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

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The last date for submission of articles is October 28, 2024. Articles with a picture and a brief bio of the author may please be emailed to editor@theindianpanorama.news

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# Omar Abdullah sworn in as Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister

**SAYS "I FULFILLED THE PROMISE OF GIVING REPRESENTATION TO ALL THE REGIONS EQUALLY; OUR ENDEAVOR WILL BE TO WALK TOGETHER."**



Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha with CM Omar Abdullah and NC leaders Surinder Chaudhary, Sakina Ittoo, Javed Rana, Javed Dar and Satish Sharma during the swearing-in ceremony of the new J&K government, at SKICC in Srinagar on October 16, 2024.

Photo Credit: ANI

OCTOBER 17, 2024

**SRINAGAR (TIP):** National Conference leader Omar Abdullah took over as the first Chief Minister of the five-year-old Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, against the backdrop of the monumental changes the region has witnessed since 2019. Dropping his previous belligerence on the abrogation of Article 370, Mr. Abdullah has sought to tread the path of reconciliation, evident from the fact the new government's starting point has been to address the regional and religious divide in J&K.

The composition of the J&K Council of Ministers reflects a rare bid by the National Conference (NC) leadership to build a healthy relationship with the plains of Jammu, whose voters

**CONTD ON PAGE 40**

## Chief justice of India Chandrachud names Justice Sanjiv Khanna as successor, to retire on November 10



Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud with Justice Sanjeev Khanna to his right  
Photo: Special Arrangement

**OCTOBER 18, 2024**  
**NEW DELHI (TIP):** Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has recommended Justice Sanjiv Khanna to the government for appointment as the 51st Chief Justice of India.

Chief Justice Chandrachud is scheduled to retire on November 10.

Under the Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court Judges, the Law Ministry seeks the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice about the next appointment. The letter from the government kick-starts the appointment process for the next Chief Justice of India. Justice Sanjiv Khanna is the next in line to be Chief Justice of India in accordance with the seniority norm.

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## Sinwar's death confirmed by Hamas and Israeli Foreign Minister

**OCTOBER 18, 2024**

**JERUSALEM (TIP):** Hamas confirmed on Friday, October 24, that its leader, Yahya Sinwar, was killed by Israeli forces in Gaza, and the militant group reiterated its stance that hostages taken from Israel a year ago will not be released until there is a cease-fire in Gaza and a withdrawal of Israeli troops, says a Reuters report.



Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar  
File photo

"Those prisoners will not return to you before the end of the aggression on Gaza and the withdrawal from Gaza," said Khalil al-Hayya, who was Sinwar's Qatar-based deputy and headed up the group's delegation during several rounds of cease-fire negotiations mediated by the US, Qatar and Egypt.

In a statement, Hamas heralded Sinwar as a hero who "ascended as a heroic martyr, advancing and not retreating, brandishing his weapon, engaging and confronting the occupation army at the forefront of the ranks".

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## FBI issues lookout notice against former Indian cop for bid to murder Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

**OCTOBER 18, 2024**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** The US Department of Justice filed charges against a former Indian police official, accusing him of trying to kill pro-Khalistan terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in June last year.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has also issued a lookout notice with photos of the former official, Vikash Yadav, alias Vikas.

**CONTD ON PAGE 40**

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has issued a lookout notice with photos of the former official, Vikash Yadav, alias Vikas.  
File photo



Andy Singh

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## COMMENT

**THE BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM IN THE UNITED STATES: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND POLITICAL REALITY**

Immigration has long been a central issue in American politics, drawing heated debate, emotional appeals, and policy proposals from both sides of the political spectrum. As the 2024 election looms, immigration once again finds itself at the forefront of the national conversation. Voters are concerned, and politicians are divided, but this is not a new phenomenon. The United States' immigration system has been labeled as "broken" for decades, and the ongoing cycle of inaction has left millions of undocumented immigrants in limbo, while the issue has become a tool in election campaigns, rather than a subject for meaningful reform.

**A GLIMPSE INTO HISTORY: THE LEGACY OF REAGAN'S IMMIGRATION REFORM**

The modern immigration debate is often traced back to the presidency of Ronald Reagan. In 1986, Reagan signed into law the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA), which granted amnesty to nearly three million undocumented immigrants who had been living in the U.S. before 1982. This was a monumental decision that sought to address the growing issue of illegal immigration by providing a path to legal residency for millions of people. At the same time, the act also sought to strengthen border security and impose penalties on employers who knowingly hired undocumented workers.

The IRCA was designed as a comprehensive solution, but it had unintended consequences. While it succeeded in granting legal status to millions, it did not stem the flow of new undocumented immigrants. Employers continued to seek cheap labor, and border security measures were insufficient to deter illegal crossings. In the years following Reagan's presidency, the number of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. steadily rose, with estimates reaching around 11 million a decade ago. Today, that number is believed to be closer to 18 million, though precise figures are difficult to verify due to the very nature of undocumented status.

**THE RISE OF THE IMMIGRATION CRISIS IN NATIONAL POLITICS**

Over the past three decades, immigration has remained a perennial issue in American elections. Both Democrats and Republicans have called for reform, but little has been accomplished. One of the central points of contention is how to deal with the millions of undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S. The question is complex: Should they be granted legal status, or should they be deported? Should the focus be on securing the borders, or on integrating those who are already contributing to the economy?

The debate often becomes emotionally charged, particularly around election time. One narrative, largely championed by

conservative voices, portrays undocumented immigrants as a threat to national security. This has led to proposals like the construction of a border wall, an effort spearheaded by former President Donald Trump. A portion of the wall was built, but it has not stopped illegal immigration. Critics argue that physical barriers are not a long-term solution, pointing out that immigrants continue to find other ways into the country, including overstaying visas or crossing borders at less fortified areas.

On the other hand, there is a broader economic argument that the U.S. needs immigrants, both documented and undocumented. The American economy has historically relied on immigrant labor, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and service industries. Undocumented immigrants, in particular, often fill jobs that Americans are unwilling to take. Despite their status, many of these immigrants pay taxes, contribute to Social Security, and help sustain industries that are vital to the U.S. economy. Numerous studies have shown that, far from being a drain on resources, undocumented immigrants contribute significantly to economic growth.

**THE CRIMINALIZATION OF IMMIGRANTS AND THE "BOGEYMAN" OF FEAR**

A recurring theme in the immigration debate is the portrayal of undocumented immigrants as criminals. This narrative has been particularly prominent in recent years, with political rhetoric suggesting that "criminals are pouring into the country" through open borders. While it is true that some undocumented immigrants have committed crimes, this is by no means representative of the population as a whole. In fact, numerous studies have shown that immigrants, both documented and undocumented, are less likely to commit crimes than native-born Americans.

However, the focus on criminality has overshadowed the broader issue of how to deal with immigration in a humane and pragmatic way. Instead of addressing the root causes of immigration—such as poverty, violence, and political instability in countries of origin—politicians have used fear-mongering tactics to garner votes. This approach has polarized the debate, making it difficult for lawmakers to work together on a comprehensive immigration solution.

**THE FAILURE TO ACT: WHY THE SYSTEM REMAINS BROKEN**

Despite the constant rhetoric about fixing the immigration system, little progress has been made. The root of the problem lies in the deep political divide between Democrats and Republicans, which has prevented meaningful legislative action. Democrats have generally favored a more inclusive approach, advocating for pathways to citizenship for undocumented immigrants

BY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA

and reforming the visa system to allow for more legal immigration. Republicans, on the other hand, have prioritized border security and stricter enforcement of immigration laws, often opposing amnesty or legal status for undocumented immigrants.

This divide has resulted in legislative gridlock. While both parties claim to want immigration reform, neither has been able to push through a comprehensive solution. In 2013, for example, the Senate passed a bipartisan immigration reform bill that included a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and increased border security. However, the bill stalled in the House of Representatives, and no further action was taken.

The failure to act has left millions of undocumented immigrants in a state of uncertainty. They live in fear of deportation, even as they contribute to the U.S. economy and society. Many have lived in the U.S. for decades, raised families, and built lives, yet they are denied basic rights and protections due to their legal status.

**THE PATH FORWARD: LEGALIZATION AND BORDER SECURITY**

If there is any hope of fixing the broken immigration system, it lies in a bipartisan approach that combines two key elements: legalization for undocumented immigrants and stronger border security. Granting legal status to millions of undocumented immigrants would not only provide them with a path to citizenship but also bring them out of the shadows and allow them to fully participate in American society. This would benefit not only the immigrants themselves but also the U.S. economy, as legal workers are more likely to invest in their communities, start businesses, and contribute to economic growth.

At the same time, stronger border security measures are necessary to prevent future illegal immigration. However, these measures should be smart and effective, focusing on modern technology and resources rather than simply building walls. A comprehensive approach would also involve addressing the root causes of immigration by working with other countries to improve economic conditions and reduce violence and instability.

The U.S. immigration system has been broken for decades, and both political parties bear responsibility for the current state of affairs. Instead of using immigration as a political football to win elections, lawmakers should work together to craft a comprehensive solution that balances the need for security with the economic and social realities of immigration. The time for action is long overdue, and the millions of undocumented immigrants who live in the U.S. deserve a fair and just path to legal status. Only through cooperation and compromise can the U.S. truly fix its broken immigration system and live up to its ideals as a nation of immigrants.

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# Jenifer Rajkumar Outraises the Entire Field for NYC Comptroller

**Raises Over \$240,000 in the Filing Period, Showing Undeniable Momentum for Her Historic Candidacy**

**OCTOBER 16, 2024**

**NEW YORK, NY (TIP):** In just two months since announcing her candidacy for New York City Comptroller, Jenifer Rajkumar has raised over \$240,000 - more than any other candidate in the field. This remarkable achievement in the latest filing period demonstrates the undeniable momentum her campaign has generated, and the overwhelming support for her historic bid.

"Our campaign is gaining unparalleled support from across New York," said Rajkumar. "New Yorkers are ready for fresh, dynamic leadership that can move our City forward. I will be the Comptroller who makes our government work for the people, and ensure New Yorkers get a full return on their



Jenifer Rajkumar for NYC Comptroller

matching funds by January. In the coming months, Rajkumar's campaign will bring its momentum to every corner of the City, building a grassroots movement across the five boroughs.

With this decisive advantage, Rajkumar is poised to continue building a winning campaign that addresses the significant challenges facing New York City at a critical moment for its leadership and governance.

**ABOUT JENIFER RAJKUMAR**

Jenifer Rajkumar is a New York State Assemblywoman who made history when she became the first Indian American woman elected to a New York State Office. Ranked as a Super Lawyer for her landmark cases against corporate fraud



Jenifer meeting firefighters at a firehouse



In conversation with a voter in a park

investment."

Rajkumar's latest financial showing once again solidifies her frontrunner status. With her demonstrated ability to raise funds quickly, her campaign expects to qualify for millions in



Jenifer speaks with the South Asian voters

saving millions in taxpayer dollars, she is a dedicated advocate for fiscal accountability. She led historic legislative wins



Jenifer is addressing a gathering at the City Hall

granting worker protections to domestic workers, paving the way for the closure of all illegal smoke shops with her SMOKEOUT Act, and making Diwali a School Holiday in New York City. Most recently, she continues fighting for quality of life by leading legislation to regulate dangerous e-bikes. A graduate of Stanford Law School and the University of Pennsylvania, Rajkumar has dedicated her career to empowering the vulnerable and voiceless.

## Catskill Mountain Railroad Pumpkin Express Trains October 19th, 20th, 26th and 27th



**OCTOBER 15, 2024**

**KINGSTON, NY (TIP):** With Halloween coming up, don't miss a chance to take a trip on the Catskill Mountain Railroad's Pumpkin Express Train. Passengers take the train ride up to the Pumpkin Patch where pumpkins will be spread out for everyone to select their favorite one to take home and decorate.

Our trains are fun for adults and children! Take a spectacular journey along the former Ulster & Delaware Railroad corridor and see the natural beauty of the Catskills from our railroad's unique perspective. Join us as we travel through some of the oldest farmlands in the United States where we will cross the Esopus Creek on the restored C9 Bridge and go through the Hurley Flats and into the foothills of Hurley Mountain.

Pumpkin Express Trains will operate on weekends of October 19th, 20th and the 26th and 27th, at 10:00 am, 12:00 noon, 2:00 pm, and 4:00 pm. Train fares are \$23.00 Adult, \$21.00 Adult Discount (senior, military, veteran) \$17.00 Children 2 to 12 years, and Toddlers under 2 years on the lap are free

Check our website at <https://catskillmountainrailroad.com> for Pumpkin Express Train schedules and to purchase tickets. All trains depart from Westbrook Station at 55 Kingston Plaza Road, Kingston, NY 12401 and then return. Rides are about an hour and thirty minutes long and are approximately 8 miles round trip. All Aboard the Pumpkin Express!

# Three Indian-origin candidates in final race for Oxford University Chancellor

OCTOBER 16, 2024

**LONDON (TIP):** The University of Oxford on Wednesday announced the 38 finalists in the race to be elected the new Chancellor of the University of Oxford, which includes Indian-origin candidates but excludes former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan.

Ankur Shiv Bhandari, the first Indian-origin Mayor of Bracknell Forest in Berkshire; Nirpal Singh Paul Bhangal, a Professor of International Entrepreneurship; and Pratik Tarvadi, a medical professional, will go head-to-head with academics, politicians, philanthropists and entrepreneurs.

Former Conservative Party leader Lord William Hague and former Labor politician Lord Peter Mandelson are among the senior politicians selected, with Khan deemed to have been disqualified following the selection process.

"Applications were considered by the Chancellor's election committee solely on the four exclusion criteria set out in the university's regulations. All applicants have been notified whether their submissions have been successful," a university statement reads.

Under some of the declared university criteria, candidates for the unremunerated role had to demonstrate outstanding achievements in their field and the ability to command respect beyond it.

They also had to prove a deep



appreciation for the university's research and academic mission, its global community, its ambition to remain a world-class research and teaching university; and the ability and willingness to enhance the reputation of the university locally, nationally and abroad. While the university did not specify any reasons for individual disqualifications, some experts had indicated that Khan's criminal convictions in his country may disqualify the former Oxford alumni.

Members of the world-leading university's convocation, consisting of staff and graduates of Oxford University, will now vote online to elect the successor of Lord Patten, a former governor of Hong Kong, who retires at the end of Trinity Term 2024 after 21 years as Chancellor. During the first round of

voting, in the week commencing October 28, voters will have the opportunity to rank as many candidates as they choose. The top five candidates, who will be announced in the week commencing November 4, will proceed to the second round of voting - scheduled for the week beginning November 18. The University of Oxford's new Chancellor will be announced in the week of November 25.

The incoming Chancellor will be in post for a fixed term of no more than 10 years in accordance with amendments to university statutes enacted earlier this year.

The Chancellor is the titular head of Oxford University and presides over several key ceremonies and also chairs the committee to elect the Vice-Chancellor. In addition to these formal duties, the Chancellor undertakes advocacy, advisory and fundraising work,

acting as an ambassador for the university at a range of national and international events.

"University of Oxford has been a temple of learning, research, and a beacon of history over many centuries... It will be the honor of my life to be able to serve as the Chancellor of Oxford University, and I feel I am best suited for the role and to play a part in furthering the goals of this beloved institution," reads Bhandari's "Statement of Interest" for the role.

Bhangal flags his international links and intimate knowledge of Oxford and Oxford University, as well as his "experience as a developer of new courses and visiting professor, excellent commercial acumen, multiculturally competent, with contacts in government in leading economies around the globe, I believe I can contribute to Oxford University during the 21st century".

For Tarvadi, the post offers an opportunity to bring a vision of inclusivity, innovation, and global impact.

"My international experience and network would be instrumental in forging new alliances and enhancing existing ones, ensuring that Oxford remains at the forefront of global academic and research initiatives," he states.

The post has previously been held by former Conservative prime minister Harold Macmillan, former Labor home secretary and president of the European Commission Roy Jenkins, and most recently by Lord Patten.

## Two Indian-origin Singaporean women set record, honored at media awards



Justice Judith Prakash and National sprinter Shanti Pereira have been awarded for their contribution in their respective fields by a Singaporean fashion and style magazine "Her World".

OCTOBER 15, 2024

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** Two Indian-origin women who have set records and blazed a trail in their respective fields have been recognized in Singapore by a local fashion and style magazine "Her World".

Justice Judith Prakash, 72, was on Monday named the 'Her World Woman of the Year 2024' for her pioneering work in the legal field at the magazine's annual

awards ceremony, The Straits Times reported.

National sprinter Shanti Pereira, 28, received the 'Her World Young Woman Achiever 2024' award for her sporting achievements.

Justice Prakash is Singapore's first female Judge of Appeal and was first appointed to the Supreme Court Bench in 1992.

In her 31 years on the bench, she authored about 645 judgments and more than half of them were selected for inclusion in law reports due to their significance and valuable legal propositions.

The senior judge is also a renowned expert in commercial law. She played a role in the enactment of the International Arbitration Act 1994, which helped establish Singapore as a global arbitration hub.

SPH Media, which publishes both 'Her World' and The Straits Times, in a statement said Justice Prakash paved the way for aspiring female lawyers to build their careers in the judiciary.

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

## Indian-origin student Varun Tej Pucha's attacker sentenced to 60 years

OCTOBER 15, 2024

**PORTER, IND (TIP) :** Jordan Andrade, a 25-year-old from Porter Township, Indiana, has been sentenced to 60 years in prison by the Porter Superior Court for the killing of Varun Tej Pucha, a 29-year-old graduate student from Valparaiso University. Varun, originally from Khammam in Telangana, India, was attacked on October 29, 2023, while at a gym near the university.

During the sentencing, Judge Jeffrey Clymer accepted Andrade's plea of guilty but mentally ill. Andrade had stabbed Pucha in the head with a tactical-style knife while Pucha was seated in a massage chair at Planet Fitness.

Pucha, who was pursuing a master's degree and was two months away from graduation, died of his injuries nine days later at a hospital in Fort Wayne.

According to court testimony, Andrade had a history of mental health issues, including schizophrenia and bipolar



Jordan Andrade, a 25-year-old from Porter Township, Indiana, has been sentenced to 60 years in prison by the Porter Superior Court for the killing of Varun Tej Pucha (pictured here), a 29-year-old graduate student from Valparaiso University

disorder, for which he had sought treatment prior to the attack. His father testified that Andrade had exhibited violent behavior in the past, including incidents involving his two brothers.

Under Indiana law, murder convictions carry a sentence range of 45 to 65 years. Porter County Deputy Prosecutor Chris Hammer explained that Andrade's plea agreement reduced the maximum possible sentence by five years. It is yet to be determined whether Andrade will serve his sentence in a traditional prison or in a mental health facility, which will depend on future evaluations by the Indiana Department of Correction.

Varun Pucha's family, who did not attend the sentencing virtually, remains deeply affected by the loss. The incident has drawn attention both in India and the US, as Pucha was nearing the completion of his studies at the time of his death.

# Eight Indian American firms in US Chamber of Commerce's CO-100 list

OCTOBER 17, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): At least eight Indian American led companies have made it to the US Chamber of Commerce's exclusive 2024 CO-100 list recognizing 100 of the best and brightest small and mid-sized businesses across America.

Celebrated for their remarkable contributions in driving innovation, growth, and ingenuity both locally and globally, these trailblazers are shaping the future of small business, the chamber said. "These businesses shine through their inspiring ideas and the ways they overcome challenges, enrich community impact, foster vibrant company cultures, and engage customers."

## INDIAN AMERICAN COMPANIES:

### DIGIT7

Led by AI visionary Chithrai Mani, Digit7 has been named the CO-100 Top Honoree in the Digital Innovators category.

A cutting-edge technology company specializing in advanced AI solutions across various industries, Digit7 has a portfolio that includes AI-powered autonomous store solutions, frictionless self-checkout systems, and non-GPS drone inventory management.

Digit7 holds over 25 patents and distinguishes itself through its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and customized AI products that improve operational efficiency and customer experience.

### BALANCE PAN-ASIAN GRILLE

Co-founded by Prakash Karamchandani and HoChan Jang, Balance Pan-Asian Grille is a modern fast-casual restaurant that offers fresh, customizable dishes inspired by Asian flavors, supported by its own urban farming operation, Balance Farms.

By integrating farm-to-table principles with advanced hydroponic systems and a commitment to sustainability, Balance delivers high-quality, ethically sourced ingredients while driving innovation in both the restaurant and farming industries.

### BRIGHTPOINT INFOTECH

Founded in 2012 by brothers Navin and Prem Mirpuri, Brightpoint Infotech is a global business solutions partner of Microsoft Dynamics, specializing in digital transformation for industries such as



The annual list of CO-100 includes thriving, successful companies that are committed to growing the American economy and supporting their local communities.

manufacturing, distribution, nonprofit, higher education, construction, and retail.

Combining advanced technology solutions with commitment to community engagement and mental wellness, Brightpoint Infotech drives business success while supporting diverse initiatives, including Veteran support, education, and small business advocacy.

### CLOUD BRIDGE SOLUTIONS INC

Co-founded by Arun Vellanki in 2019, Cloud Bridge Solutions is a Certified Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) headquartered in Boston. It excels in IT and Life Sciences consulting, delivering cutting-edge technology solutions tailored to diverse industries across the US, Canada, and India.

Renowned for its team of certified professionals and commitment to excellence, Cloud Bridge has earned prestigious recognitions, including the 2024 Inc 5000 North East Regionals list and the Clearly Rated Best of Staffing Client Award, solidifying its reputation as a leader in innovation and client satisfaction.

### DTOCS

Founded by Pallavi Pande, DtoCS is revolutionizing the tableware industry with eco-friendly products made from naturally shed palm leaves, offering a sustainable

alternative to disposable plastics.

By sourcing materials from rural India, DtoCS supports local farmers and environmental conservation while providing 100% compostable tableware that appeals to both private consumers and businesses, with plans for continued growth in global markets.

### OCCAMS ADVISORY

Founded by Anupam Satyasheel in 2012 and headquartered in Sarasota, Florida, Occams Advisory is a professional advisory firm that provides Fortune 500-level expertise to small and medium-sized businesses through services in tax advisory, business growth incubation, investment banking, and financial technology solutions.

Known for its client-centric approach and commitment to simplicity, Occams delivers comprehensive, integrated solutions that drive sustainable growth while also dedicating a portion of its revenue to global charitable causes, reflecting its commitment to social responsibility.

### QBOTICA

Founded in 2017 by Mahesh Vinayagam, qBotica is an early-stage company that helps enterprises of all sizes adopt AI and automation through its unique automation-as-a-service model.

By providing software, professional services, and human-in-the-loop operations under one umbrella, qBotica streamlines back-office and front-office processes, enabling businesses to focus on core functions while enhancing productivity and reducing operational costs.

### TRUECHOICEPACK

Founded by Heena Rathore and Dr. Rakesh Rathore, TrueChoicePack specializes in eco-friendly, compostable products, ranging from tableware to customized solutions for various industries.

TrueChoicePack demonstrates its commitment to sustainability, innovation, and customer-centricity through its home compostable products and has earned a strong reputation as a reliable partner in the sustainable products industry.

## Indian American Georgia teen Sirish Subash named "America's Top Young Scientist" for pesticide detection device

OCTOBER 17, 2024

ATLANTA, GA (TIP) : Sirish Subash, a ninth grader from Snellville, Georgia, has been named "America's Top Young Scientist" after winning first place in the prestigious 3M and Discovery Education Middle School Science Competition. The young Indian American's groundbreaking project, PestiSCAND, addresses a pressing concern many have about the safety of their produce-pesticide residues that may linger even after washing.



Sirish Subash's groundbreaking project, PestiSCAND, addresses a pressing concern many have about the safety of their produce-pesticide residues that may linger even after washing.

PestiSCAND, allows consumers to check for pesticide residues on fruits and vegetables from the comfort of their homes. This innovative solution is based on alarming data from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which states that 70.6% of produce items contain pesticide residues. These residues have been linked to serious health risks such as brain cancer, leukemia, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's disease.

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

## Indian-Origin AppDynamics Founder, 46, Turned 400 of His Employees into Millionaires

OCTOBER 16, 2024

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): When Jyoti Bansal, 46, decided to sell his startup AppDynamics for billions, he had his employees in mind. In 2017, just days before AppDynamics was set to go public, Cisco offered to acquire the company for \$3.7 billion. As the founder and chairman, Bansal stood to gain significantly either way, but only one option ensured a substantial financial outcome for many of his staff.

Bansal's decision to sell was influenced by several factors, including the compatibility of AppDynamics' software products with Cisco's portfolio and the impact the sales would have on the company's nearly 1,200 employees, both



400 AppDynamics employees saw the value of their shares soar to at least \$1 million each when Cisco offered to acquire the company for \$3.7 billion

financially and culturally.

Upon accepting Cisco's offer, approximately 400 AppDynamics employees saw the value of their shares soar to at least \$1 million each, according to a spokesperson for Bansal. "We had dozens of employees with \$5 million-plus outcomes. These are life-changing outcomes," Bansal told media.

He also weighed Cisco's valuation of AppDynamics against his post-IPO projections, estimating that achieving a \$3.7 billion market cap would have required "three to four years of great execution," along with the associated risks.

