and discriminatory policies that have marginalized Muslim communities. From mob lynchings over allegations of cow slaughter to the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, critics argue that Modi's government has enabled a climate of intolerance and hate.

According to a report by Human Rights Watch, there has been a marked increase in hate crimes and physical violence against Muslims since 2014.



When in 2014 Narendra Modi uttered the famous slogan 'Na Khaonga, Na Khane Doonga' (neither will I indulge in corruption, nor allow anyone else to indulge in it), the nation was thrilled. For a nation used to corruption at all levels, this was something new.

argue are baseless and a form of political vendetta.

Beyond political figures, civil society movements have also faced government suppression. The 2020-2021 farmers' protest, one of the largest in India's history, saw sustained opposition to three farm laws that many argued favored corporate interests over the rights of small farmers. Despite peaceful protests by millions, the government's response was often heavy-handed, with crackdowns, internet shutdowns, and the branding of protestors as anti-national. Similar concerns arose with the wrestlers' protest in 2023, when athletes demanded action against the Wrestling Federation of India's chief, who faced allegations of sexual exploitation. His connections to the BJP were seen as a reason for the

Although Modi has condemned some of these attacks in public statements, his government has been accused of turning a blind eye to those responsible, many of whom belong to right-wing Hindu groups.

## SEBI CHAIRPERSON CONTROVERSY: A SYMPTOM OF DEEPER CORRUPTION?

Perhaps the most striking example of perceived complicity between the government and its favored officials is the recent controversy surrounding the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson, Madhabi Puri Buch. SEBI is tasked with regulating India's \$5.54 trillion stock market, a key driver of the nation's economic growth. As such, the integrity of the SEBI Chairperson is paramount to safeguarding the interests

of investors and ensuring transparency in the market.

Madhabi Puri Buch, the Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has been embroiled in multiple allegations centered around conflict of interest and potential breaches of regulatory policies. These claims, although denied by Buch, raise significant concerns about her impartiality and adherence to SEBI's ethical standards.

One of the most serious allegations involves her financial ties to ICICI Bank, where she previously held executive roles. The Congress Party has accused Buch of receiving substantial benefits from ICICI Bank, including salary and stock options, well after her retirement in 2013. The party claimed that these payments were inconsistent in both frequency and amount, suggesting that her ongoing financial relationship with ICICI Bank may have influenced her role as the SEBI Chairperson, a position that requires impartial regulation of the financial markets. ICICI Bank, however, has denied these claims, stating that any payments to Buch were part of her retirement package and not linked to her tenure at SEBI.

Further allegations have emerged from Hindenburg Research, which has accused Buch of having indirect financial interests in entities under investigation by SEBI. According to the research, Buch and her husband had stakes in consultancy firms linked to offshore funds associated with the Adani Group, which is under scrutiny for market irregularities. This raises concerns about a conflict of interest, as Buch may have had indirect financial exposure to entities she was responsible for investigating. Buch has denied these allegations, asserting that she had fully disclosed her holdings and that the firms were managed by her husband post his retirement.

Another critical issue is Buch's continued association with Agora Advisory, a consultancy firm in which she held a 99% stake even during her tenure with SEBI. Although she claimed that her shares were transferred to her husband in 2022, public records indicate that she still had financial ties to the firm until at least 2024. This situation has led to allegations of breaching SEBI's 2008 policy that prohibits officials from earning income from professional activities outside of their regulatory roles. Critics, including former SEBI officials, have voiced concerns over this arrangement, labeling it a serious breach of regulatory ethics.

CONTD ON PAGE 44

# After pulling out of CASA, Jagmeet Singh's NDP puts Canadian politics in a turmoil



BY  
PRABHJOT SINGH

With its announcement of ending its governance agreement with the Liberals, the NDP has put the minority Liberal government's survival at stake besides setting in motion an animated debate over advancing federal elections scheduled otherwise, for October 2025.

In a campaign-style social media video, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh announced that he has ended his party's supply-and-confidence agreement (CASA) with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government. The first federal deal ensured the Liberal minority government's survival.

The CASA was reached between the two parties in March 2022. Through this, the NDP committed itself to supporting the Liberal government on confidence votes in exchange for legislative commitments on NDP priorities. It was to continue till June 2025.

The snapping of CASA leaves the separatist Bloc Québécois and the NDP as possible Liberal dance partners in the coming months.

The Liberals hold 154 of the 338 seats in Parliament. To get to a majority of 169 MPs, the Liberals need either the NDP (24 MPs) or the Bloc (32 MPs) to stand with them. The Green Party holds just two seats. It is not much of a factor in confidence votes.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, while reacting to Jagmeet Singh's announcement online that he was ending his party's supply-and-confidence agreement with the Liberals, said he hoped that the NDP would 'stay focused' on delivering for Canadians rather than politics.

held he was not angling for an election any time soon. He, however, urged the NDP leaders to support policies the two progressive parties have been backing for the last two years.

"I will let other parties focus on politics. I am focused on actually delivering the things Canadians told me this summer they need," Trudeau said.

"I certainly hope that the NDP will stay true to its fundamental values, which is making sure that Canadians get the support they need and keeping away the austerity cuts and the damage that will be done by Conservatives if they get the chance."

"Justin Trudeau has proven again and again that he will always cave to corporate greed. The Liberals have let people down. They don't deserve another chance from Canadians," Singh said in the video.

"There is another, even bigger battle ahead. The threat of Pierre Poilievre and Conservative cuts. From workers, from retirees, from young people, from patients, from families - he will cut to give more to big corporations and wealthy CEOs."

Singh said the Liberals will not stand up to corporate interests and he will be running in the next election to "stop Conservative cuts."

Leader of the Opposition (Conservative) Pierre Poilievre called Singh's announcement a "stunt" and criticized him for not saying whether he would vote non-confidence in the government.

"He came out and claimed that he was wrong, that the coalition was a bad, costly idea, but he refuses to commit to voting for a carbon tax election," Poilievre told reporters. to

Poilievre asked Jagmeet Singh to commit to voting for an election at the earliest opportunity when the House of Commons returns.

"Right now, we don't have a calendar to indicate when we can put forward a motion," he said. "After Sellout Singh did this stunt today, he is going to have to vote on whether he keeps Justin Trudeau's costly government in power, or whether he triggers a carbon tax election."

In a media release accompanying his announcement, Singh said "the NDP is ready for an election, and voting non-confidence will be on the table with every



NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh announced that he has ended his party's supply-and-confidence agreement (CASA) with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government

confidence measure."

Last week, Poilievre called on Singh to pull out of the agreement. In response to Poilievre, Peter Julian, the NDP's House leader, said, "leaving the deal is always on the table for Jagmeet Singh."

A spokesperson for the NDP revealed that the plan to end the agreement had been under active consideration for the past two weeks. It was kept under wraps so as not to inform the Liberal government of its decision until an hour before the video was scheduled to go live online.

Within 10 minutes of informing the Prime Minister's Office about the NDP's decision to pull the plug, Jagmeet Singh posted the video on social media shortly before 1 pm on Wednesday.

Justin Trudeau hoped the next election would not happen "until next fall" so that his government has time to move forward on pharma care, dental care and school food programs.

"The contrast with a Conservative leader that wants to cut ... the programs that Canadians are relying on to get through this difficult time, well, that will be a political decision that Canadians get to take in an election," he said.

Liberals House of Commons Leader Karina Gould, who only last week said she was confident the agreement would last until June, said that Singh's decision was "a big surprise."

"There were no signs in the relationship that the NDP was going to do this. It came as a big surprise to all of us today," she told media.

"Mr. Singh has just decided that this is better for him politically and he's putting at risk all of the successful programs that we have put in place over the last three years."

Jagmeet Singh has decided to 'put his own personal, political interest ahead of that of Canadians,' she added.

Trudeau said his government is more focused on tackling the affordability crisis and climate change.

"These are the things that we're focused on. I'll let others focus on politics," Trudeau said.

"I really hope the NDP stays focused on how we can deliver for Canadians, as we have over the past years, rather than focusing on politics."

Through the CASA, the NDP kept the minority Liberal government in power in exchange for movement on key priorities such as dental care benefits, one-time rental supplements for low-income tenants and a temporary doubling of the GST rebate. Some of the promises the Liberal government made to the NDP, however, have yet to be fully realized. Pharmacare legislation hasn't passed the Senate and a bill to implement Elections Act changes is still before the House. A promised Safe Long-Term Care Act has yet to be tabled.

While the Liberals and NDP have started to roll out a pharma care plan by agreeing to provide free

**In a message to his followers, Jagmeet Singh said "We wanted to make sure you saw this today. This is an important moment for our movement and our country to announce the end of the supply and confidence agreement with Trudeau's Liberals. They don't deserve another chance to let people down.**

**"It's going to be up to New Democrats to show Canadians the path to fight Pierre Poilievre's division and hate with unity and hope.**

**"What happens between now and the election will be the fight of our lives. It will put to the test what kind of country we want to be:**

**"One that takes care of our neighbors, or one that caves to the interests of big corporations and their rich CEOs?"**

**"Canadians will have a chance to choose between hope and despair. We choose hope," he added.**

contraception and diabetes treatments, the federal government was yet to complete deals with provincial governments to actually deliver those benefits. Even the new federal dental care program won't be fully implemented until early next year.

Many feel that the end of CASA doesn't necessarily mean an immediate election. The Liberals could seek the support of the Bloc Québécois or try to continue negotiating with the NDP on a case-by-case basis.

Only yesterday, NDP labor critic Matthew Green said the NDP has been re-evaluating the deal since Labor Minister Steve MacKinnon directed the Canada Industrial Relations Board to impose binding arbitration less than 24 hours after Canadian Pacific Kansas City and Canadian National Railway locked out their workers after failing to reach a deal at the bargaining table.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in his message to party followers, said, "It is a disappointing day for Canadians.

Last week Pierre Poilievre called on Jagmeet Singh to rip up our supply and confidence agreement that has delivered so much progress for Canadians.

"Today Singh did as he was told, abandoning progressive policies and putting important programs at risk of Conservative cuts.

"Together, over the past two and a half years, our Liberal team has worked with the NDP in a divided minority parliament to build homes at a pace we haven't seen in more than 50 years, deliver dental care for 500,000 Canadians, deliver free contraceptive and life-saving diabetes medication for 9 million Canadians through National Universal Pharmacare, build an economy that works for everyone, and so much more.

"In March 2022, when the agreement was reached, I said that we couldn't let our differences stand in the way of delivering what Canadians deserve and need.

But clearly, Jagmeet Singh and the NDP disagree. While they put politics over progress, we'll keep moving forward for everyone.

"This time next year we could be days into a national campaign. With Jagmeet Singh turning his back on our agreement to deliver for Canadians and Pierre Poilievre and his Conservatives itching for an election, we need to be ready for one that can now be called at any moment. So much is at stake," he added.

*(The author is a senior journalist. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)*



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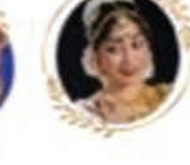
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# AAPI's Global Health Summit 2024 Planned to be Held in New Delhi, India

**GHS WILL FOCUS ON: PREVENTION STRATEGIES FOR CANCER AND HEART ATTACKS, ROLE OF LIFESTYLE CHANGES, AND THE INTEGRATION OF TECHNOLOGY INTO HEALTHCARE**



SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP):** The growing influence of physicians of Indian heritage is evident, as they are increasingly recognized and hold critical positions in healthcare, academic, research, and administrative positions across the United States. Their hard work, dedication, compassion, and skills have carved out an enviable niche in the American medical community.

Not satisfied with their professional growth and the service they provide to their patients around the world, they are at the forefront, sharing their knowledge and expertise with others, especially those physicians and leaders in the medical field from India.

The 18th edition of the annual Global Healthcare Summit (GHS) 2024, organized by the Association of American Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) in New Delhi India from October 18-20, 2024, offers a unique forum for them to come together, share their knowledge and expertise in their respective medical fields with their fellow physicians from around the world, and to learn from one another.

"GHS 2024 will focus on Prevention Strategies for Cancer and Heart

Attacks, Role of Lifestyle Changes, and Integration of Technology in Healthcare," said Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI. "AAPI has been engaged in harnessing the power of Indian Diaspora to bring the most innovative, efficient, cost-effective healthcare and preventable solutions to India. This international health care summit is a progressive transformation from the first Indo-US Healthcare Summit launched by AAPI USA in 2007."

Honorable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi has been invited to deliver the Keynote Address at the Inaugural Ceremony on October 19th. Honorable Health Minister of India, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda is expected to be the Chief Guest at the GHS and deliver an address on national prevention strategies.

For the first time ever, visits to the new Parliament House in New Delhi, visits to the offices and meetings with the Prime Minister and Health Minister as well as a visit to the Rashtra Pati Bhavan are also planned for the AAPI delegates, who will be part of this historic event in the nation's Capital.

GHS will have the highest caliber of

internationally acclaimed faculty and will develop a very robust agenda in collaboration with leading experts from India. CME sessions with academicians from India and the US will offer unique opportunities for local medical staff and healthcare professionals to advance leanings and provide the best possible care for the people of India.

The scientific program and workshops of GHS are being developed by leading experts with contributions by the Scientific Advisory Board and the International Scientific Committee. The workshops will be led by world famous physicians on topics relevant to the needs of the time.

According to Dr. Sunil Kaza, Chairman of AAPI's Board of Trustees, "AAPI will work collaboratively with leading academic medical colleges in New Delhi benefiting Medical Students, Residents, Fellows and Junior Doctors. With the objective of enabling people in India to access high quality, affordable, and cost-effective world class health services, the Summit being organized in collaboration with the Indian Medical Association (IMA), the Ministry of Health, and several prominent Medical Colleges in India, will have participation from some

of the world's most well-known physicians and industry leaders."

Describing the message and theme for the Summit, Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President-Elect of AAPI says, "AAPI has a mandate to help disseminate our medical knowledge, our expertise and technological advances to the rest of the world, and to India in particular. Headquartered in Chicago, AAPI has come to be recognized as a strong voice in the healthcare legislation and policy arena."

"With the changing trends and statistics in healthcare, both in India and US, we are refocusing our mission and vision of GHS 2024, AAPI would like to make a positive meaningful impact on the healthcare in India," Dr. Kathula says. "In our quest to fulfill the mission of AAPI, we are proud to share best practice and experiences from leading experts in the world and develop actionable plans for launching demonstration projects that enable access to affordable and quality healthcare for all people. To help accomplish this mission, join us at the GHS 2024 in New Delhi." For more information on Global Health Summit 2024, please visit <https://aapisummit.org>

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# Donald Trump pleads not guilty to revised U.S. 2020 election indictment

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Donald Trump pleaded not guilty on Thursday, September 5, 2024, to criminal charges in a revised federal indictment accusing the former U.S. President of attempting to overturn his defeat in the 2020 election.

Trump's lawyers entered the plea on his behalf at the start of a court hearing in Washington focused on how the case should proceed after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that former Presidents have broad immunity from criminal prosecution.

Trump, the Republican candidate in the Nov. 5 presidential election, is not attending the hearing.

The new indictment, brought in August, included the same four charges as the one obtained last year by Special Counsel Jack Smith, but dropped allegations the Supreme Court found could not remain part of the case.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan is expected to consider dueling proposals from Smith, who is seeking to press the case forward, and Trump, who is pushing to delay action until after the

election. The Supreme Court directed Chutkan to decide whether any other portions of the case must be tossed out.

Trump faces four criminal charges that accuse him of using false claims of voter fraud to undermine the election results and thwart certification of his defeat to Democratic President Joe Biden.

The case had been delayed for months while Trump pursued his immunity claim and is virtually certain not to go to trial before Trump faces Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris in the election.

Trump has argued that the prosecution as well as other legal cases against him are politically motivated attempts to undermine his presidential campaign.

The Supreme Court ruled in a 6-3 decision in July that former Presidents are presumed to be immune from criminal prosecution for actions taken as part of their official responsibilities as president.

Mr. Smith has argued that all the remaining allegations are not covered by

the immunity ruling and can proceed to trial.

Prosecutors have said that they are prepared to file court papers laying out their argument "at any time the court deems appropriate."

Trump's lawyers, meanwhile, have suggested that Judge Chutkan should not begin weighing the impact of the immunity ruling until December, after the election.

If Trump wins the election, he is expected to direct the Justice Department to drop the charges.

Trump has proposed that his lawyers first move to dismiss the case based on an argument that Smith was unlawfully appointed as special counsel under the U.S. Constitution.

Trump used the same argument to convince a federal judge in Florida who was appointed by Trump to throw out a second criminal case, also brought by Mr. Smith, accusing him of illegally holding onto classified documents after leaving office. Smith's office is appealing that decision.

The federal appeals court in



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump has argued that the prosecution as well as other legal cases against him are politically motivated attempts to undermine his presidential campaign  
Official portrait: Wikipedia

Washington has previously upheld the authority of special counsels to handle certain sensitive investigations.

## India-US partnership to grow regardless of who wins presidential election: Mukesh Aghi

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The India-US relationship would continue its upward trajectory regardless of who wins the presidential elections, USISPF president and CEO Mukesh Aghi said, underlining that the contest between Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump was "too close to call".

The geopolitical alignment between the two countries is very strong, Aghi said in an interview with PTI on Thursday, September 5.

"What are the implications, regardless of who comes in? I think India stays critical to US geopolitical ambitions. That is trying to contain the rise of aggressive China. It also serves India's interest. That it has a partner to deal with a neighbor who will never accept India as an equal partner.

"The alignment geopolitically is very, very strong between the two countries. So, regardless of who comes in, either Trump or Kamala Harris, the partnership will continue to go in that direction," he said.

The US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF) chief said the elections are "very, very close" at the moment. Even though the momentum has "shifted in favor of" Harris, "it is too close to call, especially when you have an electoral college and we expect around 40,000 votes to make a difference among the swing states itself".

Amidst tension between the US and China, the American corporate sector is looking at de-risking that supply chain, Aghi said.

"Yes, you have countries like Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand providing but nothing can provide the scale India can provide. So, India becomes critical in the de-risking of the supply chain. But more importantly, India also becomes a market for a lot of these companies," he said.



USISPF president and CEO Mukesh Aghi said that the India-US relationship would continue its upward trajectory regardless of who wins the presidential elections

"Then you have what we call the Indian-American diaspora here, which is roughly 1 per cent of the population, producing almost 6 per cent of the GDP. They will play a very pivotal role between the two countries. So, regardless of who comes in, the relationship will continue to grow deeper, broader and much more robust," Aghi said.

The foreign policy and the India-US relationship would definitely have an impact on the leadership of Trump and Harris, he noted.

"You have to understand the style. Trump's is a very transactional style, whereas Biden and Kamala Harris have been very structural," he added.

"While Biden and Harris have been able to build a coalition of partners to help them take this relationship forward, Trump has focused on transactions. What we see is the transaction(al) approach will continue under Trump. There's a strong relationship between Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi and (former) President Trump," Aghi said.

The USISPF chief also applauded the role played by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in driving the India-US relationship.

"You have a prime minister who was refused visa to the United States. But I think he kept his personal affront aside and looked to the broader interests of India.

"He felt that the United States is critical to the economic growth. The United States is critical for investment. The United States is critical for technology transfer. And he focused on building those relationships, worked very hard with President (Barack) Obama, and then worked with Trump and then with Biden," Aghi said. "I believe that the process will continue when he comes to New York for the UNGA week later this month," he said. (Source: PTI)

## Indian-American named Distinguished Visiting Fellow to Hoover Institution

SEPTEMBER 4, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Renowned Indian-American aerospace scientist Dr Vivek Lall has been named as a distinguished visiting fellow to the prestigious Hoover Institution of Stanford University.

One of the world's most influential think-tanks, the Hoover Institution is the preeminent research center dedicated to generating policy ideas that promote economic prosperity, national security and democratic governance.

Distinguished Visiting Fellow Lall is chief executive of General Atomics Global Corporation, a media release said.

In 2018, Lall was appointed in a key advisory role to the US secretary of transportation.

He previously served as vice president of aeronautics strategy and business development at Lockheed Martin, the world's largest defense company, and held numerous marketing and engineering leadership roles within the Boeing Company, the Hoover Institution said.

As a special advisor to the United Nations in New York, Lall steered policy and implementation in the area of broadband and associated cybersecurity issues. He was also the founding co-chair of the US-India Aviation Cooperation Program, launched in 2005, it said.

Notable Hoover fellows and alumni include Nobel laureates Henry Kissinger, Milton Friedman and Gary Becker; and scholars Niall Ferguson and Richard Epstein.

Condoleezza Rice, the 66th US Secretary of State, is the current Director of the Hoover Institution.

(Source: PTI)



Dr Vivek Lall has been named as a distinguished visiting fellow to the prestigious Hoover Institution of Stanford University

# ED raids former RG Kar principal's house in financial irregularities case

KOLKATA (TIP)

Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers on Friday conducted simultaneous search operations at the houses of Sandip Ghosh, the former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, and three of his associates in connection with alleged financial irregularities at the institute, an officer said.

The raids were carried out at Ghosh's residence in Beliaghata and at two locations in Howrah and Subhasgram. All four are already in CBI custody.

"We reached these places around 6.15 am and started our raids," the officer told PTI. The ED has filed an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) against Ghosh.

On August 23, the Calcutta High Court ordered the transfer of the investigation into the alleged financial irregularities at the hospital from a state-constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) to the CBI.

The decision followed a petition by Dr Akhtar Ali, the former deputy superintendent of the facility, who sought an investigation by the ED into multiple allegations of financial misconduct during Ghosh's tenure.

Ghosh served as principal from February 2021 to September 2023. He was briefly transferred from RG Kar in October 2023 but was reinstated within a



month. Dr Ali had raised concerns that the corruption at RG Kar hospital might be linked to the doctor's death, suggesting that the victim was aware of the misconduct and might have threatened to expose it.

## Twist in Kolkata doctor rape-murder case, parents claim 'police tried to bribe us'

The family members of the trainee doctor, who was allegedly raped and murdered at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata last month, on Wednesday alleged that the police tried

to suppress the case by hurriedly cremating the body of their daughter. The victim's father also alleged that the Kolkata Police also tried to bribe them with money.

"The police, from the very beginning, tried to hush up the case. We were not allowed to see the body and had to wait at the police station while the body was taken for post-mortem examinations. Later, when the body was handed over to us, a senior police official offered us money, which we immediately declined," news agency PTI quoted the victim's father as saying.

The victim's parents further demanded justice for their daughter while participating in a protest at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital along with junior doctors.

On August 9, the body of the 31-year-old trainee woman doctor was found in a semi-naked state in the seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. A day after the incident, the Kolkata Police arrested the main accused, Sanjay Roy, after he was seen entering the building around the estimated time of the crime in a CCTV camera footage, and his bluetooth headphones were found near the crime scene.

The probe revealed that after severely hurting and sexually assaulting the doctor, Sanjay Roy killed the victim by throttling and smothering her.

A week after the incident, the Calcutta High Court handed over the probe to the CBI. Days after the incident came to light, massive protests erupted across the country, with people, including doctors, demanding justice for the victim. On Sept 3, a delegation of junior doctors in Kolkata presented a hand-made artificial spine to city police commissioner Vineet Goyal and demanded his resignation over the alleged lapses in the case. The action was a way to ask the police to "grow a backbone".

# Rahul, Kharge slam PM Modi over Shivaji's statue collapse

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Kicking off the party's campaign for the Assembly elections in Maharashtra, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge on Sept 5 launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the collapse of Maratha Shivaji's statue last month. They alleged that the statue collapsed because of corruption.

Prime Minister Modi, during his visit to Maharashtra on August 30, apologised to the 17th century Maratha king and his admirers over the statue collapse and said Shivaji was more like a god to him rather than a king or a great human being.

Addressing a rally at Sangli in Maharashtra, Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said Modi should not only apologise to Shivaji but also to all Maharashtrians over the statue collapse within eight months of its inauguration at Rajkot Fort in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra, on the occasion of Navy Day.