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

# Flushing Town Hall Celebrates 45th Anniversary at Sapphire Gala



Honorees and organizers at the 45th anniversary celebration of Flushing Town Hall



Honoree Queens Chapter of American Institute of Architects (AIA)

**OCTOBER 18, 2024**

**FLUSHING, QUEENS (TIP):** On Tuesday, October 15, 2024, Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts (FCCA), aka Flushing Town Hall celebrated its 45th year enriching Queens' vibrant cultural landscape at its Sapphire Gala fundraiser. The event commemorated FCCA's long-standing commitment to fostering arts equity and supporting the diverse audiences and creative voices of Queens through performances and exhibitions, grantmaking, and professional development opportunities for artists.

The gala honored three distinguished individuals and organizations for their significant contributions to Queens' cultural landscape: Luchia Meihua Lee, Executive Director of the Taiwanese American Arts Council (TAAC); Abha Bhatnagar Roy, Founding Director of Srijan Dance Center and a Flushing Town Hall Master Teaching Artist; and the Queens Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). The festive evening featured a cocktail reception, live performances, and an awards presentation.



Senator John Liu and sponsor Veronica Tsang

Since its founding in 1979, Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts (FCCA), aka Flushing Town Hall has been a vital force in the borough's cultural scene, providing a platform for both emerging and established artists. The organization's programs aim to amplify underrepresented voices, celebrate global arts, and ensure that the arts remain accessible. Through initiatives that span multiple disciplines, FCCA has empowered and supported countless artists to share their work with the community and beyond.

This year's gala supporters included Presenting Sponsors Veronica Y. Tsang and the AIA Queens Chapter; Premier Sponsors Howard Graf, Kathleen Donovan, and Graf & Lewent Architects; and many others.

"Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts (FCCA), aka Flushing Town Hall has thrived for 45 years, thanks to the vision and generosity of our patrons, donors, funders, and elected officials. We are grateful to all who have believed in our mission across the decades, and especially thankful for this year's gala sponsors and Honorees for their leadership. Many know us as



Honoree Abha Bhatnagar Roy, Founder Director of Srijan Dance Academy giving a performance

Flushing Town Hall, and we are a proud Arts Council for Queens as Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts. Last year alone, we distributed over \$430,000 in funding to local artists and small arts organizations, thanks to support from the New York State Council on the Arts and the Howard Gilman Foundation. The State has also contracted with us to do a cultural mapping of Queens," said Ellen Kodadek, Executive and Artistic Director of Flushing Town Hall.

**For more upcoming events at Flushing Town, visit:**

<https://www.flushingtownhall.org/fth-presents>

**COVID POLICY:** Flushing Town Hall no longer requires visitors or performers to show proof of vaccination against COVID-19; wearing a mask is optional but recommended. For more details, please visit [www.flushingtownhall.org/covid-safety](http://www.flushingtownhall.org/covid-safety).

**Support Global Arts with a Gift Today!**

All gifts of \$50 or more give you exclusive Flushing Town Hall Circle of Friends membership with benefits including a Smithsonian membership, ticket discounts, and more! Donations in any amount are appreciated to support the artists and the nonprofit cultural organization as they continue to provide programming and entertainment across New York and the world.

<https://www.flushingtownhall.org/circle-of-friends>

Flushing Town Hall is a not for profit organization and receives major support from the National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; New York State Assembly Member Ron Kim; The City of New York, Mayor Eric Adams; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Commissioner Laurie Cumbo; Queens Borough President Donovan Richards; The New York City Council, Speaker Adrienne E. Adams and New York City Council Members Sandra Ung, Tiffany Caban, Shekar Krishnan, Linda Lee, Vickie Paladino, Lynn Schulman, and Julie Won; Howard Gilman Foundation, Guru Krupa Foundation, Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation; Lily Auchincloss Foundation; Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation.

**To view current donor lists, please visit**

[www.flushingtownhall.org/donor-listings](http://www.flushingtownhall.org/donor-listings)  
**ABOUT FLUSHING TOWN HALL**

Flushing Town Hall (FTH), a Smithsonian affiliate, presents multi-disciplinary global arts that engage and educate the global communities of Queens and New York City in order to foster mutual appreciation. As advocates of arts equity since 1979, we support local, immigrant, national, and international artists, developing partnerships and collaborations that enhance our efforts. As a member of New York City's Cultural Institutions Group (CIG), we serve to restore, manage and program the historic 1862 landmark on behalf of the City of New York. FTH celebrates the history of Queens as the home of Jazz, by presenting the finest in Jazz performance. We are committed to arts education and hands-on learning, for the arts-curious, arts enthusiasts, and professional artists. We serve one of the most diverse communities in the world and strive to uphold the legacy of inclusiveness that has defined our community since the Flushing Remonstrance of 1657.



Honoree Luchia Meihua Lee, Executive Director of Taiwanese American Arts Council (TAAC)

Flushing Town Hall is a proud member of the Cultural Institutions Group (CIG), a collective of 34 nonprofit museums, performing arts centers, historical societies, zoos, and botanical gardens across all five boroughs with a distinct private-public partnership with the City of New York and a commitment to serving all New Yorkers.

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

Flushing Town Hall acknowledges that we are on the traditional land of the Matinecock People, one of the original tribes of New York, and the first people of Flushing, Queens. The Matinecock continue to live and work on this land to this day. Flushing Town Hall honors their elders who have stewarded this land throughout generations.

**For more information:**

[www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org)

(718) 463-7700 x222

137-35 Northern Blvd. Flushing, NY 11354

# KERALA CENTER TO HONOR EIGHT AT ITS 32ND ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

OCTOBER 15, 2024

**ELMONT, NY (TIP):** The Indian American Kerala Cultural and Civic Center, Inc. will honor eight Indian American Malayalees for their outstanding achievements in their field of specialization and for their service to the society, at its 32nd Annual Awards Dinner to be held on October 19, 2024. Public officials and leaders from the USA and India are expected to attend this prestigious event.

"The Kerala Center has been honoring outstanding achievers since 1992. Every year we invite nominations and the Award Committee has to make a unanimous choice for a candidate in a category to receive the award, and this year is no different from previous years in terms of their achievements," said Dr. Thomas

Abraham, Kerala Center's Trustee Board Chairman and Award Committee Member.

"Kerala Center is very happy to honor American Malayalees who excel in their professions and who work for social progress - their examples should be an inspiration for others," said Dr. Madhu



Kerala Center 2024 Awardees.

Top Row, from L to R: Wesley Mathews, Hashim Mooppan, Esq., Suja Thomas and Varkey Abraham  
Bottom Row, from L to R: Dr. Sunanda Nair, Sibu Nair, Johnson Samuel and Samcy Kodumon

Bhaskaran, Chairman of the Board and Award Committee.

**This year's honorees are:**

Johnson Samuel (Long Island, NY), Humanitarian and Social Service; Suja Thomas (Albany, NY), Nursing Leadership; Wesley Mathews (Trenton,

NJ), Public Service; Dr. Sunanda Nair (Houston, TX), Performing Arts; Hashim Mooppan (Washington, DC), Legal Services; Samcy Kodumon (L.I., NY), Pravasi Malayalam Literature; Sibu Nair (Buffalo, NY), Community Service; and Varkey Abraham (Long Island, NY),

Business Leadership.

The awardees will be honored at the Kerala Center at the 32nd Annual Awards Dinner on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at 5:30 PM at the Kerala Center, 1824 Fairfax St., Elmont, New York.

There will be variety entertainments and a fabulous dinner for the evening.

Dr. Madhu Bhaskaran is the Awards Committee Chairman and other members are Dr. Thomas Abraham and Daisy P. Stephen.

Kerala Center President Alex K. Esthappan said that the Center has recognized over 185 American Malayalees in the last 32 years and that it is great to see that they have continued to rise further in their careers and serve the society. All are invited to join this Annual Awards Dinner.

**Please contact the Kerala Center to reserve your seats at: 516- 358-2000 or at email: kc@keralacenterny.com.**

**For further information, please contact: Alex Esthappan, President, 516 503 9387, Raju Thomas, General Secretary, 516 434 0669.**

## Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios says the County is committed to supporting Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts



"Middlesex County is committed to supporting ongoing disaster relief efforts in response to the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene", says Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios

OCTOBER 18, 2024

**NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ (TIP):** "Middlesex County is committed to supporting ongoing disaster relief efforts in response to the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene. At the request of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and coordinated through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Middlesex County Office of Health Services, Special Operations Unit, has deployed three vehicles and six staff members to transport federally funded equipment to HHS/ASPR in Frederick, Maryland, to

assist with recovery operations. Additionally, the Middlesex County Office of Marketing has contributed two full boxes of hooded sweatshirts to provide much-needed comfort to those affected by the hurricane. The Board of County Commissioners is proud to partner with federal agencies to assist our neighbors in the South during their time of need.

Middlesex County's dedication to Hurricane Helene relief efforts is a testament to our commitment to helping our neighbors. It is our collective responsibility to bring relief, hope, and strength to those impacted during a crisis.

At home, Middlesex County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) prioritizes the safety and preparedness of our residents and communities. Earlier this year, the County launched its "Be Ready" campaign, designed to educate residents about disaster preparedness and provide the tools needed to minimize the impact of emergencies and natural disasters. For more information about the Be Ready campaign, click here."

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

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# India-Canada diplomatic spat leaves strong Indo-Canadian community in a lurch



BY PRABHJOT SINGH

Three days after Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, met his Indian counterpart, Mr Narendra Modi, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Laos, both Canada and India expelled six of each other's diplomats in one of the most severe actions yet in an escalating dispute over the June 2023 assassination of a Sikh activist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in Surrey in British Columbia province of Canada.

**The virtual snapping of diplomatic relations has sent shock waves among members of the Indian Diaspora in Canada.**

Earlier, India outrightly rejected the latest communique from the Canadian Government in which six members of the Indian diplomatic corps, including High Commissioner, SK Verma, were named as "people of interest" linking them to the killing of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

India defended its diplomats holding that High Commissioner was a very senior member of the country's foreign service and the charges levelled against members of its mission were unacceptable and slanderous.

In a counter-action, the Indian foreign ministry said it was expelling Canada's acting high commissioner, deputy high commissioner and four other diplomats, adding that they were told to leave India by the end of Saturday.

**The Indian ministry also rejected Canada's diplomatic communication.**

It is not the first time diplomatic relations have been stained to a level that even consular services get curtailed. Last year, both India and Canada drastically cut the strength of their respective diplomatic corps.

In 1986, Canada had not only withdrawn its High Commissioner to India but also imposed severe sanctions after India went ahead with a nuclear explosion in Pokhran.

"I know the events of the past year and today's revelations have shaken many Canadians, particularly those in Indo-Canadian and Sikh communities. Many of you are angry, upset, and frightened. I get that. This shouldn't happen. Canada and India have a long and storied history rooted in strong people-to-people ties and business investments, but we cannot abide by what we are seeing right now. Canada fully respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, and we expect India to do the same for us," Justin Trudeau said in a statement.

Talking to the media, the Canadian Prime Minister said: "The Commissioner of the RCMP, Mike Duheme, has stated that the RCMP has clear and compelling evidence that agents of the Government of India have engaged in, and continue to engage in, activities that pose a significant threat to public safety. This includes clandestine information-gathering techniques, coercive behavior targeting South Asian Canadians, and involvement in over a dozen threatening



Canada's Acting High Commissioner to India Stewart Wheeler leaves the office of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi -Credit: PTI

**"I KNOW THE EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR AND TODAY'S REVELATIONS HAVE SHAKEN MANY CANADIANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN INDO-CANADIAN AND SIKH COMMUNITIES. MANY OF YOU ARE ANGRY, UPSET, AND FRIGHTENED. I GET THAT. THIS SHOULDN'T HAPPEN. CANADA AND INDIA HAVE A LONG AND STORIED HISTORY ROOTED IN STRONG PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES AND BUSINESS INVESTMENTS, BUT WE CANNOT ABIDE BY WHAT WE ARE SEEING RIGHT NOW. CANADA FULLY RESPECTS THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF INDIA, AND WE EXPECT INDIA TO DO THE SAME FOR US," JUSTIN TRUDEAU SAID IN A STATEMENT."**

and violent acts, including murder. This is unacceptable.

"While attempts have been made by the RCMP and national security officials to work with the Government of India and Indian law enforcement counterparts on this matter, they have been repeatedly which concluded six agents of the Government of India are persons of interest in criminal activities. And despite repeated requests to the Government of India, they have decided not to cooperate. Given that the Government of India still refuses to cooperate, my colleague, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Melanie Joly, had only one choice.

"Today, she issued a deportation notice for these six individuals. They must leave Canada. They will no longer be able to act as diplomats in Canada, nor to re-enter Canada, for whatever reason. Let me be clear: the evidence brought to light by the RCMP cannot be ignored. It leads to one conclusion: it is necessary to disrupt the criminal activities that continue to pose a threat to public safety in Canada. That is why we acted. Because we will always - first and foremost - stand for the right of Canadians to feel safe and secure in their own country.

"We will never tolerate the

involvement of a foreign government in threatening and killing Canadian citizens on Canadian soil - a deeply unacceptable violation of Canada's sovereignty and of international law," Justin Trudeau said.

Canada's foreign minister, Melanie Joly, said the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had gathered "ample, clear and concrete evidence which identified six individuals as persons of interest in the Nijjar case."

She said India was asked to waive diplomatic and consular immunity and cooperate in the investigation but refused to cooperate.

"Regrettably, as India did not agree and given the ongoing public safety concerns for Canadians, Canada served notices of expulsion to these individuals," she said while urging the Indian government to support the ongoing investigation in the interest of "both our countries to get to the bottom of this."

RCMP Commissioner Mike Duheme claimed that investigators have evidence tying Indian government agents to other homicides and violent acts in Canada. He, however, declined to provide specifics, but said there have been well over a dozen credible and imminent threats that have resulted in police warning members of the South Asian

community, notably the pro-Khalistan, or Sikh independence, movement. He said attempts to have discussions with Indian law enforcement were unsuccessful.

"The team has learned a significant amount of information about the breadth and depth of criminal activity orchestrated by agents of the government of India, and consequential threats to the safety and security of Canadians and individuals living in Canada," Duheme said.

**India has rejected the accusation as absurd.**

Though Indo-Canadian relations have always remained tipsy and turvy, they got a turn for worse in June last year when Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, was fatally shot after he left the Sikh temple in Surrey, British Columbia. An Indian-born citizen of Canada, he owned a plumbing business and was a leader of the movement to create an independent Sikh homeland. India had declared him a terrorist in 2020 and his name was figured in the list of individuals who were wanted to be extradited to India.

Four Indian nationals living in Canada were charged with Nijjar's murder. The bone of contention between India and Canada over the years has been the activities of pro-Khalistan elements on Canadian soil. While Canada had been dismissing these allegations on the plea that it does not curtail the right to freedom of expression, the Government of India had been complaining that an anti-India and secessionist movement was being supported by the Canadian government by its inaction in the matter.

The Indian foreign ministry said Monday that "India reserves the right to take further steps in response to the Trudeau government's support for extremism, violence and separatism against India."

The ministry also summoned Canada's top diplomat in New Delhi and told him that "the baseless targeting" of the Indian high commissioner and other diplomats and officials in Canada "was completely unacceptable."

*(Prabhjot Singh, is a Toronto-based award-winning independent journalist, He was celebrated by AIPS, the international body of sports journalists, for covering ten Olympics at its centennial celebrations held at UNESCO Centre in Paris during the 2024 Olympic Games. Besides, he has written extensively about business and the financial markets, the health industry, the public and private sectors, and aviation. He has worked as a political reporter besides covering Sikh and Punjab politics. He is particularly interested in Indian Diaspora and Sikh Diaspora in particular. His work has also appeared in various international and national newspapers, magazines and journals)*



# Lawrence Bishnoi: A Real Criminal Mastermind or a Convenient Scapegoat?



BY PROF. INDRAJIT  
S SALUJA



Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi

In recent years, the name Lawrence Bishnoi has become synonymous with some of the most notorious criminal activities in India, including a series of high-profile assassinations, extortion schemes, and alleged links to terrorism. Bishnoi has been in the media spotlight, with reports about his gang's sprawling network, which allegedly spans 21 Indian states and even extends overseas. From the killing of iconic figures like Sidhu Moose Wala to the assassination of Khalistani separatists, Bishnoi's gang has been blamed for numerous violent acts. However, a closer look at some of the crimes attributed to Bishnoi, along with his alleged hit list, which includes Bollywood superstar Salman Khan and political figures like Baba Siddique, raises critical questions: Is Lawrence Bishnoi truly behind these killings, or is he a pawn in a much larger game, manipulated by forces that seek to control the narrative?

## The Salman Khan Incident: A Sacred Animal or a Convenient Excuse?

Salman Khan has been in the crosshairs of Lawrence Bishnoi's gang for years, with Bishnoi himself allegedly issuing threats to the actor. The reason for this hostility, as often reported, stems from the infamous blackbuck poaching case, where Khan was accused of hunting down an animal considered sacred by the Bishnoi community. In 1998, while filming a movie in Rajasthan, Khan allegedly killed a blackbuck, an antelope species revered by the Bishnois for its religious significance. Bishnoi's gang vowed to take revenge on the actor, with Lawrence reportedly stating that he would kill Khan for disrespecting their beliefs.

However, the circumstances surrounding this vendetta raise several doubts. Salman Khan's case has been dragging through the Indian legal system for decades. His involvement in the blackbuck killing is widely known, yet the question remains: Why should Lawrence Bishnoi, a gangster more interested in extortion, violence, and control over criminal enterprises, care so deeply about a 1998 incident involving a Bollywood actor? Is this personal vendetta the real motive, or is the blackbuck case simply a convenient narrative to cover up a deeper agenda?

Many have speculated that the focus on Salman Khan's involvement in the poaching case serves as a diversion,

allowing Bishnoi to be framed as a ruthless criminal without examining the broader context of his activities. The question then becomes: Why would Bishnoi target someone like Salman Khan, a prominent and influential figure, unless there were other interests at play? Is the vendetta against Khan based solely on the actor's actions, or is it part of a broader strategy that involves larger forces at work?

## The Curious Case of Baba Siddique: Another Target, Another Puzzle



Baba Siddique

The inclusion of Baba Siddique, a well-known politician from Maharashtra, on Lawrence Bishnoi's alleged hit list has only added to the mystery surrounding the gangster's true motives. Siddique, a former Member of Parliament and a close associate of several influential politicians, was reportedly targeted for reasons that remain unclear. While the killing of Sidhu Moose Wala and other political figures had more obvious connections—either through rivalries or ideological differences—the inclusion of Siddique on this list raises serious questions.

What possible motive could Bishnoi's gang have for targeting Siddique, a figure with no clear ties to any criminal or separatist activities? Was Siddique's inclusion on the hit list part of a larger political game, where Bishnoi is being used as a pawn by more powerful entities, or does the gang genuinely harbor animosity toward the politician? The lack of clear answers has led many to speculate that Bishnoi is being manipulated, with his name being used as a cover for politically motivated killings that serve other agendas.

The possibility that Siddique, like Salman Khan, has been targeted to serve a hidden political purpose cannot be ruled out. In India's complex political landscape, where crime, politics, and ideology often intersect, it is not uncommon for criminals to be used by political forces to settle scores or eliminate rivals. Could Bishnoi's gang, known for its brutal efficiency and wide network, be acting on behalf of other interests?

## The Conflicting Narrative of Pro-Khalistan Links

One of the most puzzling aspects of the Lawrence Bishnoi saga is the alleged contradiction between his gang's actions and his supposed connections to Khalistani separatist groups. In March 2023, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a chargesheet claiming that Bishnoi and his gang had links to Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), a banned pro-Khalistan terrorist group, as well as other similar outfits. The chargesheet painted a picture of a gang deeply involved in the terror-criminal nexus, working in conjunction with these separatist groups to carry out criminal activities across the country.



Sidhu Moose Wala

Yet, in a striking contradiction, many of the people reportedly killed by Bishnoi's gang were either Khalistani sympathizers or directly associated with the pro-Khalistan movement. Sidhu Moose Wala, the young Punjabi singer gunned down in May 2022, was believed by Indian intelligence agencies to be sympathetic to the Khalistani ideology. Sukhdool Singh Gill, aka Sukha Duneke, a Khalistani separatist living in Canada, was another high-profile target eliminated by Bishnoi's gang. This leads to a baffling question: Why would a gangster with alleged ties to pro-Khalistan groups be responsible for killing their sympathizers?

This contradiction suggests that there might be more to the story than meets the eye. If Bishnoi was indeed working with or for pro-Khalistan groups, why would his gang target individuals who are ideologically aligned with those very groups? One explanation could be that the Khalistani links are a smokescreen, created by law enforcement agencies to frame Bishnoi in a specific light. By associating him with banned terrorist outfits, the authorities could justify cracking down on his gang while simultaneously eliminating figures associated with the Khalistani cause, without drawing too much attention to the political motivations behind these killings.

## A Convenient Scapegoat?

The more one delves into Lawrence Bishnoi's criminal activities and the narrative spun around him, the more it seems that he might be serving as a

convenient scapegoat for forces far more powerful than a street-level gangster. While there is no denying that Bishnoi is a criminal with a significant network, the complexity and contradictions in the cases attributed to him raise serious questions about whether he is truly in control of his gang's actions or whether he is being manipulated by political or intelligence agencies to carry out their dirty work.

It is worth noting that Bishnoi has been in prison since 2015, and yet, his gang continues to operate with impunity, carrying out high-profile assassinations and violent crimes across India and abroad. How does a man incarcerated in a high-security prison maintain such control over his operations? According to anonymous sources within law enforcement, Bishnoi uses Voice over IP (VoIP) calls to communicate with his associates outside jail. This method allows him to bypass traditional surveillance mechanisms, but it also raises the question: How much of this communication is genuinely from Bishnoi, and how much is being attributed to him by others?

The suggestion that Bishnoi's gang could be used as a tool by Indian intelligence agencies has gained traction in recent years. In the case of the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Sikh separatist leader killed in Canada in 2023. There were rumors that Indian authorities hinted at Bishnoi's involvement, despite no official claim being made by the gang. Could it be that Bishnoi's name is being used as a cover for state-sponsored actions, allowing the authorities to distance themselves from controversial killings?

## The Need for Transparency

Given the contradictory nature of the allegations against Lawrence Bishnoi, it is crucial that the public gets a clearer understanding of who he is and what his true role in these killings has been. One way to achieve this would be for Bishnoi to be allowed to speak directly to the media, unfiltered and unmanipulated by law enforcement agencies. Let him confirm or deny the charges that have been laid against him. Let him explain his alleged connections to pro-Khalistan groups and why his gang has targeted figures like Salman Khan, Baba Siddique, and Sidhu Moose Wala.

Without this transparency, the narrative surrounding Lawrence Bishnoi will continue to be clouded by suspicion and speculation. Is he a criminal mastermind with an ideological bent, or is he merely a pawn in a much larger game, used by forces beyond his control to carry out politically motivated killings? For the sake of clarity and justice, it is time for the world to see, hear, and know the real Lawrence Bishnoi, free from the narratives imposed by law enforcement and intelligence agencies. Only then can the truth about his involvement in these high-profile killings, particularly of political figures between 2022 and 2024, come to light.

# A Global Movement for Doctor Safety Sparked by the RG Kar Tragedy



BY DR. AVINASH  
GUPTA

The healthcare profession, especially in countries with fragile healthcare systems, is fraught with risks, as was tragically underscored in August 2024, when a young female doctor was raped and murdered at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata. This horrifying incident ignited nationwide protests, highlighting the multisystemic failures in protecting doctors and other healthcare workers. The Physicians of Indian Origin United for Wellbeing and Safety of Healthcare Workers (PIUWSH), an advocacy group of Indian-origin doctors, which started as a WhatsApp group of extraordinarily motivated doctors sharing the outrage of their community in India, soon emerged as a global voice to push for systemic reforms and advocate for the safety of all healthcare workers, particularly in India.

On August 09, 2024, the resident doctor who is referred to as "Abhaya" to protect her privacy, was working late into the night when she was brutally raped and murdered. This attack, which occurred within the supposedly secure confines of RG Kar Medical College, was a devastating reminder of the vulnerabilities faced by healthcare workers, particularly women, in India. The medical community erupted in anger and frustration; a raw nerve had been hit. The doctors and healthcare workers across West Bengal and India mobilized to demand justice and improved safety measures calling for an overhaul of safety measures in hospitals.

Peaceful protests began in Kolkata, with junior doctors leading strikes and public demonstrations as the senior doctors worked extra to allow their juniors to continue their movement. However, these peaceful protests suffered violence as local mobs, likely hired to sabotage the movement, attacked the demonstrators, vandalized hospital property and destroyed valuable evidence. Despite the overwhelming police presence, law enforcement did little to stop the violence, further angering the medical community and amplifying their calls for action.

The movement quickly became not only about Abhaya but about the broader societal issues. Many from the non-medical community identified the late doctor as a daughter, a sister and came out on the streets in support of the doctors, lending momentum to the movement.

The doctors around the world felt the anguish and were driven to make their support known. A global group of alumni from various medical colleges in India and organizations of physicians of Indian origin united to send correspondences to eleven elected representatives' offices through official channels as well as in person. Over the next two months, such waves of letters were sent at least two more times. This group later formally organized into PIUWSH.

The horror of the crime and the resilient, unified call for action from the medical community moved the Supreme Court of India to intervene. In addition to firmly doubling down on the need for



PIUWSH's immediate goal is to continue to make their peers in India feel supported and heard, and to continue to keep the international spotlight on the atrocity that one of their own suffered.

Abhaya, the Court, acknowledging the widespread national outcry and the growing demand for systemic changes, ordered the formation of a National Task Force (NTF) to investigate the incident and assess the safety measures in Indian hospitals. This task force was responsible for proposing guidelines to improve working conditions and security for healthcare workers.

PIUWSH, while still in its infancy, took the initiative to connect with the leadership of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and a leading member of the NTF to discuss the most effective way they could aid the national effort. Based on this conversation, the group contributed a comprehensive set of evidence-based recommendations to the NTF. These recommendations, rooted in a thorough root cause analysis of the RG Kar incident, focused on practical solutions like regulating duty hours to prevent exhaustion and alertness, improving hospital security measures through personnel and infrastructure, and introducing stronger legal protections for healthcare workers including process, outcome and balancing measures.

PIUWSH took it's the movement beyond the streets of India, hand in hand with the global Indian diaspora. In September 2024, one of PIUWSH's members met with the Prime Minister of India during his visit to the United States to discuss the concerns of healthcare workers and shared with

him a copy of the recommendations composed for the NTF. Other members have met with the Consular Generals in various cities to convey the sentiment of the physicians' community in the U.S.

Through these diplomatic channels, PIUWSH was able to communicate the demands of the medical community to the highest levels of government. The group's role as a bridge between healthcare workers in India and the global medical community proved instrumental in pushing for continued focus on the safety and well-being of healthcare professionals.

Media coverage played a crucial role in sustaining public attention on the RG Kar tragedy. PIUWSH, in collaboration with national and international media outlets, helped maintain the spotlight on the incident. Major Indian press and TV news outlets like the Tribune, the Indian express, Times of India, TV9 and international news channels such as BBC worked with members of the group that would later form PIUWSH to draw attention globally towards the developing crisis. Newspapers with international readership, including The New York Times, the Telegraph, the Asian American news and the Indian eye also brought to light the plight of the Indian doctors, the reasons for their fight and why the global community cares deeply about the issue.

PIUWSH utilized platforms like X and Instagram to disseminate information, share updates from the protests in India,

and engage with global supporters through hashtags such as #JusticeForDoctors and #Workplacesafety.

PIUWSH and their allies also helped organize and participated in several solidarity events, candlelight vigils and demonstrations in the United States and other countries. In some of the largest demonstrations, PIUWSH members joined the New York City India Day Parade, the Global Citizens' festival and coordinated gatherings in hundreds of cities with posters calling for justice for Abhaya and advocating for safety in Indian hospitals. These protests brought global attention to the plight of healthcare workers in India and reinforced the importance of safety reforms.

As PIUWSH continues to advocate for healthcare worker safety in India, the group remains committed to its broader mission of ensuring the safety and well-being of healthcare workers everywhere. The tragic events at RG Kar Medical College exposed the deep vulnerabilities within India's healthcare system due to socio-cultural, administrative, health communication related, infrastructural and various other causes, but they also highlighted a universal problem faced by healthcare workers to varying degrees, which is hostility within the system and from the community they care for.

The goals of the Indian doctors' protests will only be met when satisfactory measures for justice for Abhaya are undertaken and commitment towards significant changes in the healthcare system to prevent another such occurrence are not only verbally promised but also credibly executed on the ground. As this article is being written, the doctors in India have already entered the second week of their hunger strike, four already in the ICU. The protests continued for more than two months with periods where the doctors returned to their usual roles, having placed their trust in the justice and governance, but have had to return to the strike as they witnessed very little of what was on paper translated into action. PIUWSH's immediate goal is to continue to make their peers in India feel supported and heard, and to continue to keep the international spotlight on the atrocity that one of their own suffered.

In the long run, through collaboration with international medical organizations, and advocacy groups, and through continued positive contributions to the members' alma maters as well as the community of undergraduate and postgraduate medical trainees at large, PIUWSH hopes to gain the trust of their most important stakeholders. This way, hopefully, they can foster a safer, more supportive environment for healthcare workers in India, and in time, beyond India.

*(Dr. Avinash Gupta is a New Jersey based Cardiologist, and President of Federation of Indian Associations NY NJ CT NE)*

# US has a broken immigration system that needs to be repaired: Kamala Harris

OCTOBER 17, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) : The United States has a broken immigration system that needs to be repaired, Vice President Kamala Harris said on Wednesday in a rare interview with the Republican-leaning news channel during which she sparred with its popular host.

Harris made these remarks in an interview with Fox News anchor Bret Baier.

Baier repeatedly pressed the Democratic presidential nominee on illegal immigration, taxpayer support for gender transition surgery and other areas that closely aligned with former President Donald Trump's regular attacks against her.

With 20 days before the election, Harris tried to defend her record on immigration and the economy.

On being asked how many undocumented immigrants have illegally entered the US under the Biden-Harris administration. Harris did not give a number.

Harris responded: "Bret, let's just get to the point, OK? The point is that we have a broken immigration system that needs to be repaired."

"So, your Homeland Security Secretary said that 85 per cent of apprehensions," Baier interjected.

"I'm not finished. We have an immigration system," Harris tried to continue with her answer.



Fox News anchor Bret Baier interviewing Vice President Kamala Harris in Washington Crossing, Pa.

Screen grab/ Fox News

"It's a rough estimate that 6 million people have been released into the country," the Fox News anchor interrupted again.

"And let me just finish. I'll get to the question. I promise you. I was beginning to answer," the vice president pleaded.

"When you came into office, your administration immediately reversed a number of Trump border policies. Most significantly, the policy required illegal immigrants to be detained through deportation, either in the US or in Mexico. And you switched that policy. They were... released from custody awaiting trial. So

instead, included in those were a large number of single men, adult men, who went on to commit heinous crimes. So looking back, do you regret the decision to terminate Remain in Mexico at the beginning of your administration?" Baier asked again.

"At the beginning of our administration, within practically hours of taking the oath, the first bill, practically within hours of taking the oath, was a bill to fix our immigration system," Harris said as Baier kept on interjecting in between.

"We recognized from day one that this is

your first question. It is a priority for us as a nation and for the American people. Our focus has been on fixing a problem. From day one, then, we have done a number of things, including addressing our asylum system and putting more resources, getting more judges, what we needed to do to tighten up penalties and increase penalties for illegal crossings, and what we needed to do to deal with points of entry between border, entry points," she said.

"We worked on supporting what was a bipartisan effort, including some of the most conservative members of the United States Congress, to actually strengthen the border. That border bill would have put 1,500 more border agents at the border, which is why I believe the Border Patrol agents supported the bill. It would have allowed us to stem the flow of fentanyl coming into the United States, which is a scourge affecting people of every background, every geographic location in our country, killing people," she said.

"Donald Trump learned about that bill and told them to kill it because he preferred to instead of fixing a problem," Harris alleged.

"This election in 20 days will determine whether we have a president of the United States who actually cares more about fixing a problem, even if it is not to their political advantage in an election because there was a solution," she said. (Source: PTI)

## 'Our allies have taken advantage of us more so than our enemies': Trump



OCTOBER 16, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Former president and Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump on Tuesday, October 15, said the US' allies have taken advantage of it more than its enemies.

"Our allies have taken advantage of us more than our enemies. Our allies are the European Union. We have a trade deficit of USD300 billion with the European Union," Trump told the Economic Club of Chicago in response to a question.

"We have trade deals that were so bad that I said, who are the people that are doing it? They're either very stupid or they're getting paid off," he said. "I put tariffs on China, 27.5 percent. Otherwise, we'd be flooded with Chinese cars. All of our factories would close. We'd have no jobs at all in the auto industry.

That goes for electricity, which is a killer, which I've explained. I put tariffs on South Korea because they were sending in trucks. I put tariffs on fairly substantial tariffs," he said. "Do you know that our car companies make almost all of their money with the small trucks, SUVs and small trucks? If I took those tariffs, you would be inundated. Every car company would be out of business," Trump said.

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

## Kamala Harris' vision for 'equitable' world 'inspiration' for all, says music composer A R Rahman



OCTOBER 14, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Vice President Kamala Harris' White House bid gets a boost from legendary Indian music composer A R Rahman, who has come out in support of her "vision for an equitable world" and recording some of his popular songs like "Jai Ho" to inspire Indian American voters.

"It'll be nice to have a first female president with a lot of energy coming from and love support coming from all of us," Rahman told Indiaspora founder M R Rangaswami

president with a lot of energy coming from and love support coming from all of us," Rahman told Indiaspora founder M R Rangaswami in the pre-recorded performance by the legendary singer, which was broadcast on Sunday. "You're excited. We're excited. We can't wait to hear your music from the studio," Rangaswami said before the recording in Los Angeles.

In his remarks at the top of his blockbuster performance, Rahman said, "Kamala Harris's vision for a more equitable world is an inspiration for us all. Her interest in focusing on what unites us instead of what divides us is a message that is very important, not just for the United States, but for the world.

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

## Walmart introduces Indian snacks and sweets in its select US stores



WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Ahead of Diwali, Walmart on Thursday, October 17, announced the introduction of several popular Indian brands of snacks and sweets in its select US stores

festive packs, Abhinandan and Shahi Nazrana that have sweets such as Soan Papdi and Gulab Jamun.

Brands such as Regal Kitchen and VAHDAM are already available to Walmart US customers. Jayanti Spices and Hyfun Foods currently have products under Walmart's Great Value brand.

Together, they will supply a diverse range of well-loved snacks and food products to Walmart's U.S. customers. The product lineup caters to the Diwali celebrations as well as additional staples often found in American pantries. Offerings include premium tea, ready-to-eat and frozen foods, traditional snacks, spices and festive packs, the Arkansas-headquartered company said. "Walmart is committed to providing our customers with a wide variety of unique and diverse product offerings," said Andrea Albright, executive vice president, Sourcing at Walmart.

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

# THE EMBASSY OF INDIA IN GUATEMALA HOSTS NAVRATRI CELEBRATIONS

OCTOBER 14, 2024

**GUATEMALA CITY (TIP):** The Embassy of India, in collaboration with the Indian community, celebrated the vibrant Navratri festival on Saturday, October 13, 2024, at the Chancery premises. Embassy has been actively involved in promoting Indian culture across Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, even with a relatively small Indian community in these regions. The enthusiasm to celebrate traditional festivals like Navratri, Diwali, and Holi remains strong, with each event witnessing remarkable participation.



Members of the Indian community Performing at the Navratri festival at the Embassy of India

The Embassy plays a crucial role in fostering cultural exchange and enhancing India's image abroad by organizing such cultural events. These festivals serve as a bridge to bring together diverse communities and help promote Indian heritage in Central America. The Embassy's cultural initiatives have included the successful celebration of Diwali last year, attended by approximately 1,500 people, including local dignitaries, Indian community members, and friends of India. Similarly, the Holi festival attracted around 500 participants who came together to enjoy the colors and festivities. These efforts contribute to strengthening the cultural bonds and understanding between India and the host nations.



Community members participated enthusiastically in the Garba Dance

Navratri, meaning "nine nights," is a major Hindu festival celebrated in honor of Goddess Durga. It symbolizes the triumph of good over evil and is marked by dance, music, fasting, and worship across different regions of India. Each day is dedicated to a different manifestation of the goddess, with devotees offering prayers and performing rituals. The festival is especially famous for its traditional folk dances, Garba and Dandiya Raas, which are performed with great zeal and enthusiasm.

The Navratri celebration at the Chancery began with Aarti, where all attendees participated in invoking the blessings of the goddess Durga. Following the Aarti, there were captivating dance performances by children and adults, showcasing traditional Indian dance forms. The highlight of the evening was the group Garba dance, where everyone, dressed in colorful traditional attire, danced to the rhythmic beats. The atmosphere was filled with joy and energy as participants celebrated together. To enhance the cultural experience, the Embassy & the Community served a variety of Indian cuisines, allowing the guests to indulge in authentic flavors from India. The event provided an opportunity for the local community to experience



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra inaugurated the Navratri festival with Arati

Indian culture first-hand, furthering the Embassy's efforts to promote cultural exchange.

Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra greeted all the attendees at the Navratri celebration and extended his warm wishes for the festival. He expressed his delight in witnessing the enthusiasm of the Indian community in Guatemala despite its small size and praised their efforts in keeping cultural traditions alive. The Ambassador assured everyone of the Embassy's continued support for organizing Indian festivals, emphasizing the importance of celebrating significant occasions like Diwali, Holi, and Navratri with full zeal. He highlighted the role of such events in fostering cultural exchange and strengthening the bonds between India and the people of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.



Garba dance was the main attraction of the Festival. Ambassador Manoj Kumar Mohapatra is seen performing. -All photos / Embassy of India, Guatemala

The celebration of Navratri at the Embassy of India was a resounding success, reflecting the zeal and dedication of the Indian community and the Embassy's commitment to promoting Indian culture in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. These cultural events not only keep the spirit of Indian traditions alive abroad but also create a platform for cultural diplomacy, fostering stronger relations and mutual appreciation between India and Central America.

The Embassy of India is actively preparing for the Diwali Festival, scheduled for November 9, 2024, a flagship event of the Embassy's cultural outreach, which has already seen significant interest, with approximately 1000 people registered to attend. With these efforts, Embassy's initiatives continue to resonate with people from diverse backgrounds, reinforcing cultural ties and providing a glimpse into the richness of India's heritage.

*(Based on a press release issued by Ramesh Khulbey)*

# INDIA-GUATEMALA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LAUNCHED



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra emphasized the Chamber's significance as a vital step in strengthening the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the 2 countries.

**OCTOBER 16, 2024**

**GUATEMALA CITY (TIP):** In another significant development in Guatemala, The India-Guatemala Business Chamber was officially launched on October 15, 2024, at an event attended by around 75 distinguished guests, including key Guatemalan officials like Mr. Julio Orozco, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Antonio Romero, Vice Minister of Investment from the Ministry of Economy. Prominent business figures such as Mr. Mario Lopez from the Onyx Group and Ms. Fanny D. Estrada, Director of Institutional Relations at AGEXPORT, were also present. Mr. Estuardo Rodríguez Azpuru Ordóñez, former Congressman, was unanimously elected as the first president of the chamber, underscoring the collaborative effort between India and Guatemala to enhance bilateral trade relations.

The establishment of the India-Guatemala Business Chamber is crucial for formalizing and strengthening commercial relations between the two countries. The chamber addresses the growing interest from Indian companies in exploring business opportunities in Guatemala, particularly in sectors such as energy, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and technology. It aims to serve as a platform for fostering collaboration, providing Indian and Guatemalan businesses with a structured environment to navigate trade regulations, establish partnerships, and leverage each other's market strengths.

The chamber will play a pivotal role in facilitating trade by promoting mutual understanding of market demands and easing the process of identifying and engaging in investment opportunities. It will provide a forum for businesses to connect, share insights, and participate in workshops, trade fairs, and networking events. Furthermore, the chamber will act as a liaison between businesses and government agencies, streamlining processes and resolving trade-related issues more effectively.

The launch of the chamber marks a significant milestone in expanding India's presence in the Central American region, which remains relatively untapped despite its growth potential. Guatemala's strategic location in the Northern Triangle, with proximity to major markets such as the United States, makes it an attractive hub for Indian businesses looking to expand into the region. The chamber will facilitate increased trade activities, contributing to India's goal of diversifying its global trade partners and bolstering its economic footprint in Central America.

In his remarks at the launch of the India-Guatemala Business Chamber, Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra emphasized the chamber's significance as a vital step in strengthening the bilateral trade and economic relationship between the two countries. He highlighted the chamber's potential to create a more favorable business environment by facilitating direct interactions between Indian and Guatemalan companies. The Ambassador noted that this initiative aligns with India's broader strategy to expand its global trade footprint and bring economic opportunities to new regions, particularly in Central America. He expressed optimism that the chamber would help bridge gaps, foster collaboration, and open up new avenues for investment and technological exchange, ultimately benefiting both nations.



Mr. Estuardo Rodríguez Azpuru Ordóñez highlighted the strategic importance of Guatemala's location as a gateway to the US market, which positions the Chamber as a key player.

In his remarks during the inauguration of the India-Guatemala Business Chamber, Estuardo Rodríguez Azpuru Ordóñez expressed his gratitude for the trust placed in him as the chamber's president. He emphasized the critical role of the chamber in fostering economic collaboration between India and Guatemala. Ordóñez highlighted the strategic importance of Guatemala's location as a gateway to the U.S. market, which positions the chamber as a key player in enhancing trade opportunities. He reaffirmed the commitment to work towards establishing a robust framework that encourages investment, promotes Indian products, and facilitates technology transfer, ultimately aiming to create a mutually beneficial environment for businesses in both countries.



Guests Expressed optimism about the opportunities the Chamber presents for enhancing bilateral trade

During the event, several dignitaries extended their congratulations to the members of the newly formed India-Guatemala Business Chamber, expressing optimism about the opportunities it presents for enhancing bilateral trade. They highlighted the chamber's potential to bridge gaps between Indian and Guatemalan businesses, fostering a collaborative environment. Taking advantage of this momentum, representatives from Lakshmi Capital delivered a presentation on proposed infrastructure projects that could be initiated in Guatemala. This presentation aimed at providing the chamber with a comprehensive understanding of the projects, outlining the necessary requirements and steps to bring them to fruition. The emphasis was on leveraging the chamber's resources and network to facilitate these initiatives, thereby contributing to economic growth and development in the region.



Representatives from Lakshmi Capital delivered a presentation on proposed infrastructure projects that could be initiated in Guatemala. -All photos / Embassy of India, Guatemala

By opening new avenues for trade, the India-Guatemala Business Chamber will help both countries tap into each other's markets more effectively. It will encourage investment in various sectors, potentially leading to job creation, economic growth, and technological exchange. For Guatemala, this partnership could bring much-needed expertise in areas such as information technology, healthcare, and manufacturing. For India, it provides access to new markets and resources, aligning with its global development strategy. The India-Guatemala Business Chamber is a strategic initiative that will enhance trade relations, drive economic growth, and foster stronger cultural and business ties between India and Guatemala, paving the way for a prosperous partnership in the years ahead.

*(Based on a press release issued by Ramesh Khulbey)*

# Joe Biden and Jill Biden play host to Indian students at the White House



BY PRABHJOT PAUL SINGH

**NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING ECONOMIST PROFESSOR ABHIJIT BANERJEE CALLED DEXTERITY "AN UNUSUAL INSTITUTION," WHILE THE TELEGRAPH CALLED GRADUATES AND FELLOWS OF DEXTERITY "THE FUTURE OF INDIA."**



Dexters at The White House

OCTOBER 18, 2024

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** For 35 young Indian scholars, it was a day they would never be able to forget. They could not have asked for more than meeting the first couple of the United States, the President Joe Biden and his lady wife Jill Biden, at the White House, in a rare and historic moment.

Identified, trained and developed as young scholars and leaders from their early teenage years, the 35 Indian students come from Dexterity Global's National Scholar Development Program. They are currently undergraduate and graduate students at the world's top universities on scholarships. Founded in 2008, Dexterity Global is a national organization powering the next generation of leaders through educational opportunities and training.

Mr Sharad Vivek Sagar, CEO, and founder of Dexterity Global, shared details of the visit of the students to the White House. Sagar was 16-years-old when he founded Dexterity Global in Patna, Bihar, with a vision to empower young scholars and leaders from low- and middle-income backgrounds and enable them to use their educational journey to power India's national journey.

According to Mr Sharad Vivek Sagar, graduates and fellows of Dexterity have received over 2.75 billion rupees in scholarships from the world's top 500 universities, served as India's ambassadors to the UN and leadership forums worldwide, won over 1,000 national and international awards, and started their own public service and leadership initiatives.

Nobel Prize-winning economist Professor Abhijit Banerjee called Dexterity "an unusual institution," while The Telegraph called Graduates and Fellows of Dexterity "the future of India." For this work, Sagar and Dexterity found a place on the Rockefeller Foundation's Centennial List of 100 Next Century Social Innovators in 2012, the Forbes Global Under 30 List in 2016 and Queen of England's Young Leaders List in 2018.

Over the course of four remarkable hours at the White House, the 35 Graduates and Fellows of Dexterity had the opportunity to interact with senior White House leadership including the White House Chief of Staff Mr. Jeff Zients. Following their interaction with the White House Chief of House, the group engaged in an hour-long, in-depth conversation at the U.S. Treasury, where they discussed global economic challenges and opportunities with key officials. The historic visit of Graduates and Fellows of Dexterity also included a special tour of the White House, its iconic halls, rooms and gardens.

The White House Chief of Staff is the highest-ranking leader in the Executive Office of the President at the White House. During his personal interaction with the group, the White House Chief of Staff Mr. Jeff Zients remarked, "You guys are the best of the best." The White House Chief of Staff shared his life journey, learnings from his stellar record in public and private sector, and leadership experiences with President Obama and President Biden, while also answering the group's questions on leadership and governance.

Each year, Graduates and Fellows of Dexterity, who are studying at the world's top universities on full scholarships, gather for a 3-day Overseas Meetup and Retraining Program (OMRP) in a global city. In the past, OMRPs have taken place in Boston, Chicago, London, and Cambridge, where Dexterity's young scholars were hosted by prestigious institutions such as Harvard University and interacted with Olympians, Nobel Laureates, public servants, innovators, and industry leaders. This year, the OMRP took place in Washington, D.C. and Graduates and Fellows of Dexterity were hosted at the White House at the invitation of the President and the First Lady.

Among the 35 scholars invited were four student government presidents, over a dozen student senators, recipients of the highest undergraduate and graduate awards, past UN youth ambassadors, artists and authors published in The New York Times. They come from all parts of India, speak multiple languages and serve as Indian ambassadors at global institutions.



Dexters at a meeting with Treasury officials

The young leaders were accompanied by Dexterity Global's Founder and CEO Sharad Vivek Sagar. Earlier this year, Sagar made history by becoming the youngest from India and the first ever from Bihar to be chosen the "2024 Young Global Leader" of the World Economic Forum, known for the coveted Davos Summit.

In 2016, Sagar was in national and global news when he became the only Indian to be invited by US President Barack Obama to the White House for a special gathering of young leaders. Later that year, the Nobel Peace Centre invited Sagar to the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony. Sagar remains one of the youngest and most-invited experts on India's most watched TV show Kaun Banega Crorepati. At the age of 24, Sagar was listed on the global Forbes 30 Under 30 list as the first ever from Bihar. In 2021, Sagar became the first Indian in history to be elected President of the Student Government at Harvard Graduate School of Education.

On the historic White House visit, Sagar said, "Sixteen years ago, I set out to build young scholars and leaders who could connect their educational journey with India's national journey. That Graduates and Fellows of Dexterity were hosted at the White House for over four hours is both historic and unprecedented. This is an extraordinary moment of pride for India and an inspiration for young scholars and leaders around the world. We extend our deepest gratitude to the President of the United States, the First Lady, White House Chief of Staff and the U.S. Treasury for hosting us and for this incredible experience.

Most Dexters become part of the Dexterity system in their pre-teens and undergo rigorous, life-long training and retraining. They come from humble backgrounds, remotest towns and villages of India and go on to do incredible things in their academic, social and professional journeys. I am incredibly happy for our young scholars and leaders and hopeful that with their education and leadership, they will truly power an Indian Century in a few decades."

*(Prabhjot Singh, is a Toronto-based award-winning independent journalist, He was celebrated by AIPS, the international body of sports journalists, for covering ten Olympics at its centennial celebrations held at UNESCO Centre in Paris during the 2024 Olympic Games. Besides, he has written extensively about business and the financial markets, the health industry, the public and private sectors, and aviation. He has worked as a political reporter besides covering Sikh and Punjab politics. He is particularly interested in Indian Diaspora and Sikh Diaspora in particular. His work has also appeared in various international and national newspapers, magazines and journals)*

# Five Eyes support Canada in spat with India on Nijjar

**DIPLOMATIC CRISIS HAS BROKEN OUT BETWEEN INDIA AND CANADA OVER THE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF CANADA-BASED INDIAN DIPLOMATS IN THE 2023 KILLING OF PRO-KHALISTAN PREACHER HARDEEP SINGH NIJJAR**

OCTOBER 17, 2024

**LONDON / WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** The United Kingdom has "full confidence" in the Canadian judicial process, the Foreign Office in London declared on Wednesday, October 17, expanding the ambit of the unprecedented diplomatic crisis that has broken out between India and Canada over the alleged involvement of Canada-based Indian diplomats in the 2023 killing of pro-Khalistan preacher Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

U.K. is the third member of the 'Five Eye' countries to extend support to Canada's position. Earlier New Zealand and Australia too had extended support to Canada.

"We are in contact with our Canadian partners about the serious developments outlined in the independent investigations in Canada. The U.K. has full confidence in Canada's judicial system. Respect for sovereignty and the rule of law is essential," said the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office in an official statement.