"Modi should say sorry to each and every citizen of Maharashtra for the insult caused to the legendary king when the statue at Rajkot fort collapsed on August 26," said Rahul.

"I want to ask the Prime Minister what he is sorry for, is it because the contract to make the Shivaji statue was given to an RSS person who had no merit, or for the corruption in the process of its construction," Gandhi said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the statue collapse was yet another instance of shoddy job



done by the government in a hurry to impress people before elections. Kharge recalled that a bridge inaugurated by PM Modi in Ahmedabad also collapsed soon after it was thrown open for public. He said the Ram Temple in Ayodhya inaugurated by Modi with much fanfare also reported seepage after the monsoon rain. The two Congress heavyweights were speaking at a public meeting after inaugurating a life-size statue of late local party leader Patangrao Kadam. They said Kadam's statue, inaugurated today, had been built by the well-known sculptor Sutar and it was going to last for a long time.

Rahul Gandhi said Modi resorted to demonetisation to wipe out small and medium industries and enable big corporate houses like Adani and Ambani to amass wealth.

## Interpol issued 100 red notices on India's request in 2023, says CBI chief

CBI Director Praveen Sood on Sept 5 said Interpol issued 100 red corner notices to nab fugitives on India's request in 2023, highest ever in a year.

Addressing the 10th Interpol Liaison Officers' Conference at the agency's headquarters, he said the global operation centre of the CBI handled 17,368 international assistance requests in 2023.

He said as many as 29 wanted criminals were brought back to India in 2023 and 19 this year so far with the help of Interpol. Emphasising the need for international cooperation in the light of technology, Sood said: "Criminal are no longer constrained by borders, and neither should our efforts to combat them."

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, who inaugurated the conference, called for real-time international police cooperation in the age of digitally driven crimes.

"The world today faces a multitude of grave and globalised poly crimes and threats such as terrorism, online radicalisation, cyber-enabled financial crimes, online child sexual exploitation, corruption, drug trafficking, terror financing and organised crime. The police in India have been at the forefront of addressing these challenges through a combination of robust legal framework, innovative initiatives, leveraging technology and proactive international cooperation," Sood said.

## NIA chargesheets key accused for Indian High Commission attack in London

In a major step in the probe into the 2023 attack at the Indian High Commission in London, the NIA on Thursday charge-sheeted a key accused in the incident, an official statement said.

The chargesheet was filed in a special NIA court in Delhi. Inderpal Singh Gaba, a UK national residing in Hounslow and originally hailing from New Delhi, was chargesheeted as one of the agitators who actively participated in the anti-India protest on March 22, 2023, in front of the Indian High Commission in London, as part of the Khalistani secessionist agenda, it said. The accused was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on April 25 after exhaustive investigations that established his role in the secessionist activity. He was detained in December 2023 by immigration authorities at the Attari border upon his arrival from London via Pakistan, based on a lookout circular against him. Investigations were then initiated against Gaba and he was asked not to leave the country while the probe continued, said the NIA statement. During the months-long investigation, the NIA seized his mobile phone and scrutinised the data, including several incriminating videos/photos of the incident, and eventually established his involvement in the incident, it said. NIA investigations have so far revealed that the attack in London was conspired and perpetrated in retaliation to the action taken by the Punjab Police against Amritpal Singh, chief of Waris Punjab De, with the objective of influencing the crackdown on the outfit and its leader, the statement said.

# India, Singapore elevate ties, ink 4 pacts during Modi's visit

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India and Singapore on Thursday elevated their ties to a "comprehensive strategic partnership" and inked four MoUs, including one on cooperation in the semiconductor industry, as the prosperous city-state's companies pledged to invest about USD 60 billion in the next few years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who arrived here from Brunei on a two-day visit, touted Singapore as a model for developing nations and said India wanted to create "several Singapores" of its own during his talks with Premier Lawrence Wong.

"Prime Ministers @narendramodi and @LawrenceWongST held productive talks today. They deliberated on ways to further deepen India-Singapore partnership across key sectors including technology, healthcare, trade, skilling, and more," the prime minister's office said in a post on X.

Later, PM Modi held a roundtable with top business leaders and CEOs in Singapore, where he talked about ways to deepen economic linkages. Highlighting the reforms underway in India, which will encourage investment and innovation, PM Modi invited Singaporean business leaders to look at investment opportunities in India in sectors like aviation, energy, and skill development.

At the roundtable with business leaders, Singapore companies committed an investment of around USD 60 billion (over Rs 5 lakh crore) in the next few years, officials said. "Collaborative initiatives have been identified in areas such as skilling, digitalisation, mobility, advanced manufacturing, semiconductors and AI, healthcare, sustainability and cybersecurity," PM Modi said during his meeting with Lawrence Wong.

Describing Singapore as an "important facilitator" of India's Act East policy, PM Modi said, "Our strategic partnership is completing a decade. Over the past 10 years, our trade has more than doubled. Mutual investment has



PM Modi with the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lawrence Wong, in Singapore on September 5, 2024.

increased almost threefold to cross USD 150 billion. Singapore was the first country with which we launched the UPI Person-to-Person payment facility." Noting that in the past ten years, 17 satellites of Singapore have been launched from Indian soil, PM Modi said bilateral cooperation has gained momentum from skilling to the defence sector.

"I am pleased that today, we are together elevating our relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," he said. Both leaders witnessed the exchange of MoUs for cooperation in semiconductors, digital technologies, skill development and healthcare. These are the outcomes of the deliberations during the two rounds of India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtables held so far.

Prime Minister Modi also announced the setting up of an Invest India office in Singapore, which will be a handholding office for investors in Singapore in various areas identified in the six pillars.

## BJP's 1st list for Haryana polls triggers a string of resignations

CHANDIGARH (TIP)

At least 12 senior BJP leaders, including a cabinet minister, one MLA, and six ex-MLAs, resigned from the party on Thursday upset over its first list of 67 candidates for the Haryana polls even as other leaders indicated that they were considering all options ahead of the nomination deadline.

The list of people who resigned included sitting minister Ranjit Singh Chautala, other backward classes unit chief Karan Dev Kamboj, Ratia lawmaker Laxman Dass Napa, and farmer unit chief Sukhvinder Sheoran. Kamboj is a former OBC morcha chief and Sheoran is a former Kisan Morcha chief.

Talking to media, Kamboj said that the BJP has fielded "traitors". "The BJP has ignored my dedication and spirit towards the party. The turncoats were given tickets and no merit was followed in ticket distribution," he said.

Former Badhra MLA Sukhvinder Sheoran said that party has "compromised with its ideology and given tickets to turncoats". "BJP workers' morale has gone down." The leaders sent their resignations to state party chief Mohan Lal Badoli and announced their decision to contest independently.

The BJP leadership in Delhi tried to downplay the resignations. "The list was drawn after extensive survey on the ground and the cadres' views were sought. Winnability was the main criterion, and the party ensured representation to every caste and community. The party itself has grown manifold and there the number of aspirants is large, so it is inevitable that there will be some rebellion," said a senior leader, requesting



anonymity. The leader underscored that the senior leadership in the state as well as the centre were in "touch" with the rebels and remained hopeful of resolving their concerns. "Some leaders who cannot be fielded as contestants will be accommodated in the party, there are various other avenues," the leader added.

The BJP faces anti-incumbency after being in power for 10 years and issues related to caste, reservation and complaints of governance deficit have emerged as challenges for the party. Fielding fresh candidates, the leader quoted above, was aimed at blunting anti-incumbency.

In its first list, the party changed 40 candidates, of which 27 are fresh faces and 21 under 50. There are eight women candidates, and 14 tickets have been given to candidates from backward sections. "There is representation to various castes, including Gurjar, Yadav, Kashyap, Kumhar, Kamboj, Rajput and Saini and the party has ensured Dalits get proper representation in this

list," said a second party functionary, requesting anonymity.

In the first list, 40 are from the general category, 14 from the OBC groups, and 13 from scheduled castes.

On Thursday, Sept 5, Haryana power minister Chautala convened a meeting of his supporters at Rania before announcing his decision to resign as minister as well as from the primary membership of the BJP. The BJP has nominated Shishpal Kamboj to contest from the seat.

Chautala said that he is the son of former deputy prime minister Devi Lal and could not compromise in any situation. "I will contest as an independent from Rania. The BJP offered me a ticket from Dabwali but I turned down the proposal. I am resigning from the cabinet and the primary membership of the party," he said.

In the 2019 assembly elections, Chautala contested as an Independent candidate after the Congress denied him the ticket. He defeated Haryana Lokhit Party candidate Gobind Kanda. Later, he became a cabinet minister in the BJP government.

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, he joined the BJP and contested from Hisar but lost to Congress's Jai Parkash. Despite not being part of the Haryana assembly since the Lok Sabha elections, Chautala remained a minister.

In Ratia, Laxman Dass Napa joined the Congress on Thursday, hours after the BJP replaced him with former Sirsa MP Sunita Duggal and in Badhra, the party pitched activist Umed Pathuwas in place of Sheoran. Sheoran has called a meeting of his supporters to decide on the future.

Source: HT

# India in history this Week

## SEPTEMBER 6 TO SEPTEMBER 12

### 06 SEPTEMBER

- 1929 Birth of filmmaker Yash Johar.
- 1965 The Indian Army crossed the border from three places and attacked West Pakistan.
- 1972 Ustad Alauddin Khan, a veteran of Hindustani classical music, was born.



- 2018 The Supreme Court declared that homosexuality is no longer a crime.
- 2008 D. Subbarao took over as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- 1838 Dalip Singh, the youngest son of Maharaj Ranjit Singh of Punjab, was born.
- 1889 Freedom fighter Sharat Chandra Bose was born.

### 07 SEPTEMBER

- 1882 Bankim Chandra Chatterjee composed the national anthem "Vande Mataram" in Kantal Pada village in Bengal. Vande Mataram became the national slogan in the Bang Bhang movement.
- 1963 Ashok Chakra winner Indian Airhostess (Air Hostess) Neerja Bhanot was born.
- 1906 Bank of India was established.
- 1965 China announced that it would strengthen its troops stationed on the Indian border.
- 2008 NSG under Indo-US nuclear agreement 45 members of the India gave exemption from the international fraternity to nuclear trade.
- 2009 Pankaj Advani of India won the World Professional Billiards Championship.
- 2011 A 4.2 magnitude earthquake lasting 6.2 seconds on the Richter scale occurred at 11:24 pm in Delhi, whose center was located in Sonapat, Haryana.
- 2011 11 people were killed and 74 were injured when a bomb exploded in a suitcase near Gate No-5 of Delhi High Court premises.
- 1887 Sanskrit scholar and great philosopher Gopinath Kaviraj was born on 7 September
- 1917 Indian medical scientist and family planning specialist Bano Jahangir Koyaji was born on 7 September.
- 2055 An investigation report of the Oil-for-Food Program was presented.
- 2008 Astronomers were able to see clearly inside the giant blackhole in the middle of our sky Ganges.

### 08 SEPTEMBER

- 1926 Bhupendra Hazarika was born.
- 1933 Asha Bhosle, who has sung more than 12 thousand songs in 20 languages, was born today.
- 1320 Ghazi Malik (Gaiasudin Tughlaq) became the

Sultan of Delhi.

- 1962 China infiltrated India's eastern border.
- 1965 India opened 2 additional fronts against Pakistan.
- 1966 UNESCO celebrated World Literacy Day for the first time by the United Nations Department of Education and Cultural.
- 2006 Serial blasts took place in Malegaon, Maharashtra, in which around 37 people were killed and more than 100 people were injured.
- 1966 To make people aware of education, UNESCO started celebrating "Literacy Day".
- 1967 For the first time since independence, the party which was running the government at the Center faced defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.
- 2000 Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee slammed Pakistan during a speech in Hindi during the United Nations Peace Summit.
- 2008 The Supreme Court granted bail to the main accused and share broker Ketan Parikh and other accused in the Canfina Mutual Fund scam case.

### 09 SEPTEMBER

- 2012 The Indian Space Agency placed the heaviest foreign satellite in orbit.
- 1974 Captain Vikram Batra, who was martyred in Kargil war, was born on 9 September. He was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra.



- 1949 Hindi was adopted as the national language in India.
- 1915 The struggle between the famous Indian revolutionary Jatindranath Sanyal and the British at Kaptewara in Orissa.
- 1920 Aligarh's Oriental College was converted into Aligarh Muslim University.
- 1999 Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Arch Sugiyama of Japan won the mixed doubles title of US Open.
- 2009 Ministry of Railways announced to introduce biometric identification system for its employees on the lines of Ministry of Home Affairs
- 1907 Director Mahbub Khan, the leading producer of Indian cinema history, was born.

### 10 September

- 1966 Indian Parliament approved the creation of the state of Punjab and Haryana.
- 1887 Govind Vallabh Pant, the famous freedom fighter of India and the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, was born at a place called Khot in Almora district.
- 1915 Revolutionary Jatindra Nath Mukherjee alias Bagha Jatin died in a hospital in Balasore.
- 1976 Indian Airlines Boeing 737 aircraft hijacked from Lahore.
- 1923 Popular Bengal novelist Sukumar Rai died.
- 1935 Establishment of Doon School.
- 1966 The Parliament approved the formation of

Punjab and Haryana.

- 1996 Approved by 158 votes in the United Nations General Assembly Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty 3, three countries including India opposed the treaty.
- 2009 Jet Airways management and its pilots agreed to a comprehensive agreement.
- 1892 Nationalist, Hindi Savvy and Aryasamaji Bhavani Dayal Sanyasi was born on 10 September.
- 1915 Indian revolutionary Jatindranath Mukherjee died on 10 September

### 11 SEPTEMBER



- 1895 Birth of freedom fighter, social activist and famous Gandhian leader Vinoba Bhave.
- 1906 Mahatma Gandhi named the first non-violence movement in South Africa as 'Satyagraha'.
- 1961 World Wildlife Fund was established.
- 1965 During the Indo-Pakistan War, the Indian Army captured the city of Burki near South East Lahore.
- 2006 Eminent Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen demanded Indian citizenship.
- 1911 Birth of cricketer Lala Amarnath, who scored India's first century in international cricket.
- 2009 Moninder Singh Pandher, an accused in the Nithari case, was acquitted by the High Court of Allahabad in one of the 19 cases in the Ripa Haldar case. The Supreme Court stayed the construction of the Kanshi Ram memorial site.
- 1906 Mahatma Gandhi started the coinage Satyagraha to mark the non-violence movement in South Africa.

### 12 SEPTEMBER

- 1931 Mahatma Gandhi arrived in London to attend the Round Table Conference.
- 1966 Indian swimmer Mihir Sen swam across the Dardanless Strait.
- 2008 Sahara India Investment Corporation closed its non-banking financial business.
- 1922 Renowned litterateur Chandradhar Sharma Guleri passed away.





# 9/11: The deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil

**THE 11TH OF SEPTEMBER 2024 MARKS THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 ATTACKS ON THE US. ON TUESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2001, SUICIDE ATTACKERS SEIZED US PASSENGER JETS AND CRASHED THEM INTO TWO NEW YORK SKYSCRAPERS, KILLING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE. THE ATTACK REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST TRAUMATIC EVENTS OF THE CENTURY, NOT ONLY FOR AMERICANS BUT ALSO FOR THE WORLD.**

On the morning of 11 September 2001, 19 terrorists from the Islamist extreme group al Qaeda hijacked four commercial aircraft and crashed two of them into the North and South Towers of the World Trade Center complex in New York City. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. After learning about the other attacks, passengers on the fourth hijacked plane, Flight 93, fought back, and the plane was crashed into an empty field in western Pennsylvania about 20 minutes by air from Washington, D.C. The Twin Towers ultimately collapsed, due to the damage from the impacts and subsequent fires. Nearly 3,000 people were killed from 93 different countries. Most of the fatalities were from the attacks on the World Trade Center. The Pentagon lost 184 civilians and servicemembers and 40 people were killed on Flight 93. It was the worst attack on American soil since the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941.

After the Taliban refused to turn over the mastermind of the attacks, Osama Bin Laden, Operation Enduring Freedom officially began 7 October 2001 with American and British bombing strikes against al Qaeda and Taliban forces in Afghanistan. Initially, the Taliban was removed from power and al Qaeda was seriously crippled, but allied forces continually dealt with a stubborn Taliban insurgency, infrastructure rebuilding, and corruption among the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, and Afghan Border Police. Bin Laden would go into hiding for nearly 10 years.

On 2 May 2011, U.S. Navy SEALs launched a nighttime raid on Bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, killing the al Qaeda leader. Operation Enduring Freedom officially ended 28 December 2014, although coalition forces remained on the ground to assist with training Afghan security forces. American troops departed Afghanistan in August 2021.

The key operational planner of the September 11 attacks was Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (often referred to simply as "KSM" in the later 9/11 Commission Report and in the media), who had spent his youth in Kuwait. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed became active in the Muslim Brotherhood,



which he joined at age 16, and then went to the United States to attend college, receiving a degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1986. Afterward he traveled to Pakistan and then Afghanistan to wage jihad against the Soviet Union, which had launched an invasion against Afghanistan in 1979.

According to Yosri Fouda, a journalist at the Arabic-language cable television channel Al Jazeera who interviewed him in 2002, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed planned to blow up some dozen American planes in Asia during the mid-1990s, a plot (known as "Bojinka") that failed, "but the dream of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed never faded. And I think by putting his hand in the hands of bin Laden, he realized that now he stood a chance of bringing about his long awaited dream."

In 1996 Khalid Sheikh Mohammed met bin Laden in Tora Bora, Afghanistan. The 9-11 Commission (formally the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States), set up in 2002 by U.S. Pres. George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress to investigate the attacks of 2001, explained that it was then that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed "presented a proposal for an operation that would involve training pilots who would crash planes into buildings in the United States." Khalid Sheikh Mohammed dreamed up the tactical innovation of using hijacked planes to attack the United States, al-Qaeda provided the personnel, money, and logistical support to execute the operation, and bin Laden wove the attacks on New York and Washington into a larger strategic framework of attacking the "far enemy"—the United States—in order to bring about regime change across the Middle East.

The September 11 plot demonstrated that al-Qaeda was an organization of global reach. The plot played out across the globe with planning meetings in Malaysia, operatives taking flight lessons in the United States, coordination by plot leaders based in Hamburg, Germany, money transfers from Dubai, and recruitment of suicide operatives from countries around the Middle East—all activities that were ultimately overseen by al-Qaeda's leaders in Afghanistan.

Key parts of the September 11 plot took shape in Hamburg. Four of the key pilots and planners in the “Hamburg cell” who would take operational control of the September 11 attacks, including the lead hijacker Mohammed Atta, had a chance meeting on a train in Germany in 1999 with an Islamist militant who struck up a conversation with them about fighting jihad in the Russian republic of Chechnya. The militant put the Hamburg cell in touch with an al-Qaeda operative living in Germany who explained that it was difficult to get to Chechnya at that time, because many travelers were being detained in Georgia. He recommended they go to Afghanistan instead.

Although Afghanistan was critical to the rise of al-Qaeda, it was the experience that some of the plotters acquired in the West that made them simultaneously more zealous and better equipped to carry out the attacks. Three of the four plotters who would pilot the hijacked planes on September 11 and one of the key planners, Ramzi Binalshibh, became more radical while living in Hamburg. Some combination of perceived or real discrimination, alienation, and homesickness seems to have turned them all in a more militant direction. Increasingly cutting themselves off from the outside world, they gradually radicalized each other, and eventually the friends decided to wage battle in bin Laden’s global jihad, setting off for Afghanistan in 1999 in search of al-Qaeda.

Atta and the other members of the Hamburg group arrived in Afghanistan in 1999 right at the moment that the September 11 plot was beginning to take shape. Bin Laden and his military commander Muhammad Atef realized that Atta and his fellow Western-educated jihadists were far better suited to lead the attacks on Washington and New York than the men they had already recruited, leading bin Laden to appoint Atta to head the operation.

The hijackers, most of whom were from Saudi Arabia, established themselves in the United States, many well in advance of the attacks. They traveled in small groups, and some of them received commercial flight training.

Throughout his stay in the United States, Atta kept Binalshibh updated on the plot’s progress via e-mail. To cloak his activities, Atta wrote the messages as if he were writing to his girlfriend “Jenny,” using innocuous code to inform Binalshibh that they were almost complete in their training and readiness for the attacks. Atta wrote in one message, “The first semester commences in three weeks...Nineteen certificates for private education and four exams.” The referenced 19 “certificates” were code that identified the 19 al-Qaeda hijackers, while the four “exams” identified the targets of the attacks.

In the early morning of August 29, 2001, Atta called Binalshibh and said he had a riddle that he was trying to



solve: “Two sticks, a dash and a cake with a stick down—what is it?” After considering the question, Binalshibh realized that Atta was telling him that the attacks would occur in two weeks—the two sticks being the number 11 and the cake with a stick down a 9. Putting it together, it meant that the attacks would occur on 11-9, or 11 September (in most countries the day precedes the month in numeric dates, but in the United States the month precedes the day; hence, it was 9-11 in the United States). On September 5 Binalshibh left Germany for Pakistan. Once there he

sent a messenger to Afghanistan to inform bin Laden about both the day of the attack and its scope.

### One World Trade Center and the National September 11 Memorial and Museum

The physical and symbolic void left by the destruction of the Twin Towers was filled on November 3, 2014, with the opening of One World Trade Center, a 1,776-foot (541.3-metre) skyscraper, which instantly became a dramatic new landmark on the Manhattan skyline. Adjacent to One World Trade

Center are the National September 11 Memorial and Museum (completed in 2011 and 2014, respectively). Within the 8-acre (3.2-hectare) memorial plaza, twin 1-acre (0.4-hectare) reflecting pools occupy the footprints of the Twin Towers. The pools feature the largest man-made waterfalls in North America and are edged by bronze panels inscribed with the names of the victims of the September 11 attacks as well as the names of the six people who died as a result of the truck bombing of the World Trade Center in February 1993. Among more than 400 trees in the grove that surrounds the pools is the “Survivor Tree,” a Callery pear tree that was discovered badly damaged at Ground Zero, removed and nursed back to health, and then returned to the site in 2010. The memorial and plaza were designed by architects Michael Arad and Peter Walker, winners of a design competition that featured 5,201 submissions from 63 countries.

The museum includes a glass-encased pavilion with an atrium that features two 80-foot (24-metre) trident-shaped steel columns that were part of the facade of the North Tower. The museum’s Memorial Hall is adorned with 2,983 tiles (representing the victims of the September 2001 and February 1993 attacks), each one a blue watercolour with which artist Spencer Finch attempted to capture the colour of the sky on the day of the September 11 attacks. At the centre of the tiles is a quote from Virgil’s Aeneid:

*No day shall erase you from the memory of time*

The museum’s Foundation Hall is a high-ceilinged, nearly 15,000-square-foot (1,400-square-metre) room that encompasses part of a surviving retaining wall of the World Trade Center and displays the “Last Column,” a 36-foot (11-metre) steel beam to which workers and others attached messages and posters during Ground Zero cleanup operations. The international impact of the September 11 attacks is demonstrated along the ramp that descends into the museum by a multimedia exhibit featuring recorded reminiscences by people from 43 countries in 28 languages.

### The hunt for bin Laden

In September 2001 President Bush announced that he wanted Osama bin Laden captured—dead or alive—and a \$25 million bounty was eventually issued for information leading to the killing or capture of bin Laden. Bin Laden evaded capture, however, including in December 2001, when he was tracked by U.S. forces to the mountains of Tora Bora in eastern Afghanistan. Bin Laden’s trail subsequently went cold, and he was thought to be living somewhere in the Afghanistan-Pakistan tribal regions.

U.S. intelligence eventually located him in Pakistan, living in the garrison city of Abbottabad, and in the early morning hours of May 2, 2011, on orders from U.S. Pres. Barack Obama, a small team of U.S. Navy SEALs assaulted his compound and shot and killed the al-Qaeda leader.