The Five Eye countries - Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the U.S., and the U.K. - often coordinate closely on issues of common security interest.

The protection of political and civil rights, including the right to peaceful protest, is a key pillar of the Five Eye democracies. In the recent years, India has been uncomfortable with the campaign for so-called (online) referendum on Khalistan in all the five countries but India's arguments did not prevent the Five Eye countries to crackdown on the pro-Khalistan campaigners.



"The U.K. has full confidence in Canada's judicial system. Respect for sovereignty and the rule of law is essential," said the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office in an official statement.

Emphasizing the need for cooperation, the U.K. further said, "The Government of India's cooperation with Canada's legal process is the right next step."

Earlier, New Zealand became first among the friends of Canada from within the Five Eye democracies to express support for the Canadian position expressing concern about the allegations from Canada.

"The alleged criminal conduct outlined publicly by Canadian law enforcement authorities, if proven, would be very concerning," said New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters in a social media statement on X on Tuesday.

Mr. Peters expressed support for the rule of law and said, "At the same time, we do not comment on the details of ongoing criminal investigations in New

Zealand or abroad, other than to note that it is important that the rule of law and judicial processes be respected and followed."

Citing alleged involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, Canada has expelled six Indian diplomats, including High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma. In a tit-for-tat move, India too expelled six Canadian diplomats, including the head of mission Stewart Ross Wheeler. Both sides have given time till October 19 for the diplomats to exit. Australia has come forward to support Canada's allegations and urged for respect for sovereignty of nation states.

"Australia has made clear our concerns about the allegations under investigation in Canada, and our respect for Canada's judicial process. Our position of principle is that the sovereignty of all countries should be respected and that the rule of law should be respected," said a spokesperson from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh took to X and said that he has asked PM Modi to the Leaders of Parliament of both houses along with other political leaders into confidence on the allegations placed against India by the Canadian Government.

"This demand is necessitated by the worsening India-Canada relations and growing concerns about India-U.S. ties. Allegations made by Canada, now backed by several other countries, are threatening to escalate, tarnishing India's global reputation and damaging Brand India," Mr. Ramesh said. "It is imperative that the Government of India promptly and clearly articulate its stance on this issue."

## India not cooperating with Canada on Nijjar investigations: US

OCTOBER 17, 2024

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** India is not cooperating with Canada on the latter's investigation into the killing of a Sikh separatist last year, the United States alleged Tuesday, October 16.

"When it comes to the Canadian matter, we have made clear that the allegations are extremely serious and they need to be taken seriously. We wanted to see the government of India cooperate with Canada in its investigation. Obviously, they have not chosen that path," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference, October 16.



"We wanted to see the government of India cooperate with Canada in its investigation. Obviously, they have not chosen that path," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference, October 16. Twitter photo

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had a day earlier alleged that officials of the Indian government were involved in the assassination of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last June in Surrey.

"The RCMP has clear and compelling evidence that agents of the Government of India have engaged in, and continue to engage in, activities that pose a significant threat to public safety. This includes clandestine information

gathering techniques, coercive behavior targeting South Asian Canadians, and involvement in over a dozen threatening and violent acts, including murder. This is unacceptable," Trudeau alleged.

Rejecting the allegations, India not only called back its High Commissioner from Canada but also expelled six of its diplomats from New Delhi.

"Since Prime Minister Trudeau made certain allegations in September 2023, the Canadian government has not shared a shred of evidence with the Government of India, despite many requests from our side. This latest step follows interactions that have again witnessed assertions without any facts. This leaves little doubt that on the pretext of an investigation, there is a deliberate strategy of smearing India for political gains," the Ministry of External Affairs said.

"Prime Minister Trudeau's hostility to India has long been in evidence. In 2018, his visit to India, which was aimed at currying favor with a vote bank, rebounded to his discomfort. His

## Tensions between India, Canada have implications on Sikhs: North American Punjabi Association

OCTOBER 18, 2024

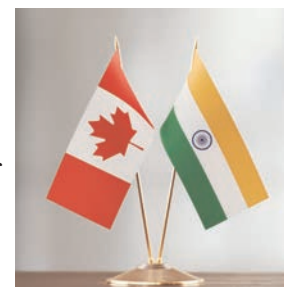
**BRENTWOOD, CA (TIP):** "The recent diplomatic tensions between India and Canada, particularly surrounding the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, have had profound implications for the Sikh diaspora," the North American Punjabi Association (NAPA) said on Friday, October 18, 2024.

"This incident has intensified existing insecurities and divisions within the community, affecting how Sikh immigrant families navigate their identities, political beliefs, and social interactions," said Satnam Singh Chahal, NAPA's Executive Director.

Earlier this week, India expelled six Canadian diplomats and withdrew its High Commissioner in Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma after dismissing Ottawa's allegations linking the envoy to a probe into the killing of Nijjar.

Nijjar was gunned down in Surrey, British Columbia, in June last year. Chahal said the Nijjar incident has exacerbated pre-existing divides within the Sikh diaspora.

"Some community members view the Canadian government's stance as a legitimate defense of human rights, while others see it as an affront to India's



"The recent diplomatic tensions between India and Canada, particularly surrounding the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, have had profound implications for the Sikh diaspora", says NAPA.

sovereignty," he said. "This polarization can create rifts in families and social circles, leading to heated discussions and estrangement," he said.

He further said that the involvement of intelligence agencies and accusations of political violence have instilled fear among many Sikhs, particularly those who are vocal about their political beliefs.

"Ordinary families may worry about being targeted for their views, leading to a chilling effect on free

expression within the community," Chahal said. Regarding community relations, he said Sikh families may navigate complex relationships with non-Sikh neighbors and friends.

"Misunderstandings about the community's political affiliations can lead to stigmatization or social isolation, especially if there are perceptions that they support militant factions," he said.

Chahal said many Sikhs are grappling with their dual identity as both Canadians and members of a historically marginalized group. "This struggle is compounded by external pressures and negative stereotypes that can arise from incidents such as Nijjar's killing, which may overshadow their contributions to Canadian society," he said.

## SC proceedings against Sadhguru's foundation closed

The Supreme Court Friday, October 18, closed proceedings in a habeas corpus petition filed by a man who alleged that his two daughters were being held captive at Sadhguru's Isha Yoga Foundation in Coimbatore, and said that the women had informed they were living there "voluntarily and without any coercion".

A three-judge bench presided by CJI D Y Chandrachud and comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said that the Madras HC has exceeded its jurisdiction by keeping the matter alive even after it recorded the statements of the two women, aged 39 and 42. They had joined the ashram when they were aged 24 and 27, the bench said. The bench was hearing an appeal by the foundation challenging a Madras HC order directing the police to report on criminal cases registered against it. On October 3, the SC had transferred to itself the habeas corpus petition based on which the HC issued the direction, and directed the TN police to submit a report in pursuance of HC order. While perusing the status report submitted by the TN Police, Justice Pardiwala told senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for the state government, "we are today only concerned with an order which was passed by the HC in a habeas corpus petition, where statements were recorded of the two corpus. At the end of that, the HC should have closed the matter. Instead, the HC proceeded.

## Dera chief to face trial in sacrilege cases as SC lifts HC stay

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Supreme Court on Friday, October 18, revived the trial against Gurmeet Ram Rahim, head of the Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda, in the 2015 sacrilege cases as it stayed the March order by the Punjab and Haryana high court that had halted proceedings in three criminal cases related to the incident.

A bench led by justice Bhushan R Gavai stayed the HC's March 11 order, responding to an appeal by the Punjab government. The state questioned the high court's approach in reviving a legal issue previously settled by the high court itself.

The controversy stems from the Punjab government's September 2018 notification withdrawing consent for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate the cases, which were handed over to a special investigation team (SIT) of the state police. Ram Rahim had challenged this notification in the high court, demanding that the CBI continue its probe into the three sacrilege FIRs from 2015.

Punjab advocate general Gurminder Singh cited a January 2019 high court ruling that upheld the state's authority to withdraw CBI consent. "How can the HC ignore the order passed by a coordinate bench," the Supreme Court



Gurmeet Ram Rahim, head of the Sirsa-based Dera Sacha Sauda

bench, which included Justice KV Viswanathan, asked on Friday.

The court issued a notice on the state's appeal and granted Ram Rahim four weeks to respond. "In the meantime, there shall be a stay of the impugned [HC] order," the bench stated, adjourning the matter for November 19.

In February last year, the SC had transferred the trial against Ram Rahim and seven followers in three interlinked cases of Bargari sacrilege from a court in Faridkot to Chandigarh. The move came after dera follower Pardeep Singh Kataria, an accused in the 2015 Bargari sacrilege case, was shot dead on November 10, 2022, and other accused moved the apex court seeking transfer of the case.

The sacrilege incidents began on

June 1, 2015, when a copy of the Guru Granth Sahib was stolen from a gurdwara in Burj Jawahar Singh Wala village. Subsequently, three derogatory posters threatening sacrilege were found in Bargari and Burj Jawahar Singh Wala villages. On 12 October 2015, torn pages of the Sikh holy book were found scattered near a gurdwara in Bargari village.

These events sparked outrage across Punjab, leading to protests. Two demonstrators died and several were injured in subsequent police action. The incident's mishandling contributed to the Shiromani Akali Dal government's defeat in the 2017 assembly elections.

The SIT formed by the state concluded that the desecration was orchestrated at the Dera Sacha Sauda headquarters with Ram Rahim's involvement. The SIT's final report, submitted in April 2022, found no political involvement but alleged that Ram Rahim ordered the sacrilege as revenge for a perceived insult to sect followers by a Sikh preacher.

The SIT has filed chargesheets against Ram Rahim in the three cases, naming him the 'main conspirator'. However, the state government is yet to grant prosecution sanction, with the proposal pending with the state home department.

## Bomb scare: Air India flight makes emergency landing in Jaipur

More than 20 flights received bomb threats this week, leading to diversions and rescheduling of flights and sending security forces into a tizzy

NEW DELHI (TIP)

A Dubai-Jaipur Air India flight made an emergency landing at the airport in Jaipur in the early hours of Saturday (October 19, 2024) due to a bomb threat, which later turned out to be a hoax, officials said.

After authorities were alerted about the bomb threat, an emergency was declared at the Jaipur airport. The flight with 189 passengers onboard landed safely at the airport at 1.20 am, an official said.

The plane was checked thoroughly but nothing suspicious was found, he said.

This is the latest in a series of bomb threats received by various airlines on domestic and international routes. Most threats were received through social media and all of them turned out to be hoaxes.

More than 20 flights received bomb threats this week, leading to diversions and rescheduling of flights and sending security forces into a tizzy.

### Vistara's Delhi-London flight diverted to Frankfurt after bomb threat

A London-bound Vistara flight from Delhi was diverted to Frankfurt on Friday (October 18, 2024) following a bomb threat.

In a statement early Saturday morning, an airline spokesperson said the flight landed safely at the



Frankfurt airport and mandatory checks are being conducted. The flight will continue to its destination once cleared by the security agencies.

"Vistara flight UK17 operating from Delhi to London on October 18, 2024 received a security threat on social media. In line with the protocol, all relevant authorities were immediately informed and as a precautionary measure, the pilots decided to divert the flight to Frankfurt," the spokesperson said.

According to an official in the know, the flight had received a bomb threat.

Meanwhile, Akasa Air said its flight QP 1366 scheduled to fly from Bengaluru to Mumbai on Friday received a security alert shortly before departure.

## Cops get threat message seeking Rs 5 crore from Salman Khan

The Mumbai traffic police received a threat message demanding Rs 5 crore from Bollywood actor Salman Khan, following which the Crime Branch began a probe, an official said on Friday, October 18.



A case was registered at Worli police under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for threat and extortion after the city's traffic controlroom received the message on its WhatsApp helpline on Thursday, October 17, afternoon, he said.

The case has been registered on the complaint of a traffic police personnel, the official added. "The sender also said the threat should not be taken lightly. The probe has been transferred to the Crime Branch," he said.

The superstar had earlier received death threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Bishnoi gang members had also opened fire outside the actor's Bandra home in April, he said. Meanwhile, the Navi Mumbai police on Thursday uncovered a plot to kill Khan by the Bishnoi gang in June and arrested one of its shooters, identified as Sukhbir Singh of Haryana's Panipat, he said.



# PM Modi to attend BRICS summit in Russia; no clarity yet on meeting with Xi

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia from October 22-23 to attend the BRICS summit, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Friday (October 18, 2024) during which he is also "expected to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from BRICS member countries and invited leaders."

The big question is if Modi will hold a meeting on the sidelines with Chinese President Xi Jinping, on which official sources said there is "no clarity" as yet.

The BRICS respect "civilisational diversity" and is "free from pressure, double standards and interference in domestic affairs," Russian Envoy in India Denis Alipov said while stating that it was natural for the grouping to expand one way or another. Stating that the "geopolitical and practical relevance of BRICS grouping was growing", Mr. Alipov said it promotes the agenda of the global south. He was speaking at an online conference on BRICS organised by India Writes Network.

The Envoy added that when it comes to BRICS partner countries membership, the countries should be "economically ambitious" and "oppose illegitimate sanctions". He also called for an alternate to the SWIFT system used for global payments from which Russia was



File photo

expelled after the beginning of the war in Ukraine.

Member countries have been pushing for greater use of national currencies for trade between them. Diplomatic sources said this was a priority for Russia, while ruling out the possibility of a common

BRICS currency. Another focus for Russia is the full integration of the new members.

Several other countries have expressed interest in joining the BRICS, on which informed sources said that is something which has to be done based on consensus

and the immediate focus is on the full integration of recently admitted members into the existing framework.

The Summit to be held at Kazan is themed "strengthening multilateralism for just global development and security", will provide an important platform for leaders to discuss key global issues, the MEA noted. "The Summit will offer a valuable opportunity to assess the progress of initiatives launched by BRICS and to identify potential areas for future collaboration."

The BRICS which came into existence in 2006 saw the addition of five new members in 2024 - Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates and 15 summits have taken so far. The expanded BRICS has a combined population of about 3.5 billion, or 45% of the world's population. The combined economies of the members are worth more than \$28.5tn - about 28% of the global economy.

Under Russia's chairmanship this year, more than 250 BRICS meetings/events have been proposed by Russia. Two major activities include the integration of the invited countries as full members of BRICS and further development of the BRICS partner country model and a list of prospective partner countries to be reported by the next Summit, officials stated. *Source: The Hindu*

## Congress alleges Rs 10K crore electoral bond scam in poll-bound Maharashtra

The Congress has accused the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra of orchestrating a Rs 10,000 crore scam involving road infrastructure projects and electoral bonds, just ahead of the Assembly poll.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera alleged that 13 per cent of the total funds generated through the sale of electoral bonds came from Maharashtra. Khera claimed that Rs 10,000 crore of taxpayer money was funneled to select companies for infrastructure projects and returned through electoral bonds, benefiting the ruling BJP and its allies. Khera specifically mentioned eight road projects under the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), including the Pune Ring Road sections E1, E3, W1, W2, W3, W4, MMC1, and MMC9. He alleged that the MSRDC changed the pre-qualification criteria to favour two companies, violating its own guideline that no single company can be awarded more than two projects. Despite this, all eight projects were allegedly distributed to two firms.

Khera criticised the categorisation of these projects as tunnel projects, pointing out that only 10 per cent of the work involved actual tunnel construction, while the rest did not justify this classification.

## Week after Baba Siddique's murder, his son's photo found in shooter's phone

MUMBAI (TIP)

A photo of Zeeshan Siddique was found in the phone of one of the men who shot his father, Baba Siddique, last week. The phone recovered from one of the accused arrested during the investigation of the murder case of the NCP leader had his photo, police sources said.

According to the sources, the photo was shared with the accused by their handler through Snapchat. The platform, investigators say, was used by the shooters and conspirators in the case to send messages to each other.

These messages were deleted on instruction from their handler, allegedly belonging to the gang of the notorious gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.

Siddique was shot by three men near his MLA son's office in Nirmal Nagar in Mumbai's Bandra area on October 12. The Congress-turned-NCP leader was rushed to nearby Lilavati Hospital where he was declared dead. The police have arrested nine people - including two of the three shooters - in the case so



far. Five of them - Nitin Gautam Sapre (32), Sambhaji Kisan Pardhi (44), Pradeep Dattu Thombre (37), Chetan Dilip Pardhi and Ram Fulchand Kanoujia (43) - were arrested yesterday for allegedly providing firearms and logistical support to the shooters. Three accused are still on the run, police said.

Kanoujia, a resident of Panvel in Raigad, told police that the contract to kill Siddique was initially given to him and Sapre, sources said. He quoted a whopping amount of ₹ 1 crore to take up the contract as, he said, he didn't want to kill Siddique, the sources added. After Kanoujia and Sapre backed off, the task was

given to Dharmraj Kashyap, Gurnail Singh and Shivkumar Gautam, the sources said. Kashyap and Singh were arrested on the day of the crime while Gautam managed to escape.

The accused told police that Shubham Lonkar - who was an alleged conspirator and the handler of the shooters in the case - chose Kashyap and Gautam for the job because he knew the people of Uttar Pradesh would not know about Baba Siddique's stature in Maharashtra and that they would agree to commit the murder even for less money, according to the police sources.

When Baba Siddique was shot, he had only one police constable - a part of his security detail - accompanying him who did not retaliate when six rounds were fired at the senior politician. The security personnel has been suspended.

The constable told the investigators that he failed to react at the time of the incident as some "chilli-like substance" had entered his eyes, the sources said.

*Source: NDTV*

# India in history this Week

## OCTOBER 18 TO OCTOBER 24

### 18 OCTOBER

1980 The first Himalaya Car Rally was flagged off from Brabourne Stadium in Bombay (now Mumbai).



2004 The notorious Chandan smuggler Veerappan was killed.

1998 India and Pakistan agree to stop nuclear risk.

2008 Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati returned 189.25 crore acres of land to the Railway Ministry for the railway coach factory in Rae Bareilly.

1950 Famous actor of Hindi films Om Puri was born.

1972 Trial of the first multipurpose chopper SA315 in Bangalore.

### 19 OCTOBER

1950 Mother Teresa founded the Missionary of Charities in Kolkata. Mother Teresa was a Roman Catholic nun who held Indian citizenship.



1970 The first MiG-21 aircraft manufactured in India was inducted into the Indian Air Force. It is a super sonic fighter jet which was built by the Soviet Union.

1910 Astronomer and Nobel Prize winner Subramanian Chandrasekhar was born.

1920 Pandurang Shastri Athalve, the founder of the Swadhyay family, was born in Maharashtra.

### 20 OCTOBER

1568 The Mughal emperor Akbar attacked Chittorgarh.

1774 Calcutta (now Kolkata) was made the capital of India.

1961 Birja Sankar Guha, physical anthropologist and first director of the Anthropological Survey of India, died in Ghatshila Bihar.

1978 India's aggressive batsman Virender Sehwag was born. He scored 8,586 runs in 104 Tests and 8,273 runs in 251 ODIs in his career.

1947 The first war took place between India and Pakistan.

1962 China attacked India and attempted to sneak into the Indian border via Arunachal Pradesh.

1964 One of the revolutionaries of India, HC Dasappa died.

1991 A 6.8 magnitude earthquake in Uttarkashi, India killed more than 1000 people.



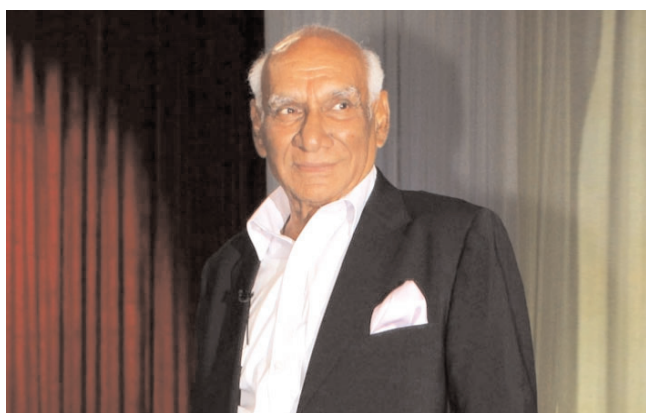
### 21 OCTOBER

1296 Alauddin Khilji took the throne of Delhi.

1934 Jayaprakash Narayan formed the Congress Socialist Party.

1951 Bharatiya Jana Sangh was established.

2012 Yash Chopra, who is called the romance king of Bollywood, passed away.



1931 Famous Hindi film actor Shammi Kapoor was born.

1934 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose founded Azad Hind Fauj in Singapore.

1939 Famous Hindi films actress Helen was born.

1954 India and France signed an agreement to include Pondicherry, Karaikal, and Mahe in the Indian Republic. The agreement entered into force from 1 November.

2007 Indian-American Bobby Jindal won the post of Governor of the Louisiana Province of America.

2008 Karwan-e-Tijas started after 61 years between India and Pakistan.

1830 Nain Singh Rawat was the first Indian to discover the Himalayan region.

1887 Krishna Singh the first Chief Minister of Bihar.

1680 Rana Raj Singh of Mewar passed away.

### 22 OCTOBER

1680 Rana Raj Singh of Mewar passed away.

1796 Death of Rana Raj Singh of Mewar.

1962 India's largest multipurpose river valley



project 'Bhakra Nangal' dedicated to the nation

2008 Chandrayaan-1 was successfully launched from Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.

1879 The first sedition case under British rule was against the great revolutionary Basudev Balwani Phadke.

2008 ISRO launched India's first moon mission Chandrayaan-1. This mission revealed the presence of water on the moon.

2016 India won the Kabaddi World Cup.

1933 The elder brother of Sardar Patel and the famous freedom fighter Vitthalbhai Patel died.

1893 Dalip Singh, the youngest son of Maharaj Ranjit Singh of Punjab, died.

### 23 OCTOBER

1623 The famous poet Tulsidas died.

1764 Mir Qasim was defeated in the battle of Buxar.

1934 Mahatma Gandhi resigned as the leader of the Indian National Congress.



1943 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose founded the 'Rani Brigade of Jhansi' of Azad Hind Fauj in Singapore.

2003 India and Bulgaria signed the Extradition Treaty.

1883 Mirza Ismail, Assistant Secretary to the Maharaja of Mysore was born.

1957 Sunil Mittal, an Indian industrialist, social worker and chairman of India's largest telecom company Airtel was born.

### 24 OCTOBER

1914 Freedom fighter and philanthropist Laxmi Sehgal was born.

1991 Famous Hindi writer Ismat Chugatai passed away.

1851 First telegraph line started between Calcutta and Diamond Harbor.

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

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

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

2013 Renowned playback singer Manna Dey passed away.





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Hindustani - Carnatic vocal duet



**Smt. Namami Karmakar (Hindustani vocal)**  
**Smt. Samyukta Ranganathan (Carnatic vocal)**



**Shri Anirban Chakrabarty (Harmonium)**  
**Shri Amit Chatterjee (Tabla)**  
**Shri Kabilan Jeganathan (Mridangam)**

**Sunday, October 27th, 2024**  
**4 pm onwards**

**Ticket:**  
**\$100, \$75, \$50, \$25**

**For tickets go to:**  
**<https://suromurchhana.org>**

**at Scandinavia House, New York**  
**58 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016**



Suromurchhana's programmes are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Media partner:



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# WITNESS THE SOULFUL MUSIC OF KAILASH KHER & KAILASA

BY MABEL PAIS

Witness the soulful rendition of Kailash Kher and his band Kailasa as they perform on October 19, 2024 at International House, 500 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027 (ihouse-nyc.org - 212-316-8400).



Kailash Kher -Credit: iaac.us

## KAILASH KHER

Kailash Kher is an Indian music composer and singer. He sings songs with a music style influenced by Indian folk music and Sufi music. He was inspired by the classical musicians Kumar Gandharva, Hridaynath Mangeshkar, Bhimsen Joshi, and the Qawwali singer Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan.

Kailash Kher received the Padma Shri award in 2017 from the Indian government. He has also received two Filmfare Awards; Filmfare Award for Best Male Playback Singer for the Hindi film 'Fanaa' (2006) and Filmfare Award for Best Male Playback Singer - Telugu for the Telugu film 'Mirchi' (2013), along with several other nominations.

*A. R. Rahman said of Kailash Kher; "Kher has a uniquely soulful, raw and high-pitched voice. I remember how I first heard of him. I had asked Mehboob, our lyricist, for a new voice that is earthy and strong, and he said, I have just the person for you.*

*That voice can only be that of Kailash! And he sent Kailash to meet me. The moment I heard him, I knew that here was a voice that was so wonderful, and which had its own unique space.... I want to say that Kailash Kher's voice has something that had been lacking a lot - it had pure soul! Allah Ke Bande is one of my all-time favorite songs."*

With his powerful voice and his unique style of music, Kher has established himself as one of the most popular playback singers of India.

*Listen to Kailash - [youtu.be/\\_nFO-sK2OSA](https://youtu.be/_nFO-sK2OSA)*

## KAILASA

Kailasa is an Indian fusion band, founded by Kailash Kher. The name of the band is taken from an accented pronunciation of Kailash's own name as well as Mount Kailash, the abode of Hindu God Shiva. Along with guitars, drums and keyboards, the band incorporates classical Indian instruments and sometimes traditional lyrics into their songs to infuse folk and a Sufi hue.

The band is renowned all over the world for being one of the only pure live Hindustani music bands and one of the most celebrated bands in India. What started off as a trio of Mr. Paresh Kamath, Mr. Naresh Kamath and Padma Shri Kailash Kher has now grown into a collective of some of the most talented musicians, instrumentalists and technical crew that the country has to offer.

The Kailasa Band has taken the music of the country to multiple countries: United States of America, England, South Africa, Australia, Mauritius, to name a few, having performed in various prestigious venues and acclaimed music festivals across the world, in a career spanning nearly 2 decades and over 1500 concerts. Some of the venues and festivals that the Kailasa Band have performed include but are not limited to: The Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, The Kennedy Center in Washington, the historical 'Fillmore Center' in San Francisco, Royal Festival Hall in London, Symphony Hall in Birmingham, the 'Santa Monica Pier Music Festival,' 'Stern Grove Music Festival,' 'International Music Festival' at Webster Hall, New York, to name a few. The band has performed in more than 500 cities worldwide including Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Singapore, Malaysia, Houston, San Francisco, London and New York.

## TICKETS

For Tickets to attend the performance, visit [IAAC.us](http://IAAC.us)

## IAAC

Located in New York City, Indo-American Arts Council Inc. is passionately dedicated to promoting, showcasing and building an awareness of arts and artists of Asian Indian heritage. The artistic focus is primarily on the performing arts besides the visual, literary and folk arts. For information, visit [IAAC.us](http://IAAC.us).

# HIP HOP & SPOKEN WORD FEATURED IN DODGE POETRY FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

Newark gets ready for an exciting night of Hip Hop and Spoken Word!



Top Hip Hop Artists -Credit: njpac.org

As part of the Dodge Poetry Festival, witness Hip Hop and Spoken Word Artists: RAKIM, BIG DADDY KANE, MC LYTE, DUPRÉ DOITALL KELLY, DJ SPINNA, CARIDAD DE LA LUZ (LA BRUJA), MAHOGANY L. BROWNE and TYEHIMBA JESS as they all take to the stage on Saturday, October 19th at 8:00 p.m. to perform hit songs and share how spoken word is a big part of Hip Hop.

RAKIM, the influential rapper and "inventor of flow," first exploded onto the scene with 'Eric B. is President' and raised the bar for all future MCs.

BIG DADDY KANE, formerly of the Juice Crew, is known for his lyrical dexterity on songs like 'Young, Gifted and Black,' 'Ain't No Half-Steppin',' 'Raw,' 'Smooth

Operator' and 'Set It Off.'

MC LYTE, the first female rapper to release a full solo album, dominates the mic on 'Ruffneck,' 'Cha Cha Cha,' 'Poor Georgie,' 'Lyte as a Rock,' '10% Dis' and 'Paper Thin.'

DUPRE DOITALL KELLY transformed his platinum-selling music career into political activism. He currently represents Newark's West Ward as their councilman.

DJ SPINNA is producer and remixer for De La Soul, Mary J. Blige, Stevie Wonder, Eminem and his groups Jigmastas, Polyrhythm Addicts and Domecrackers.

CARIDAD DE LA LUZ, aka LA BRUJA, is an Emmy-winning poet, activist, actor and current executive director of the famous Nuyorican Poets Cafe.

MAHOGANY L. BROWNE is a poet and organizer whose books include 'Vinyl Moon,' 'Chlorine Sky,' 'Black Girl Magic' and banned books 'Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice and Woke Baby.'

TYEHIMBA JESS is the author of 'Leadbelly' and the Pulitzer Prize-winning 'Olio.' Widely published and anthologized, his many honors include fellowships from Guggenheim and NEA.

## TICKETS

For Tickets to the performance, visit [NJPCAC.org](http://NJPCAC.org) or the NJPAC Box Office or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

## THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

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

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

# ARTIS-NAPLES FILM FEST OF FLORIDA MAKES A SPLASH ONCE MORE

BY MABEL PAIS

## Screening

Director ADAM J. GRAVES's 'ANUJA'  
Director SHAUN SENEVIRATNE's 'BEN AND SUZANNE, A REUNION IN 4 PARTS'  
And Many More



ANUJA, Opening Night

Credit: artisnaples.org/naples-international-film-festival

Artis-Naples, home of the Naples Philharmonic and The Baker Museum, is the premier center for the arts in Southwest Florida. The 16th annual Naples International Film Festival (NIFF - [artisnaples.org/naples-international-film-festival](http://artisnaples.org/naples-international-film-festival)) located at 5833 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Naples, Florida will be held October 24-27, 2024.

This year, NIFF will include 58 films (10 narrative features, 12 documentary features and 36 short films) representing 26 countries, with several of those films including in-person post-screening filmmaker Q&A conversations. Select filmmakers will also participate in panel discussions during the festival. All screenings and associated events will be held in person in Hayes Hall, Daniels Pavilion or Norris Garden on the Artis-Naples Kimberly K. Querrey and Louis A. Simpson Cultural Campus or at the festival's new venue partner, Alamo Drafthouse Cinema at Mercato.

## THE 2024 NAPLES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (NIFF) LINEUP

### OPENING NIGHT FILM PRESENTATIONS

#### Anuja

Director: Adam J. Graves; India/U.S.; 22m

When an intelligent 9-year-old girl working in a back-alley garment factory is offered a rare chance to attend boarding school, she faces a choice that will determine the fate of her future and her family.

#### Favourites

Director: Nick Russell; Australia; 5m

When a family's camping trip in Australia's Outback turns deadly, two young parents are tested and soon come to grips with an impossible choice.

#### Nate and John

Director: Jumai Yusuf; U.S.; 8m

John and Nate first meet in the 1960s, when John, a surly teenage hippie, is forced by his father to get a haircut. Nate, a young Black barber's assistant, obliges. From this ordinary beginning, a deep and enduring friendship blossoms between the two men over years of haircuts.

#### Night Session

Director: Ballard C. Boyd; U.S.; 11m

When a burglar runs into the resident of an apartment he just broke into, the burglary quickly morphs into an impromptu therapy session where the burglar assists the resident in processing his impending divorce—all while the resident assists the burglar in robbing his apartment.

#### Room Taken

Director: TJ O'Grady-Peyton; Ireland; 18m

When a man newly arrived in Ireland finds himself experiencing homelessness, he secretly takes up residence in the home of an elderly blind woman. As he tries to

remain unnoticed, an unexpected and unique bond forms between them, reshaping their lives in ways neither could have imagined.

#### Trapped

Directors: Sam Cutler-Kreutz, David Cutler-Kreutz; U.S.; 15m

A special jury prize winner at SXSW, *Trapped* follows Joaquin, a janitor at a prestigious high school, as he confronts a group of boys in the middle of a senior prank-putting him between the boys, his boss, and his moral compass.

### CLOSING NIGHT FILM

#### Batman (1989)

Director: Tim Burton; U.S.; 126m



BATMAN, Closing Night

Credit: artisnaples.org/naples-international-film-festival

*The Dark Knight of Gotham City begins his war on crime with his first major enemy being Jack Napier, a criminal who becomes the clownishly homicidal Joker.*

### NARRATIVE FEATURES IN COMPETITION



BEN and SUZANNE, A REUNION in 4 PARTS

Credit: artisnaples.org/naples-international-film-festival

#### Ben and Suzanne, A Reunion in 4 Parts

Director: Shaun Seneviratne; U.S./Sri Lanka; 110 minutes

**Fight Like a Girl** : Director: Matthew Leutwyler; Rwanda/DR Congo; 118m

**Sheepdog** : Director: Steven Grayhm; U.S.; 122m

### DOCUMENTARY FEATURES IN COMPETITION

#### 76 Days Adrift

Director: Joe Wein; U.S.; 110m

#### The Accidental Spy - NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Director: Anthony Wonke; UK; 97m

#### Between the Mountain and the Sky

Director: Jeremy Power Regimbal; Canada; 93m

### ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURES

#### Breakup Season :

Director: H. Nelson Tracey; U.S.; 102m

#### Days of Happiness

Director: Chloé Robichaud; Canada; 118m

#### Freedom Hair

Director: Dianne Houston; U.S.; 99m

#### Kiss of the Con Queen

Director: Tom Waller; U.S.; 116m

#### My Sunshine

Director: Hiroshi Okuyama; Japan; 90m

#### Never Not Yours

Directors: John Klein, Steve Kniss; U.S.; 82m

#### The Paper Bag Plan

Director: Anthony Lucero; U.S.; 107m

### ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

#### Every Little Thing

Director: Sally Aitken; Australia; 93m

#### Giants Rising

Director: Lisa Landers; U.S.; 82m

#### Mad About the Boy

Director: Barnaby Thompson; U.K.; 90m

#### Naked Ambition: Bunny Yeager

Directors: Dennis Scholl, Kareem Tabsch; U.S.; 73m

#### The Opener: Director: Jeff Troye; U.S.; 72m

#### Porcelain War

Directors: Brendan Bellomo, Slava Leontyev; Australia/U.S./Ukraine; 87m

#### Rise Above: Director: Maryilene Blondell; U.S.; 53m

#### Sanibel - WORLD PREMIERE

Director: Herbert James Winterstern; U.S.; 65m

#### Shari & Lamb Chop

Director: Lisa D'Apolito; U.S.; 92m

### ADDITIONAL SHORT FILMS

There are 23 short films.

### STUDENT FILMS

There are 8 student films.

**TICKETS** : For tickets and passes to the Festival, visit [artisnaples.org/naples-international-film-festival/ticketing](http://artisnaples.org/naples-international-film-festival/ticketing)

**ARTIS-NAPLES** : Home of The Baker Museum and the Naples Philharmonic, Artis-Naples is unique among cultural institutions nationwide, equally dedicated to both the visual and performing arts featuring artists of global distinction. Learn more at [artisnaples.org](http://artisnaples.org).

**KIMBERLY K. QUERREY and LOUIS A. SIMPSON CULTURAL CAMPUS**

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

**NAPLES PHILHARMONIC** : The Naples Philharmonic has long been recognized as one of the cornerstones of Southwest Florida's arts community. Learn more at [artisnaples.org/naples-philharmonic](http://artisnaples.org/naples-philharmonic).

**THE BAKER MUSEUM** : The Baker Museum is the foremost fine art museum in Southwest Florida, presenting an ambitious slate of exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collection. Learn more at [artisnaples.org/baker-museum](http://artisnaples.org/baker-museum).

**EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY** : In addition to creating and presenting visual and performing arts, Artis-Naples provides robust education and community activities for students of all ages in Collier and Lee counties.

In 2017, Artis-Naples acquired the Naples International Film Festival (NIFF), expanding its film offerings and providing a platform for the festival's continued excellence and growth. In 2023, the festival's 15th anniversary year, NIFF was named one of MovieMaker Magazine's "20 Great Film Festivals in Vacation Destinations." Learn more at [artisnaples.org/education/family/community-day](http://artisnaples.org/education/family/community-day).

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

# ENJOY FREE CONCERTS THIS SEASON BY NJ'S PERFORMING ARTS ORGANIZATION

BY MABEL PAIS



Wharton Arts in the Community, collage -Credit: WhartonArts.org

Wharton Arts, New Jersey's largest not-for-profit community performing arts education organization, will present several free concerts during the 2024-25 season at Saint John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, New Jersey.

Wharton Arts Artistic Director, Helen Cha-Pyo said, "We are excited to partner with Saint John's Lutheran Church and music director Christopher Harlow-Jennings for our 'Wharton Arts in the Community' series. From the fun, interactive Halloween Hoopla to uplifting Jazz Vespers and world-class performances, this series offers something for everyone. It's a wonderful way to connect with the Summit community and make music accessible to all."

"I am thrilled to partner with Artistic Director Helen Cha-Pyo and her team at Wharton Arts this season to bring exciting new musical offerings to the greater Summit community," said Saint John's Lutheran Church Director of Music Christopher Harlow-Jennings. "This unique collaboration builds on our respective institutions' strong musical foundations and opens the door for creative, diverse programming to engage listeners of all ages."

## HALLOWEEN HOOPLA & TRUNK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

This spooktacular family-friendly event will include fun and interactive Halloween sing-along songs and stories led by members of the New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC) followed by a Trunk-or-Treat. Be sure to wear your costume, bring your trunk-or-treating bag, and join in having a haunting good time!

## WHARTON ARTS CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

Sunday, November 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy a showcase of talented young chamber musicians from Wharton Arts.

## PIANO & CELLO FACULTY RECITAL

Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Lucas Button, cello Leah Frank, piano

Allow yourself to be transported by the sound and expression of this inspiring duo praised for their musical sensitivity and passionate artistry.

## JAZZ VESPERS

March 23, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Lance Bryant Trio and the Saint John's Choir

An inclusive experience of Lenten words and music, both modern and ancient, featuring the Lance Bryant Jazz Trio.



Wharton Arts First Signature Concert, collage. -Credit: WhartonArts.org

For more information, call (908) 790-0700 or visit WhartonArts.org

## WHARTON ARTS PROGRAMS

Alongside these engaging events, Wharton Arts aims to create meaningful connections and foster creativity in young people, as well as across generations, ensuring that everyone has access to an outstanding music and theater arts education. The depth and breadth of offerings, unmatched in the Garden State, transcends backgrounds and beliefs. Wharton Arts encompasses four distinct programs, each founded to advance music and performing arts education and engagement: the New Jersey Youth Chorus, New Jersey Youth Symphony, Paterson Music Project, and Performing Arts School. Join Wharton Arts this Season of Joy for life-changing performing arts experiences.

# NJYS CONCERT HONORS AMERICA'S VETERANS

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Youth Symphony's (NJYS) 200 youth will present a concert 'Rhapsody in Red, White and Blue!' to honor America's veterans and armed forces on Sunday, November 3 at 3:00 p.m. at the Patriots Theater at the War Memorial (1 Memorial Drive Trenton, NJ 08608. Phone: 609-984-8484) in Trenton.

Audiences are invited to enjoy a heartfelt homage to the brave men and women who have served our country featuring the New Jersey premiere of Peter Boyer's 'Rhapsody in Red, White, and Blue' with acclaimed pianist Jeffrey Biegel. Biegel commissioned Boyer to compose the piece to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the premiere of George Gershwin's iconic 'Rhapsody in Blue' and gave its first performance in June 2023 with the Utah Symphony. Biegel later recorded the work for the Naxos (naxos.com) label with the London Symphony Orchestra and Boyer conducting. To support American orchestras post-pandemic, Biegel developed the Rhapsody National Initiative, which entails performances of 'Rhapsody in Red, White and Blue' with at least one orchestra in all 50 states over the course of three years at no cost to the

orchestras that participate. NJYS is honored to be one of three youth orchestras participating in the initiative and presenting the New Jersey premiere of this historic work.

Said Biegel, "I created the 50 states Rhapsody National Initiative as the first commissioning project not requiring orchestras to pay toward the composer's fee, and to bring orchestras in all 50 states to the initiative celebrating orchestras and music in America. Peter Boyer's 'Rhapsody in Red, White and Blue' is a fabulous work reflecting the American flag, and music since the time of George Gershwin's 1924 'Rhapsody in Blue,' for whose centennial the new Rhapsody celebrates. The New Jersey Youth Symphony represents the state of New Jersey and the vibrant young musicians taking part in this unprecedented national endeavor."

"At this Veterans Day concert, we proudly continue our tradition of performing works by American composers to honor those who have served. It is both exciting and historic for our young musicians to present the New Jersey premiere of Peter Boyer's 'Rhapsody in Red, White, and Blue' with Jeffrey Biegel," said Helen Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor.

"Projects like this bring generations together, uniting people through the creation of new works that celebrate the present and inspire the future of America."

Two ensembles from the New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC) will also take the stage at the Patriots Theater in a stirring selection of patriotic music celebrating the spirit of freedom. In addition to the New Jersey premiere of Boyer's work, the concert will feature American favorites, including 'Candide Overture' and music from 'West Side Story' by Leonard Bernstein as well as 'Three Spirituals' by the prolific African American composer, Adolphus Hailstork. Not-to-be-missed are performances of 'America the Beautiful,' 'Armed Forces Salute,' and more!

## TICKETS

Veterans are invited to attend the concert for FREE by using discount code VETERAN. For Tickets and more information visit NJYS.org

## Wharton Arts

Learn more at WhartonArts.org

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

# Karva Chauth: Fasting for longevity, well-being of husband

Come October 20, 2024, several married and soon-to-be-married Hindu women will be observing the rigorous vrat (fasting without water and food) to mark Karva Chauth and pray for their husband's long life and good health.

Every year on Karva Chauth, also known as Karak Chaturthi, Hindu devotees mark the festival by reciting famous legends that are significant to this day.

Karva Chauth is an important festival for all married women. From sunrise to moonrise, the wives keep a fast for the safety of their husbands. Keeping a fast without drinking water and eating any food throughout the day is not easy, but the doting wives perform all these rituals with much love and respect for their husbands.

If we talk about the literal meaning of Karva Chauth, it means offering 'Argya' to the moon using an earthen pot known as Karwa on the Chaturthi of the Karthika month. The festival falls on the fourth day of the dark fortnight in the Kartika month every year. Though the origin of this festival is still very hazy, there are some anecdotes associated with it. Listed below are some of the popular Karva Chauth stories which show the reason behind this celebration:

## Story of Queen Veervati

Once upon a time there was a beautiful queen named Veervati who was the only sister among seven loving and caring brothers. On her first Karva Chauth, she was at her parent's place and began a strict fast after sunrise. In the evening, she was waiting eagerly for the moonrise as she was suffering from hunger and thirst. Seeing her suffering like this, pained her brothers. So, they installed a mirror in a Peepal tree that made it look as if the Moon is up in the sky. Now, the moment Veervati broke her fast, the news that her husband was dead arrived. She kept on weeping and was inconsolable. She instantly started home and met Goddess Parvati on her way. Maa Parvati revealed that she was tricked by her brothers. Then, she kept Karva Chauth fast with full devotion and seeing her dedication, Yama, the lord of death restored life to her husband. This Karva Chauth Katha of Queen Veervati is quite popular and usually heard by women observing the fast.

## Story of Draupadi

Next on our list of Karva Chauth Kahani is based on Arjuna and Draupadi from the Mahabharata. Once Arjuna, the one whom Draupadi loved the most, went to the Nilgiri mountains for self-penalty. Due to this, the rest of the brothers were facing challenges without him. Now, Draupadi remembered Lord Krishna in this situation to ask what should be done to resolve the challenges. Lord Krishna narrated a story of Goddess Parvati who (in a similar situation) performed the Karva Chauth rituals. So, Draupadi followed the strict rituals of Karva Chauth for the well-being of her husband and Pandavas resolved their problems.

## Story of Karva

There was a woman named Karva who was deeply in love with her husband and this intense love gave her lots of spiritual powers. Once when her husband went to bathe in the river, he was attacked by a crocodile. Now the courageous Karva bound the crocodile with cotton yarn and remembered Yama; the Lord of death. She asked Lord Yamraj to give life to her husband and death sentence to the crocodile. He said he was afraid he couldn't do so. However, in return, Karva threatened to curse Lord Yama and destroy Yamdev. Yama was seriously afraid of being cursed by such a devoted and doting wife and thus he sent



the crocodile to hell and gave life back to her husband.

This Karva Chauth kahani has narrated even today and married women pray to Karva Mata for the well-being and happiness of their husbands.

## Karva Chauth story of Satyavan and Savitri

It is said that when Yama, the God of death, came to acquire Satyavan's life, Savitri begged in front of Yama to grant him life. But Yama was adamant and saw that Savitri stopped eating and drinking and followed Yama as he took her husband away. Yama now said to Savitri that she could ask for any boon except the life of her husband. Savitri, being a very smart woman, asked Yama that she wanted to be blessed with children. And since she was a devoted and loyal wife, she wouldn't let any kind of adultery. Thus, Yama had to restore life to Satyavan so that Savitri could have children.

On the day of Karva Chauth, women and girls observing the fast do not miss hearing Karva Chauth Katha of Savitri. Besides, listening to all the Karva Chauth stories emphasizes the importance of this fast and how ancient this festival is.

## Why do We Celebrate Karva Chauth?

Given the aforementioned Karva Chauth Katha, you would now be well-versed with the fact why the festival holds utmost importance in the Hindu culture. The prominence of this festival can be widely observed in the North and North Western regions of our country. A massive chunk of the male population of these regions were the soldiers of the Indian Army and officials of the Military Forces and for the safety of these people, women of these regions started fasting. These armed forces, policemen, soldiers, and military personnel protected the country from enemies and the women used to pray to God for the longevity of their men. The time of this festival coincides with the initiation of the Rabi cropping season which is the wheat sowing season in these aforementioned areas. The women of the families fill the earthen pot or Karwa with wheat grains and offer them to God praying for a great Rabi season.

In ancient India, women of 10-13 years of age were



married. Hardly they could enjoy their childhood or early teenage in such a marriage. Communication was also a big obstacle in those days. So, they couldn't come to their parent's homes easily and it was also not considered good. So, from an early age, a woman had to take full responsibility for a new household. From cooking to cleaning, she was the in-charge. But, she was all alone away from her loved ones in an unknown house and without any friends too. Where would she go while feeling alone or missing home? So, to resolve this problem, the women started celebrating Karva Chauth in a grand way where married women of the whole village and some nearby villages used to congregate in one place and spend the day in joy and laughter. They befriended each other and called each other God-friends or God-sisters. One can say that this festival started as a means of enjoyment and to forget the fact that they are alone at their in-laws' place. They celebrated the union among themselves on this day and gifted each other bangles, lipsticks, sindoor, etc. to remind each other that there is always a friend somewhere.

In recent times, husbands have also started observing fasts for their wives. The gesture has made the festival extra-special as it signifies love, understanding and compassion from both ends.



## Rakul Preet Singh suffers serious gym injury

Actress Rakul Preet Singh, who will be next seen in 'De De Pyaar De 2', recently suffered a serious injury. An 80 kg deadlift during her workout session resulted in an injury to her back. The actress has been on bed rest for more than a week now and is said to be recuperating steadily.

A well-placed source said, "Rakul has been on bed rest for the last few days and the situation has been quite scary. It all started on the morning of October 5, when Rakul was doing her workout. She did an 80 kg deadlift without wearing a belt, which resulted in a spasm on her back."

However, the actress pushed herself and still kept resulting in the aggravation of injury following which she has been suggested bed rest by medical experts.

The source further mentioned, "Despite this, she continued to shoot for 'De De Pyaar De 2' taking a muscle relaxant in order to fulfill her commitment, for 2 consecutive days. After 3 days of bearing the pain she visited the physios, and each time the pain would be back after 3-4 hours. She continued the physio but on October 10, an hour before her birthday party, she went through the worst situation."

The injury had resulted in an excruciating situation wherein her L4, L5, and S1 nerves got jammed. Soon after her BP dropped, she broke into a sweat and she was made to sleep on the bed. *Source: IANS*

# Shraddha finds love in Sindhi bizman after Rahul Mody? Fans speculate

Shraddha Kapoor is a fan favourite, not just because of her onscreen work but also for the way she interacts with her social media followers. It's as though the actor is an open book for her Insta fam! But the one thing that Shraddha has always kept private is her love life. Earlier this year when she made her first public appearance with Rahul Mody at Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's pre-wedding festivities, fans were convinced that she will soon make her relationship official. But that didn't happen. Instead, rumours of their break up began doing the rounds when Shraddha unfollowed the writer of Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar (2023) as well as his dog on social media.

Soon after this 'unfollowing' incident came to the notice of fans, Shraddha got busy with promotions of her horror comedy Stree 2. The film's crazy box office success resulted in all eyes on Shraddha's career instead of her personal life. However, recently when she mentioned her 'partner' in an interview, rumour mills began churning once again. Shraddha confirmed being in a relationship when she told a leading magazine that she 'loves spending time with her partner'. This left fans speculating and a new Reddit thread has now suggested that Shraddha may have found love in a Sindhi businessman.

This Reddit post read: "I have some confirm reports that she is dating someone who is from sindhi family and is not related to bollywood but is a businessmen and have stake in Bollywood movies investment, he was with her during stree promotion in delhi. He seems to younger than her



for sure. And the main part they might be getting married very soon." Now that is interesting. But is it true? Well, only Shraddha will be able to confirm the news.

On the work front, latest buzz

suggests that Shraddha might be roped in for Dhoom 4. This would mark the actor's reunion with her Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar co-star Ranbir Kapoor, who is reportedly taking the Dhoom franchise forward. *Source: HT*

## Rashmika Mandanna to promote cyber safety



Rashmika Mandanna, who fell victim to a deepfake video earlier this year, has been appointed as the National Ambassador for the promotion of cyber safety.

The actress has been appointed by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre of the Ministry of Home Affairs. She said as someone who has experienced this, she was dedicated to raising awareness about these issues. Rashmika said in a statement, "Cybercrime is a dangerous and pervasive threat that affects individuals, businesses and communities worldwide. As someone who has experienced this, I am dedicated to raising awareness about

these issues and promoting the message of cyber safety to drive positive change. It is crucial that we come together to combat these threats and protect our digital spaces."