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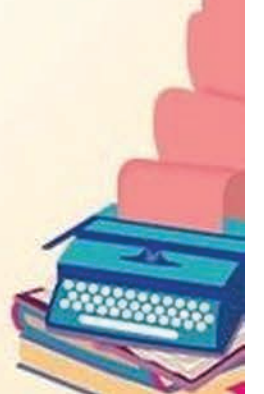
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# 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

The 79th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 79) will open on Tuesday, 10 September 2024. The first day of the high-level General Debate will be Tuesday, 24 September 2024, continue through Saturday, 28 September, and conclude on Monday, 30 September 2024.

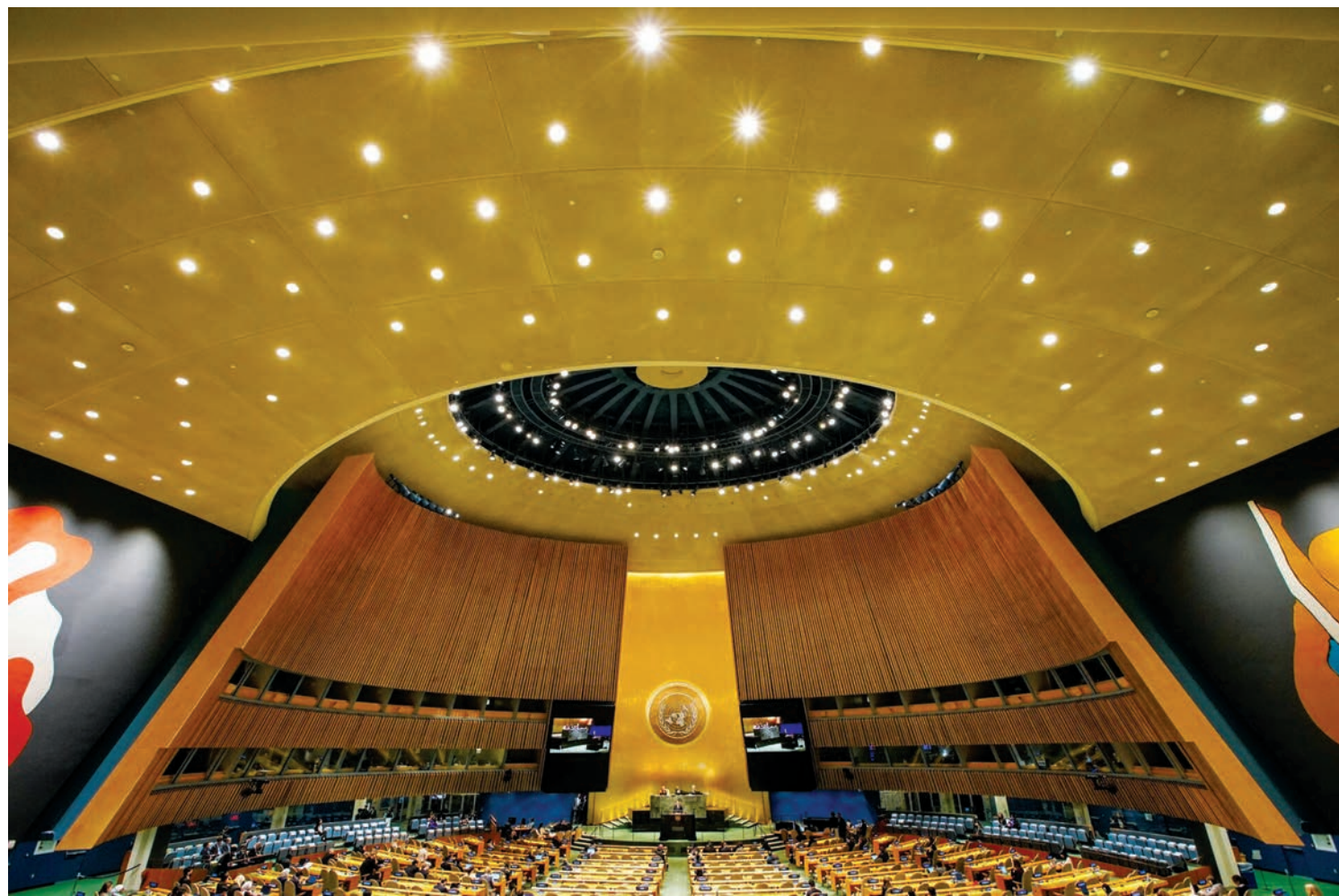
## Provisional Schedule

- Opening of the 79th session: 10 September 2024
- General debate: from Tuesday, 24 September, to Saturday, 28 September, and on Monday, 30 September 2024
- Summit of the Future: Sunday, 22 September, and Monday, 23 September 2024
- High-level plenary meeting on addressing the existential threats posed by sea level rise: Wednesday, 25 September 2024
- High-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons: Thursday, 26 September 2024
- High-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance: Thursday, 26 September 2024

The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly marks a crucial milestone in the global effort to accelerate progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The highly anticipated Summit of the Future, held during UNGA, underscores the urgent need for enhanced international cooperation to address pressing challenges such as climate change, poverty and inequality, while also tackling the impacts of ongoing conflicts and global health crises. The UN Department of Global Communications will hold its flagship SDG Media Zone during the high-level week 23-27 September, with impactful in-depth interviews and dialogues on global issues that matter to people everywhere.

### 22-23 September: Summit of the Future

Heads of State and Government will gather at UN Headquarters in New York on 22-23 September 2024 to address the critical challenges and gaps in global governance exposed by recent global shocks. This Summit aims to reaffirm commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nations Charter while enhancing cooperation and laying the foundations for a reinvigorated multilateral system. The Summit will result in a negotiated Pact for the Future, an action-oriented document aimed to bolster global cooperation and adapt to current challenges effectively for the benefit of all and for future



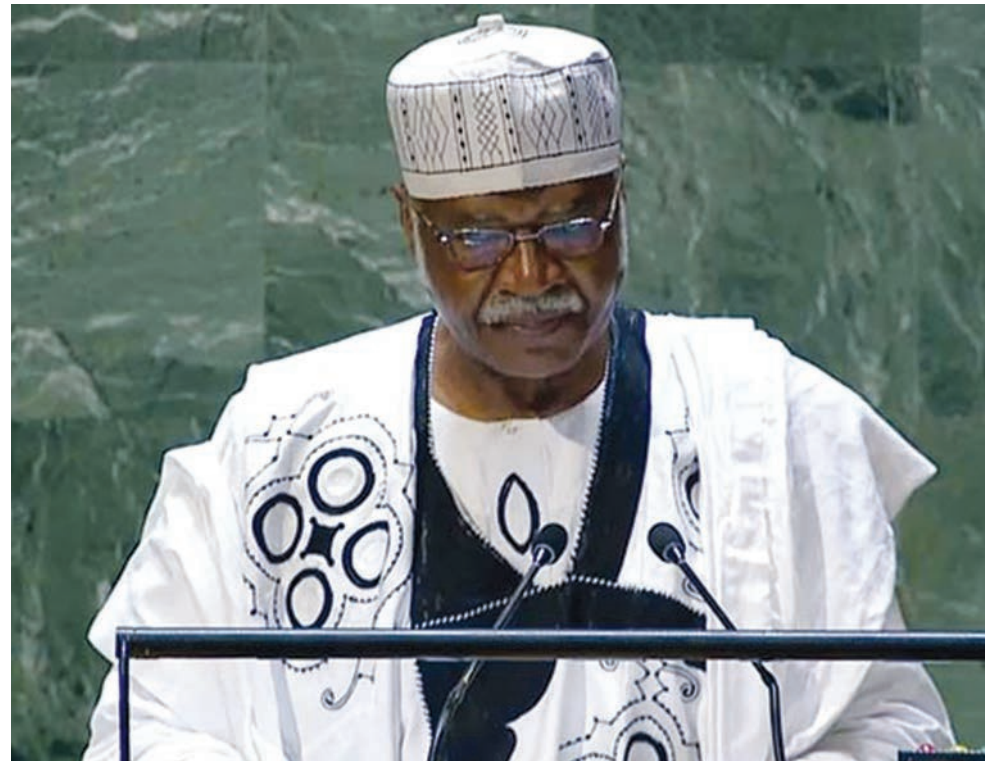
generations. In addition, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is convening the Summit of the Future Action Days on 20 and 21 September 2024 to generate additional opportunities for the engagement of all actors.

### 24-28 September, 30 September: General Debate

World leaders will gather to engage in the annual high-level General Debate under the theme, "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations". Heads of State and Government and ministers will explore solutions to intertwined global challenges to advance peace, security, and sustainable development.

### 25 September: High-level plenary meeting on addressing the existential threats posed by sea level rise

The High-Level Meeting on Sea-Level Rise will convene global leaders, experts, and stakeholders to address the urgent and escalating threat of rising sea levels. This meeting will focus on building common understanding, mobilizing political leadership, and promoting multisectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration and international cooperation towards the objective of "addressing the threats posed by sea-level rise". Participants



• The UN General Assembly elected Philemon Yang, former Prime Minister of Cameroon, as president for its 79th session which gets underway in September.

will work towards developing comprehensive solutions and actionable commitments to combat sea-level rise, ensuring a resilient and sustainable future including for small island developing states and low-lying coastal areas.

### 26 September: High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

The High-level Meeting on

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) presents an opportunity for countries and stakeholders to renew efforts and accelerate progress in combating the growing threat of AMR. This meeting will serve as the foundation for executing policies and ensuring accountability for strengthening health systems against AMR. Building on the momentum of previous declarations and commitments, participants will

focus on enhancing international cooperation, promoting the responsible use of antimicrobials, and advancing the development of new treatments to safeguard global health.

**26 September: High-level Meeting: International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**

Achieving global nuclear disarmament is the highest disarmament priority of the United Nations. It was the subject of the General Assembly's first resolution in 1946, which established the Atomic Energy Commission (dissolved in 1952), with a mandate to make specific proposals for the control of nuclear energy and the elimination of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction. This annual High-level plenary meeting commemorates and promotes the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

**Theme**

The theme for the general debate of the 79th session of the General Assembly is "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations".

The theme and additional information about the general debate can be found in "Arrangements for the high-level meetings and the general debate of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly United Nations Headquarters, 22 to 30 September 2024: Information note for delegations"

**Issues**

The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) will address a range of issues, including:

**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The 79th session is a key milestone in the global effort to accelerate progress towards the 17 SDGs.

**Summit of the Future**

This first-of-its-kind summit will bring together leaders, advocates, and activists to determine how to better meet the needs of current and future generations. The summit will take place on September 22 and 23, 2024.

**Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**

The UNGA will include high-level meetings on AMR to enhance international cooperation, promote responsible use of antimicrobials, and develop new treatments.

**Sea-level rise**

The UNGA will include high-level meetings on the global threat of sea-level rise.

**Water and food nexus**

The Special Rapporteur on the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation will present a thematic report on "Water and food nexus: a human rights approach to water management in food systems".

**General debate**



The theme for the general debate is "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations".

Some speakers at the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 79) include:

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

India's "Head of Government" is scheduled to address the UNGA 79 on September 26, 2024.

**Jamila Ibrahim**

Nigeria's Minister of Youth Development is scheduled to speak at the UNGA 79.

**Bosun Tijani**

Nigeria's Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy is scheduled to speak at the UNGA 79.

**Ambassador Philemon Yang**

The President-elect of the UNGA 79 is a seasoned diplomat who served as Prime Minister and Head of Government from 2009 to 2019.

The high-level general debate of the UNGA 79 is scheduled to take place from September 24–30, 2024.

**President**

- The UN General Assembly elected Philemon Yang, former Prime Minister of Cameroon, as president for its 79th session which gets underway in September.
- President-elect Yang has served as the chairperson of the Panel of Eminent Africans of the African Union. This Panel is responsible for examining candidacies for important positions within the African Union, such as those of African Union Commissioners.
- Yang was chairperson of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
- The 79th session of the General Assembly will convene on September 10, with the body's high-level general debate starting on September 24, 2024.

**UN General Assembly (UNGA)**

- The General Assembly is the UN's most representative body, comprising all 193 Member States.
- Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly is the main policy-making organ of the Organisation.
- It provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter.
- It also plays a central role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.
- The Assembly meets from September to December each year (main part), and thereafter, from January to September (resumed part), as required.
- In addition to its regular sessions, the Assembly may meet in special and emergency special sessions.
- Each of the 193 Member States in the Assembly has one vote. Votes taken on designated important issues – such as recommendations on peace and security, the election of Security Council and Economic and Social Council members, and budgetary questions – require a two-thirds majority of Member States, but other questions are decided by a simple majority.

**Functions and powers of the General Assembly:**

- According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:
- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States.
  - Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General.
  - Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including

disarmament.

- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it.
- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations.
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational and health fields.
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries.
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs.

**The role of UNGA president**

- The General Assembly elects a president and 21 vice-presidents at least three months before the opening of the session over which they are to preside.
- The president and vice-presidents will assume their functions only at the beginning of the session for which they are elected and shall hold office until the close of that session.
- The vice-presidents are elected according to a pattern that ensures equitable geographical representation.
- The president shall declare the opening and closing of each plenary meeting of the session, direct the discussions in plenary meeting, ensure observance of rules of procedure, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions. He/she shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting and over the maintenance of order.
- The president may, in the course of the discussion of an item, propose to the General Assembly the limitation of the time to be allowed to speakers, the limitation of the number of times each representative may speak, the closure of the list of speakers or the closure of the debate.
- He/she may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of the debate on the item under discussion.
- If the president finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, he/she shall designate one of the vice-presidents to take his place. A vice-president acting as president shall have the same powers and duties as the president.

# ICONIC LITERATURE FESTIVAL RETURNS TO NEW YORK

BY MABEL PAIS

The Jaipur Literature Festival (jflitfest.org), celebrating books, ideas, and dialogue, - described as "the greatest literary show on Earth" by Tina Brown: journalist, editor-in-chief of 'The Daily Beast' (tinabrownmedia.com) - returns to New York in September 2024, presenting a series of conversations and performances examining the human experience through the imaginations of some of the world's leading authors, thinkers, and performers. The event takes place on Monday, September 9, 2024 at Jayaram Studios @ 6 pm @ 54 W 21st St, New York, NY 10010.

The Festival opens with 'Women in Culture Conclave', an evening of conversations/readings/fireside chats with culture makers, writers and ideators, contemplating women's role in history & narrative as both disruptors and transmitters of culture. Curated by Myna Mukherjee the event is presented by 'Engendered' in association with the JLF as an opening event for JLF NY on Monday, September 9th, 2024.

## PARTNERS IN NEW YORK

Other partners include The South Asia Institute, The Culture Tree, Jayaram Studios, Tagmo & others.

## FEATURING:

2024 JLF Women Authors, Opening Night

Credit: jflitfest.org

**VIDYA SHAH**, an Indian classical singer, musician and composer, & winner of the Charles Wallace Award. She will present a musical excerpt from her project collaboration with the Ford Foundation called Women on Record, and her book Jalsa highlighting the contributions of the forgotten women performers of the gramophone era.

**MARILYN HACKER**, eminent poet, translator & critic and a feminist. Recipient of Lambda Literary Award and other numerous honors, including the Bernard F. Connors Prize from The Paris Review, the John Masefield Memorial Award of the Poetry Society of America, the PEN Voelcker Award, the Argana International Poetry Prize from the Beit

as-Shir/House of Poetry in Morocco, and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Ingram Merrill Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. She is also the Professor of English emerita at the City College of New York and was elected as Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets in 2008.

**BUSHRA REHMAN**, an award-winning novelist & poet, and author of the New York Times and New Yorker Editor's Choice of the year 'Roses in The Mouth of a Lion', a modern classic about what it means to be Muslim and queer in a Pakistani-American community.

**ANU SEHGAL**, children's author and founder of 'The Culture Tree', a cultural literacy and language education company that focuses on South Asia. Anu has written 5 books that represent stories and languages of India. Anu's books have been selected at the World Literature Festival at NYPL, Brooklyn Museum's annual Children's Literature Festival and Asia Society's AAPI Literature Festival.

**RAAKHEE MIRCHANDANI**, journalist, children's book author, activist, also co-author of 'She Persisted' with Chelsea Clinton and her latest upcoming book 'Kamala Raised Her Hand'.

**AROON SHIVDASANI**, founder, former executive & artistic director of the Indo-American Arts Council, NYC, and recipient of the Minnie Untermeyer Award for Excellence in the Arts, 2023.

**SUNITA IQBAL**, senior advisor in private and public arts philanthropy. She has worked with major arts funders including the Ford Foundation, Mellon Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts in partnership with the Regional and Economic Development Council's Arts and Culture Initiatives and Capital Improvement Funds,

the Nathan Cummings Foundation, and DanceNYC.

**MYNA MUKHERJEE**, listed as India's top 5 curators and Open Magazine's 'Top 50 Open Minds 2024'. She is a cultural curator, producer and director of 'Engendered', a transnational arts & human rights organization New Delhi/New York.

## THE JAIPUR LITERARY FESTIVAL (JLF)

The city of Jaipur in 2006 hosted the first book festival with 18 authors and about 100 attendees. In January 2024 the Jaipur Literature Festival had 300 speakers and 500,000 attendees.

In between, JLF has become what Tina Brown (tinabrownmedia.com) calls "the greatest literary show on Earth," attracting almost every major author from around the planet and making breakout stars of authors unheard of. Programmed by Namita Gokhale and William Dalrymple and produced by Sanjoy Roy and Suraj Dhingra of Teamwork Arts, JLF has become similar to Oprah's book club. And Oprah made it in 2012, drawing large crowds.

For about a decade, JLF editions have also taken place outside India, including Boulder, Colorado; Houston, Texas; New York City, the UK, Spain, Maldives, Australia, the Middle East and elsewhere seamlessly merging the rich multilingual literary traditions of South Asia with the unique essence of the host regions.

This September, JLF USA (jflitfest.org) is going to the next level, adding new editions in five cities:

**Houston: September 6-8**

**New York: September 9-11**

**Boulder: September 14-15**

**Seattle: September 20-22**

**Raleigh/Chapel Hill: September 27-28**

## PARTNERS IN THE USA

Digimentors (digimentors.group) and Sreenath Sreenivasan have partnered with JLF USA to work on programming, outreach and more. For more information, email jlfusa@digimentors.group. Learn more at jflitfest.org.

## RSVP & TICKETS

RSVP is required @ [rsvp.engendered@gmail.com](mailto:rsvp.engendered@gmail.com) or WhatsApp @ +91 987 306 1430 by September 8 at 6 pm. Purchase tickets at [theculturetree.com](http://theculturetree.com).

## JLF NEW YORK



JLF-USA-NY, Banner

Credit: jflitfest.org

In February 2024, the 17th edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival took place in the Pink City of Jaipur, Rajasthan. It was a magnificent success, affirming the power of words and ideas through a remarkable line-up of speakers and sessions. The Festival's indomitable and inspiring spirit reached the festival's audiences, both digitally and in-person.

This year, the vibrant energy of the Jaipur Festival makes its return to New York. The 8th edition of the festival is taking place September 9-11, 2024.

Through 2021-2022, virtual versions of JLF kept the spirit of creative conversations alive during the Covid years. Writers, thinkers, poets, artists, and filmmakers engaged in captivating discussions.

In 2023, JLF successfully held another on ground edition of JLF New York, following two successful virtual editions in collaboration with the Consulate General of India - New York, Asia Society, The National Arts Club, The Centre for Fiction, and Sundaram Tagore Gallery.

This year, JLF returns to celebrate the cosmopolitanism and liveliness of New York City. JLF once again brings forth its signature camaraderie, a caravan of ideas, and the enchanting flow of conversations that make our festival truly incredible!

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

# 'SPIDER MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE' LANDS LIVE IN NJ

BY MABEL PAIS



Spider-Man Across the Spider-Verse with Live Orchestra, composite.

Photo: Courtesy njpac.org

The next chapter of the Oscar-winning Spider-Verse saga and the highly anticipated sequel 'Spider-Man™: Across the Spider-Verse Live in Concert' makes its landing at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Sunday, September 22 at 3 pm.

The films have become a sensation for their incredible and ground-breaking soundtracks which have been heralded for their unique mix of orchestral and electronic music, and scratch DJ'ing.

In 'Spider-Man™: Across the Spider-Verse' Live in Concert audiences will see the film presented on a huge HD screen, accompanied by a range of musicians and instrumentalists performing music from the film's score and soundtrack live to picture. This will include an orchestra, a scratch DJ on turntables, percussion and electronic instruments.

The score for the film was created by Emmy-winning and Academy Award® and Golden Globe®-nominated composer, Daniel Pemberton, known for his work on movies such as 'Ferrari', 'The Man From U.N.C.L.E.', 'Oceans 8', 'Enola Holmes', 'The Bad Guys' and 'Steve Jobs'.

Pemberton took influence for both Spider-Verse film scores from growing up amid the London rave scene in the 90s, where he regularly immersed himself in ambient and techno nights. Daniel also drew inspiration from the scratch DJ's at 'The Blue Note Club' in East London, where he first witnessed scratching vinyl being used in an artistic form. This, coupled with heavy-drumming and punk guitars, gives the soundtrack its unique sound, fusing genres to make something bold and unparalleled which will be brought to life in an exhilarating style in these live concerts.

"Across The Spider-Verse is probably the most exciting, groundbreaking and impactful score I've written," says Pemberton. "I've always believed that there should be no barriers to music, but it's rare to get the opportunity that you get within the Spider-Verse - where else could you have powerful orchestral themes side by side with punk drum solos, virtuoso record scratching next to twisted electronics, off-kilter whistling next to hip-hop beats?"

The film's soundtrack was curated by Metro Boomin, and features the likes of Future, Nas, Swae Lee, James Blake, Lil Wayne, Lil Uzi Vert, and more.

Pemberton says, "Watching the film with the live band performing in a huge room of people is one of the most thrilling ways to experience it and it's a huge honor to know that audiences are going to get a show that delivers a unique emotional hit they will hopefully remember for a long, long time after."

Miles Morales (Spider-Man) returns for the next chapter of the Oscar®-winning Spider-Verse saga, 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse'. After reuniting with Gwen Stacy (Spider-Gwen), Brooklyn's full-time, friendly neighborhood Spider-Man is catapulted across the Multiverse, where he encounters the Spider Society, a team of Spider-People charged with protecting the Multiverse's very existence. But when the heroes clash on how to handle a new threat, Miles finds himself pitted against the other Spiders and must set out on his own to save those he loves most. Anyone can wear the mask - it's how you wear it that makes you a hero.

## TICKETS

To get immersed into 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse!' reserve tickets by visiting [NJPAC.org](http://NJPAC.org) or the NJPAC Box Office or calling 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

## SONY PICTURES ANIMATION/COLUMBIA PICTURES (KEY CREDITS)

Sony Pictures Animation/Columbia Pictures' 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse' was directed by Joaquim Dos Santos, Kemp Powers and Justin K. Thompson. It was written by Phil Lord & Chris Miller & David Callaham, based on the MARVEL COMICS. Phil Lord, Christopher Miller, Amy Pascal, Avi Arad and Christina Steinberg served as producers with Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey, Rodney Rothman, Aditya Sood and Brian Michael Bendis serving as executive producers. The film features the voices of Shameik Moore, Hailee Steinfeld, Brian Tyree Henry, Luna Lauren Velez, Jake Johnson, Jason Schwartzman, Issa Rae, Karan Soni, with Daniel Kaluuya and Oscar Isaac.

## AWARDS



Spider-Man Across the Spider-Verse.

Photo: Courtesy njpac.org

'Spider-Man™: Across the Spider-Verse' is a critically acclaimed and box office smash hit, grossing \$690.9 million worldwide, making it Sony Pictures Animation's highest-grossing film of all-time. The film was named among AFI Awards 2023 top 10 best films of the year, winner of the Critics Choice Award, Hollywood Critics Association Astra Award and National Board of Review Honor for Best Animated Film, winner of seven Annie Awards including Best Feature, winner of the Producers Guild Awards and was nominated for multiple others including the Academy Awards® and the Golden Globe Awards®.

## SENBLA

Senbla is part of Sony Music Entertainment and operates both nationally and internationally across music, performing arts and entertainment concert touring, festivals family entertainment, theater and experiential. Senbla operates in some of the most prestigious venues in the world and works with some of the world's leading artists in their fields as well as some of the biggest entertainment companies and Movie Studios. In recent years Senbla has brought leading artists such as Michael Buble, My Chemical Romance, Duran Duran, Lionel Riche, Diana Ross, and more to unique outdoor venues across the UK as well as bringing IP such as 'Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse' and 'Avatar: The last Airbender' to over 200 venues throughout the world. Senbla promotes and produces over 500 concerts a year throughout the world. Learn more at [sonymusicmasterworks.com](http://sonymusicmasterworks.com). 'Spider-Man™: Across the Spider-Verse' is available to buy & watch at home from your favorite digital platform.

## DANIEL PEMBERTON

Learn more at [daniel-pemberton.com](http://daniel-pemberton.com).

## THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

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

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

# WORLD-RENOWNED COMEDIAN THRILLS AUDIENCES

BY MABEL PAIS

**"I WAS MESMERIZED BY YOUR PROFOUND, SPARKLING INSIGHTS!"**  
- MAHESH BHATT, INDIAN FILM DIRECTOR, PRODUCER AND SCREENWRITER

**"ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT! STILL LAUGHING AT SOME OF YOUR JOKES."**  
- NEHA DHUPIA | INDIAN ACTRESS AND BEAUTY QUEEN

Enjoy an evening of laughter witnessing world-known comedian Amit Tandon connecting with the audience at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 7 pm.

Amit's brand of observational humor is refreshing and contemporary and has hit a chord with audiences across India. Amit had made his mark with a super relatable style of narrative that makes him connect instantaneously with audiences. His viral videos have crossed the sacred mark of a whopping 100 million views across the social media platforms.

**WATCH SOME OF AMIT'S VIDEOS -**

(Women & Men)-  
[youtu.be/2UZG4AcZauE](https://youtu.be/2UZG4AcZauE)  
(Traffic in Delhi) -

[youtu.be/xKLL17vo4jY](https://youtu.be/xKLL17vo4jY)

(Women & their Handbags) -  
[youtu.be/4DbInxr2MAE](https://youtu.be/4DbInxr2MAE)

One of the first three Indian comedians on Netflix, Amit took the stage by storm in the mega-hit comedy events series 'Comedians of the World' on Netflix in January 2019. This international platform had a select set of 47 comics from across the world.

His comedy has crossed boundaries and has become global with over 200 international shows across 25 countries including USA, UK, Australia, Canada, Dubai and Singapore. Overall, Amit has completed performing a mind boggling

number of 1400 shows. As a professional comedian, Amit has scaled new heights with the launch of 'Grandmasters of Comedy'. This unique platform is a testament to his commitment to comedy as it strives to introduce comedy in the corporate world.

Amit was also instrumental in launching 'Fight Comic' in India, a popular comedy face-off show from Singapore. An MBA and Engineer by qualification, Amit was running his own company in HR Consulting and started his journey in comedy as a hobby.

**TICKETS**

For tickets, visit [njpac.org/event/amit-tandon-hamare-zamane-mein](https://njpac.org/event/amit-tandon-hamare-zamane-mein) or the NJPAC Box Office or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

**THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)**

NJPAC, located in downtown Newark, N.J., is America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances

artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted more than 10 million visitors since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents.

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YouTube: NJPACTv



Amit Tandon -Credit: tandonamit.com

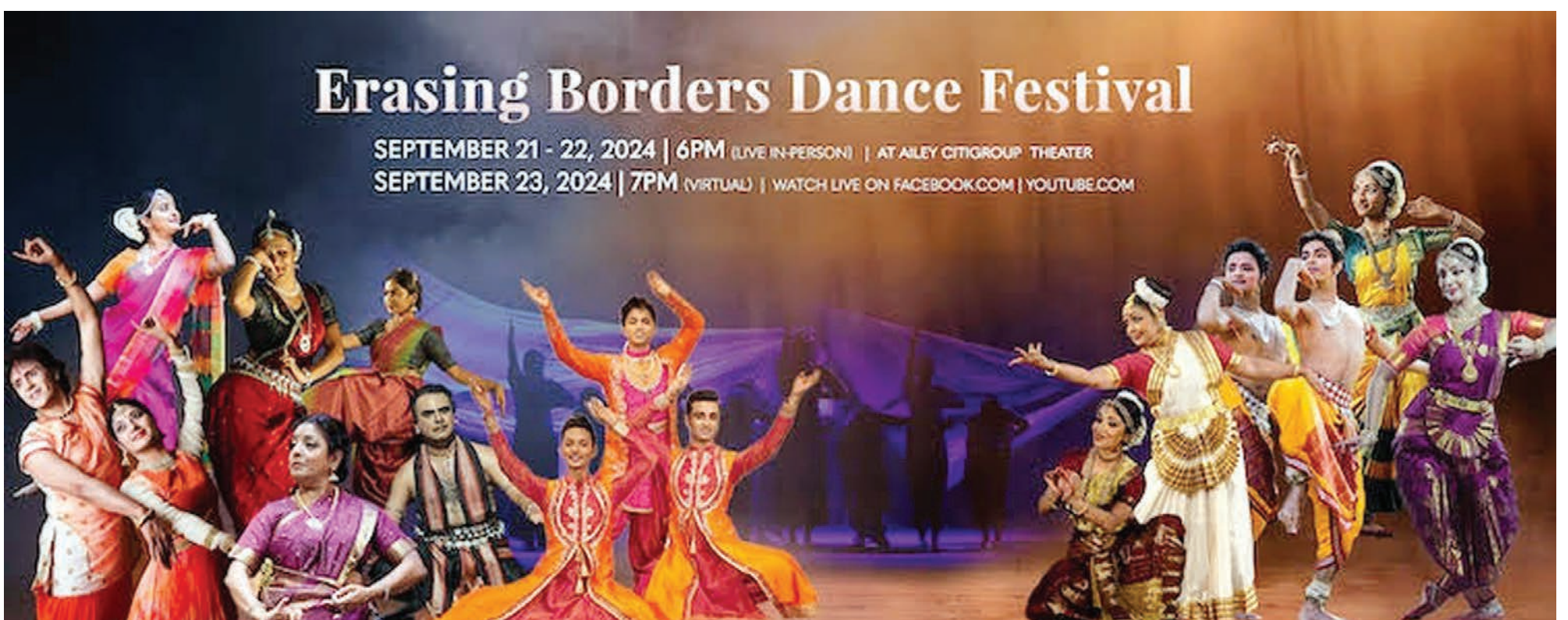
Comedy became serious business when he was featured on Rising Stars of Comedy on NDTV and later 'CEO's Got Talent', aired on CNBC TV18. His rapport with TV continued as a host of 'New Year Show' on Doordarshan in 2014 and he also dabbled with radio, hosting a Punjabi show Saanu Kee for over an year. Learn more at [tandonamit.com](https://tandonamit.com).

and events enhance and transform lives every day. 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, which have reached almost 2 million children, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of

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Website: [njpac.org/takeastand](https://njpac.org/takeastand)  
Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand  
Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

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



## Erasing Borders Dance Festival

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

## NDP's Jagmeet Singh ends support...

opposition lawmakers to survive confidence votes in the lower chamber of parliament at a time when polls show he will lose badly if an election were held now. An election must be held by the end of October 2025 under Canadian law.

"An election will come in the coming year, hopefully not until next fall, because in the meantime, we're going to deliver for Canadians," Trudeau told reporters at a school where he had arrived to talk about expanding lunch programs.

"I really hope the NDP stays focused on how we can deliver for Canadians, as we have over the past years, rather than focusing on politics."

Trudeau, 52, first took office in November 2015 but has over the last two years struggled to fend off attacks from the opposition center-right Conservatives, who blame him for high inflation and a housing crisis.

With the NDP's support, his government has pushed through social programs designed to address the cost of living.

But the NDP's Singh had expressed growing frustration with Trudeau in recent months, especially over what he said was the Liberals' failure to deal with high prices at grocery stores.

"Justin Trudeau has proven again and again he will always cave to corporate greed," Singh said in a video posted on social media where he also declared that he would run for prime minister in the next election. "Liberals have led people down - they don't deserve another chance."

### Establishing independence

Polls indicate the same voter fatigue plaguing Trudeau has also spread to the NDP, which despite successfully pushing the Liberals to introduce measures such as a national dental program is languishing far behind in third place.

Under the 2022 deal, the NDP agreed to keep Trudeau in power until mid-2025 in return for more social spending.

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre reiterated his call for an early election to break up what he called a Liberal-NDP coalition driving up prices for Canadians.

The House of Commons resumes work on Sept. 16, after which the Conservatives will have the ability to propose a vote of confidence. Trudeau's Liberals could still survive if the NDP abstained on such a vote.

A statement from the NDP said the party would decide on an issue-by-issue basis whether to support the Liberals on confidence votes, suggesting it may continue to prop up Trudeau if his fate hung in the balance.

A key moment for Trudeau's government will be its budget update later this year, which, if voted down by legislators would trigger a new election.

A senior journalist Prabhjot Singh, in a report filed late Thursday night, says Immediate Battle is for by-

and not Federal elections. While Elmwood-Transcona and LaSalle-Emard-Verdun to vote on September 16, two more- Cloverdale-Langley City and Halifax - wait for the by-election.

In less than 24 hours of the death of the NDP-Liberal deal, politics in Canada have taken a turn, putting the nation back on two prestigious, by-elections scheduled to coincide with the next sitting of the House of Commons on September 16.

Interestingly, Jagmeet Singh of NDP, who ripped the NDP-Liberal deal yesterday, looks more focused on two by-elections scheduled for September 16 than forcing the federal elections for which the leader of Opposition and Conservative party chief, Pierre Poilievre, has been instigating him to vote out minority Liberal government.

In a message to his party workers and volunteers on Thursday, Jagmeet Singh, said, "I am pretty sure you know this by now, but I am deeply committed to defeating Conservatives in the next election.

"But it doesn't happen all at once. It happens one riding, one volunteer shift, and one phone call at a time.

"The by-election in Elmwood-Transcona is a crucial step on our path to defeating Conservatives. Will you commit to walking that path with me?" asks Jagmeet Singh.

The Elmwood-Transcona was held by his party's Daniel Blaikie who quit the House of Commons riding on March 31 this year. The NDP has now put up Leila Dance in a field of six contestants. Others in the fray are Sarah Couture (People's Party of Canada), Nicolas Gaddert (Green Party), Ian McIntyre (Liberal), Colin Reynolds (Conservative) and Zbig Strycharz (Canadian Future Party).

Another riding going to poll on September 16 is LaSalle-Emard-Verdun in Quebec. The incumbent David Lametti resigned on February 1 this year to force this by-election. As of today, there are 90 candidates, 80 of them Independent or non-affiliated in the run besides nominees of all major parties like Liberals, Green, Conservatives, Canadian Future Party, Christian Heritage Party of Canada, NDP, Bloc Quebecois, People's Party of Canada and Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada.

The situation is intriguing. On one hand, the main opposition party, Conservatives, is working overtime to force an early Federal election, while on the other, no party is taking any chances with the September 16 by-elections, winners of which may hardly get any fruitful time to sit in the lower House of Canadian Parliament.

By-elections are primarily a litmus test for the popularity of a government. In the eight by-elections during the current term of the House of Commons, the Liberals could retain only three of four seats it held earlier while the Conservatives extended their hold from four to five seats.

Two more by-elections - Cloverdale-Langley City and Halifax - are also in the offing.

Experts, on the other hand, hold that though the

Liberal-NDP deal is dead, it does not necessarily mean a fall election. Yesterday's development puts PM Trudeau in a tight spot. Still, everything is not over for him as he has options.

No doubt the Liberal government is now on shakier ground. It cannot now rely with certainty on the NDP to prop it up on confidence votes in a Parliament where it has been reduced to a minority of the seats.

The rapidly changing political environment does not mean the government would soon collapse on a confidence vote as the Liberals could still convince NDP or Bloc Quebecois MPs for support on issues that PM Trudeau feels are "important for Canadians."

Focus on by-elections is yet another indication that NDP is not as keen as Conservatives are to force a non-confidence motion at the earliest possible opportunity.

The liberals could still engage in some horse-trading with the NDP or one of the other opposition parties to cobble together enough votes to get its legislation through Parliament and stave off an election. An opposition party could support the government's agenda piecemeal, and not through a formal agreement like the one that was ripped up today.

Whatever the thinking of major political parties, the Liberal government's future is on a knife's edge - it could be brought down at any time through a non-confidence vote when Parliament returns later this month, video saying he 'ripped up' NDP deal with Liberals

Under Canada's Westminster system of parliamentary democracy, the Prime Minister and his government must enjoy the confidence of a majority of MPs to remain in office.

This can be tested through a confidence vote. The government can designate any vote as a confidence vote, while any bill related to the government's budget is usually regarded as a confidence vote. An individual MP can also table a motion of non-confidence at any time to try and topple the government.

If the Liberal government wants to win those votes, Trudeau and his cabinet will have to convince at least one of the major opposition parties to vote their way.

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre has signaled he will not back the government - riding high in the polls, he wants an election sooner rather than later. He tabled a non-confidence motion in the spring but it was defeated.

The NDP may not go all out with the Conservatives in toppling the minority government as it still wants to get more out of the Liberal government before the next election.

That means the NDP could offer limited support on confidence votes in this sitting of Parliament in exchange for some more policy commitments. It already has pushed the government to enlarge the social safety net through new pharma care and dental programs. It wants more.

(With inputs from Prabhjot Singh)



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## Stree 2 director confirms producing Ayushmann Khurrana's vampire film, Thamba

Amar Kaushik is currently basking in the success of his horror-comedy Stree 2. The film director, who donned the producer's hat with Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga and Munjya, is once again to produce a supernatural horror-comedy. Amar, in an interview with India Today, revealed the name of the new vampire film from the Maddock Supernatural Universe.

The filmmaker, while confirming the film, stated that he is producing the vampire movie. Amar said, "The vampire film is titled Thamba. We will begin shooting for it in the next two months." Amar also confirmed Varun Dhawan's Bhediya 2. He revealed that the story has been written and now the screenplay is being developed as he is not satisfied with few parts of the story.

Earlier, a Pinkvilla report mentioned that Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna were roped in Munjya director Aditya Sarpotdar's horror-comedy. According to the report, "Ayushmann Khurrana and Dinesh Vijan have previously worked together on Bala and share a great creative bond."

# Emergency to Aandhi, films that dealt with Indira Gandhi's life and landed in trouble

Politics and cinema are two such areas in which high-voltage drama is expected. The trend of making films on political agenda is quite old in the industry. The new name added to this is Kangana Ranaut's movie Emergency. However, due to heavy controversy, this film has been postponed once again. But Kangana Ranaut's Emergency is not the first film which has been postponed due to the noise of politics. Even before this, there were many such films in Hindi cinema, which fell prey to politics and were disliked by politicians or organisations, especially the one made on the former Prime Minister's life. Let's have a look at films that revolve around the life history of the former Prime Minister, that didn't go well with either the audiences or the organisations.

The film Kissa Kursi Ka starring Shabana Azmi, Raj Babbar and Surekha Sikri turned out to be a controversial political drama. The movie was completed in 1974 under the direction of director Amrit Nahata. However, due to the imposition of emergency in 1975, its release was postponed. During the emergency, the then government saw this movie and asked for changes in it. Also, its prints were confiscated. Somehow, Kissa Kursi Ka was released in 1978. But there was a lot of discussion about this film as a political satire.

### Aandhi

During the emergency period, Sanjeev Kumar and Suchitra Sen's film Aandhi was also ready for release. But director Gulzar's movie was accused of misrepresenting the relationship between the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her husband. However, when Indira's government fell in 1977, the way for the release of Aandhi was cleared.

### Indu Sarkar

Before Kangana Ranaut's Emergency, director Madhur Bhandarkar's film Indu Sarkar has shown the story of the Emergency period of 1975 on the big screen. A lot of political mileage was drawn from this movie. The Congress party strongly opposed the film. However, the release date of Indu



Sarkar was not postponed and it was released in theatres in 2017.

### Emergency

Kangana Ranaut's film Emergency was to be released on the big screen on September 6. But this movie did not get the green signal from the censor board and a petition was filed in the court regarding the Emergency by some members of the Sikh community. It is alleged that the image of the Sikh community has been presented in the wrong way in the film. Currently, the release date of Emergency has been postponed indefinitely.

There are several other Bollywood films like Bellbottom, Sam Bahadur and Raid among others, where several celebrities have played Indira Gandhi on-screen. However, being just in supporting and positive roles, the films didn't get engrossed in any controversy, especially because of their storyline. *Source: IndiaTV News*

## Shahid Kapoor, Pooja Hegde wrap up 'Deva' shoot



The announcement of Zee Studios and Roy Kapur Films' next film Deva, starring Shahid Kapoor and Pooja Hegde, has created quite a stir. Deva, directed by noted Malayalam filmmaker Rosshan Andrews and produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur, promises to be an action-packed rollercoaster trip filled with thrills and drama. While everyone has been expecting to hear more about the film, there is an exciting update: it has been officially wrapped.

Deva's filming has been officially completed. The action show concluded with a high-energy song scene filmed over the last four days in Mumbai. Bosco Martis choreographed the song. The hype surrounding the picture has reached a new high. The cast and crew shared the last day photos on Instagram, where Shahid can be seen cutting cake on the sets of Deva. Bosco and Pooja can also be spotted in the picture with the actor.

Deva is directed by acclaimed Malayalam filmmaker Roshan Andrews and produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur. Deva is described as a thrilling, dramatic, action-packed film, by the makers. The film promises a rollercoaster ride. Shahid Kapoor will portray a smart but obstinate police officer in Deva, with Pooja Hegde playing the leading heroine as a journalist. The high-octane action thriller is scheduled to be released on February 14, 2025.

Shahid Kapoor was last seen in Kriti Sanon starrer 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya'. The film was released on February 9th and made on a budget of Rs 75 crores, the film minted Rs 141 crores at the world box office. Ahead of this, the actor was seen in OTT film and series, titled Bloody Daddy and Farzi, respectively. Now the actor will next be seen in Farzi 2. He also has T-series' Bull in the pipeline.



## Salma Hayek kicks off her 58th birthday with a bikini photo dump

It may be September, but Salma Hayek is here to remind us that bikini season is far from over.

On Monday, September 2, the House of Gucci star celebrated her 58th birthday in style by sharing a roundup of some of her most recent bikini moments. The glorious photo dump featured several snaps of the actor posing aboard a yacht cruising through ocean vistas.

The first snap (which is technically not a bikini) features a retro halterneck one-piece with colorful zigzagging stripes and a plunging neckline. The actor accessorized the look with a straw sun hat, black sunglasses, and large gold earrings. In another slide, Hayek kept the party going in a vibrant blood-orange ensemble, consisting of a red and white patterned bikini and a sheer patterned cover-up. Elsewhere, she posed in a floral purple two-piece, a frilly see-through cover-up, and a sultry black bikini with gold hardware.

# Brad Pitt ‘maintains a quiet mystery’ about his younger flame, Ines de Ramon

Brad Pitt and Ines de Ramon made their red carpet debut at the Venice Film Festival this past weekend, and they are maintaining “a quiet mystery” about their relationship.

Pitt and de Ramon first sparked romance rumours in November 2022 when they were spotted together at a Bono concert alongside Cindy Crawford and Rande Gerber. At that time, the couple had been “dating for a few months.”

Earlier this year, a source close to de Ramon told *People*, “It’s pretty recent,” adding that while de Ramon hadn’t completely given up her own place, the relationship was progressing well. “They are going very strong and she is happier than ever,” the source added.

Last month, *People* again reported that another source close to the couple confirmed Pitt is “serious about Ines. He’s very happy and enjoys spending time with her. She’s easygoing and everyone likes her.” The source also noted that the Hollywood icon had been “working in Europe, so they’ve spent a lot of time there.”

Brian Balthazar of Balthazar Entertainment told Fox News that the couple’s appearance together at the Venice Film Festival was a “confident” move. “I think their public appearance is a vote of confidence from the two of



them that they’re in it for the long haul,” Balthazar said.

“Brad is not one for making announcements or proclamations about his personal life. He has no Instagram or Twitter feed. So, in his case, the most deliberate way to ‘go public’ with something is in this way: just show up together and pose for some photos.”

“I think being off social media has served him well. In a culture where everyone is sharing – oversharing really,

he maintains a quiet mystery about himself that is appealing,” he added.

“Brad and Ines absolutely have a strong chance of lasting as a couple,” Celebrity matchmaker and relationship expert Alessandra Conti told Fox News Digital.

She praised, “Brad took years after his divorce from Angelina Jolie to heal from the split and do a lot of work on himself before jumping into a brand new serious relationship.”

# Jennifer Lopez comes ‘dangerously close’ to Ben Affleck in same building amid ‘ugly divorce’ reports

Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez, the infamous Hollywood couple, reportedly heading for a divorce were spotted working out of the same building in Los Angeles. While Jennifer has managed to maintain a cordial relationship post-separation, reports suggest that their divorce proceedings could become ‘ugly’ due to the absence of a prenuptial agreement. Despite living separately, the couple still shares their LA office building where they narrowly missed an ‘awkward’ encounter.

On Wednesday, September 4, according to PageSix the pop star and her estranged husband were seen at their shared Los Angeles office building just half an hour apart. The pop star, sporting a striking parrot green maxi dress with stylish slits and cuts, arrived with a poker face. Affleck, on the other hand, was seen leaving the office shortly afterwards in his black car, dressed for business in a grey suit jacket and lilac shirt.

JLo turned heads in her glamorous outfit, complete with flowing blonde hair, matching green heels, sunglasses, and a pink Valentino Garavani purse worth \$1,897. She sealed the look with gold hoop earrings. The Jenny From the Block singer earlier replaced her green emerald diamond engagement ring from Ben Affleck with a gold pleated ring after filing for divorce.



The sighting of Affleck and Lopez in the same location has sparked speculation about the status of their relationship and the potential challenges they may face during their divorce proceedings. Although Jennifer has not made any official statements, a source told *PEOPLE* on Tuesday that their divorce “has the potential to get ugly” due to the lack of a prenuptial agreement.

“There are some sticking points over financials,” the source mentioned. Since the couple didn’t sign a marriage agreement when they got married in Las Vegas in July 2022, everything they made, earned, and owned together is considered joint property. However, in her divorce filing overseen by celebrity divorce attorney Laura Wasser, Lopez stated on August 20 that her assets were “unknown” to her. The popstar’s estimated net worth in 2024 is a whopping \$400 million.

After celebrating their ‘greatest’ love story with a documentary and a wedding, Hollywood power couple Ben Affleck and Jennifer Lopez have decided to go their separate ways. It’s reported that both parties are ready to move on from their two-year marriage. A source close to Affleck recently told *People* magazine that he is focusing on the positive aspects of his life amid the split.

Lopez, on the other hand, was reportedly the one who made major efforts to save the marriage but ultimately couldn’t protect it from ending, as Affleck decided to ‘throw in the towel’ first. The two have been living separately for months now. The *Atlas* star has also been house hunting after listing her \$60 million Beverly Hills mansion, which she shared with Affleck, for sale. Meanwhile, Affleck purchased a \$20 million property in the Pacific Palisades and has recently moved in.

## HAMAS URGES US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AS NETANYAHU SAYS 'NO DEAL IN THE MAKING'

**HAMAS (TIP):** Hamas called on the United States on Sept 5 to "exert real pressure" on Israel to reach a Gaza ceasefire agreement as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there is no deal in the making.

The two sides have traded blame over stalling talks for a ceasefire and hostage exchange as Netanyahu faces pressure to seal a deal that would free remaining captives, after Israeli authorities announced on Sunday the deaths of six whose bodies were recovered from a Gaza tunnel.