Rashmika will spearhead nationwide cyber awareness campaigns aimed at educating the public on various cybercrime threats, including online fraud, deepfake videos, cyber bullying, and malicious content.

The actress' deepfake video started a conversation on the inappropriate use of technology, prompting numerous celebrities to voice their concerns.

In a journey spanning over eight years, Rashmika gained recognition with Pushpa: The Rise.





## Anthony Hopkins to star in the biopic 'Maserati: The Brothers'

**B**obby Moresco is directing a biopic on the popular Maserati car family in Italy, titled *Maserati: The Brothers*, where Anthony Hopkins will play an Italian who supports the Maserati siblings financially. Andrea Iervolino, who backed Moresco's earlier biopic *Lamborghini: The Man Behind the Legend* and Michael Mann's *Ferrari*, is producing the upcoming film.

"Having Anthony Hopkins on board is a dream come true," stated Iervolino, adding, "His unparalleled ability to embody complex characters will undoubtedly elevate our story, and we are eager to see how he brings depth to his role."

The team is yet to make additional cast announcements for *Maserati: The Brothers*, which will go on floors in Bologna soon.

Brothers Alfieri, Ernesto, and Ettore founded Maserati at a garage in 1914. From the beginning, it was associated with automobile racing. Alfieri had a terrible crash in the race for 1927's Messina Cup race when he drove Maserati's first car, namely Type 26, for Grand Prix races. In the 1930s, the siblings sold a controlling stake in Maserati, owned by Fiat now.

Hopkins most recently played emperor Vespasian in the show *Those About to Die*, directed by Roland Emmerich. His upcoming projects also include the biblical film *Mary*, where he plays King Herod, and director Timothy Woodward Jr's *Eyes in the Trees*.

# Ben Affleck spotted with assistant after Jennifer Lopez drama

**B**en Affleck, often seen with a Dunkin Donuts cup in hand and a brooding look, seems to be undergoing a transformation—or at least, he's making some visible changes.

The *Batman* actor, currently navigating a high-profile divorce from Jennifer Lopez, was recently spotted out and about, looking much more put together than usual.

Affleck was photographed in dishevelled style with his assistant, Gigi Fouquet, donning a fall-themed ensemble consisting of a maroon jacket, cream shirt, and olive pants. This is far way from his typical "grab whatever's clean" fashion, leading many to wonder if a stylist had entered the picture. The actor sported some facial hair and a noticeably less moody expression.

Though Affleck was still holding his signature iced coffee, it's unclear if it was from his favourite Dunkin Donuts. Whether this is a new chapter for Affleck or just a temporary change, he certainly appeared to be in better spirits.

The *Deep Water* star currently juggling several projects, including the sequel to *The Accountant* and his Netflix film *RIP* with longtime friend Matt Damon. Affleck is directing Damon in an upcoming thriller titled *The Animals*.

"Ben's doing well. He thrives when he's busy, and he's been working nonstop," a source told *People*.

"He spends a lot of time with his kids,



too. It hasn't been the easiest summer for him either. He's just trying to stay focused and make every day as good as possible."

Affleck also expressed frustration during *The Howard Stern Show*, saying, "The idea that people hate you and they hate you together... And, 'What the f\*\*k are they doing together?' I got f\*\*king hurt and angry and felt like a fool."

As for Jennifer Lopez, she's embracing life after Bennifer, despite the emotional toll of the breakup. She

shared with Nikki Glaser for *Interview* magazine, "That doesn't mean it didn't almost take me out for good. It almost did. But now, on the other side of it, I think to myself, 'F\*\*k, that is exactly what I needed.'"

"I'm not looking for anybody, because everything that I've done over the past 25, 30 years, being in these different challenging situations, what can I f\*\*king do when it's just me flying on my own?" she said. "What if I'm just free?"

## Andrew Garfield and Kate Tomas break up after dating for several months

**A**ndrew Garfield and Kate Tomas have broken up after dating for several months. Kate revealed the news on Saturday in the comments of an Instagram post.

Responding to a fan who asked if she was still dating the *We Live in Time* actor, she confirmed that their relationship had ended some time ago.

"We broke up months ago but I'm sure he will be happy to know that he is loved," Kate replied, putting an end to the fan's question.

The pair were first linked in March this year when they were spotted holding hands during what looked like a double date with Phoebe Bridgers and Bo Burnham.

Despite the public sighting, Andrew, 41, has remained private about his love life.

In a 2021 interview with *Bustle*, he shared that he intentionally keeps his romantic relationships out of the public eye, valuing privacy.

Before dating Kate, Andrew was romantically linked to his *Spider-Man* co-star Emma Stone in the 2010s. More recently, he dated model Alyssa Miller, but their relationship ended in April 2022, according to a source from *PEOPLE*.

Though the split with Kate is now public, it seems the breakup happened quietly months ago, with neither party making an official announcement until now.





## LEBANON SLAMS 'BLATANT INTERFERENCE' OVER REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO IRAN OFFICIAL

**BEIRUT (TIP):** Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati on October 18 offered a rare rebuke of Iran, charging it with "blatant interference" over remarks attributed to its parliament speaker on a UN resolution on Hezbollah and Lebanon.

The Security Council resolution, adopted in 2006 and which states that only the Lebanese army and UN peacekeepers should be deployed in southern Lebanon, has come into focus during the latest Israel-Hezbollah war.

In remarks published by France's Le Figaro newspaper on Thursday, Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf reportedly said Tehran was ready to negotiate on the implementation of the resolution, which is seen as a precondition for a ceasefire in the current war.

Mikati hit back, accusing Iran of "blatant interference in Lebanese affairs and an attempt to establish an unacceptable guardianship over Lebanon".

"The issue of negotiating to implement international resolution 1701 is being undertaken by the Lebanese state," Mikati said in a statement released by his office.

"Everyone is required to support it in this direction, not to seek to impose new mandates".

Mikati said that Lebanon's foreign minister will summon Iran's charge d'affaires to seek clarification on Ghalibaf's remarks.

Such public criticism is rare for the Lebanese government, over which Iran-backed Hezbollah holds sway.

Iran's foreign minister and parliament speaker have both visited Lebanon since the start of the Israel-Hezbollah war late last month.

Israel killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in a south Beirut air strike on September 27, dealing the group a seismic blow. (AFP)

# Britain's Lammy hopes for 'constructive' dialogue with China

**BEIJING (TIP):** British Foreign Secretary David Lammy told Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on October 18 he hoped the two countries could discuss their differences "constructively".

London has said Lammy will use his visit -- the first by a British cabinet minister to China since Prime Minister Keir Starmer took office -- to "challenge" Beijing on sensitive issues like Russia's war in Ukraine but also to mend frayed ties.

On Friday afternoon, Lammy met with Wang at Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, telling the top diplomat the UK would "always put its national security and national interests first".

He acknowledged "areas in which we have different perspectives".

But he said he hoped the two countries could "find space to discuss such areas constructively".

"Neither of us has an interest in escalation or greater instability," Lammy told Wang.

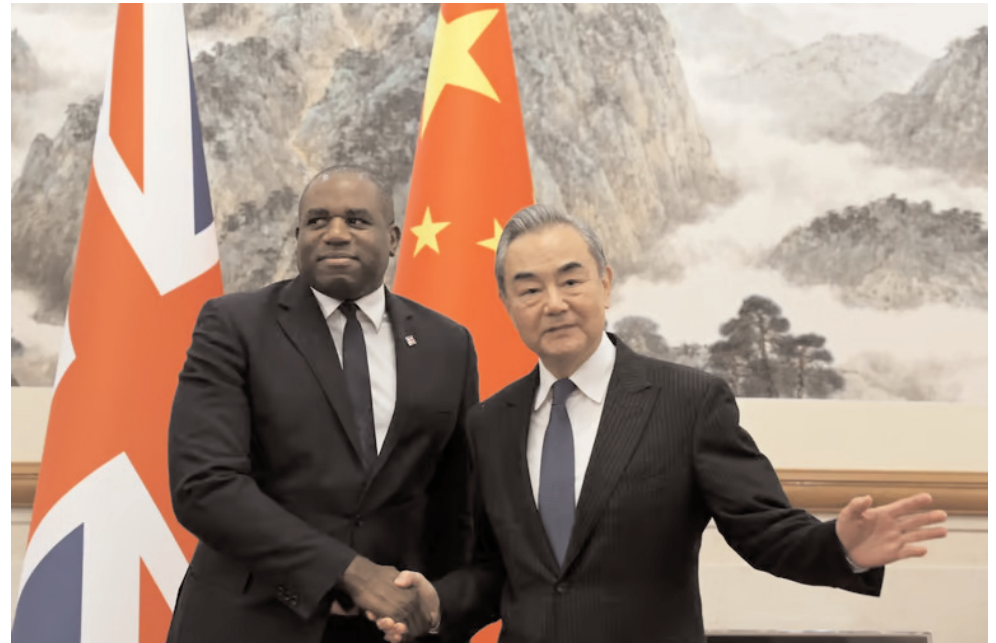
Lammy earlier met with Chinese Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang and other top Communist Party officials.

Lammy is seeking to tread a fine line between shoring up ties with a major trade partner while pushing Beijing on issues like human rights, the Ukraine war and Chinese policies in Hong Kong.

He will also meet with British business leaders in the eastern megacity of Shanghai during his two-day trip.

In an earlier statement, Lammy's office said that the foreign secretary would "urge China to stop its political and economic support of the Russian war effort".

China has boosted ties with Russia since the invasion of Ukraine but maintains it is a neutral party and



denies selling arms to Moscow.

Beijing's foreign ministry said it hoped Lammy's trip would help to "boost strategic mutual trust and strengthen dialogue and cooperation in all fields".

'Golden era' no more

Britain and China once made much of their burgeoning ties, with then Prime Minister David Cameron hailing a "Golden Age" in relations in 2015.

Much has changed since then, with Britain's criticism of China on human rights issues prompting sharp rebukes from Beijing. The two sides have also sparred over espionage allegations, including cyberattacks and political interference. Advocacy group Human Rights Watch on Friday urged Lammy to put respect for rights at the "very centre" of ties. "David Lammy came to office promising to restore Britain's commitment to international law," associate China director Maya Wang

said.

"A visit to China, a country that regularly seeks to subvert, manipulate or ignore these legal frameworks, will certainly test that ambition."

Hong Kong hangover

Perhaps the biggest sticking point between the two countries has been Hong Kong, the former British colony that London handed back to China in 1997. Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law on the financial hub in 2020, snuffing out months of pro-democracy protests there.

London says the legislation has eroded special freedoms guaranteed under Hong Kong's mini-constitution, while China maintains that it restored stability in the city.

Beijing has told the UK and other countries to stop interfering in an issue it regards as a purely domestic affair. (AFP)

## UK government to impose sanctions on Israeli ministers

**LONDON (TIP):** British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said October 16 that the government was considering sanctions against far-right Israeli ministers Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich.

Asked in parliament if the government would sanction the two officials, Starmer said: "We are looking at that because there are obviously abhorrent comments along with other really concerning activity in the West Bank."

National Security Minister Ben Gvir and Smotrich, who is finance minister, are vocal supporters of settlements in the West Bank, which are considered illegal under international law.

Smotrich has also triggered international uproar by suggesting it would be justified to starve two million Gazans to free Israeli hostages in the Palestinian territory.

After Starmer's comments, Smotrich



remained defiant, vowing to fight Israel's enemies in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran while working to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"No threat will stop me from doing what is right and moral for the citizens of Israel," Smotrich posted on X.

Earlier this week, former foreign

secretary David Cameron revealed that the previous Conservative government had been "working on" sanctions against the "extreme" politicians.

Starmer's Labour government announced separate sanctions Tuesday against seven Israeli settler outposts and organisations.

Israeli settler violence and military raids have intensified in the occupied territory following October 7, after Israel launched its war on Gaza.

Pointing to the "dire" humanitarian situation in Gaza, Starmer also called for Israel to "take all possible steps to avoid civilian casualties, to allow aid into Gaza in much greater volume".

Foreign Secretary David Lammy meanwhile announced that Britain, France and Algeria had called an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council after UN reports that "barely any food has entered" North Gaza in the last two weeks. (AFP)

# Italy makes it illegal to seek surrogacy abroad, activists say it targets LGBTQ community

**ROME (TIP):** Italy on October 16 criminalized citizens who go abroad to have children through surrogacy, a measure slammed by opponents as “medieval” and discriminatory to LGBTQ community

The measure extending a surrogacy ban in place since 2004 was promoted by Premier Giorgia Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy party and its conservative coalition partner, the League, asserting that it protects women's dignity.

The Senate after a seven-hour debate passed the bill 84-58, the final step in the process after the Lower House's approval last year.

Italians seeking surrogacy in countries such as the United States or Canada, where the practice is legal, can face up to two years in jail and up to 1 million euros (\$1.1 million) in fines.

The surrogacy ban applies equally to all couples. But same-sex parent advocates say it hits gay families particularly hard in a country struggling with record-low birthrates and where only heterosexual couples are allowed to adopt.

Same-sex marriages are also banned in Italy, and LGBTQ+ couples have been fighting to obtain parental rights for the partner who is not the biological parent.

Several lawmakers and LGBTQ+ activists protested in front of the Senate



to oppose the law, some holding banners that read: “Parents, not criminals.”

“When protectionism prevails, a social phenomenon is not erased,” opposition lawmaker Riccardo Magi said during the protest. “It is simply relegated to a dark area, which the law doesn't reach. In that case, it's easier for exploitation, abuse and rights violations to prevail.”

“We are very saddened because Italy has once again missed an opportunity to demonstrate that it is a country in line with what Europe and the world are,” said Cristiano Giraldi, the father of two 10-year-old children born from a surrogate mother in the U.S.

The Catholic Church has strongly opposed surrogacy in Italy and abroad, with Pope Francis calling for a universal ban and criticizing what he called the “commercialization” of pregnancy.

At the same time, the Vatican's doctrine office has made clear that same-sex parents who resort to surrogacy can have their children baptized.

While commercial surrogacy contracts are common in the U.S. — including protections for mothers, guarantees of independent legal representation and medical coverage — they are banned in parts of Europe including Spain and Italy. (AP)

## MORE THAN 140 PEOPLE KILLED, DOZENS INJURED AS GAS TANKER EXPLODES IN NIGERIA

**ABUJA (TIP):** More than 140 people, including children, were killed in Nigeria when an overturned gasoline tanker truck exploded in flames while they tried to scoop up fuel, emergency services said October 16. Dozens more were injured.

Deadly tanker accidents are common in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, which lacks an efficient railway system to transport cargo. People often salvage fuel with cups and buckets — especially because of soaring fuel prices, which have tripled since the government ended costly gas subsidies last year.

The latest accident occurred at midnight in northern Jigawa state's Majiya town when the tanker driver lost control on a highway, police spokesperson Lawan Adam said. Residents rushed to the scene before the “massive inferno.”

Most of the bodies were unrecognizable, emergency services said.

“Close to 140 people were put in a mass grave, apart from people buried in other places,” the head of the National Emergency Management Agency in the region, Nura Abdullahi, told The Associated Press.

Most other victims were “burned to ashes” at the scene, said Dr. Haruna Mairiga, head of the Jigawa emergency services.

“If they knew (about the danger), they wouldn't have gone to fetch (the fuel),” Mairiga said. (AP)

# Vietnam death row tycoon awaits verdict in new trial

**HO CHI MINH CITY (TIP):** A Vietnamese property tycoon sentenced to death for fraud totalling \$27 billion arrived in court on October 17 to face a potential life sentence in a related trial on money laundering charges.

Property developer Truong My Lan was found guilty in April of swindling cash from the Saigon Commercial Bank (SCB) -- which prosecutors said she controlled -- in one of the biggest corruption cases in history, and sentenced to death.

Tens of thousands of people who had invested their savings in the bank lost money, shocking the communist nation and prompting rare protests from the victims.

On Thursday, Lan and 33 other defendants -- including her husband and niece -- were brought to court in Ho Chi Minh City in a convoy of police vans.

Wearing a face mask, Lan sat at the front of the court flanked by two police officers to await the verdict after a four-week trial.

Prosecutors have called for a life sentence for Lan on charges of money laundering, illegal cross-border trafficking of cash, and fraud.



Around 36,000 people who bought bonds issued by SCB have been identified as victims of the fraud.

Online noodle seller Nguyen Thi Huong told AFP she wanted to die after losing \$20,000, her entire savings, in 2022.

“When I learned that I had lost all the money I had deposited at SCB Bank, I felt like I was losing my mind,” said Huong, 33.

She developed insomnia, her health deteriorated from stress and she no longer had money to send her children to extra classes, making them fall behind their peers, she said.

“I sat by my father's grave, and wished he would take me with him in death,” Huong said.

State media reported earlier that Lan and her associates stole around \$18

billion by taking assets from SCB between early 2018 and October 2022. Lan effectively owned a 90 percent stake in the bank.

Lan, chair of major real estate developer Van Thinh Phat, ordered her accomplices to withdraw cash and transfer it out of SCB's system, state media said.

She then hid the origins of the money and used it to settle debts between companies or transferred the money abroad for fake contracts.

Dozens of victims in the case held protests in central Hanoi as her latest trial started, demanding authorities help them get their money back.

Lan had apologised to the victims in court, according to state media, and said she was “not a bad person”.

She was given the death penalty in April after being found guilty of embezzling \$12.5 billion -- a verdict she is appealing, though no date has yet been announced for it.

Prosecutors said the total damages caused amounted to \$27 billion -- a figure equivalent to about six percent of Vietnam's gross domestic product in 2023. (AFP)

## Pak police fire tear gas at protesting students

**RAWALPINDI (TIP):** Pakistani police fired tear gas and charged at student protesters who ransacked a college building October 17, as anger spread over an alleged on-campus rape.

Tensions have been high on college campuses since reports about the alleged rape in the eastern city of Lahore went viral on social media, and protests have broken out in four cities so far.

The latest violence started when hundreds of students demonstrated outside a campus in the city of Rawalpindi in Punjab province. They burned furniture and blocked a key road in the city, disrupting traffic, before ransacking a college building. Police responded by swinging batons and firing tear gas to disperse them, police official Mohammad Afzal said. In a statement, police said they arrested 150 students on charges of disrupting the peace.

In Gujrat, also in Punjab, a security guard died in clashes between student protesters and police on Wednesday. The police have arrested someone in connection with the death.

They also arrested a man who is accused of spreading misinformation on social media about the alleged rape and inciting students to violence.

Earlier this week, more than two dozen college students were injured in clashes with police in Lahore after they rallied to demand justice for the victim, who they alleged was raped on campus at the Punjab Group of Colleges.

Authorities, including the province's chief minister and the college administration, denied there was an assault, as did the young woman's parents.

Sexual violence against women is common in Pakistan, but it is underreported because of the stigma attached to it in the conservative country. Protests about sexual violence against women are uncommon.

Hasna Cheema, from the rights group Aurat Foundation, said neither Pakistani police nor the media were trained to handle such sensitive matters.

"They turn things from bad to worse instead of solving them," Cheema said.

The Sustainable Social Development Organization said last month that there were 7,010 rape cases reported in Pakistan in 2023, almost 95 per cent of them in Punjab. (AP)

# Nawaz Sharif calls Jaishankar visit to Islamabad a 'good beginning' for India-Pak ties

**ISLAMABAD (TIP) :** The visit of India's foreign minister to Pakistan earlier this week was a "good beginning" that could lead to a thaw in relations between the two rivals, former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was quoted as saying by Indian media on Friday.

Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar was in Pakistan on October 15 and 16 for a meeting of governments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, with the capital city under tight lockdown.

"This is how talks move forward. Talks should not stop," Sharif, the president of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N), and the brother of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, told a group of visiting Indian journalists, the Indian Express newspaper reported.

Jaishankar was among nearly a dozen



leaders participating in the gathering in Islamabad, nearly a decade since an Indian foreign minister has visited amid frosty relations between the two nations.

Jaishankar and his counterpart Ishaq

Dar had an "informal interaction", an official in Pakistani foreign ministry said on Thursday, but New Delhi denied that any sort of meeting had taken place. (Reuters)

## Human induced climate change behind flooding disasters in Nepal



**PRADHAN KATHMANDU (TIP):** World Weather Attribution, an international collaboration, has underscored the urgent need for Nepal to limit development in low-lying, riverside areas of the cities and scale up early warning and prompt action to avoid repeat of flooding disasters.

"Climate change was responsible for the extreme three day downpours in Nepal about 10 percent more intense," concluded the organization in its recently published report.

The flood and landslide triggered by heavy rain in Nepal in late September caused heavy loss to the country as it claimed at least 244 lives.

"The rainfall became 10 percent more intense by human-induced climate change," pointed out the report.

"Bursts of rainfall will become even more heavier, risking more destructive floods until the world replaces fossil fuels with renewable sources of energy," warned the organization.

"Reducing development in flood-prone areas of cities will help protect people in Nepal from future floods," according to the report. "The explosive monsoon rainfall that hit Nepal was increased by climate change," concludes the report.

The flooding witnessed by Kathmandu valley had never occurred before in the past, according to eye-witnesses.

More than 50 people were killed and property worth billions of rupees were damaged due to the heavy rainfall that hit Kathmandu recently. (PTI)

## Bangladesh tribunal issues arrest warrant against ousted PM Sheikh Hasina

**DHAKA (TIP):** A Bangladeshi court on October 17 ordered an arrest warrant for exiled ex-leader Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India in August after she was toppled from power by a student-led revolution.

"The court has... ordered the arrest of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and to produce her in court on November 18," Mohammad Tajul Islam, chief prosecutor of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, told reporters on Thursday.

Hasina's 15-year rule saw widespread human rights abuses, including the mass detention and extrajudicial killings of her political opponents.

"Sheikh Hasina was at the helm of those who committed massacres, killings and crimes against humanity in July to August", Islam said, calling it a "remarkable day".

Hasina, 77, has not been seen in public since fleeing Bangladesh, and her last official whereabouts is a military airbase near India's capital New Delhi.

Her presence in India has infuriated Bangladesh.

Dhaka has revoked her diplomatic passport, and the countries have a bilateral extradition treaty which would permit her return to face criminal trial.

A clause in the treaty, however, says extradition might be refused if the offence is of a "political character".

Hasina's government created the deeply contentious ICT in 2010 to probe atrocities during the 1971 independence war from Pakistan.

The United Nations and rights groups criticised its procedural shortcomings, and it became widely seen as a means for Hasina to eliminate political opponents.

Several cases accusing Hasina of orchestrating the "mass murder" of protesters are being probed by the court. (AFP)



# CUNY and JPMorganChase Host Financial Health Summit for Brooklyn Community at Medgar Evers College

OCTOBER 16, 2024

**NEW YORK, NY (TIP):** The City University of New York and JPMorganChase, on October 14, welcomed the Brooklyn community to the Medgar Evers College campus for a financial health summit. The event's theme of hip-hop and finance utilizes people's appreciation for and knowledge of the music genre, which has its origins in New York City, to showcase how they can manage their finances and accrue wealth.

At the summit, guests attended panel discussions to gain insights on financial health from Brooklyn-based business leaders and entrepreneurs. Community partners in attendance offered free financial coaching and resources for participants. Panelists included Gerard "HipHopGamer" Williams, a video game champion and Hot 97 radio personality who teaches technology and financial literacy through gaming to NYC public school students. JPMorganChase experts also joined Medgar Evers classes to provide students with financial health education on topics including budgeting, saving and building credit.

"As a public university that is unmatched in its ability to provide transformational economic outcomes for its graduates, it's the responsible thing to do to make sure that our students have the preparation necessary to make the most of their finances," said CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. "I am thankful to JPMorganChase for their partnership in providing our students, faculty and staff, and the greater community in Brooklyn, with this essential resource."

"This JPMorganChase-sponsored Hip Hop and Finance summit was phenomenal. The CUNY Medgar Evers College partnership with JPMorganChase is rooted in our college's social justice mission. The partnership helps to advance our



CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Medgar Evers College President Patricia Ramsey, JPMorganChase Executive Director for Community & Business Development Nichol King and panelists during the financial health summit

students, uplift their families and positively impact this historically underserved community where our college is located," said Medgar Evers College President Patricia Ramsey. "The JPMorganChase-Medgar Evers College partnership, which began with a focus on providing financial literacy for Medgar Evers College students, has grown to include wealth building for our college students, our summer youth program participants and their parents. The partnership is truly transformational."

"Financial health education is a key component to community empowerment - and we are proud to partner with Medgar Evers College and the City University of New York to share our expertise with their students, faculty and the Brooklyn community as a whole," said Nichol King, executive director for community & business development at JPMorganChase. "We look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership with Medgar Evers College and across Brooklyn, including leveraging our new Community Center

Branch just a mile from campus."

The summit is the latest example of the collaboration between Medgar Evers College and JPMorganChase, which forged a financial health partnership last year with the set goals of improving students' money management skills and credit building. This effort also includes a focus on preventing susceptibility to fraud. The college and JPMorganChase have since hosted a series of workshops for students in the college's business classes.

The leading financial institution also has existing relationships with the greater University system. In 2020, JPMorganChase Chairman and CEO Jamie Dimon was among the 27 chief executives to launch the New York Jobs CEO Council, a coalition in partnership with the University that has been charged with hiring 100,000 low-income New Yorkers - including 25,000 CUNY graduates - by the end of the decade.

Located in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, Medgar Evers College offers both associate and baccalaureate degrees. A four-year college within the CUNY

system, Medgar Evers College was established in 1970 with a mandate to meet the educational and social needs of the Central Brooklyn community. In its commitment to providing students with a sound academic foundation as well as an opportunity for personal development, Medgar Evers College offers high-quality, professional, career-oriented degree programs within the context of a liberal arts education. Medgar Evers College is part of NASA's Space Grant Project as well as the Thurgood Marshall College Fund as a predominantly Black institution. For more information, visit [mec.cuny.edu](http://mec.cuny.edu).

The City University of New York is the nation's largest urban public university, a transformative engine of social mobility that is a critical component of the lifeblood of New York City. Founded in 1847 as the nation's first free public institution of higher education, CUNY today has seven community colleges, 11 senior colleges and seven graduate or professional institutions spread across New York City's five boroughs, serving more than 233,000 undergraduate and graduate students and awarding 50,000 degrees each year. CUNY's mix of quality and affordability propels almost six times as many low-income students into the middle class and beyond as all the Ivy League colleges combined. More than 80 percent of the University's graduates stay in New York, contributing to all aspects of the city's economic, civic and cultural life and diversifying the city's workforce in every sector. CUNY's graduates and faculty have received many prestigious honors, including 13 Nobel Prizes and 26 MacArthur "genius grants." The University's historic mission continues to this day: provide a first-rate public education to all students, regardless of means or background. To learn more about CUNY, visit <https://www.cuny.edu>.

## Legislator Koslow and Family Join Merrick School Community in Health & Wellness Week Walk to Levy Lakeside School



**MERRICK, N.Y. (TIP):** As part of the Norman J. Levy Lakeside School's annual Health and Wellness Week, Nassau County Legislator Seth I. Koslow (D - Merrick) and his three children joined hundreds of



students and parents in walking to school on Wednesday, Oct. 9. "Improving your physical fitness can feel like a daunting task, but even something as simple as adding a walk to your daily routine can be an important step



Photo credit: Office of Legislator Seth I. Koslow

forward on the road to better health," Legislator Koslow said. "I was happy to see that we had so many families leaving their cars behind on this beautiful autumn day and joining us in this great walk to Levy Lakeside."

# What happens when someone flirts with your partner?

Who does not want to be in a relationship with an attractive partner? But, if others find them equally appealing, it can lead to negative feelings, according to a recent study. A team of researchers led by Gurit Birnbaum found that people reacted to unsolicited attention given to their partner by feeling less desire for their partner, showing reduced interest in investing in the relationship, and becoming more interested in thwarting potential rivals.

The researchers wanted to understand how unsolicited attention from others towards a current partner affects desire and relationship maintenance efforts. Does it make people desire their partner more, or does it perhaps make them wary of potential threats to the relationship, leading them to react defensively?

The researchers conducted three experiments to explore what happens in people's minds and hearts when others show interest in their current partner. In each, participants were placed in situations where another person flirted with their romantic partner.

In all studies, participants in committed relationships were exposed to situations where their partner either received unsolicited flirtatious advances (external attention condition) or had a neutral interaction with another person (control condition).

The study found that the meaning you attach to others' attention changes once you're committed to someone – when you're single, external interest in a potential partner can serve as a valuable cue to their desirability; but in a committed relationship, that same attention may be perceived as a threat.



While some people might try to induce jealousy in their partner by seeking attention from others to feel more desired or secure, the aforementioned research shows this tactic can backfire. Instead of strengthening the relationship, it can damage the very connection it wants to enhance. The results show that the fear of losing a partner can trigger a cascade of defensive reactions. To shield themselves from potential pain, people might create emotional distance and withdraw investment in the relationship, hoping to soften the blow if their fears materialise. At the same time, the anger ignited by others' interest in their partner can manifest as confrontation towards these perceived rivals. These reactions, however, may be rooted more in retaliation than in genuine efforts to maintain the relationship.

Source: HT

## French skincare secrets you must know

When it comes to skincare, the French have long been regarded as the epitome of effortless beauty. Their radiant complexions and age-defying looks are often the envy of the world. So, what are the secrets behind French skincare? From simple routines to luxurious products, here are some time-tested traditions and techniques with which you too can achieve that coveted French glow:

### Embrace a minimalist routine

One of the hallmarks of French skincare is its simplicity. The French believe in a minimalist approach, favouring quality over quantity. Instead of a cluttered shelf of products, they focus on a few essential items that work harmoniously together. A typical French skincare routine includes a gentle cleanser, a hydrating toner, a nourishing moisturiser, and sunscreen. By keeping it simple, they allow their skin to breathe and maintain its natural balance.

### Micellar water benefits

Micellar water is a staple in French skincare. This gentle yet effective cleanser is made up of micelles, tiny oil molecules suspended in soft water. It effortlessly removes makeup, dirt, and impurities without stripping the skin of its natural oils. The French use micellar water both morning and night, often followed by a splash of thermal spring water to refresh and soothe the skin. This step ensures a



clean canvas for the rest of their routine.

### Skincare with thermal spring water

Thermal spring water is a secret weapon in French skincare. Rich in minerals and antioxidants, it has been used for centuries to treat various skin conditions. French women swear by its soothing and healing properties. They incorporate it into their daily routine by misting their face with it after cleansing and throughout the day to hydrate and refresh their skin. Many French skincare brands offer products infused with thermal spring water, making it easy to incorporate this step into your routine.

## FOOD CORNER

### Hariyali Gosht

The vibrant color and flavor of green herbs make a delicious addition to marinades, tandoori dishes, breads and gravies. In Indian cooking, a lot of green leafy veg also get added to give the required color but the addition of mint and coriander such an unbeatable combination. Commonly used in chutneys, these have been added both here to a lamb curry. Always cook lamb on the bone for loads more flavor in the gravy and also the bone marrow adds much more as it melts in the curry.

#### Ingredients

**To marinate the lamb:** 850gms leg of lamb with bone diced in medium pieces, 2 tbsp greek yoghurt, 8 cloves of garlic roughly chopped, 2" ginger roughly chopped, 30gms mint leaves, 150gms white onion roughly chopped, 3 birds eye green chillies roughly chopped

**For the gravy:** 3 tbsp vegetable oil, 6 green cardamom pods, 6 cloves, 2 mace blades, 1 dried bay leaf, 1" cinnamon stick, 150gms white onions thinly sliced, 1 tsp coriander powder, 1 tsp cumin powder, 1 tsp turmeric powder, 1/2 tsp kashmiri chilli powder, Salt to taste, 250mls water, 1/2 tsp garam masala

**For the coriander paste:** 50gms coriander leaves and stems, 2 birds eye green chillies, 50mls water

#### Method

- To marinate the lamb- In a blender add the greek yoghurt, garlic, ginger, mint leaves, onion and birds eye green chillies. Blend to a smooth paste. In a large bowl add the paste along with the lamb. Marinate overnight for for 3-4 hours
- In the same blender add the coriander and green chillies along with the water. Blend to a fine paste and set aside
- In a large heavy bottom saucepan heat the oil over a medium flame. Add the whole spices and fry for a few seconds. Add the sliced onions and fry as they begin to colour for 12 minutes over a medium heat
- Add the marinated lamb and fry sealing the pieces for 15-17 minutes. Add the coriander powder, cumin powder, turmeric powder and chilli powder
- Stir well, season to taste and cook over a low heat with a lid on for 30-35 minutes. Stir halfway to make sure it doesn't stick to the bottom of the pan
- At this stage add the coriander paste along with the water and continue to simmer for 30 minutes with the lid on stir a few times as the gravy thickens. Add garam masala and turn the heat off. Serve warm with rice or rotis and raita.

Source: maunikagowardhan.co.uk



## Depression, anxiety cost 12 billion workdays each year: WHO

The theme of World Mental Health Day emphasises the importance of "mental health at workplace", as a healthy working environment can act as a protective factor for mental wellbeing, said Saima Wazed, WHO's Regional Director for Southeast Asia. According to Wazed, unhealthy conditions, such as stigma, discrimination and exposure to risks like harassment, can affect mental health, leading to decreased performance, absenteeism and increased staff turnover.

"Depression and anxiety alone result in the loss of approximately 12 billion workdays each year, costing the global economy around USD 1 trillion annually," Wazed said.

Pointing out that work is a significant source of stress, anxiety and pressure for many people, she said, "Yet, because it is a place where we spend most of our time, positive changes at the workplace can bring about a significant change in our lives."

She also said as endorsed and mandated by the World Health Organization's (WHO) member states, mental and psychosocial wellbeing has been marked as one of the cornerstones of the "regional roadmap for results and resilience".

"In keeping with the roadmap, we recently announced SEARO Care -- our ground-breaking initiative to improve the mental health and wellness of those working at our regional and country offices. Once formally launched, we hope SEARO Care to become a case study and model for other companies and organisations in our region," Wazed said.

SEARO Care's two main pillars are improving the working environment at all the WHO offices and protecting the mental health of all the employees.

"Improving the working environment encompasses both physical and psychological environments in which our colleagues work," Wazed said.



"This includes providing areas to socialise, ergonomic office equipment, exercise facilities and more. Promoting mental health will include training managers on the issue, holding mindfulness workshops, surveys and more," she added.

According to the WHO official, direct interventions to protect mental health include counselling services, referral pathways, peer advisory networks and other related initiatives.

"We know that if successful, the SEARO Care initiative will create a supportive environment where the employees feel valued, respected and cared for," Wazed said.

"I trust that our experiences with SEARO Care will provide the blueprint for companies, institutions and organisations across Southeast Asia to improve the psychological environment of their workplaces, and the mental health of all their staff," she added.

Wazed also said she is proud that the WHO's regional office will lead the way to "be the change we want to see".

Source: PTI



## Report shows vaccines can reduce antibiotic use, fight resistance

Vaccines are key to preventing infection and thus reducing the use of antibiotics, supporting worldwide efforts to tackle rising antimicrobial resistance (AMR), according to a new report by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The report showed that vaccines against 24 pathogens could help reduce the number of antibiotics needed by 22 per cent or 2.5 billion defined daily doses globally every year. If vaccines could be rolled out against all these pathogens, it could save a third of the hospital costs associated with AMR.

Misuse and overuse of antimicrobials cause AMR, making people sicker and increasing the risk of illness, death, and the spread of infections that are difficult to treat. Every year, AMR claims nearly 5 million lives worldwide.

"Addressing antimicrobial resistance starts with preventing infections, and vaccines are among the most powerful tools for doing that," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

Ghebreyesus called for "increasing access to existing vaccines and developing new ones for critical diseases, like tuberculosis (TB)," to fight AMR.

The report comes as world leaders at the recently concluded 79th UN General Assembly high-level meeting on AMR in September committed to reducing the deaths associated with bacterial AMR annually by 10 per cent by 2030. The new report estimates that vaccines already in use against pneumococcus pneumonia, Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib, a bacteria causing pneumonia and meningitis), and typhoid could avert up to 1,06,000 of the deaths associated with AMR each year.

An additional 5,43,000 deaths associated with AMR could be averted annually when new vaccines for tuberculosis (TB) and Klebsiella pneumoniae are developed and rolled out globally. Further, the report showed that if the Immunization Agenda 2030 target of 90 per cent of the world's children were vaccinated, as well as older adults, it could save 33 million antibiotic doses against Streptococcus pneumoniae every year.

Source: IANS

## Drink 2 glasses of water before a meal: Nutritionist shares weight loss trick

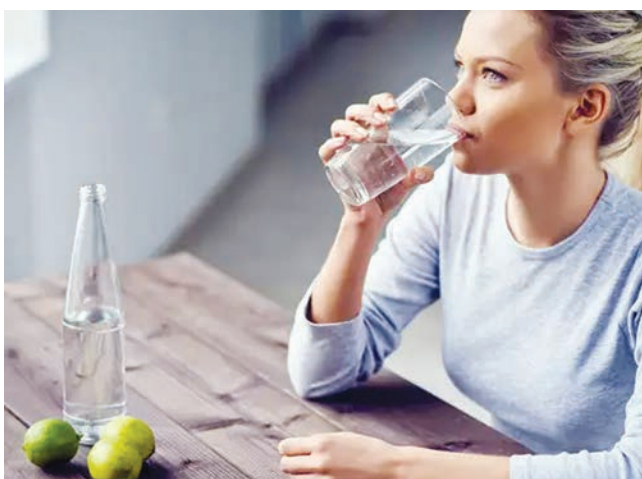
If you are trying to shed those extra kilos, you might want to read this: Nutritionist Alan Aragon says drinking two glasses of water before a meal can help you lose weight. During an episode of the podcast The Model Health Show, Alan explained his water-before-meal trick, a strategy for enhancing satiety and potentially aiding in weight loss. But does it really work?

While we know staying hydrated is important for our health and body, Alan Aragon's 'water trick' involves drinking two glasses of water before meals to help control hunger and reduce overall calorie intake. He says the water you're drinking before you eat will help you save on calories.

Alan said, "There's something really interesting about satiety and what I call the 'water trick'. You can actually preload with plain water before each meal. You will eat significantly less following the water preloading. This is a good thing to do when you go out to eat dinner, especially. Two tall glasses of water upon sitting down before they bring over the fresh bread and the butter: that will significantly cut the amount of calories you end up eating."

Drink enough water – you've heard it from your parents, doctors, and friends. But is it good to also drink water during meal times? According to Alan, it is.

He said, "I always get the question: Doesn't drinking water with a meal dilute the digestive enzymes, and then you won't digest the meal properly? There's really no evidence for that. I understand what people are



thinking about, but when you look at populations that eat a lot of soup, they could not be having more water with their meals, and they are digesting stuff just fine. So, I don't think people need to worry about that if they decide to use the 'water trick' to put a top-speed limiter on the cheesecake that they have after their main meal."

According to Dr Rakesh Gupta, senior consultant, internal medicine, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, the water-before-meal trick 'has gained popularity as a simple and effective way to support weight management and overall health'. He said, drinking water before a meal can help you feel fuller, potentially leading to reduced calorie intake.

Source: HT

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## Google to get electricity from nuclear reactors to power Artificial Intelligence

Google has entered into an agreement with Kairos Power to utilise small nuclear reactors to power its artificial intelligence (AI) operations.

This deal marks a significant shift in the tech industry's approach to meeting the escalating energy demands of AI technologies.

The partnership aims to bring Kairos Power's first small modular reactor (SMR) online by 2030, with additional reactors planned through 2035.

Collectively, these reactors are expected to generate up to 500 megawatts of power, providing a consistent and carbon-free energy source for Google's data centres.

As part of our commitment to clean energy, we're signing the world's first corporate agreement to purchase nuclear energy from multiple small modular reactors to be developed by @KairosPower.

"The next generation of advanced nuclear reactors offers a new pathway to accelerate nuclear deployment thanks to their simplified design and robust, inherent safety," Google said in a statement.

Google's senior director of energy and climate emphasised the critical role of nuclear energy in supporting clean growth and AI progress. "The grid needs these kinds of clean, reliable sources of energy that can support the build-out of these technologies," he stated during a briefing.

This move aligns with a growing trend among tech giants seeking sustainable energy solutions for their expanding AI operations.

Recently, Microsoft announced plans to utilise energy from the Three Mile Island nuclear facility, while Amazon has invested in a nuclear-powered data centre campus.

The adoption of SMR technology is seen as a potential game-changer in the nuclear energy sector. These reactors are more compact and potentially easier to deploy than traditional nuclear plants. However, the technology is still in its early stages and awaits regulatory approval.

Source: India Today

# YouTube rolling out Miniplayer, bunch of other features

YouTube is constantly evolving to enhance the experience for both viewers and creators. Whether you're learning a new recipe or tuning in to your favorite YouTuber's challenge, YouTube's latest updates promise to make the platform even more user-friendly and interactive. Rolling out across mobile, web, TV, and YouTube Music, the platform is introducing more than two dozen improvements aimed at refining how users engage with content. From better browsing controls to enhanced personalization tools, YouTube's latest updates are built to cater to its vast community.

One of the most anticipated updates is the ability to fine-tune playback speeds. Now, users can adjust speeds in 0.05 increments, giving them more control over how they watch videos. This feature caters to users who want a more precise way to slow down or speed up content.

Additionally, iOS users can look forward to improved browsing in landscape mode, which will feature larger thumbnails and bigger text for easier navigation. These tweaks ensure a smoother, more responsive browsing experience.

### Improved Miniplayer

The YouTube mobile app's miniplayer has received a significant upgrade, allowing users to multitask like never before. Viewers can now resize and move the miniplayer around, making it easier to browse for more content while continuing to watch a video. This feature is perfect for those who enjoy adding videos to their queues while still keeping their current content in view.

### AI-Powered Thumbnails

YouTube is also focusing on making playlists more interactive and customisable. With the new collaborative playlist feature, users can invite friends and family to contribute to a playlist using a special link or, coming soon to TVs, a QR code. This means building the perfect playlist just got a lot easier and more fun.

What's more, playlist creators can now design custom thumbnails. You can upload your own photos or create a



thumbnail using generative AI, which allows you to pick a theme and choose from AI-generated images. These updates make playlist creation more personal and visually engaging.

### New Sleep Timer Feature for Nighttime Viewing

For those who often fall asleep while watching YouTube, the new Sleep Timer is a game-changer. This feature allows users to set a timer that pauses the video after a set duration, helping to manage screen time better. After being tested with Premium members, it's now available to all users across mobile devices.

### Earn Badges and Show Off Your Achievements

YouTube is introducing badges to reward users for their engagement and support. These badges will celebrate milestones like being an early paid member of a creator's channel or completing quizzes. Music fans can also earn badges for being a top listener of their favorite artists. Users can display these badges proudly in the "You" tab, adding a new element of community recognition to the platform.

## Isro to launch European Proba-3 mission on November 29 to create artificial eclipse

The European Space Agency's (ESA) groundbreaking Proba-3 mission has successfully completed its final test before being shipped to India for launch by the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro).

This dual-satellite mission, designed to create an artificial solar eclipse in space, demonstrated its operational readiness by receiving commands from its science team and transmitting images back, mirroring its planned in-orbit functionality.

Proba-3's innovative approach involves two satellites flying in precise formation, with one casting a shadow on the other to block out the Sun's disk.

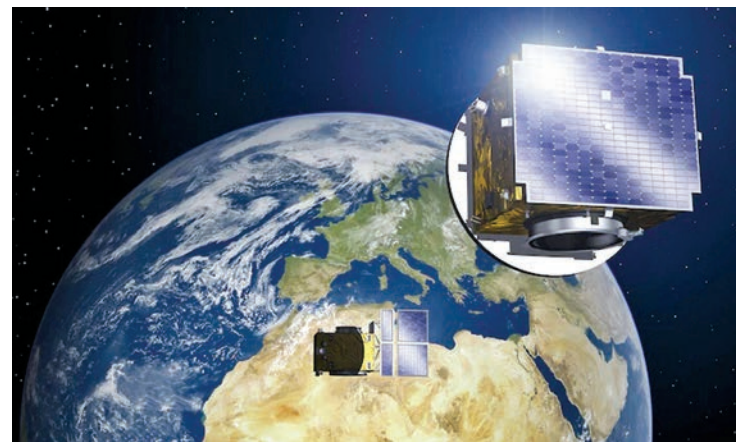
This technique will allow for prolonged observation of the Sun's corona, a feat previously unachievable in space missions.

The test, conducted over 12 hours, simulated part of Proba-3's highly elliptical 19.5-hour orbit around Earth. It focused on the six-hour period around the orbit's apogee, where the formation flying and solar corona observations will occur.

The Royal Observatory of Belgium in Brussels sent payload operation requests to ESA's control center in Redu, which then transmitted commands to the spacecraft in a cleanroom at Redwire Space in Kruibeke.

This final System Validation Test (SVT) was crucial in verifying the mission's operational chain, involving actual ground segment facilities, software, and personnel who will oversee the mission.

It demonstrated the ability to send commands for in-flight calibration, scientific observation, and command updates,



Proba-3's pair of satellites will be in a highly elliptical orbit around Earth, performing formation flying manoeuvres. (Photo: ESA)

providing flexibility for responding to exceptional solar events.

Proba-3 system engineers highlighted the importance of these tests in ensuring smooth data flow between the ground segment and satellites, emphasizing the mission's highly automated ground and flight system.

With testing complete, Proba-3 is scheduled to be shipped to the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in India on October 21, with a planned launch by PSLV-XL launcher on November 29.

This mission represents the latest in ESA's family of experimental minisatellites, pushing the boundaries of space technology and solar observation.





## China's economy grows at 4.6% rate, falls short of the official 5% target

China's economy expanded at a slower-than-expected rate of 4.6% in the July-September quarter, the government said on Friday, October 18.

The latest data show the world's second largest economy slowing from 4.7% annual growth in the previous quarter and falling short of the official target of "about 5%" growth for 2024, a figure that analysts consider ambitious without more aggressive measures to spur consumer demand and spur a recovery in the ailing property sector.

In a statement, the National Bureau of Statistics said that the economy was "generally stable with steady progress" even in the face of a "complicated and severe external environment" and complicated domestic economic development.

The economy has remained sluggish despite the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions at the end of 2022. Consumer confidence is low and the real estate market remains a drag on the economy.

Chinese policymakers have in recent weeks announced a wave of measures aimed at boosting the economy, including reducing mortgage rates for existing homes and allowing banks to lend more by reducing reserve requirements. But Beijing has so far stopped short of unveiling major new stimulus plans that analysts and stock investors believe is needed to give the economy a major boost.

China's growth rate in the first three quarters of the year was 4.8%. On a quarterly basis, the economy expanded 0.9% in the quarter that ended in September, up from 0.7% growth in the previous quarter.

For the first three quarters, China's factory output rose 5.8%, while retail sales expanded 3.3% compared to the same period last year. However, property investment sank 10.1% and the value of new home sales plunged 22.7%, underscoring weakness in the housing sector. Earlier this week, China reported its September exports slowed sharply, rising just 2.4% in dollar terms from a year earlier, down from 8.7% year-on-year growth in August. Imports were also weak, growing just 0.3% and missing estimates. *Source: AP*

# Euro bank cuts rates again as economy lags

BRUSSELS (TIP)

The European Central Bank cut interest rates for the third time this year on Thursday, saying inflation in the euro zone was increasingly under control while the outlook for the wider economy was worsening.

The first back-to-back rate cut in 13 years marks a shift in focus for the euro zone's central bank from bringing down inflation to protecting economic growth, which has lagged far behind that of the United States for two years straight.

"We believe the disinflationary process is well on track and all the information we received in the last five weeks were heading in the same direction - lower," ECB President Christine Lagarde told a press conference after an ECB statement which also noted "recent downside surprises" on economic activity.

Those data are likely to have tilted the balance within the ECB in favour of a rate cut, with business activity and sentiment surveys as well as the inflation reading for September all coming in slightly lower than expected.

Asked about the prospect of higher tariffs on European goods if Donald Trump wins next month's US presidential election, Lagarde said any trade obstacles were a "downside" for Europe.

"Any restriction, any uncertainty, any obstacles to trade matter for an economy like the European economy, which is very open," she said, adding that the ECB was also "very attentive" to possible oil price moves linked to the Middle East conflict.

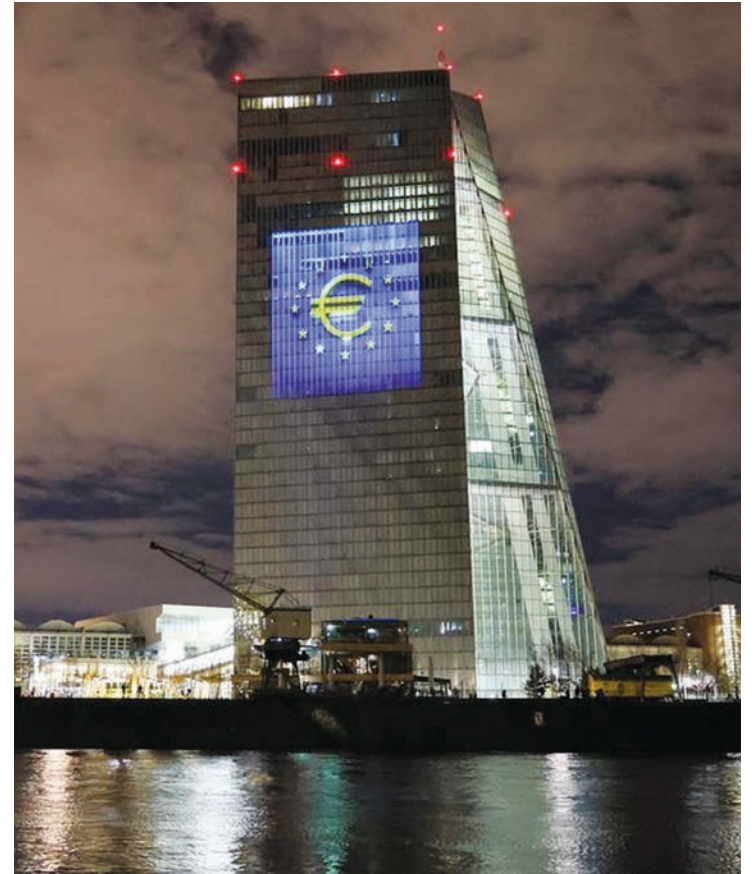
However she added: "We certainly do not see a recession. We are still looking at that soft landing."