"If the US administration and its President (Joe) Biden really want to reach a ceasefire and complete a prisoner exchange deal, they must abandon their blind bias towards the Zionist occupation," Hamas's Qatar-based lead negotiator Khalil al-Hayya said, calling on the US to "exert real pressure on Netanyahu and his government".

But Netanyahu told US talk show Fox & Friends: "There is not a deal in the making... Unfortunately, it's not close but we will do everything we can to get them to the point where they do make a deal and at the same time we prevent Iran from resupplying Gaza as this great terror enclave." Netanyahu insists that Israel must retain control over the Philadelphi Corridor along the Egypt-Gaza border to prevent weapons smuggling to Hamas, whose October 7 attack on Israel started the war. Hamas is demanding complete Israeli withdrawal from the area and on Thursday said Netanyahu's position "aims to thwart reaching an agreement".

The Palestinian militant group says a new deal is unnecessary because they agreed months ago to a truce outlined by Biden.

"We do not need new proposals," Hamas said in a statement.

"We warn against falling into the trap of Netanyahu.. who uses negotiations to prolong the aggression against our people," the group said. US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby nonetheless said that Washington believes a ceasefire deal is 90 percent agreed. But he added that "nothing is negotiated until everything is negotiated, and the things that are still in play right now are very, very detailed... issues, and that's when things get difficult."

Louise Wateridge, spokeswoman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), warned, however, that "in the southern area it's going to be more difficult to reach a lot of the population", because not all children are in the designated humanitarian zones -- where Israel has agreed not to strike. (AFP)

# China's Xi promises \$50 billion for Africa over next three years

**BEIJING (TIP):** Chinese leader Xi Jinping pledged on September 5 more than \$50 billion in financing for Africa over the next three years, promising to deepen cooperation in infrastructure and trade with the continent as he addressed Beijing's biggest summit since the Covid pandemic.

More than 50 African leaders and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres are attending the China-Africa forum, according to state media.

African leaders already secured a plethora of deals this week for greater cooperation in infrastructure, agriculture, mining, trade and energy.

Xi hailed ties with Africa as their "best period in history" as he addressed the leaders at the forum's opening ceremony in Beijing's ornate Great Hall of the People on Thursday.

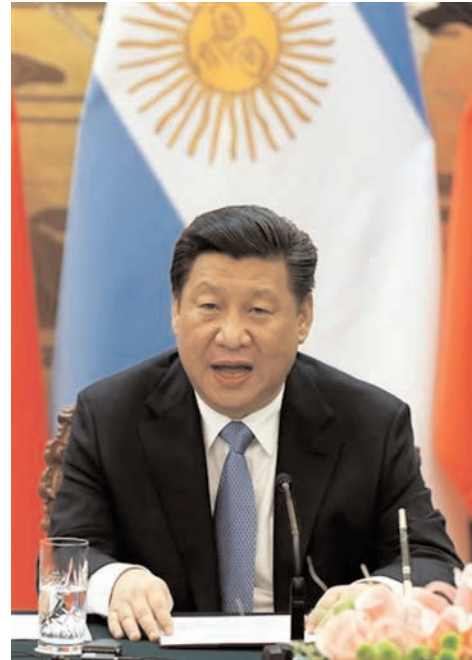
"China is ready to deepen cooperation with African countries in industry, agriculture, infrastructure, trade and investment," he said.

"Over the next three years, the Chinese government is willing to provide financial support amounting to 360 billion yuan (\$50.7 billion)," Xi said.

More than half of that will be in credit, he said, with \$11 billion "in various types of assistance" as well as \$10 billion through encouraging Chinese firms to invest.

He also promised to help "create at least one million jobs for Africa".

Xi pledged \$141 million in grants for



military assistance, saying Beijing would "provide training for 6,000 military personnel and 1,000 police and law enforcement officers from Africa".

Guterres told the forum that growing ties between China and Africa could "drive the renewable energy revolution".

"China's remarkable record of development -- including on eradicating poverty -- provides a wealth of experience and expertise," he said.

Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi hailed the summit as a "complete success" at a joint news conference with his Senegalese and Congolese

counterparts later on Thursday.

"When China stands shoulder to shoulder alongside (its) African strategic partners, we will inevitably play a greater role in promoting prosperity for the peoples of China and Africa, and in upholding global peace and stability," Wang said.

Congo's Jean-Claude Gakosso described China-Africa relations as "exceptional".

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa lauded China's \$50 billion pledge as a "great boon" for Africa.

- Deals and pledges -

China, the world's number two economy, is Africa's largest trading partner and has sought to tap the continent's vast troves of natural resources including copper, gold, lithium and rare earth minerals.

It has also furnished African countries with billions in loans that have helped build much-needed infrastructure but have sometimes stoked controversy by saddling governments with huge debts.

Analysts say that Beijing's largesse towards Africa is being recalibrated in the face of economic trouble at home and that geopolitical concerns over a growing tussle with the United States may increasingly be driving policy.

Bilateral meetings held on the sidelines of the summit delivered a slew of pledges on greater cooperation in projects from railways to solar panels and avocados. (AFP)

## A French woman whose husband is accused of inviting over 50 men to rape her testifies in court

**AVIGNON (TIP):** A woman who was allegedly drugged by her now ex-husband so that she could be raped while unconscious by other men testified on September 5 that her world collapsed when police uncovered the years of alleged abuse.

Speaking in a calm and clear voice, Gisèle Pélicot detailed to the court in the southern French city of Avignon the horror of discovering that her former spouse systematically filmed the suspected rapes by dozens of men -- storing thousands of images that police investigators later found.

"It's unbearable," she testified. "I have so much to say that I don't always know where to start."

Dominique Pélicot, now 71, and 50 other men are standing trial on charges of rape and face up to 20 years in prison. The trial started on Monday and is expected to run until December. Thursday marked the first time that Gisèle Pélicot had testified.

The Associated Press doesn't generally identify victims of sexual crimes. But Gisèle Pélicot's lawyer, Stéphane Babonneau, said she accepted that her

name be published in the same way that she insisted that the trial be held in public.

She told the court that she hopes her testimony might help spare other women from similar ordeals. She said she pushed for the trial in open court in solidarity with other women who go unrecognized as victims of sexual crimes.

She and her husband of 50 years were living in their family home in a small town in Provence with their three children before her world was torn apart in late 2020.

But a security agent caught her husband taking photos of women's crotches in a supermarket, leading investigators to search Dominique Pélicot's phone and computer. They found thousands of photographs and videos of men appearing to rape Gisèle in their home while she appears to be unconscious.

Shocked, she left her husband after police showed her some of the images.

"For me, everything collapses," she testified. "These are scenes of barbarity, of rape."

She left with two suitcases, "all that was left for me of 50 years of life together." Since then, she said, "I no longer have an identity. ... I don't know if I'll ever rebuild myself.

Police investigators found communications Dominique Pélicot allegedly sent on a messaging website commonly used by criminals, in which he invited men to sexually abuse his wife. The website has been shut down.

Crude details of the alleged abuses, which investigators said began in 2011, and of the elaborate system Pélicot put into place over 10 years have emerged during the trial.

Men invited to the couple's home had to follow certain rules -- they could not talk loudly, had to remove their clothes in the kitchen, could not wear perfume nor smell of tobacco, French media reported.

They sometimes had to wait up to an hour and a half on a nearby parking lot for the drug to take full effect and render Gisèle Pélicot unconscious.

"I was sacrificed on the altar of vice," she testified. "They regarded me like a rag doll, like a garbage bag." (AP)

# Macron names EU's Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier as France's new prime minister



**PARIS (TIP):** President Emmanuel Macron named the EU's Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, as France's new prime minister on September 5 after more than 50 days of caretaker government.

The appointment of the 73-year-old Barnier follows weeks of intense efforts by Macron and his aides to find a candidate who might be able to build loose groupings of backers in parliament and survive possible attempts by Macron's opponents to quickly topple the new government that Barnier will now put together and lead.

A statement from Macron's office

announcing Barnier's appointment said he'd been tasked "with forming a unifying government to serve the country and the French people."

"This appointment comes after an unprecedented cycle of consultations during which, in accordance with his constitutional duty, the president ensured that the prime minister and the future government would meet the conditions to be as stable as possible and give themselves the chances of uniting as broadly as possible," the statement said.

Barnier, a career politician proud of his humble roots in France's Alpine region of Haute-Savoie, is no stranger to

complex and difficult tasks: He was the European Union's chief negotiator in the difficult talks with Britain over its Brexit departure from the bloc.

Barnier replaces Gabriel Attal, who resigned on July 16 following quick-fire legislative elections that produced a divided and hung parliament, plunging France into political turmoil.

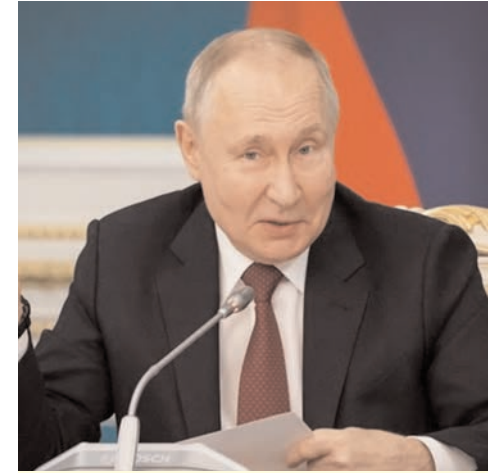
But Macron kept Attal and his ministers on in a caretaker capacity, handling day-to-day affairs, so political instability wouldn't overshadow the July 26-Aug. 11 Paris Olympics, when France was in the global spotlight.

In political career over more than 50 years, Barnier has served as French foreign, European affairs, environment and agriculture minister — and twice as a European commissioner.

Influential far-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon immediately came out against Barnier's appointment and predicted the new prime minister would not get a majority backing in the bitterly divided National Assembly.

Melenchon said the appointment flew in the face of the July 7 legislative election results that left parliament's lower house split between three main blocs — the left, including Melenchon's party; the center where Macron has based his support, and the far right, converging around anti-immigration leader Marine Le Pen.

"The election has been stolen," Melenchon asserted. (AP)



## PUTIN SAYS INDIA, CHINA, BRAZIL COULD MEDIATE RUSSIA-UKRAINE PEACE TALKS

**ISTANBUL (TIP):** Russian President Vladimir Putin on September 5 said that he was ready for talks with Ukraine, on the basis of an aborted deal between Moscow's and Kyiv's negotiators reached in Istanbul in 2022.

Speaking at a question and answer session at Russia's Eastern Economic Forum in the city of Vladivostok, Putin said Russia was ready for talks but based on an aborted deal between Moscow's and Kyiv's negotiators reached in Istanbul in 2022, the terms of which were never made public.

"Are we ready to negotiate with them? We have never refused to do so, but not on the basis of some ephemeral demands, but on the basis of those documents that were agreed and actually initialled in Istanbul," Putin said at a forum in Vladivostok. Russia has previously said that Kyiv's incursion into the Kursk region made talks impossible.

The Kremlin has repeatedly claimed Russia and Ukraine were on the verge of a deal in the spring of 2022, shortly after Moscow launched its offensive in Ukraine.

"We managed to reach an agreement, that is the whole point. The signature of the head of the Ukrainian delegation who initialled this document testifies to this, which means that the Ukrainian side was generally satisfied with the agreements reached," Putin said.

"It did not come into force only because they were given a command not to do so, because the elites of the United States, Europe - some European countries - wanted to achieve a strategic defeat of Russia," Putin added.

Russian President also added that China, India and Brazil could act as mediators in the potential peace talks between Russia and Ukraine according to a report by Reuters.

According to the report, the Russian president stated that a preliminary agreement reached between Russia and Ukraine in the first weeks of the war in Istanbul, which was never implemented could act as the basis for the talks. (Agencies)

## Israel military launches retaliatory strikes against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon

**TEL AVIV (TIP):** In response to the barrage of rockets fired at Israel, the country's military launched attacks against Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon on September 4.

The military said that the retaliatory strikes came after dozens of rockets were fired from Lebanese territory.

The military further said that Israeli air defences intercepted about 65 rockets.

**SHARING A POST ON X, ISRAEL DEFENCE FORCES SAID, "APPROX. 65 PROJECTILES WERE FIRED FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY CROSSING INTO NORTHERN ISRAEL."**

"In response, the IDF is currently striking Hezbollah terrorist targets in southern Lebanon," the post on X further said.

Earlier on August 25, the IDF said that



the Iran-backed group Hezbollah had fired more than 200 rockets and drones at Israel's northern border claiming retaliation for the assassination of its senior commander, Fuad Shukur, in the Lebanese capital, Beirut. This had

prompted retaliation from Israel, which bombed sites across South Lebanon.

Israel said it took out some 1,000 Hezbollah rocket launchers in a coordinated sortie of 100 Israeli fighter jets early Sunday to thwart much of the planned assault, Times of Israel had reported.

Meanwhile, not just on Lebanon, Israel also launched strikes on Northern Gaza. At least six people were killed when Israeli forces shelled a group of Palestinian civilians in the northern Gaza Strip on Wednesday, Anadolu Agency reported, citing a medical source.

The witnesses said that an artillery shell hit a group of people in the Sheikh Zayed Towers area in northern Gaza as they gathered to get an internet signal.

"The bodies of six people were transferred to the Indonesian and Kemal Adwan hospitals in northern Gaza," the medical source said, according to Anadolu Agency. (ANI)

## ISLAMIC STATE CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUICIDE BOMBING IN KABUL

**KABUL (TIP):** Islamic State (IS), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) on September 3 claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Kabul that resulted in six people losing their lives, Al Jazeera reported.

Notably, an explosion in Kabul on Monday killed at least six people, and injured 13 others, the Kabul police and Ministry of Interior Affairs said.

Sharing a post on X on Monday, Khalid Zadran, Kabul police spokesman had said, "An explosion occurred in the 6th security zone of Kabul this afternoon in the area of Qala-e-Bakhtiar, which was caused by explosives carried by a person. Unfortunately, six people, including a woman, were killed and 13 others were injured in the blast. The injured were taken to hospital and investigations are underway."

In a Telegram post on Tuesday, ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) said one of its members detonated an explosive vest in the Afghan capital the previous day (Monday), targeting the Taliban government's prosecution service.

The bomber waited until government employees finished their shifts and then detonated the explosive in the middle of a crowd, the post said, according to Al Jazeera. ISIL claimed that the attack resulted in the deaths of more than 45 people and was revenge for "Muslims held in Taliban prisons."

Notably, the most notorious attack linked to ISIL since the Taliban takeover was in 2022 when at least 53 people, including 46 girls and young women, were slain in the suicide bombing at an education centre in a Shia neighbourhood of Kabul. For which, the Taliban officials blamed ISIL for the attack.

A United Nations Security Council report released in January stated that there had been a decrease in ISIL attacks in Afghanistan because of "counter-terrorism efforts by the Taliban". But the report also said that ISIL still had "substantial" recruitment in the country and that the armed group had "the ability to project a threat into the region and beyond".

While violence has decreased in Afghanistan since the Taliban's 2021 takeover, ISIL's affiliate in the Khorasan region - Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) - still remains active. The ISIL's chapter spanning Afghanistan, Pakistan and Central Asia had also claimed responsibility for the March attack on the Crocus City Hall concert venue in Moscow, where over 140 people were killed, marking the deadliest attack in Russia in two decades, Al Jazeera had reported. (ANI)

# Attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh not communal, issue 'exaggerated': Yunus

**DHAKA (TIP):** Chief Adviser to Bangladesh's interim government, Muhammad Yunus, has said the issue of attacks on minority Hindus in his country is "exaggerated" and questioned the manner in which India projected it.

In an interview with PTI at his official residence here, Yunus said the attacks on minorities in Bangladesh are more political than communal.

He suggested that the attacks were not communal, but a fallout of a political upheaval as there is a perception that most Hindus supported the now-deposed Awami League regime.

"I have said this to (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi also that this is exaggerated. This issue has several dimensions. When the country went through an upheaval following the atrocities by (Sheikh) Hasina and the Awami League, those who were with them also faced attacks," the Nobel laureate told PTI.

The minority Hindu population faced vandalism of their businesses and properties, as well as the destruction of Hindu temples, during the student-led violence that erupted following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

After unprecedented anti-government protests that peaked on August 5, Hasina resigned as prime minister and fled to India.

"Now, while beating up Awami League cadres, they had beaten up Hindus as there is a perception that Hindus in Bangladesh mean Awami League supporters. I am not saying that what has happened is right, but some people are using it as an excuse to seize property. So, there is no clear distinction between Awami League supporters and Hindus," he said.

In his first direct contact with New Delhi last month, shortly after becoming the head of Bangladesh's interim



government, Yunus conveyed to Prime Minister Modi that Dhaka would prioritise the protection and safety of Hindus and all other minority groups.

During the conversation, Modi reaffirmed India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful, and progressive Bangladesh and emphasised the importance of ensuring the safety of Hindus and other minority communities in the violence-hit country.

Hindus, who made up 22 per cent of Bangladesh's population at the time of the 1971 Liberation War, now constitute about 8 per cent of 170 million and have predominantly supported the Awami League, known for its secular stance.

Describing the attacks as more political than communal, Yunus questioned the manner in which India is "propagating" them.

"These attacks are political in nature and not communal. And India is propagating these incidents in a big way. We have not said that we can't do anything; we have said that we are doing everything," the Chief Adviser said.

Prime Minister Modi, in his Independence Day address from the Red

Fort on August 15, expressed hope that the situation in violence-hit Bangladesh would return to normal soon and said 1.4 billion Indians are concerned about the safety of Hindus and minorities in the neighbouring country.

Discussing the future of India-Bangladesh relations, Yunus expressed a desire for good ties with India but insisted that New Delhi must abandon the narrative that Bangladesh will turn into another Afghanistan without Sheikh Hasina at the helm.

"The way forward is for India to come out of the narrative. The narrative is that everybody is Islamist, BNP is Islamist, and everyone else is Islamist and will make this country into Afghanistan. And Bangladesh is in safe hands with Sheikh Hasina at the helm only.

"India is captivated by this narrative. India needs to come out of this narrative. Bangladesh, like any other nation, is just another neighbour," he said.

The noted economist added, "The issue of trying to portray the conditions of minorities in such a big way is just an excuse." (PTI)

## Breaking barriers: Hindu woman makes mark in Pakistan's police force

**KARACHI (TIP):** Pakistani actress Nimra Khan suffered a near abduction ordeal last month while waiting for her car outside a hotel in Karachi's posh Defence Housing area.

"Initially there were fingers pointed at me as well and many trivialised my incident in the media and social media platforms but the fact that DSP Manisha Ropeta handled my case helped me calm down and deal with the situation better," she recalled.

Nimra said speaking with an educated female police officer made her realise she was right in speaking about the incident in public.

Nimra just didn't speak with a female police officer; her case was handled by the first Hindu female officer in Sindh police, Ropeta, who has now spent two



years on the force and become a name to reckon with.

Given the fact that there are very few educated female officers in Pakistani police, Ropeta stationed as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in the Defence area has already made a big difference to the image of the police force in Sindh province.

"It keeps me inspired and motivated that the reasons I joined the police force

have turned out to be correct," DSP Ropeta said.

"I have got respect and admiration from my fellow officers and those who I supervise purely on the basis of my work. In the end, there might be some gender issues but I don't feel out of place nor does it count for anything that I am a Hindu woman. Even today when I put on my police uniform, it is a matter of pride for me and I hope girls in our community are inspired by my story to follow in my path," she said.

In Pakistan police, there are two types of officer categories: the rankers who come through to higher positions on the basis of their experience, and those who get posted and promoted after clearing the Central Superior Services (CSS) examinations. (PTI)

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# Mistakes you're making in the shower

## Taking a shower that's too hot and too long

There's a fine but important distinction between a warm shower and a hot one. A hot shower can dry out your skin, cause irritation, and even prematurely age you, so it's best to use tepid water.

We say a tepid shower is best, but the time is more important than the temperature. Frankly, it is also tough to ask people not to use hot water, especially in a stressful time. So limit the shower to 10 minutes or less.

## Using wrong cleanser for your skin

If your skin feels tight after washing, you're using the wrong cleanser.

An effective cleanser for your body will feel gentle and like your skin feeling soft rather than dry. Classic soap bars are going to dry the skin and disrupt the skin barrier – they strip the lipids and proteins and not all liquid cleansers are the same. Your skin shouldn't feel tight after washing. Using the wrong cleanser can strip your skin of necessary oils and disrupt the skin barrier.

## Failing to moisturize afterwards

If you shower, towel dry, and don't



apply moisturizer, you could be doing some serious damage to your skin.

Using a moisturizer when your skin is still damp locks in needed moisture to keep your skin from becoming dry or cracked. The best way to preserve your skin barrier is to pick the right cleanser that won't strip the skin and then moisturize to seal it in.

Effective moisturizers use humectants to pull in moisture,

emollients to smooth the surface and provide a silky feel, and an occlusive to lock the moisture in.

## Using oil to moisturize

Using just an oil after your shower is better than nothing at all, but it still doesn't do the job of a proper moisturizer, according to Waldorf. While oil holds moisture in, it doesn't do add anything additional.

# Ways to get rid of dampness and smell from clothes

If you are looking for simple ways to get rid of the smell so that your wardrobe starts to feel fresh again, consider these simple home remedies.

## Vodka

Vodka not only offers to uplift your mood, but also takes care of monsoon dampness. Just take a little bit of the liquid and transfer it into an empty spray container. Add some water to it, so that it gets diluted, and then spritz it directly on clothes. The smell will go away in a jiffy.

Is there anything that lemon juice cannot do? Being acidic in nature, it can wipe out the fungi that cause the musty smell. Just mix lemon juice with water and create a potent and effective cleaning solution. Apply it specifically on the areas that have the odour. Once you are done, just wipe the surface with soap and water, and you are good to go.

## Baking soda

This powder is a must-have in all houses because it can take care of so many of your problems. All you need to do is sprinkle baking soda



on the areas that seem moldy to you, and ones that are emanating foul odour.

## Vinegar

Another household favourite, vinegar can be used beyond

cooking, too. As mentioned earlier, fungi cannot live in acidic conditions, and vinegar provides plenty of it. Pour a little bit of vinegar in areas where you sight mold, and then wash them. This can get rid of unwanted smells.

## FOOD CORNER



# Punjabi kadhi pakora

## Method

- To a large bowl, add 1/2 cup besan (55 grams) and 1.5 cups (360 grams) yogurt. Make sure the yogurt is at room temperature.
- Whisk until besan and yogurt are well combined.
- Add 1/2 teaspoon red chili powder, 1/2 teaspoon turmeric powder and 1 teaspoon coriander powder and whisk until you have a lump free mixture.
- Add 6 cups water (around 1.4 liters of water) and mix until it's all mixed together. Set aside.
- In a large and deep pan, add 2 tablespoons of mustard oil on medium-high heat. You can use any oil but mustard oil gives it a nice flavor.
- Once the oil is hot (make sure oil is heated through else mustard oil gives a raw taste), add the methi seeds and cumin seeds. Let them splutter and then add hing.
- Add the sliced onion along with chopped green chili and cook for 2 minutes.
- Then add the chopped ginger and garlic and cook for another 1 minute or so until the ginger and garlic start changing color.
- Add the prepared besan-yogurt mixture into the pan. Now with heat on medium-high, stir continuously until the kadhi comes to a boil.
- Stir continuously until the kadhi comes to a boil, then lower the heat to low-medium and let it cook for around 30 minutes. Keep stirring it in between.
- Add salt after the kadhi has been cooking for 15 minutes or so. While the kadhi is cooking, make the pakora.
- To a large bowl, add 1 cup besan (110 grams), along with 1 cup sliced onion, 1 chopped green chili, 1/4 cup chopped cilantro, 1/4 teaspoon turmeric, 1/8 teaspoon red chili powder, 1/2 teaspoon coriander seeds, 1/4 teaspoon ajwain and 1/2 teaspoon salt.
- Add 2 tablespoons yogurt and mix. Form a thick batter.
- Add 2 pinch of baking soda and mix the batter for a minute using your hands. This will make the pakoras nice and soft.
- Meanwhile heat oil (around 2 cups) in a kadai on medium heat to fry the pakoras.
- Heat ghee in a small pan on medium heat. Once ghee is hot, add 1/4 teaspoon cumin seeds and generous pinch of ajwain. Add 2-3 dried red chillies (you can break them for extra heat).
- Once seeds crackle, add 1/2 teaspoon kashmiri red chili powder and turn off the heat immediately.
- Pour tadka over kadhi, garnish with more cilantro and serve punjabi kadhi pakora with rice!



# Benefits of starting your day with a morning run

Running is undoubtedly a fantastic way to achieve your fitness goals, embraced by millions for its numerous benefits. It's one of the simplest forms of exercise, accessible to people of all ages. But did you know that running first thing in the morning feels like living two lives? The mental boost it gives your day, the thrill of a magical sunrise and the tranquillity of being immersed in nature while the rest of the world sleeps—there's truly no better feeling. We often underestimate how powerful a morning run can be, whether it's a solo journey or a pre-work running club. Check out some of the amazing benefits of a morning run below.

## Improved mental health

Running positively impacts your mental health and boosts your self-worth. A morning run, especially outdoors, lets you enjoy nature's beauty and the calm of fewer people and cars, making it a refreshing and rewarding start to your day.

## Better Sleep

If you struggle to sleep, try running in the morning. Studies show it promotes deeper sleep, and establishing a routine of early runs can help you fall asleep faster and improve your sleep quality.

## Improves heart health

Morning running is an aerobic exercise with numerous health benefits, especially for heart health. It raises your heart rate, strengthens your cardiovascular system, and, with consistency, reduces the risk of heart disease and related conditions.

## Better joint health



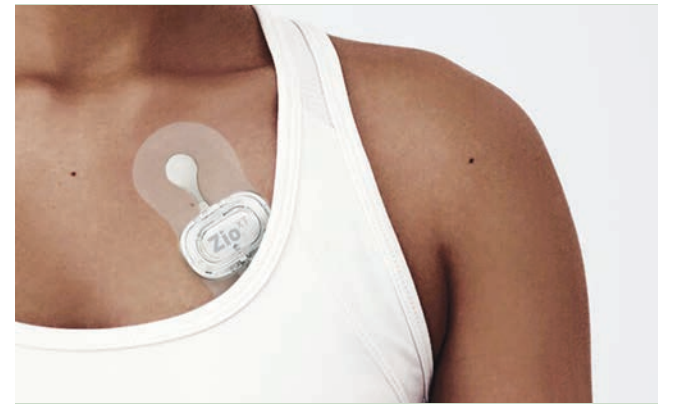
Running in the morning can help prevent joint pain and injury. Our joints are naturally stiffer in the morning, making them less prone to injury. By running early, you allow your body to warm up gradually, reducing strain on your joints and preparing for a longer, safer run.

## Helps to create consistency

Starting your day with a run before work helps establish a consistent exercise routine and develop discipline. Committing to a morning run makes it easier to build the habit of regular exercise, which can boost your energy, productivity, and success in other areas of your life.

## Jump-starts your metabolism

Morning runs can significantly boost your metabolism, the process that converts food into energy. Running early activates your body's metabolic functions, increasing calorie burn throughout the day and aiding in weight loss.



## New wearable heart monitor to boost irregular heart rhythm diagnosis

US researchers have announced a new wearable, long-term continuous heart monitor that is likely to identify more cases of irregular heart rhythm—also known as atrial fibrillation linked to the risk of stroke and heart failure—compared to usual care.

However, the heart monitors did not lead to a reduction in hospitalisations due to stroke, said the team at the Duke Clinical Research Institute in North Carolina, US.

“Atrial fibrillation is often undiagnosed and can increase the risk of ischemic stroke, which is largely reversible by oral anticoagulation,” said lead author Renato Lopes, Professor of Medicine at the Institute.

“We still need definitive evidence that diagnosis of atrial fibrillation through systematic screening can lead to subsequent treatment with oral anticoagulation and therefore, lower stroke risk,” Lopes said. The study, published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, enrolled approximately 12,000 patients in the US who were at least 70 years old with no history of atrial fibrillation.

About half the patients were randomly assigned to receive 14 days continuous monitoring device, and the other half usual care. After 15 months of follow-up, the study reported a 52 per cent increase in the number of cases of atrial fibrillation diagnosed among the device-wearers compared to those in usual care. While there was no increase in rates of hospitalisation for bleeding, no significant reduction was found in the rate of hospitalisations for all strokes compared with usual care. Heart rate monitors are devices that come with built-in sensors to help detect and track heart or pulse rate continuously. The devices are also available in smartwatches and help in tracking heart rate during exercise, monitoring heart rate for stress, and alerting in case of an anomaly. But these cannot be substitutes for medical devices that are much more accurate.

Source: IANS

# Daily pill with 3 low-dose drugs more effective in lowering BP, finds study

For those suffering from uncontrolled hypertension, here comes good news. New research on Saturday showed that a single pill with low doses of three anti-hypertensive drugs, once a day, significantly lowered blood pressure than other standard care methods.

It is estimated that over a billion adults live with hypertension worldwide, with two-thirds living in low- and middle-income countries.

The treatment based on novel combination of low doses of three anti-hypertensive drugs in a single pill -- known as ‘GMRx2’ -- was found to be superior to a high-quality standard care treatment plan at lowering blood pressure in patients, according to the study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*.

The ‘GMRx2’ treatment plan involved a once-daily pill containing telmisartan, amlodipine and indapamide at a quarter, half or standard doses.

The standard care treatment plan



was recommended by the Nigerian Ministry of Health began with monotherapy, followed by dual and triple combination therapy, and was typical of hypertension guidelines for many countries.

Results of the trial was led by The George Institute for Global Health and presented at the ‘European Society of Cardiology Congress

2024’.

After six-month treatment, home systolic blood pressure was 31 mm Hg lower in the ‘GMRx2’ group compared to 26 mm Hg lower with standard care. The 5.8 mm Hg difference was highly clinically and statistically significant.

Existing evidence shows that with every 5 mm Hg reduction in systolic blood pressure there is a 10 per cent reduction in major cardiovascular events such as stroke, heart attack and heart failure, the study noted.

After just one month, 81 per cent of participants in the ‘GMRx2’ group achieved clinic-measured blood pressure control versus 55 per cent with standard care.

“The triple pill still produced clinically meaningful reductions in blood pressure compared to standard care, even when standard care closely followed current guidelines and involved more clinic visits,” said Professor Dike Ojji, head of the cardiovascular research unit at the University of Abuja, Nigeria.

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## DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



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## NASA discovers Earth's third energy field called 'Polar wind'

Earth's third energy field known as 'Polar Wind', which only existed in theory so far, has now been discovered by Nasa after a search that has lasted 60 years.

Glyn Collinson, principal investigator of Endurance at Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland, in a video released by Nasa, said that this field is fundamental to understanding the way our planet works. According to Collinson, the field has been there since the beginning alongside the other two energy fields – gravity and magnetic. The scientists said that although the field is weak, it is significant to Earth as it counters gravity and lifts the skies up.

According to the team of scientists, Polar winds have crucial answers about how Earth's atmosphere evaporates rapidly above the north and south poles. They feel that this field of energy may have played a critical role in the evolution of our atmosphere's upper-most layer.

In the 1960s, several spacecrafts that flew over the Earth's poles had witnessed a stream of particles from the atmosphere flowing into space at supersonic speeds. Scientists were aware that sunlight caused particles to leak into space. Regardless, the detected particles did not show any signs that they were heated. Collinson said that there had to be something that was drawing these particles out of the atmosphere. However, back then, the technology that was needed to detect an energy field, which can only be sensed over hundreds of miles, was not available.

### How did the scientists discover the field?

The team of scientists made the discovery based on the observation from a Nasa suborbital rocket which was able to measure this planet-wide electric field. The measurements given by Nasa's Endurance Mission confirmed the existence of this ambipolar field. According to Nasa, the observations revealed that this energy field has been driving atmospheric escape and shaping the ionosphere – a layer of the upper atmosphere.

# iPhone 16 to launch on September 9: 5 AI features coming to base models

Apple is hosting its fall event on September 9, 2024 to reveal the new iPhone 16 series. Traditionally, the company uses this platform to unveil all of its new hardware to be released that year. This time, the iPhone 16 series is anticipated to take the centre stage, thanks to the AI integration. It is the first ever Apple smartphone series to feature AI. The series will have 4 devices; iPhone 16, 16 Plus, 16 Pro and 16 Pro Max. During WWDC 2024, the company announced that the Pro models will also feature Apple Intelligence. But this does not mean that the base models, iPhone 16 and 16 Plus, will not have any AI features. Barring Apple Intelligence, the non-Pro variants are also expected to utilise AI features for an enhanced user experience. Let's take a look at what is expected to come with iPhone 16 base models.

At the WWDC 2024, Apple brought the AI features to the front row. It said that the new iPhone 16 will bring an improved Siri, deeply integrated with AI. Beyond Siri, AI is seamlessly integrated into various apps. The Messages and Mail apps now leverage AI to suggest appropriate responses, summarise lengthy threads, and compose emails in different tones. The Photos app benefits from AI-powered features like object removal and enhanced search capabilities. Let's look at the details:

### Siri overhaul

Siri's interface has undergone a makeover, now featuring a fresh and



modern design. When invoked, Siri is accompanied by a subtle, vibrant glow that gently emanates from the screen's corners, signalling that the assistant is actively listening and ready to assist. Additionally, Siri will now be able to understand natural language more efficiently. So, the iPhone 16 will feature a personal assistant that will understand you more easily. It will also be able to solve follow-up questions or commands.

### Genmoji

Apple is introducing an innovative feature called "Genmoji" that allows users to design personalised emojis using text prompts. These custom-generated emojis will have the same visual style as standard emojis, giving users a fun and creative way to express themselves with unique and tailored symbols.

### Advanced Safari

The iOS internet browser, Safari, will

now offer an easier way to discover information on the web with Highlights and a redesigned Reader experience. Using machine learning, Safari can surface key information about a webpage. For example, users can review a summary to get the gist of an article; quickly see the location of a restaurant, hotel, or landmark; or listen to an artist's track right from an article about the song or album. Reader has been redesigned to offer even more ways to enjoy articles without distraction, with a summary and table of contents included for longer articles.

### Improved calculator and Notes

In the Notes app, formulas and equations entered while typing are solved instantly with Math Notes. New collapsible sections and highlighting make it easier to emphasise what's important.

### Voice Transcribe

The iPhone 16 is expected to include an innovative feature called Voice Transcribe, which enables users to convert voice recordings into written text. Integrated with the phone's recording app, this feature may also be extended to call recording, allowing for easy transcription of conversations. However, to ensure transparency, the feature will likely notify the other party when a call is being recorded, maintaining ethical standards and avoiding anonymous transcription.

## GoPro unveils flagship Hero13 Black and its smallest ever Hero

Popular action camera-maker GoPro announced two new GoPro cameras on Wednesday, September 4. The two new devices—the Hero 13 Black and Hero—come with a slew of innovations and new features aimed at those who want to ace adventure photography. The top-of-the-line Hero13 Black, priced at Rs 44,900, comes with the HB-Series Lenses. The Hero, GoPro's smallest and simplest camera. Both cameras come with some unique features that have been built upon GoPro patented technologies.

Talking about the latest launches, GoPro founder and CEO Nicholas Woodman said that the two new devices are inspired by and built for the GoPro community. "HERO13 Black features four new interchangeable lens mods that HERO13 automatically detects and adjusts its settings for, magnetic latch mounting, GPS, and a more powerful



battery that provides longer runtimes and improved thermal performance. And then there's HERO, the smallest, lightest 4K GoPro ever with a screen that will appeal to new and experienced users with its rugged, ultralight design and impressive 4K image quality," Woodman said.

The Hero13 Black can be opted as a

standalone camera at Rs 44,990 as well as the Hero13 Black Creator Edition, priced at Rs 64,990, and comes with Volta Power Grip, Media Mod, Light Mod. Users can also pick the activity-optimised Hero13 Black Accessory Bundle priced at Rs 49,990. This accessory bundle includes Hero13 Black, floating hand grip, an extra Enduro battery, an extra Curved Adhesive Mount, and a 64GB SD card along with a case.

When it comes to features, Hero13 Black comes with 13X Burst Slo-Mo that captures up to 400 per second at 720p, 120fps at 5.3K, and 360 fps at 900p video. The redesigned Enduro battery offers 10 per cent more capacity and better efficiency in all weather conditions. Besides, the Snap and Go Magnetic Latch allows for three mounting options. Also, WiFi 6 allows 40 per cent faster content transfer.

## Govt eyes \$1 billion exports of Indian spirits under 'Make in India' drive

With the global demand for Indian spirits growing at a healthy rate, the government is planning to promote both Indian alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages in the international markets and is eyeing USD one billion (about Rs 8,000 crore) exports in the next few years.

The commerce ministry's arm APEDA (Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) said that India currently ranks 40th in the world for alcoholic beverage exports. As per estimates, the country has huge unrealised export potential.

The authority, as part of the 'Make in India' initiative, has been targeting to increase exports of Indian spirits to major foreign destinations. "It is potentially eyeing USD 1 billion in export revenue over the next few years," it said in a statement. The country's alcoholic beverages exports stood at over Rs 2,200 crore in 2023-24. The major destinations include UAE, Singapore, Netherlands, Tanzania, Angola, Kenya and Rwanda. APEDA also said that Diageo India (United Spirits Ltd.) is set to launch 'Godawan', in the United Kingdom. It is a single-malt whisky made in Rajasthan.

Commenting on the USD one billion target, Vinod Giri, Director General, the Brewers Association of India said that huge potential is there in the different countries for Indian products.

"While the single-malt will play a greater role in making India's reputation as a high-quality whiskey producer, the volumes will come from beverages which are more palatable taste-wise and price-wise such as premium Indian whiskeys and premium rum," he said.

### MUMBAI (TIP)

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Thursday, September 5, said the Indian growth story remains intact with consumption and investment demand growing in tandem, and emphasised that past reforms need to be augmented by reforms in land, labor and agricultural markets.

The governor also asked financial institutions to create tailored products to suit businesses promoted by women and MSMEs without diluting underwriting standards. In his inaugural speech at the annual FIBAC 2024 Conference organised jointly by FICCI and IBA, Das spoke on issues relating to strengthening the financial sector and expectations from them.

The governor said that the Indian economy is forging ahead with macroeconomic and financial stability, and a favourable growth-inflation balance.

He said the Indian economy is now at a critical juncture and massive changes are taking shape in various sectors and markets.

He said the country is geared for orbital shifts and the nation's journey towards becoming an advanced economy is drawing strength from a unique blend of factors -- a young and dynamic population, a resilient and diverse economy, a robust democracy, and a rich tradition of entrepreneurship and innovation.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) has placed India's GDP growth at 6.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2024-25.

# China creates \$293 billion brokerage giant to take on Wall Street

### BEIJING (TIP)

China is combining two of its largest state-backed brokerages to create a new behemoth as it seeks to consolidate the US\$1.7 trillion (S\$2.2 trillion) sector and build stronger investment banks to compete with overseas financial firms.

Guotai Junan Securities will merge with smaller rival Haitong Securities through a share swap, according to statements from both companies on Sept 5. The combination of the brokerages, both partly owned by Shanghai's state assets administrator, will create a new entity with assets of 1.6 trillion yuan (S\$293 billion), topping Citic Securities as the largest brokerage.

The merger is pending approval from the companies' boards and shareholders, as well as the regulatory authorities.

The deal comes a year after China's President Xi Jinping urged regulators at a finance conference to cultivate a few top-ranked investment banks to compete with Wall Street firms expanding in China.

The nation's securities watchdog also voiced its support in March for consolidation in the sector, with a goal of having two to three investment banks that can compete globally by 2035. China had about 145 securities firms at the end of 2023, with combined assets of 11.8 trillion yuan according to official data.

"The combination is conducive to building a first-class investment bank and promoting the high-quality development of the industry," according to the statements.

Haitong, valued at HK\$106 billion (S\$17.7 billion) in Hong Kong, reported a 75 per cent decrease in profit for the first half, while its shares are down 12 per cent on the year.

"The merger will potentially resolve" Haitong's business concerns, Hua Chuang Securities said in a report.

"The overall quality of the underlying assets is not very healthy, which also leads to the low valuation," it said, adding that the merger may also lead to job cuts with the industry hit by a drought of companies going public.

Guotai Junan has about 15,000 employees, while Haitong



Guotai Junan Securities plans to merge with Haitong Securities – pending approval from the boards, shareholders, and the authorities. PHOTO: BLOOMBERG

Securities employs more than 13,600, including 1,645 at investment banking.

The sector has been hampered by a slump in deals and sluggish capital markets as stocks flounder on weak economic growth. Profits have declined in the past few years, and the outlook for earnings remains bleak after industry heavyweights China International Capital Corporation and Citic Securities posted declines in first-half results.

Brokerages have also become targets of Mr Xi's signature "common prosperity" campaign, resorting to pay cuts and layoffs to consolidate businesses and comply with tighter scrutiny.

The deal would mark a big step in China's years-long ambition to create an "aircraft carrier-sized" brokerage to take on Wall Street banks after it gradually opened up the financial markets to allow full foreign ownership in 2020.

Source: BLOOMBERG

## India's growth story intact; need for reforms in land, agri markets: RBI



"Notwithstanding the moderation in growth from the previous quarter and below our projection for Q1, the data shows that the fundamental growth drivers are gaining momentum. This gives us confidence to say that the Indian growth story remains intact," Das said.

He said private consumption, which is the mainstay of aggregate demand with a share of around 56 per cent in GDP, has rebounded to 7.4 per cent growth from a feeble 4 per cent growth in the second half of the

previous year, reconfirming the revival of rural demand.

"The headline number (Q1 GDP), however, came lower against the backdrop of muted government expenditure of both the centre and the states, perhaps due to the Lok Sabha elections. Excluding government consumption expenditure, GDP growth works out to 7.4 per cent," he said.

Stressing that the government expenditure of the centre and the state governments is likely to pick up pace in line with the budget estimates in the remaining quarters of the year, Das said "the Reserve Bank's projection of GDP growth at 7.2 per cent for 2024-25 does not appear out of place".

He further said the Indian economy would need a multi-pronged and a multi-sectoral approach and the focus should be on employing all engines of growth from both supply and demand sides.

"A holistic approach to nurture and accelerate a broad-based growth of the economy would also necessitate preservation of the gains of past reforms and accelerating India's reform journey with more reforms," he said.

Source: PTI



**BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA**

## ARIES



Ganesha says this week will not be good for Aries people. You may have to face many problems this week. You will have to deal with money-related issues and work hard to improve your financial situation. You also have to take care of your health and include a healthy diet and exercise in your daily routine. This week you have to be a little careful in your business life. Along with focusing on your work, you will have to adopt new ideas in your business as well. You have to make the right investments at the right time to grow your business. This week you should avoid big investments and be careful in business. This week you will get a chance to spend time with your family. You should interact with your family and spend time with them.

## TAURUS



Ganesha says this week will be good for Taurus people from the beginning. You may have to remain extremely busy in your daily work. Therefore, it will be very important for you to take care of your health. Do not ignore your health otherwise, you may have to face many problems. This week you may receive some special gifts from your relatives. Your relationship with your lover will also be full of sweetness. Employed people will also be very busy in their work. Your work will be appreciated and you will also be appreciated. This week, people preparing for government jobs may also see a ray of hope. Try to keep your increasing expenses under control otherwise, you may face problems later. Do not do any work with excessive enthusiasm this week. Otherwise, you may be misunderstood.

## GEMINI



Ganesha says for Gemini people, this week will be full of enthusiasm from the beginning. You will get great success in your work and leave your competitors behind. There will be an increase in attractiveness and social qualities in your personality. This week you will have to make good use of your time and take care of your health. You should pay maximum attention to your health. You may get results less than your expectations but you should not be disappointed. You will get a golden opportunity to spend time with your children and share happiness with them. You will also benefit in money-related matters and you will be able to improve your financial condition. This week you will get a good opportunity to

# WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - SEPTEMBER 9 TO SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

fulfil your dreams and you will look at your life from a new and independent perspective. You will get success in money matters and you will be successful in handling your expenses.

## CANCER



Ganesha says this week's horoscope will not be favorable for Cancer people. This week you may have to face many types of challenges. This could be a mostly tiring and inauspicious week for you. You may need to concentrate on your work and may have to work harder to complete your work on time. You may also need to spend more time with your peers. You have to pay attention to keeping your personal life separate from your work. You may need to spend more time with your loved ones. This week you may have to take care of your health. You may have to pay special attention to your eating habits. You may have to work harder in your business and implement your new plans. There may be some problems in your bank account this week.

## LEO



Ganesha says this week will not be favorable for you. You will have to concentrate on your work and make your decisions thoughtfully. You will also have to take care of your health and pay special attention to your eating habits. You may have to face some new challenges in the coming week and hence you may need to awaken the powers within you. Even in matters of money, you will have to be careful and make the right decisions. This week you may get a chance to spend time with your family and partner and it will be enjoyable for you. You should also spend more time with your friends and seek advice from them. You may also get success in your business and will have to build good relations with your superiors. This week you may need to inject new enthusiasm into your life.

## VIRGO



Ganesha says this week is going to be very good for Virgo people. You will get happiness as well as good news. Both your physical and mental health will be good. You will get more success in your work and all your efforts will be successful. You will also get a chance to progress financially. You may get good returns from your investments and get new sources of income. Employed people are likely to get promotions or salary increases in their work. You may get success in property-related matters and you may get a chance to fight for your rights in court matters. There may be happiness and prosperity in your relationship with your spouse. There is a need to be cautious about health and you should take care of your eating habits. You will get support from family members

and help in fulfilling your responsibilities.

## LIBRA



Ganesha says this week will be full of good signs for Libra people. You will get good results in your work and you will be full of confidence in your work. You will be successful in pleasing your superiors with your work. Your boss may also appreciate your work. This week will be a very auspicious time for your relationships. You will get a chance to spend more time with your family and friends. Love can be a beautiful beginning in your friendship. You will not have any worries about your health. This week you will get a chance to implement new plans in your business. This will enhance your work and you will get success in your ventures. Your bank balance may also increase. This week you will get a chance to visit new places to progress in your work. This will bring new energy into your life.

## SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week can be difficult for Scorpio people. You have to be patient in your work. You may face some problems in your business or job. You may need to put more effort into new projects. This week you will have to think carefully about your decisions before making any new beginning. You also have to pay attention to your health, so make constant efforts to keep your diet and exercise healthy. This week you will have to pay attention to your financial matters. You will have to control your expenses and spend more time understanding your investments. To improve your financial condition, you will have to take some precautions. Be cautious about your health and take care of your eating habits. This week you will get a chance to spend time with your family and loved ones.

## SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week's horoscope will be very good for Sagittarius people. You will have great success in your work and will get many new opportunities. There will be a new enthusiasm in your life and you will get a chance to achieve your goals. You will have great success in your work and will get many new opportunities. You may need to be cautious regarding health. You will get support from family members and you will fulfill your responsibilities well. You can keep your health healthy by paying attention to your eating habits.

## CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this week will not be favorable for Capricorn people from the beginning. You may face difficulties in everyday work. You may need to reconsider your

investment strategy. Employed people may need to concentrate on their work. You may have to face difficult situations to increase your source of income. Any property-related matter may trouble you. If any case is going on in the court then you will have to be careful. You may need to focus on your emotional relationship with your spouse. You may have to give time to your spouse. New flowers of love may bloom between you.

## AQUARIUS



Ganesha says this week is bringing great days for you. Today you will get a golden opportunity to start new relationships in your life. If there is talk of your marriage then your relationship can be finalized today. Auspicious functions may be organized in your house and there may be an increase in wealth in your zodiac sign. Contact credibility with relatives will increase and you will get support from them. Today you can buy some new items which will prove useful for you. For students, this week will be spent in research work and you will try to gain knowledge from new places. You will also guide others by sharing your knowledge with them. Today your financial condition will be very strong because you will get benefits in financial matters also. This week you will be successful in your work and there will be an atmosphere of happiness and prosperity in your zodiac sign.

## PISCES



Ganesha says this week will be good for Pisces people from the beginning. You will have to have positive energy to achieve your life goals. You will need to focus on your work and try to strengthen your organizational abilities. You will have to cooperate with your family members to resolve your family matters. You will enjoy spending quality time with your loved ones. Take time to pay attention to your health and keep your eating habits healthy. This week you may need to isolate yourself from the people around you. You have to show trust in the people around you and clear your mind. This week you will have to work harder in your workplace to get success in your business.

## 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 9 TO SEPTEMBER 15 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**SEPTEMBER 9 :** Ganesha says your efficiency and persistence enable you to exceed expectations and maintain an advantage over others, but you must control your occasional tendency to behave stubbornly and jealously. Nowadays, your ability to manage important duties may determine your ability to progress professionally. Be extremely careful while lending money and take extra care of your jewelry and other valuables. A tremendous asset to you would be your life partner. This person can add comfort and joy to your daily existence.

**SEPTEMBER 10 :** Ganesha says people respect you for your ability to make quick decisions, but you need to rein in your sometimes moody and reckless behavior. Your commitment to work can make your boss think highly of you. At the end of the year, some people can also go on a foreign trip. Throughout the year, your partner can cooperate and show his love and affection. Although you may not have received the expected financial reward for your efforts, seniority, and respect are yours.

**SEPTEMBER 11 :** Ganesha says even if you have a genuine heart for your friends, you need to learn to curb your sometimes moody, overbearing, and jealous behavior. Today you can enjoy making new friends and exploring new places. May you have the energy and creativity to tackle any issue with conviction and dedication. To strengthen your relationship, engage in activities that you both find enjoyable. Your family can support you and show your love and affection. Your main inspiration can come from your beloved.

**SEPTEMBER 12 :** Ganesha says you work hard, are dedicated, and have excellent control over your work. Try to avoid getting into any new joint venture or business partnership today. Although they can be very attractive, partnerships are not advised for the first six months. A new romance can emerge from the social gathering. You may have some tension and anxiety regarding the health of your parents. You should exercise utmost care before signing any financial agreement or any new contract.

**SEPTEMBER 13 :** Ganesha says you are incredibly talented, and at such a young age you manage to juggle a lot of responsibilities. You are courageous as well as fearless. A completely new phase of your career may begin for you, which will not be particularly creative but is expected to give good financial returns. In spite of your inconsistent behavior at times, your spouse can be very friendly and show you all their love and affection. Attending social events and traveling can lead to long-lasting relationships.

**SEPTEMBER 14 :** Ganesha says though you have a pleasant personality, you need to curb your sometimes aggressive, irritable, and spendthrift behavior. Today you can see new efforts and plans being fruitful for your benefit. You may start a new partnership and earn money from various sources. Support from colleagues and co-workers can boost both your confidence and morale. Your spouse can be an especially important source of emotional support.

**SEPTEMBER 15 :** Ganesha says you have a deep appreciation for art and literature; You need to curb your

reckless, jealous, and stubborn behavior sometimes. The extra work that you do in your free time can be the main reason for the increase in your income. In the last quarter of the year, some may hear wedding bells, while others may seek romance to keep them in the right state of mind and in a good mood. Peace may prevail at home and family members may extend their full support and cooperation.

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# Sikh History This Week

## SEPTEMBER 6 TO SEPTEMBER 12

### 6th September



1901 Giani Ditt Singh passed away. He was the chief organiser and a prominent intellect of the Singh Sabha Movement. Giani Ditt Singh was a resident of village Nandpur Kalodh, Patiala. Born in 1850, he was initially a Gulabdassi and was later influenced by the sangat of Jawahar Singh Kapur and

Professor Bhani Gurmukh Singh. As a result he became a Sikh and joined the Singh Sabha movement. He was such an intellect that he won debates with the Arya Samaji Chief Dayanand.

1921 Gurudwara Teja Kalan, Gurdaspur, came under SGPC. As the movement of non-cooperation gained momentum among Sikhs, the Akali leaders began their tour of the provinces urging the Sikhs to join the Akali Dal and rise as one man to liberate their Gurudwaras. On this day a large number of Akalis suddenly appeared at Gurudwara Teja Kalan and captured it.

1966 Punjab Reorganization Bill presented in the Indian Lower House. Sirdar Kapur Singh rejected it on behalf of the Sikh nation in his famous address, the betrayal of the Sikh faith, to the Indian Parliament.

### 7th September

1936 Gandhi asserts that Sikhism is part of Hinduisms and stated that if becoming a Sikh is conversion then this kind of conversion on the part of Harijans is dangerous.

1981 Sikh protest procession taken out in Delhi to seek Sikh demands. 4 GurSikhs killed by Haryana Police on their way to join the procession.

### 8th September

1922 The count of GurSikhs injured as a result of Police atrocities during the Guru Ka Bagh morcha reached 836. GURU KA BAGH gurudwara was under the control of Mahant Sundar Dass. He had agreed to serve under a committee of eleven members appointed by the SGPC on August 23, 1921, but the land remained under his possession. The Sikhs used to hew wood from the land for common kitchen and Mahant, under instigation from others, lodged a complaint against the Akalis. The government was on the outlook for opportunities to retrieve its prestige, lost in the Key's affair. On Aug. 9, 1922, five Akali Sewadars were arrested for cutting wood for Guru Ka Langar from Guru Ka Bagh. Subsequently a morcha was launched to seek the release of the five GurSikhs.

### 9th September



1965 Indian Air Force, under the command of Chief Marshal Arjan Singh, successfully bombed the Pakistani strongholds.

1965 Fateh Singh postponed his fast under the pretext of Indo-Pak war.

1981 Lala Jagat Narayan murdered near Ludhiana and Sikhs Attacked. Narayan, a journalist, was killed by some unidentified persons near the city of Ludhiana. The police named Swarn Singh, Dalbir Singh and Nachhattar Singh as suspects. The Senior Superintendent of Police, D.R. Bhatti, also named Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala as one of the "conspirators." The next day the Hindus took out a procession in Jalandhar City and attacked a large number of Sikh shops and houses. Innocent Sikhs, including some anti-Akalis, were also beaten by the Hindu mob. Some of the Sikhs sustained severe injuries.

### 10th September



1539 Gur Gadhi, Second Patshah, Guru Angad Dev Ji. GURU ANGAD DEV (1504-1552): The mantle of the First Master fell on Angad, the second Sikh Guru, in 1539, and he graced the exalted position till 1552.

Born at "Mattae de Saran", a Punjab village, on Sunday, Vaisakh Vadi 1 sunmat 1561 (March 31, 1504) to father Pheru Mal and mother Dya Kaur, Guru Angad was originally known as "Lehna". In sunmat 1576, Guru Sahib married Khivi, daughter of Devi Chand. This marriage resulted in two daughters Bibi Amro and Anokhi and two sons Dassu and Dattu Ji. Lehna's parents were orthodox Hindus and worshippers of the goddess Durga. The most momentous and exulting moment in Lehna's life came around 1531 when he met Guru Nanak at Kartarpur. So powerful and profound was the Guru's divine spell on him that he wound up domestic affairs and devoted himself entirely to the service of the Guru and of fellow-men in whom the Lord constantly dwells. Because of his patient and unpretentious service, he endeared himself to the Guru who lovingly called him "Angad" (i.e., of my own limb) and elevated him to the Guruship on Hadh 17th sunmat 1596. However, Guru Angad actually assumed Guruship on Asu 23rd sunmat 1596 and started his work.

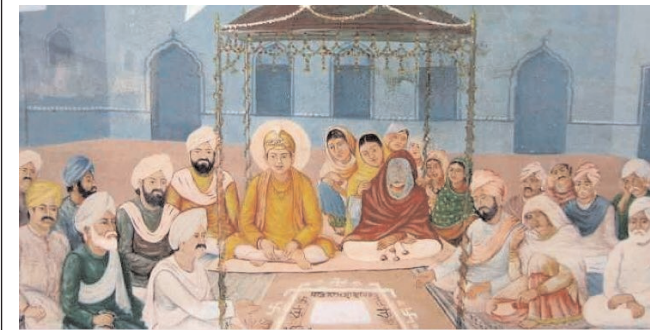
Imbibing the spirit of the First Master, Guru Angad began to disseminate the gospel of Guru Nanak to redeem the caste-worn and custom-ridden contemporary society. He denounced formalism and ritualism, and highlighted the edifying experience of the adoration of the Guru (Guru Bhakti), service of the Guru (Guru Seva), and divine meditation (Nam Bhakti). These tie regarded as the noblest means of God-realization. Guru Angad held service in high esteem. Indeed, he placed love of God and service of humanity on the same pedestal.

To consolidate and propagate the mission of Guru Nanak, the Second Master collected the celestial songs and teachings of his predecessor which, together with

his own compositions, he transmitted to mankind. There are sixty-two hymns by Guru Angad in the Adi Granth.

1930 Sardar Karam Singh, a renowned Sikh historian, passed away at Tarn Taran Sahib. He was born in 1884. He was the first Sikh historian who used scientific techniques in documenting the Sikh history. He spent almost all his life in collecting the source material related to the Sikh history. He left his education when he was a student of B.A. final year and walked on foot from one village to another in search of historical material and documented the tales told by the older people of Punjab. It was a period (1905) of great plague in Punjab. Many old and young people were dying of plague left and right. He could not afford to wait and finish his degree. Had he waited, many more sources of valuable information would have vanished forever.

### 11th September



1487 Guru Nanak Dev's marriage anniversary. Guru Nanak Dev Patshah married Bibi Sulakhani, daughter of Mul Chand of Batala city. This relationship was mediated by Bhai Jai Ram Jim, the husband of Guru Nanak's sister, Bibi Nanaki. The engagement took place on Vaisakh Wadhi 1, Sunmat 1542 when Guru Nanak Patshah was at the age of 16. At the time of marriage, Guru Nanak Patshah was 18 years of age. The marriage took place in Batala, which is on the railway from Amritsar to Pathankot. The location where Guru Nanak's marriage party stayed overnight is still marked by an earthen wall. Babae Da Viya, Guru Nanak Dev's marriage anniversary, is celebrated every year on Badro Sudi 7.

1807 Maharaja Ranjit Singh met Charles Matcalfe, the British agent to draw out the terms of the treaty.

1982 34 Sikhs of the Dharam Yudh Morcha were crushed under train near Tarn Taaran. The bus was carrying Akali Satyagrahies under police escort from Amritsar to Ferozpur when it accidentally ran into the train.

### 12th September



1897 Sara Garhi episode took place. The Sikh soldiers continued to hold the picket until their last breath. All in all 21 men gave their lives.

1940 Master Tara Singh resigned from Congress because of Gandhi's communal attitude.

The festival of Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated to honor the Hindu god Ganesh. The festival, also known as Vinayaka Chaturthi is observed in the Hindu calendar month of Bhaadrapada, starting on the shukla chaturthi (fourth day of the waxing moon period) and lasts for 10 days, ending on Anant Chaturdashi (fourteenth day of the waxing moon period). People start celebrations by preparing months in advance by making eco-friendly idols, artistic clay models of Lord Ganesh and decorating the idols.

The size of these idols vary from inches to feet. Ganesh Chaturthi starts with the installation of these Ganesh statues in colorfully decorated homes and specially erected temporary structures mandapas (pandals) in many localities. The pandals are decorated using decorative items like flower garlands, lights, etc.. Some pandals are made theme based which depict religious themes, events related to Lord Ganesh or sometimes current events.

There are many legends surrounding the celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi. The most well-known of these are related to Lord Shiva and Parvati. According to legend, Parvati used sandalwood to create Ganesh while her husband, Shiva was away. She designated Ganesh to watch over her house's entrance while taking a bath. When he returned, Ganesh blocked Shiva from entering the building, eager to meet Parvati. This caused the two of them to fight. He initially makes vain attempts to persuade the boy. Shiva, the god of destruction, finally cuts off Ganesh's head.

When Parvati caught sight of this scene, she transformed into the goddess Kali and declared that she would end the world. Everyone was concerned about this and prayed to Lord Shiva to find a solution and subdue Goddess Kali's rage. Shiva then commanded all his followers to run off and find a child whose mother was neglectful, turning her back on her child and bringing his head. The followers saw the first child as an elephant, so they cut off his head and brought it to Lord Shiva as instructed.

The head was immediately placed on Ganesh's body by Lord Shiva, who then revived it. Goddess Parvati was once more overpowered as Maa Kali's rage subsided. Ganesh or Ganapati, the chief of the ganas or the attendants of Shiva, was given a warm welcome into the first family of the Hindu heavens and given the elephant-headed god's name. The most important god in the Hindu pantheon is Ganesh. This valiant doorkeeper for Parvati's bath is revered as the most auspicious deity of fresh starts. He is worshiped before people travel or start a new project and during all festivals. You will also see him carefully guarding entrances to temples and homes, peeping out of calendars and happily gracing marriages and other such occasions.

Puranas say that on the fourth day of the month in the Hindu calendar, Saka Samvat, devotees observe a fast and worship Lord Ganesh on Chaturthi. Ganesh is said to have been born on Bhadra Chaturthi, which falls between August and September.

Even though Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated as Lord Ganesh's birthday, freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak revived the celebration of Ganesh Utsav in Maharashtra, making it more popular among the general public.

Through his efforts, the festival became a ten-day celebration. On the tenth day of the celebration, devotees carry Ganesh idols alongside singing and moving to drench it in water. The name of the procession is Visarjana.

## Rituals of Ganesh Chaturthi

### Selecting a Ganesh Idol

It is considered very lucky to choose an idol of Lord Ganesh. Because it is a representation of happiness and prosperity, a sitting Ganesh idol is suggested. In addition, it would be ideal for the idol to depict one of Ganesh's hands in a blessing position and the other

# Ganesh Chaturthi



## Important information

**Ganesh Chaturthi 2024**

**Saturday, 07 September 2024**

**Chaturthi Tithi Begins :06 September 2024 at 03:01 PM**

**Chaturthi Tithi Ends : 07 September 2024 at 05:37 PM**

**Ganesh Visarjan : Tuesday, 17 September 2024**

holding a modak, a deity-favored sweet.

### Installation Direction

It is essential to position the Ganesh idol so that it faces the north side and is erected in the northeast direction of your home. First, pick a clean platform, cover it with a cloth, and set the idol on it. It is believed that this position brings blessings and positive energy into the home.

### Worship Rituals

As part of the purification ceremony, rice and pure Gangajal (holy water) should be sprinkled on the deity after it has been installed. Along with the idol, you must also place Riddhi and Siddhi, which are

**“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**

representations of spiritual power and prosperity.

On the idol's right side, a water container should be placed. Make an offering of flowers, fruits, and sweets, particularly modaks, to Lord Ganesh following these preparations. Finish the ritual of worship by reciting mantras and waving lighted lamps in front of the deity in the form of an aarti.

### Significance of the Ganesh Chaturthi

The celebration is also known as Ganesh Utsav or Vinayaka Chaturthi. Lord Ganesh is also known as 'Vignaharta', and that implies the one who removes hurdles. The celebration is an ideal chance for devotees to look for help from above for life's regular difficulties.

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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

## Feds Raid Homes of Top Eric Adams...

On Wednesday, September 4, agents showed up around 5 a.m. at the Hamilton Heights townhouse of Sheena Wright, who also happens to be the fiancé of Chancellor Banks. The chancellor was seen by THE CITY entering and leaving the townhouse twice on Thursday, September 5. Asked about the raid, David Banks declined to comment, saying, "Today is the first day of school, and I am thrilled," he said, jumping into a SUV to head to a scheduled appearance at a school in Queens. At the same time agents raided Wright's townhouse, they simultaneously descended upon Deputy Mayor Philip Banks III's brick and clapboard single family in Hollis, the sources said. A neighbor of Phil Banks' home told THE CITY they woke up to a disturbance Wednesday, September 4 morning and about 15 agents were on the street.

Then on Thursday, September 5, the Manhattan U.S. Attorney's office issued search warrants seizing the cell phones of Police Commissioner Edward Caban, a development first reported by Spectrum News NY1. Asked about this, the department's press office responded, "The Department is aware of an investigation by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York involving members of service. The Department is fully cooperating in the investigation." A spokesperson for Manhattan U.S. Attorney Damian Williams declined to comment.

The New York Times reported that the FBI raided the home of a third Banks brother, Terrence, and seized electronic devices from Tim Pearson, one of another senior advisors to the mayor and one of Adams' closest associates. In a lawsuit filed recently against Pearson alleging workplace retaliation, the plaintiff stated an FBI agent recently knocked on his door and asked about Pearson. Adams spoke briefly with reporters as he left City Hall on Thursday, September 5 afternoon.

"The goal is to follow the law and that is what this administration always stood for and what we're going to continue to stand for," he said. When asked if he thought his staff followed the law, given multiple investigations, Adams said: "I think I answered the question, and that I'm going to continue to say as I've lived my entire life and I have confidence in the team, the team here. We're going to follow the rules and comply with any questions that are asked of us."

The purpose of the raids and seizures of devices is not yet clear, but one source said the cell phones and laptop of Wright and Phil Banks were taken. Another City Hall source said that inquiry appears to be unrelated to existing federal probes into Adams' 2021 campaign fundraising. Early Thursday an FBI spokesperson declined to comment but did not deny that the bureau showed up at Wright's and Phil Banks' home addresses.

A half hour after THE CITY revealed the raids, City Hall Chief Counsel Lisa Zornberg issued a statement: "Investigators have not indicated to us [that] the mayor or his staff are targets of any investigation. As a former member of law enforcement, the mayor has repeatedly made clear that all members of the team need to follow the law." Last November, the FBI seized Adams' cell phones and laptop and raided the home of his campaign treasurer, Briana Suggs, in a probe by the Manhattan U.S. Attorney into whether the campaign conspired to obtain illegal foreign donations from entities tied to the Turkish government.

The same day, agents raided the home of Rana Abbasova, the director of protocol for the Mayor's Office of International Affairs, who reportedly has knowledge of Adams's interactions with Turkey. Abbasova is reportedly now cooperating with federal investigators. Records document fundraisers bundled by entities with ties to Turkey - Bay Atlantic University, which raised \$10,000 via five donations of \$2,000 each, and KSK Construction Group, which raised \$12,700 from multiple donors. Both were referenced in a search warrant seeking campaign records from Suggs, according to the New York Times.

And in February the FBI raided two Bronx homes

owned by a top Adams aide, Winnie Greco, and the New World Mall in Flushing, Queens, as part of a probe by the Brooklyn U.S. Attorney. Greco had hosted multiple fundraisers for Adams and holds a position in the mayor's office as an advisor. The Campaign Finance Board in a recently released draft audit of Adams' 2021 campaign labeled the entity tied to the mall, J Mart Group, as a suspected intermediary that raised nearly \$12,700 for the mayor's campaign. Wright was a former top executive of the United Way when Adams made her one of his first appointments in January 2022. Phil Banks is a former cop and close ally of the mayor, appointed by Adams despite his being named as an unindicted co-conspirator in an NYPD bribery scandal. (Source: The City)

## Georgia high school shooting...

United States with the first mass campus shooting since the start of the school year. The suspect, who had been interviewed by law enforcement last year over online threats about committing a school shooting, was taken into custody shortly after the shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, investigators said.

He was identified as Colt Gray, 14, and will be charged and tried as an adult, Chris Hosey, director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, told a press conference. Barrow County Sheriff Jud Smith said the gunman, armed with an "AR platform style weapon," or semiautomatic rifle, was quickly confronted by deputies assigned to the school and that the suspect immediately got on the ground and surrendered.

Once under arrest the suspect was speaking with investigators, who believe he was acting alone, but they declined to say if they knew what motivated him. Officials identified those killed as two 14-year-old students, Mason Schermerhorn and Christian Angulo, and two teachers, Richard Aspinwall, 39, and Christina Irimie, 53. All nine of those hospitalized were expected to recover, Smith told reporters.

"Pure evil did what happened today," Smith said. The Federal Bureau of Investigation later issued a statement revealing that it had investigated online threats to commit a school shooting in 2023 and local law enforcement interviewed a 13-year-old subject and his father in nearby Jackson County. The statement did not identify the teen, but Georgia officials said the statement was in connection to the subject in custody.

"The father stated he had hunting guns in the house, but the subject did not have unsupervised access to them. The subject denied making the threats online. Jackson County alerted local schools for continued monitoring of the subject," the FBI said, adding that there was no probable cause to make an arrest. The shooting revived both the national debate about gun control and the outpouring of grief that follows in a country where such outbursts occur with some regularity.

People in Winder, a city of 18,000 some 50 miles (80 km) northeast of Atlanta, gathered in a park for a prayer vigil later Wednesday night. Some leaned on each other or bowed their heads in prayer, while others lit candles to honor the dead.

"We are all hurting. Because when something affects one of us it affects us all," said Power Evans, a city councilman who addressed the gathering. "I know that here tonight, all of are going to come together. We're going to love on one another. ...We're all family. We're all neighbors." The White House said in a statement that President Joe Biden had been briefed on the shooting "and his administration will continue coordinating with federal, state, and local officials as we receive more information."

"Jill and I are mourning the deaths of those whose lives were cut short due to more senseless gun violence and thinking of all of the survivors whose lives are forever changed," Biden said in a statement, calling on Republicans to work with Democrats to pass "common-sense gun safety legislation." Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic Party nominee for president, called the shooting a "senseless tragedy." "We've gotta stop it. We have to end this epidemic of gun violence," Harris said at the start of a campaign event in New Hampshire.

Former President Donald Trump, the Republican nominee for president, wrote on social media that "Our hearts are with the victims and loved ones of those affected by the tragic event in Winder, GA. These cherished children were taken from us far too soon by a sick and deranged monster."

Georgia's Republican Governor Brian Kemp, asked at a press conference what could be done to prevent shootings, said, "Today is not the day for politics or policy. Today is the day for an investigation, to mourn these precious Georgians that we have lost." The shooting was the first "planned attack" at a school this fall, said David Riedman, who runs the K-12 School Shooting Database. Apalachee students returned to school last month; many other students in the US are returning this week.

The US has seen hundreds of shootings inside schools and colleges in the past two decades, with the deadliest resulting in over 30 deaths at Virginia Tech in 2007. The carnage has intensified the pitched debate over gun laws and the US Constitution's Second Amendment, which enshrines the right "to keep and bear arms." (Agencies)

## Supreme Court pulls up CBI, reserves...

In fact, grounds like prolonged incarceration, no possibility of completion of trial in the near future, and "process becoming the punishment" were cited as grounds for grant of bail to Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K. Kavitha and Mr. Sisodia in the excise policy case. The court further did not take kindly to the CBI's claim that bail to the Chief Minister would "demoralize" the Delhi High Court. The High Court had, on August 5, upheld his arrest and told him to knock on the doors of the trial court for bail.

Justice Kant asked the probe agency, represented by Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, to not second guess what the Supreme Court would do. "Whatever we do in this case, be sure it would not be to the detriment of the institution," Justice Kant told Mr. Raju. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for Mr. Kejriwal, said his case was "unique". He had secured bail thrice in the money-laundering case linked to the excise policy 'scam' - twice from the Supreme Court and once in the trial court.

Mr. Singhvi questioned the need for the CBI to arrest the Chief Minister on June 26 when he was already in judicial custody at the time on money laundering charges. "He was the most captive interogatee," the senior advocate said. He said the CBI's sole justification for arresting a Chief Minister was that he appeared "evasive and non-cooperative" to them when confronted with evidence. "But does he not have a fundamental right against self-incrimination? When they say he was not cooperating, they actually meant he was not declaring himself guilty," the senior lawyer argued. Mr. Singhvi said the High Court was only required to employ the triple test in Mr. Kejriwal's case for bail.

The Chief Minister was a constitutional functionary and hardly a "flight risk". Besides, he had been an undertrial for a "sufficiently long time" since his arrest by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) in March. Thirdly, there was no question of tampering as "lakhs of documents" relevant to the case were already filed in court, many in electronic form.

Mr. Raju countered that an agency's power to arrest was part of its power to investigate.

He submitted that Mr. Kejriwal was arrested by the CBI on the basis of permission given by the trial court. He said the application made by the CBI for permission to arrest Mr. Kejriwal was never challenged by him. The procedure for his arrest was duly followed. He was given the grounds for his arrest in writing and was represented by a legal counsel. The Supreme Court could intervene only if a constitutional right was violated. Mr. Sisodia and Ms. Kavitha had done the grind of the trial courts before appealing to the Supreme Court for bail. Mr. Kejriwal could not act like a "privileged person", Mr. Raju said.

The Additional Solicitor General said persons linked to the Assembly election in Goa, where the excise policy pay-offs were allegedly laundered, had come forward as witnesses. "If the court gives him (Kejriwal) relief now, they will all turn hostile. At least some time should be given for their statements to be recorded," he urged.



# Gokarna: Land of palm trees, blue seas and golden sands

With its pristine beaches and breathtaking landscapes, Gokarna is a Hindu pilgrimage town in Karnataka and a newly found hub for beach lovers and hippies. Situated on the coast of Karwar, every year Gokarna welcomes hordes of tourists from around the world in search of sanctity and relaxation. The out-of-town beaches like Kudle beach and Om Beach are a different contrast to life inside the town.

Palm clad beaches are dotted with foreign tourists in a majority and very few Indians are seen across. Gokarna is not very conventionally touristy. The beaches are meant for a slow, relaxed holiday and everything on the beach goes at the same relaxed pace. Full of coconut and palm trees, the ocean and clean sands, Gokarna is a 'one of a kind' place in the country.

## Om Beach

Om beach is a wonderful beach located in the town of Gokarna. Shaped like the symbol 'Om', this beach offers plenty of adventure sports to the thrill-seekers. The view of this beach during sunset is one to be cherished forever. It is usually lined with shacks on the sides offering cheap accommodation and restaurants with global menus. There is also a bunch of fun water sports activities available on Om Beach, including speedboats, surfing etc. Visitors can even enjoy boating here.

Om beach derives its name from its shape, which is formed by two semi crescents joined together. The unique black rock formations here attract a lot of travellers. One can spot fishermen boats, small cafes and eateries and crows swirling up in the sky at this beautiful beach. The beauty of this beach compels many visitors even to cross the danger area (marked by red) and play in the splashing waves. This place is a heaven for all the shutterbugs, with some mind-blowing sceneries amidst the rocky terrain.

## Mahabaleshwara Temple

A 6 feet tall Shiva Linga here at the temple is known as the Atmalinga is worshipped here. Built using white granite, it is a classic example of the beauty of Dravidian architecture. A 1500 years old carved stone Lord Shiva idol in the standing position represents the main deity. The temple has been mentioned in the Hindu Mythics of Mahabharata and Ramayana and it is said to be as significant as Kashi, hence it earning the title, Dakshin (South) Kashi.

The top of the Atmalinga is the only part of the Linga that is visible to devotees. But during the Ashta Bandana Kumbhahishekam, a festival that happens once every 40 years, is when the entire Atmalinga is shown to the



devotees. As per custom, devotees must first take a dip in the Karwar Beach, where the temple faces, visit the Maha

Ganapathi Temple that is opposite the temple, then only visit the Mahabaleshwara Temple.

## Kudle Beach

Kudle Beach is one of the many beaches of Gokarna, situated only a short trek from Om Beach. A complete recluse, this beach offers the most silent and serene atmosphere to enjoy a sunset, a walk along the shore or simply sit and observe the never-ceasing tides. Many local people prefer this beach for a morning or evening walk or practising yoga, as the Kudle beach is not invaded by large groups of tourists and as a result, has a very little crowd and quite serene.

The beach is usually deserted, except for the peak months from November to February, when it is flocked by foreign travellers and backpackers who choose Kudle beach for its privacy. The sea is calm and shallow enough to have a bath or simply for dipping your feet, but it is always better to be careful. If you are planning to stay here overnight, there are a few proper hotels, which tend to be full during the peak seasons. However, from around October to March, the local people also put up temporary shacks and huts for makeshift accommodation and food. They are not the best option, but an option nevertheless. If you are of the adventurous type a night spent on the beach in a small hut listening to the sound of the waves is as perfect as it can get.

## Water Sports in Gokarna

Known for its idyllic beaches and pristine waters, Gokarna is a favorite among travelers who seek a peaceful vacation. It is the more laid-back and less commercialized version of Goa. Other than the famous Om beach, it has Kudle beach and the more secluded Half Moon and Paradise beach.

Gokarna is an ideal destination for adventure seekers as well those want a break from the chaos of everyday life. Travellers have the option of simply strolling down the beautiful serene beaches or participating in the myriad water sports that it has to offer. The popular water sports are parasailing, banana boat ride and jet-skiing.



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# History This Week SEP 06-12

## SEPTEMBER 6

September 6, 1991 - Leningrad was renamed Saint Petersburg by Russian legislators following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Russia's second largest city had been known as Leningrad for 67 years in honor of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet Union.

Birthdays - Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) was born in Chavaniac, France (as Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier). He came to America in 1777 to volunteer in the American Revolution, beginning a long friendship with George Washington. He later persuaded Louis XVI of France to send a 6,000-man force to assist the Americans. Lafayette was given command of an army in Virginia and was instrumental in forcing Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown, leading to the American victory.



Birthdays - Pioneering American social worker Jane Addams (1860-1935) was born in Cedarville, Illinois. In 1883, she toured the great European cities to study famous historic sites but was deeply moved by the hunger and misery she found among the common people. She then founded Hull House in Chicago to serve the sick and poor and managed the settlement for the next 46 years.

## SEPTEMBER 7

September 7, 1822 - Brazil declared its independence from Portugal after 322 years as a colony.

September 7, 1940 - The German Luftwaffe began its Blitz bombing campaign against London during World War II.

September 7, 1986 - Bishop Desmond Tutu became Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, the first black head of South Africa's Anglicans.

September 7, 1994 - The U.S. Army closed its headquarters in Berlin, ending the American military presence in the once-divided city after nearly half a century.

September 7, 1999 - For the first time since World War II, Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, returned to Berlin, former capital of Imperial Germany as well as Hitler's Reich. The Bundestag held its first session in the fully restored Reichstag building, attended by parliamentarians from around the world. The session also marked the 50th anniversary of the Bundestag's first post-war session, held in Bonn, the former capital of West Germany.

Birthdays - Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603) was born in Greenwich Palace. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and



Anne Boleyn. She ascended the throne in 1558 at age 25. During her reign, Britain became a world power by defeating the Spanish Armada. The Anglican Church was also fully established.

## SEPTEMBER 8

September 8, 1565 - The first Catholic settlement in America was founded by Spaniard Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles at St. Augustine, Florida.

September 8, 1883 - The Northern Pacific Railroad across the U.S. was completed.

September 8, 1900 - A hurricane with winds of 120 mph struck Galveston, Texas, killing over 8,000 persons, making it the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. The hurricane and tidal wave that followed destroyed over 2,500 buildings.



September 8, 1935 - Louisiana Senator Huey P. Long was shot and mortally wounded while attending a session of the state House of Representatives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He died two days later.

September 8, 1941 - The German Army began its blockade of Leningrad, lasting until January 1944, resulting in the deaths of almost one million Russian civilians.

September 8, 1974 - A month after resigning the presidency in disgrace as a result of the Watergate scandal, Richard Nixon was granted a full pardon by President Gerald R. Ford for all offenses committed while in office.

September 8, 2022 - Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain died at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, after a 70-year reign, the longest in British history. Upon her death, her son Charles, age 73, became the new monarch as King Charles III. Born on April 21, 1926, Princess Elizabeth was third in line to the throne, and became Queen in 1952, at age 25, after her father King George VI died in his sleep. During her reign, the Queen met 13 U.S. presidents and visited over 100 countries.

## SEPTEMBER 9

September 9, 1776 - The United States came into existence as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new

American nation from the United Colonies.

September 9, 1943 - The invasion of Salerno began during World War II in Europe as Allied forces under General Mark Clark made amphibious landings along the western coast of Italy near Naples. Initial gains by the Allies met strong resistance from German forces.

September 9, 1948 - Following the withdrawal of Soviet forces from North Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was proclaimed with Pyongyang as its capital.



September 9, 1976 - Longtime leader of Communist China, Chairman Mao Zedong, died. As a Chinese revolutionary soldier and statesman, he had proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949 in Beijing.

September 9, 1993 - Israel and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) agreed to recognize each other, paving the way for a possible peaceful end to the hundred year old conflict between Arabs and Jews in the Mideast.

## SEPTEMBER 10



September 10, 1898 - Elizabeth, Empress of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated in Geneva by an anarchist.

September 10, 1919 - Following the defeat of Germany in World War I, the victorious Allies signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain ceding parts of pre-war German-Austria to Italy and Czechoslovakia. Austria was also forbidden to unite with Germany.

September 10, 1943 - Hitler's troops occupied Rome and took over the protection of Vatican City.

## SEPTEMBER 11

September 11, 2001 - The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons. Four separate teams of Mideast terrorists, operating from inside

the U.S., boarded the morning flights posing as passengers, then forcibly commandeered the aircraft. Two fully-fueled jumbo jets, American Airlines Flight 11 carrying 92 people and United Airlines Flight 175 carrying 65 people, had departed Boston for Los Angeles. Both jets were diverted by the hijackers to New York City where they were piloted into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The impact and subsequent fire caused both 110-story towers to collapse, killing 2,752 persons including hundreds of rescue workers and people employed in the towers. In addition, United Airlines Flight 93, which had departed Newark for San Francisco, and American Airlines Flight 77, which had departed Dulles (Virginia) for Los Angeles, were hijacked. Flight 77 with 64 people on board was diverted to Washington, D.C., then piloted into the Pentagon building, killing everyone on board and 125 military personnel inside the building. Flight 93 with 44 people on board was also diverted toward Washington but crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after passengers attempted to overpower the terrorists on board.



Birthdays - Ferdinand Marcos (1917-1989) was born in Sarrat, Philippines. He ruled the Philippines from 1966, imposing an authoritarian regime until he was ousted in 1986.

## SEPTEMBER 12

September 12, 1943 - Former Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini was rescued by German paratroopers on orders from Adolf Hitler. Mussolini was being held prisoner by Italian authorities following the collapse of his Fascist regime.

September 12, 1953 - John F. Kennedy, 36, married Jacqueline Bouvier, 24, in a ceremony before 750 invited guests at St. Mary's Church in Newport, Rhode Island, conducted by Archbishop Richard Cushing of Boston.

September 12, 1953 - Nikita Khrushchev was elected First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the USSR.

September 12, 1974 - Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, was deposed by an army coup after 44 years as ruler.

September 12, 1977 - Steve Biko, the South African black civil rights leader, died while he was in police detention.

September 12, 1990 - A treaty was signed by East and West Germany and the Allies of World War II allowing for the restoration of sovereignty to a reunified Germany.

## Manipur situation difficult: RSS chief Bhagwat



RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat said the situation prevailing in Manipur was difficult and challenging and there was no guarantee of safety.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

**NAGPUR (TIP):** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Thursday, September 5, said the situation prevailing in Manipur was difficult and challenging and there was no guarantee of safety.

"Locals have doubts about their security. For those who have gone to Manipur for business or social work, the situation is even more challenging. Even in such trying conditions, RSS volunteers are stationed in Manipur in an urge to bring peace and normalcy. Sangh volunteers are serving both feuding factions of the state".

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## UN Women at the 79th session of the UN General Assembly

UN Women will also present The Gender Snapshot 2024 report, with the latest data on gender equality across all SDGs.

**KEY EVENTS** : As some details are still being confirmed and there may be last-minute changes on location/timing for the events we advise you to look at the online version of this media advisory, which we will update regularly.

### MEDIA LAUNCH OF GENDER SNAPSHOT 2024

When: Monday, 16 September 2024, 12.30 pm

Where: UN headquarters' press room, New York, and UN Web TV

UN Women and UN DESA will launch the 2024 edition of Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot to the media. This year's report points out the latest trends and challenges on the achievement of gender equality across all the Sustainable Development Goals. It also points out the urgency of accelerating progress on gender equality to achieve the SDGs. UN accredited media are welcome to attend the briefing in person, or online, and the video will also be available post-launch on UN Web TV. The official launch event for Members States and other stakeholders will take place on September 21 at 6 pm, by invitation only.

### INCLUSION = INCOME: THE BUSINESS CASE FOR PROGRESSIVE ADVERTISING

When: Tuesday, 17 September 2024, 8.30 am to 10 am

The Business Case for Inclusive Advertising is an industry-first, global study which proves that inclusive advertising content drives both short and long-term sales. The study, to be launched at this event, was conducted by Oxford University's Saïd Business School academics Dr Felipe Thomaz and Prof Andrew Stephen and is based on data from Unstereotype Alliance members Bayer Consumer Healthcare, Diageo, Geena Davis Institute, Kantar, Mars, Mondelez International, and Unilever. Please visit

Unstereotype Alliance's website to see the report findings.

### PAY OF THE FUTURE: ACHIEVING EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

When: Wednesday, 18 September 2024, 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm

To celebrate International Equal Pay Day, this high-level event and reception seeks to energize and accelerate collective action around policies, initiatives and tools that are reducing the gender pay gap. The event will highlight multi-stakeholder and whole-of-society approaches that are effecting change, in line with the reinvigoration of multilateralism seen at the Summit of the Future. The reception will provide an open, inclusive and informal space to engage and encourage discussion, giving participants the opportunity to strengthen avenues of exchange, collaboration and mutual support and action around achieving equal pay for work of equal value.

### BEIJING+30: TOWARDS A GENDER EQUAL WORLD

When: Saturday, 21 September 2024, 2.30 pm to 3.45 pm

As we come closer to the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2025, UN Women is taking stock on the implementation so far of this blueprint on women's rights. The event will bring together governments, civil society organisations and youth groups, the UN system, the private sector, philanthropy and all other multi-stakeholder actors, to share, inspire, commit, and act. It will be co-hosted by Mexico, Kenya, and Denmark and others. Registration for in-person attendance: For those who do not have a valid UN ground pass to enter the UN premises, registration for a special event pass is open until 6 September 2024 through this link. The event will take place in Conference Room 2, UN Headquarters, New York.

Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action (ACT) to End Violence Against Women Programme Launch

When: Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, 24 September 2024

The EU and UN Women will launch the Advocacy, Coalition Building and Transformative Feminist Action (ACT) to

End Violence Against Women Programme, a new groundbreaking initiative designed to strengthen global and regional advocacy, coalition building, and transformative feminist action to end violence against women and girls. The launch event will emphasize the critical role of women's rights movements in ending violence against women and girls, call for increased and sustainable funding for these efforts, address the rising challenges posed by anti-rights movements, and discuss strategies to combat technology-facilitated violence against women human rights defenders. Find out more about ACT here.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNGA PLATFORM OF WOMEN LEADERS

When: Tuesday, 24 September 2024, 1.15 pm to 2.30 pm

More than ever, women's leadership is critical to addressing existing and emerging crises. It has been proven that women's participation and leadership in political processes fosters inclusive decision-making and amplifies diverse voices ultimately leading to a more sustainable and resilient world for us and future generations to come. The Platform of Women Leaders event will explore the importance of women's equal participation in decision-making in ensuring peace, socio-economic opportunities, sustainable development and human dignity. The meeting will also offer an opportunity for women leaders to amplify their messages on issues of global concern.

Generation Equality during the Summit of the Future: mobilizing, catalyzing and accelerating multi-stakeholder partnerships

Three years into implementation and following the 2023 Midpoint, Generation Equality's engagement will center on the launch of the 2024 Accountability Report on 19 September and substantive dialogues - held in-person and online between 22 September and 3 October 2024 - leveraging the latest evidence and data to chart a way forward for Generation Equality by connecting and amplifying voices from across the Generation Equality stakeholders across the globe. Please see the report findings here.

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

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## Narendra Modi's Forgotten Promise: "Na Khaonga, Na Khane Doonga"

These controversies have led to increasing calls for Buch's resignation, although her defenders, including some in the government, have dismissed the allegations as politically motivated. Nonetheless, these issues raise critical questions about transparency, governance, and the independence of India's financial market regulator. Despite the serious nature of these allegations, the government has remained conspicuously silent.

What is particularly troubling is that the appointment of the SEBI Chairperson is directly overseen by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. Critics argue that the silence from Modi, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Home Minister Amit Shah on the matter speaks volumes about the lack of accountability in the government. Opposition leaders have demanded an explanation and called for

Buch's removal if the allegations are substantiated, yet no action has been taken.

This controversy has raised questions about the Modi government's commitment to its own anti-corruption promises. If the person responsible for overseeing the stock market-arguably one of the most critical institutions in the country-can be implicated in corruption and misconduct, what does this say about the state of governance in India?

### Modi's Hollow Promise: "Na Khaonga, Na Khane Doonga"

(Watch <https://youtu.be/oHo4-Km5OGY>)

While Modi's anti-corruption rhetoric was a key pillar of his 2014 and 2019 election campaigns, the realities of his governance tell a different story. From allegations of crony capitalism and selective justice to the suppression of dissent and questionable appointments, it appears that Modi's promise of "na khaonga, na khane doonga" has become a distant memory.

Opposition leaders like Rahul Gandhi have

repeatedly called on Modi to "come clean" on these issues. They argue that the government's failure to address allegations of corruption and favoritism undermines the very foundation of Indian democracy. Meanwhile, civil society organizations and ordinary citizens are increasingly demanding transparency and accountability from a government that promised to end corruption but now seems to protect its own.

Prime Minister Modi faces a critical test. If he truly believes in his promise of rooting out corruption, he must act decisively-not just against political opponents, but also against those within his own government and the bureaucratic machinery. The people of India deserve answers, and they deserve leadership that upholds the values of honesty, transparency, and accountability. It is time for Modi to prove that his anti-corruption stance was not just an electoral slogan, but a guiding principle for his governance.

(With inputs from agencies and newspapers)

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## Messi left off list of contenders for Ballon d'Or

Lionel Messi may be considered by many as the greatest soccer player of all time, but the Argentina star was omitted from the list of nominations to win this year's Ballon d'Or award — the sport's most prized individual honor. The record eight-time winner and holder of the trophy did not feature Wednesday in a list of 30 players in the running for the award, which will be presented Oct. 28.

Also excluded was Messi's great rival, five-time winner Cristiano Ronaldo. It was the first time since 2003 that neither player made the list.

Vinicius Junior, Rodri, Jude Bellingham, Kylian Mbappé, Erling Haaland and Harry Kane are among the names nominated.

Messi, who left European soccer behind when moving from Paris Saint-Germain to Inter Miami last year, is still delivering at a high level and helped Argentina win the Copa America in July. The 37-year-old beat Manchester City striker Haaland to the award last year, but will not defend his title.

Messi won his first Ballon d'Or in 2009 — the start of a four-year streak of taking the top prize. He was first nominated in 2006.

Messi and Ronaldo turned the competition into a near-two-way contest during the peak of their careers — winning it a combined 13 times from 2008.

Ronaldo's first nomination was 2004.

Their omission from the list of nominations is likely due to leaving top-flight European club soccer, with Ronaldo having moved to Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia.

A new generation of talent has emerged in the form of Mbappé, Vinicius Junior, Bellingham and Haaland. Emerging teenage star Lamine Yamal of Spain was also nominated.

While City striker Haaland was runner-up to Messi last year, the favorites to be crowned Ballon d'Or winner this time around include Real Madrid pair Vinicius Junior and Bellingham, as well as City and Spain midfielder Rodri.

Messi was also left off the list in 2022, but powered back to inspire Argentina to the World Cup title later that year and won his eighth Ballon d'Or in 2023.

However, at the latter end of his career and now playing in MLS, he may find it harder to hold off the challenge of his younger rivals for the title of the game's best.

It is also notable that he was omitted despite winning a major international honor with Argentina this year.

Source: AP

# Paris Paralympics: India hit 25-medal mark with judoka Kapil Parmar's bronze

Kapil Parmar, a visually impaired judo athlete, made history by becoming India's first Paralympic medallist in judo, securing a bronze in the men's 60kg (J1) category. Parmar, 24, dominated his opponent, Brazil's Elielton de Oliveira, with a decisive 10-0 victory in the bronze medal play-off, marking a memorable Paralympic debut.

This triumph brought India's medal tally at the Games to 25, including five gold, nine silver, and 11 bronze medals. The Paralympic Committee of India had set a target of winning at least 25 medals, a goal that the country's inspiring para-athletes successfully achieved with more opportunities still ahead.

### Close misses for India on Day 8

Individual gold medallist Harvinder Singh, along with partner Pooja Jatyan, came close to securing a bronze in the mixed team recurve open event but narrowly lost in a shoot-off to Slovenia's Ziva Lavrinc and Dejan Fabcic, 4-5, in the play-off.

After making history by becoming India's first archery gold medallist, Harvinder was poised for another podium finish. The Indian pair led 4-2 going into the final set, but the Slovenian duo fought back to level the score. In the decisive shoot-off, Lavrinc and Fabcic clinched the victory, leaving Harvinder and Pooja just short of a second medal.

India's Simran Sharma narrowly



Kapil Parmar (right) won bronze on Thursday, September 5. (Courtesy: Reuters)

missed out on a medal in the women's 100m T12 final at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, finishing fourth with a time of 12.31 seconds. Accompanied by her guide Abhay Singh, the 24-year-old fell just short of the podium in a closely contested race.

Cuba's Omara Durand Elias, running with guide Yuniol Kindelan, claimed gold with a dominant time of 11.81 seconds. Ukraine's Oksana Boturchuk, alongside guide Mykata Barabanov, won silver in 12.17 seconds, while Germany's Katrin Mueller and her guide Noel-Phillippe Fiener secured the bronze with a time of 12.26 seconds, just edging out Simran for the final podium spot. In Chateauroux, Indian shooters Mona Agarwal and Sidhartha Babu fell

short of reaching the final in the mixed 50m rifle prone (SH1) competition. Mona Agarwal, a bronze medallist in the 10m air rifle (SH1) event earlier at the Games, finished 30th with a total score of 610.5 over six series. Meanwhile, Sidhartha Babu, who had previously placed 28th in the mixed 10m air rifle prone (SH1) qualification, also struggled to improve his performance, finishing 22nd with an aggregate score of 615.8.

India made a disappointing finish to the day after Aravind finished sixth in the men's shot put F35 event with a season's best throw of 13.01. India are currently 16th in the medal's tally with 25 medals, including five gold, nine silver and 11 bronze.

# Bangladesh make history, sweep Test series in Pak

Bangladesh cruised to a six-wicket victory in the second Test against Pakistan to complete a 2-0 series sweep and provide a healing touch to a nation recovering from a political upheaval.

Chasing 185 for victory, Bangladesh rode a string of cameos to seal their third Test series victory away from home with more than one session left. Opener Zakir Hasan (40), skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (38) and Mominul Haq (34) chipped in with useful cameos.

Veterans Mushfiqur Rahim (22) and Shakib Al Hasan (21) combined to guide the visitors to a memorable victory.

"It means a lot, I can't express it in words," an emotional Shanto said. "We were looking to win here and I'm very happy with the way everyone has done their job."

All-rounder Mehedy Hasan Miraz dedicated his Player of the Series award to a victim of the recent anti-government protests in Bangladesh, which culminated with ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fleeing to India last month. The country's interim leader Muhammad Yunus called Shanto to congratulate the team on their series victory.



Bangladesh's players pose with the trophy in Rawalpindi on Tuesday, September 3. AP/PTI

Bangladesh arrived last month having failed to beat Pakistan in a Test match in their previous 13 attempts and then went on to win two in a row.



## 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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In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.

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