The quarter-point cut lowers the rate that the ECB pays on banks' deposits to 3.25%. Money markets are almost fully pricing in three further reductions through next March.

The ECB did not provide any indication about future moves in its statement, instead repeating its mantra that decisions will be made "meeting by meeting" based on incoming data.

The euro and euro bond yields edged up after the decision which had been well flagged by a number of ECB speakers including President Christine Lagarde.

The ECB can finally claim it has all but tamed the worst bout of inflation in at least a generation. Prices grew by just



### Summary

- Third rate cut this year, first back-to-back cut in 13 years
- Recent economic data supports case for reduction
- Quarter-point cut lowers benchmark ECB rate to 3.25%
- High interest rates have hurt investment, economic growth
- Lagarde says still on track for "soft landing"

1.7% last month, falling below the bank's 2% target for the first time in three years. *Source: Reuters*

## S&P: India poised to be third largest economy, rising population a concern

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India is poised to be the third largest global economy by 2030 but rising population presented mounting challenges in basic service coverage and growing investment needs to maintain productivity, S&P Global Ratings said on Thursday, October 17.

It said emerging economies had high ambitions for the next decade and beyond with India aiming to become a USD 30 trillion economy by 2047, from the current USD 3.6 trillion. India is currently the fifth largest economy.

"India is poised to be the fastest-growing major economy over the next three years and the third largest globally by 2030. Its 2024 entry into JP Morgan's Government Emerging Market Bond Index could provide additional government funding and unlock significant resources in domestic capital



markets. This is only a first step — investors will continue looking for improved market access and settlement procedures," S&P said.

In its report titled 'Look forward

Emerging Markets: A decisive decade', S&P said by 2035, emerging markets will contribute about 65 per cent of global economic growth. This growth will be driven mainly by emerging economies in Asia-Pacific, including China, India, Vietnam and the Philippines.

"Also by 2035, India will be cemented as the world's third-largest economy, with Indonesia and Brazil ranking eighth and ninth, respectively," S&P said. India, it said, had also taken measures to improve its weak fiscal flexibility by boosting its capital expenditure, further supporting long-term growth.

But population challenges are meaningful, with the country expected to have the world's largest population by 2035. This presented mounting challenges in basic service coverage and growing investment needs to maintain productivity, S&P said. *Source: PTI*



**BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA**



### ARIES

Ganesha says this week, there will be a new energy for the natives of Aries. You will be seen as enthusiastic and inspired in whatever work you do. Communication in relationships will improve, and it is the right time to resolve old differences. You may have to face new challenges in work life, but your fighting power and leadership skills will provide you with innovative solutions. Collaboration with your colleagues will be important, as success in a team project will depend on your cooperation. Your financial situation is likely to improve. It is the right time to invest but take all decisions thoughtfully. In personal life, time spent with family and friends will give you mental peace. Communicate more to increase mutual understanding. In terms of health, you should spend some time in yoga or meditation to keep stress away. It will help improve your mental and physical health. This week, keep your focus on your goal and move forward with a strong mindset. Success is close to you!

### TAURUS



Ganesha says this week is the time to open the doors of new opportunities for you. Your efforts and hard work are likely to be rewarded. You will get a chance to strengthen relationships with colleagues at work; your team spirit will increase. You will also experience positive energy in your social life. Spending time with friends and family will give you mental peace. If you are thinking of working on a new project, then this is an auspicious time. It is important to be cautious in financial matters. There will be a need to control expenses and keep the budget disciplined. It is important to be health conscious, so exercise regularly and eat a balanced diet. Keep yourself full of positivity this week and move towards your goals. Move forward with confidence, success will come to you.

### GEMINI



Ganesha says this week brings many opportunities and challenges for Gemini natives. Your social life will be very active at this time, which will give you a good chance to make new friends and share your ideas. Use your communication skills properly, especially at the workplace, so that you can present your ideas effectively. The

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - OCTOBER 21 TO OCTOBER 27, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

time is coming to make many important decisions, so act wisely. You will get an opportunity to spend some quality time with your family, which will sweeten your relationships. Take care of your health; you may feel a little tired, so take time to rest. If you are working on a new project, be encouraged to move forward this week. Do not forget to take time to rest and for yourself from time to time, as it will refresh your mindset and give you the energy to move forward.



### CANCER

Ganesha says this week may bring many positive and challenging opportunities for you, Cancer. This is the time to establish a balance in your personal and professional life. This week, you will try to establish better relationships with people around you. Time spent with family will make you happy and give you peace of your mind. There may be some instability in relationships, so try to keep the communication open and honest. At the workplace, it is time to focus on projects. Your hard work and dedication will get you appreciation. However, some challenges may also come, but your wisdom and patience will bring you success. Be cautious in financial matters. Avoiding unnecessary expenses will be beneficial for you. This is the time to save and consider plans. In terms of health, focus on mental health. Yoga and meditation will benefit you greatly. This week is for self-reflection so that you can move forward toward your goals. Overall, this week is of self-development and professional progress for you. Maintain positivity and be firm in your intentions.



### LEO

Ganesha says this week is a time of positive change for Leo natives. Your confidence and energy will attract people around you. At the workplace, you will express your ideas with clarity, which will increase your admiration among your colleagues. This is the time to believe in your abilities. Compatibility will also be seen in personal relationships. Spending time with family and friends will improve your emotional health. Some new meetings may also take place, which will bring new happiness in your life. In terms of health, this week you need to focus on your physical and mental health. Doing a little yoga or meditation will give you mental peace and you will feel more balanced. From the financial point of view, an old investment may give you good profits. This is the time to re-evaluate financial plans. This is also a good time to consider a new project. In summary, this week will bring you harmony, happiness, and success. Focus on your

goal and move forward with positivity.



### VIRGO

Ganesha says this week many new opportunities will come up for Virgo natives. There will be new challenges and possibilities in your work field, which will develop your abilities. Your role in teamwork will be important, and good coordination with colleagues will help you achieve important goals. In your personal life, you will get an opportunity to spend quality time with your loved ones. Communicate openly in meetings with family, which will strengthen relationships. Your humility and empathy will inspire others. In terms of health, it will be necessary to maintain mental and physical balance. Yoga and meditation will prove to help keep your energy balanced. Include this in your daily routine this week. Make a thoughtful decision in financial matters. Budgeting will be important to avoid unexpected expenses. Evaluate all aspects closely before investing at this time. Overall, this week will be full of positive changes and opportunities for you. Maintain your positivity and keep moving forward!



### LIBRA

Ganesha says this week is the time for you to recognize the importance of harmony and balance. You may face some challenging situations in your personal and professional life, but with your balanced approach, you will be able to get out of these situations. Your social life seems to be shining. You may meet old friends, and also make new contacts. Take advantage of this opportunity, as these new connections may prove beneficial for you in the future. This week is also important for mental health. Practicing meditation and yoga may be helpful for you. Find a trusted partner to share feelings with. Pay attention to your financial matters; making a budget and reviewing unnecessary expenses is important. Overall, this week is an opportunity for you to bring newness and balance. Prioritize self-love and self-care, and everything will move smoothly.



### SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week, a lot of new possibilities and opportunities are knocking at your door for Scorpio. Your confidence and enthusiasm will motivate you to face the challenges that may come your way this week. If you are planning to do something new at the workplace, this is the right time. You will reap the fruits of your hard work and will also get the support of colleagues. Your thoughtfulness and deep thinking will help you in making

decisions. You are also seeing positive changes in personal relationships. Try to spend time with your loved ones and take steps towards strengthening those relationships. The flow of communication will increase and you will be able to express your feelings clearly. In terms of health, a little exercise and following a balanced diet will be beneficial for you. Take the help of meditation and yoga to keep stress away. Overall, this week will be full of success and happiness for you. Move forward with positivity and write the lines of life the way you want.



### SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week is a time of new beginnings for Sagittarius natives. You will be full of self-confidence and your creativity will be at its peak. Perhaps you will get some opportunities that you had already dreamed of. Colleagues at work will understand your ideology and help you. In your personal life, communication with your friends and family is likely to increase. You will be able to express your feelings openly, which will sweeten your relationships. There may also be a reunion with an old friend, which will make you happy. In terms of health, adding a little exercise or yoga time to your routine will increase your energy level. Focus on meditation and mental peace this week. Remember, if a challenge comes, overcome it with courage and positivity. Ultimately, this week will be full of growth and new possibilities for you.



### CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week is quite important for you, Capricorn natives. This is the time to strike a balance in your personal and professional life. There will be clarity in your thoughts, and your concentration will help you look for new opportunities. This week you may get a chance to work on some new ideas. Do not forget to spend time with your friends and family, this will improve your mood and you will feel more positive. On the work front, your hard work and dedication will be appreciated. Try to maintain harmony with the team members, this will create a pleasant atmosphere at the workplace. In financial matters, it will be important to control expenses. Focus on financial planning and avoid unnecessary expenses. In terms of health, exercise regularly and pay attention to your diet. This will improve your overall health. Finally, take time for meditation and mental peace, this will help you face the challenges of this week better.

## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : OCTOBER 21 TO OCTOBER 27 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**OCTOBER 21 :** Ganesha says your partner can be of great help to you and can be a big part of why you are alive today. Even if you are too busy at work today to admire and appreciate your loved one, be sure to let them know how you feel whenever you get the chance. No one should go unnoticed for such good deeds. In general, your health is doing excellent. As the day progresses, you may start to feel more tired, but this is only temporary and should not worry you. Avoid drinking anything with caffeine and only hydrate with coconut or plain water.

**OCTOBER 22 :** Ganesha says today you have to focus on being productive. You have a tendency to lose yourself trying to impress everyone. You now have to change your motivation to work so hard for popularity and recognition; This insight can benefit you. Overall, you may have a pleasant and grateful day. Where you were stuck before, things can unexpectedly start to come clean. Your mental health is good and you can keep a positive attitude throughout the day.

**OCTOBER 23 :** Ganesha says to increase your dance and physical activity, water intake, and water intake as well as your fruit and vegetable intake. Walk long distances and exercise too. Today the sweetest aspect of your day will be your love life. There will be many pleasant surprises, so be prepared. You are very close to meeting that person who will be your sure ally. Be receptive to the love being expressed towards you. There is a strong potential to become the next big thing in your relationship today.

**OCTOBER 24 :** Ganesha says you may have to take a lot of work and important decisions in your business today. After carefully considering your options, you will quickly complete any task that comes your way today. Your sign for today, which is your survival toolkit for the day, bestows you with good stamina, patience, and consistency, along with a remarkable capacity for organization.

**OCTOBER 25 :** Ganesha says you can

showcase your project to your clients in such a great way that everyone who sees it can be impressed by the way both you and your work are displayed. Today you can generate lots of business opportunities and money. May today be one of the happiest days you have ever had. You have been working hard for the last few days, so today you can see rapid progress.

**OCTOBER 26 :** Ganesha says today is a day of love and peace for you. There are many people today whose company you might like. Social engagement is everything to you today. Today your lover can show you lots of love, support, and understanding. You can take full advantage of the pampering you are getting today, but you will have to return the favor immediately.

**OCTOBER 27 :** Ganesha says you will make some new friends today. Your social life may change for the better today, which may keep you energetic throughout the day. You are living a wonderful life right now. Consider that

today is a lucky day for you. The future holds great things for you. You will be urged to make your plans and set your own goals for today. Your leadership ability can make it easy for you to overcome any obstacle. Your partner and your employees may leave all the labor and obligations on you, which can make you feel like you are being tested for strength, character, and patience.

*Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [www.bejandaruwalla.com](http://www.bejandaruwalla.com) | [info@bejandaruwalla.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwalla.com) | +91 81412 34275*

### CONTD FROM PAGE 34

#### AQUARIUS



Aquarius

Ganesha says this week will bring a flow of positive energy for Aquarius. You will be able to express your ideas clearly, which will make communication with people around you even better. Your creativity and spirit of innovation will inspire you to engage in new projects. You will also get benefits and opportunities in business areas, especially if you work with colleagues. Your team spirit and collective efforts will lead you to success. In personal life, spending time with family will give you happiness and satisfaction. There will be peace and harmony in relationships. Do not forget to spend some special moments with your loved ones, this will also improve your mental state. In terms of health, it is important to maintain peace of mind. Meditation and yoga will be beneficial for you. Take small breaks and take some time for yourself so that you can stay refreshed. This week will be of growth and achievements for you, just maintain a positive attitude and trust your intuitional wisdom.

#### PISCES



Pisces

Ganesha says this week's horoscope for Pisces will bring depth to your thoughts and feelings. This week, you will feel more sensitive and clearer in your relationships. Your insight will help you understand that your loved ones need you. Use it in the right way and make communication strong. Also, some new challenges may arise in the workplace. Your creativity will remain a great support for you, so do not spare your imagination when facing any problem. A new project can be

beneficial for you, just present your ideas with clarity. On the health front, meditation and yoga can reduce your mental stress. Avoid a little crowd and take time for peace and concentration. This week, your inner awareness and emotional balance will give you a new direction in your personal and professional life. Trust your intuition and move forward.

#### 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)

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# Sikh History This Week

## OCTOBER 18 TO OCTOBER 24

### 18th October

1982 All Sikhs arrested for DharamYudh morcha were released for lack of Jail space.

1982 Amritsar taken over by Border Security Force.

### 19th October



1711 Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur) won over the landlords of Bhallu.

### 20th October

1759 Sikh Misl leaders gathered to face the Ahmad Shah Durani's onslaught.



1783 Jassa Singh Ahluwalia passed away suddenly while enroute to Amritsar.

1920 Mahatma Gandhi remarked in his speech "India rose through Jallianwala Bagh" massacre.

1922 Leaflets are distributed by the Babbar Akalis in the "Parkarma" of the Golden Temple, ridiculing non-violence. The SGPC as well as the Mahants are severely criticized by Babbars through the "Babbar Akali Doaba" newspaper.

### 21st October



1989 Puna court imposes the death sentence (by hanging) upon Harjinder Singh and Sukhdev Singh for

1981 Akali leaders met Narsimha Rao, representing the Prime Minister.

### 22nd October

1710 Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur), escaped Bahadur Shah's forces.

1718 Jassa Singh Ahluwalia was born.



1893 Maharaja Dalip Singh, the last prince of Maharaja Ranjit Singh passed away in exile.



1909 The Anand Marriage Act was passed.

1983 Classes for Khalsa College started as a middle school in a house near Hall gate in the city of Amritsar.



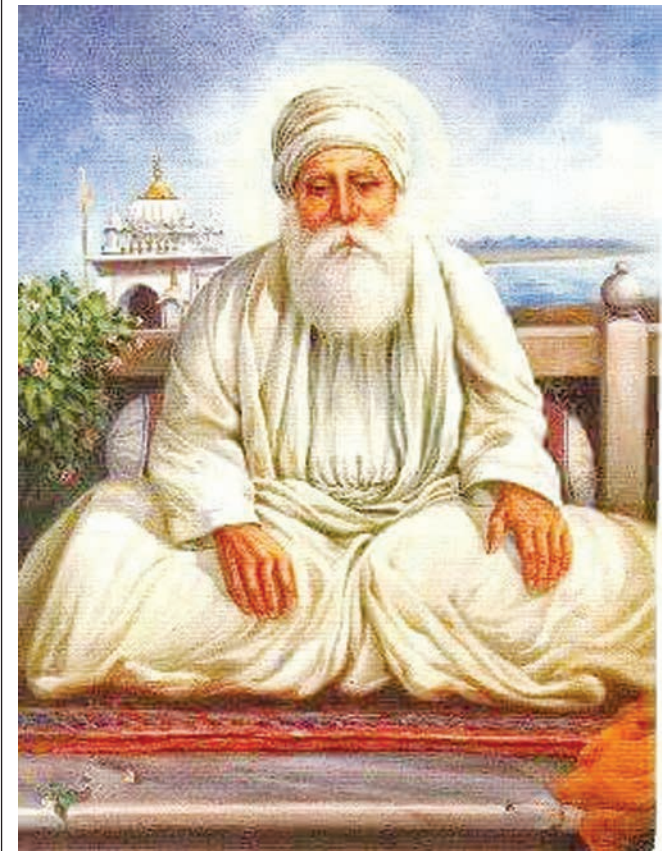
1987 Sarbat Khalsa stopped by the Indian Government.



1987 Sarbat Khalsa stopped by the Indian Government.

### 23rd October

1506 Janam Utsav, Baba Budha Ji. Baba Budha Ji was



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

### 24th October

1605 Jahagir was throned the Mughal emperor.

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

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

1974 The "Khalsa Council" was established.

**K**artik Snan is an important ritual in Hindu religion which is celebrated from the first day of Kartik month. This day falls during the months of October and November. Kartik Purnima is considered very auspicious. During Kartik month both man and woman should take bath before sunrise and should do so throughout Kartik month.

According to Hindu mythology, it is believed that during the month of Kartik, Lord Vishnu incarnated as 'Matyasa' to restore the Vedas. The actual ceremony of Kartik Snan begins first day on Kartik Month and continues throughout the month of Kartik. Haridwar, Brajghat, Varanasi, Prayagraj, Kurukshetra and Pushkar are important Hindu pilgrimage sites, where lakhs of people visit for Kartik bath.

#### Rituals during Kartik Snan

The most important ritual during Kartik Snan is bathing in holy rivers or water bodies. On this day the devotees wake up at sunrise and take a religious bath. Both men and women take this holy bath and should do so throughout Kartik month.

Taking a bath in the Ganges on Kartik Month is considered very sacred. It is believed that bathing in the Ganges on this day leads to salvation. Even if it is not possible to bathe in the Ganges, then one should go to any nearby reservoir or take bath by mixing Ganges water in his bathing water.

Some devotees also observe a fast on this day to please Lord Vishnu. The person observing this fast should also feed the Brahmin. On the occasion of Kartik Snan, devotees worship the supreme protector Lord Satyanarayana, while some devotees also worship Goddess Ganga Mata of the holy rivers.

#### The Spiritual Significance of Kartik Snan

- Purification of the Soul: Taking a holy dip during Kartik is believed to cleanse one's sins and purify the soul. The act of immersing oneself in the sacred waters signifies the removal of spiritual impurities and the desire for a fresh start.
- Connection with the Divine: Kartik Snan is not just a physical cleansing but a spiritual one. Devotees believe that by bathing during this auspicious month, they are connecting with the divine energies and receiving the blessings of the gods and goddesses.
- Honoring Ancestors: Hindus often perform Tarpan (ritual offering of water) to honor and seek blessings for their ancestors during Kartik. It is believed that the holy waters of Kartik Snan reach the ancestors and help them find peace in the afterlife.
- Season of Devotion: Kartik is a time when the atmosphere is filled with devotion. Devotees wake up early in the morning to take a dip in the cold, holy waters, signifying their dedication to their faith and their willingness to endure hardships for spiritual growth.
- Significance of the Lunar Phase: The Kartik month's importance is enhanced by its association with the full moon, which falls during this time. The full moon is considered particularly auspicious in Hinduism, and taking a holy bath during this period is believed to magnify the spiritual benefits.
- Observance of Vratas (Fasting): Alongside holy bathing, many devotees observe vratas (fasts) during Kartik. These fasts are an essential part of seeking divine favor and strengthening one's spiritual resolve.

#### The Sacred Waters

While holy bathing can occur in any body of water, rivers like the Ganges, Yamuna, Godavari, and Saraswati hold particular importance. Bathing in these sacred rivers during Kartik is believed to be especially purifying and auspicious.

#### Renewal and Blessings

Kartik Snan is not merely a physical act but a

# Importance of Kartik Snan in Hinduism



#### Important information

##### Kartik Snan Date 2024

**Start Date : Friday, 18 October 2024**

**End Date : Friday, 15 November 2024**

**Did you know : According to Hindu mythology, it is believed that during the month of Kartik, Lord Vishnu incarnated as 'Matyasa' to restore the Vedas.**

profound spiritual experience. It offers the faithful an opportunity to renew their spiritual commitment, seek blessings for their families and ancestors, and connect with the divine on a deeper level.

Kartik is one of the lunar months in the Hindu calendar, and it holds significant religious and cultural importance for Hindus. This month typically falls between October and November in the Gregorian calendar. Kartik is the eighth month of the Hindu lunar calendar, and its name is derived from the Nakshatra (lunar mansion) "Krittika."

#### Key Significance and Observances in Kartik:

**Diwali, the Festival of Lights:** Kartik is synonymous with Diwali, one of the most widely celebrated Hindu festivals. Diwali marks the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. The lighting of lamps and candles symbolizes the victory of knowledge over ignorance and the dispelling of negativity from our lives.

**Auspicious Beginnings:** Kartik is considered an auspicious month to begin new ventures, whether it's starting a business, a new job, or even spiritual endeavors. The belief is that any new initiative started

during Kartik is blessed and likely to prosper.

**Tulsi Vivah:** Kartik also hosts the Tulsi Vivah ceremony, where the holy basil plant (Tulsi) is symbolically married to Lord Krishna or Lord Vishnu. This marks the beginning of the wedding season in Hindu culture, and it is believed to bring blessings to married couples.

**Kartik Snan (Holy Bathing):** Many Hindus take holy baths in sacred rivers, especially during the early morning hours, to purify themselves and seek spiritual growth. Bathing in the Ganges and other holy rivers during Kartik is believed to wash away sins and bring blessings.

**Religious Fasts (Vratas):** Throughout Kartik, devotees observe various vratas or fasts dedicated to specific deities. Fasting during this month is a way to seek divine blessings, practice self-discipline, and deepen one's spiritual connection.

**Goverdhan Puja:** This festival is celebrated on the day following Diwali. It commemorates Lord Krishna's lifting of the Govardhan Hill to protect the residents of Vrindavan from torrential rains. Devotees create small hillocks from cow dung and worship them as representations of Govardhan Hill.

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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."**

**"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 "**

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# Mahabalipuram: Drenched in an enigmatic old-age charm

Famous for its intricately carved temples and rock-cut caves, Mamallapuram or Mahabalipuram as it is famously known, is a historically important and well-loved tourist location situated on the Coromandel Coast along the Bay of Bengal, in the state of Tamil Nadu. Once the abode of the famous demon king Mahabali, Mahabalipuram was later renamed Mamallapuram.

The serenity, the alluring atmosphere and the impressive setting with many beautiful white sandy beaches dotted with casuarina trees are all reasons as to why one would want to visit this wonderful town. Some famous tourist spots include the UNESCO world heritage site Group of Monuments like the Shore Temple and the Five Rathas, the Crocodile Bank which is home to some exquisite species of crocodiles and alligators, and the beach resorts in Kovalam and Sadras.

## Shore Temple

Built during the 7th century, Shore Temple is one of the oldest South Indian temples constructed in the Dravidian style and depicts the royal taste of the Pallava dynasty. The work of the temple has been listed amongst the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. It is located in Mahabalipuram and is one of the most photographed monuments in India situated on the shores of Bay of Bengal.

As per legends, the Shore Temple was a part of the Seven Pagodas in Mahabalipuram. Seven Pagodas is an old Hindu legend. As history has it, Prince Hiranyakasipu did not believe in Lord Vishnu. However, his son Prahlada was a great devotee of Lord Vishnu which forced Prince Hiranyakasipu to banish Prahlada from the kingdom. Prahlada was welcomed after a while after which he went on and became the king. He had a grandson named Bali who also founded Mahabalipuram.

Shore Temple was given the name 'Seven Pagodas' after they saw such a tall structure standing alongside the seashore. This temple was like a landmark for the navigating ships. Also, the structure resembled that of a Pagoda and hence the familiarity.

After Tsunami hit the coastline of Coromandel in 2004, an old distorted temple was exposed in the process. This temple was made up of granite only. After this event, the news of Mahabalipuram being a part of the Seven Pagodas as mentioned in the diaries of Europeans began doing the rounds. It was also stated that out of temples, six of them remain sunken in the sea. The Tsunami also brought to light some old sculptures of elephants, peacocks and lions which were used to decorate the walls of the temples during the reign of the Pallavas in the 7th and 8th century.



## Five Rathas

The Five Rathas, also known as Panch Rathas, is an exemplary set of rock temples. They are excellent examples of the evolution of Dravidian style architecture.

These temples are built in the same shape as pagodas, and greatly resemble Buddhist shrines and monasteries. The rathas are associated with the great epic Mahabharata. The first ratha that is located right by the entrance gate is Draupadi's Ratha. It is shaped like a hut and is dedicated to the goddess Durga. Next comes Arjuna's Rath. This one has a small portico and carved pillar stones and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. There are no carvings inside this temple, but many are on the outside. Directly in front of Arjuna's Rath is the Nakula Sahadev Rath. This ratha has some huge elephant sculptures included that are a huge draw for the Five Rathas. It is dedicated to the God of Rain, Lord Indra. The Bhima Rath is huge. It measures 42 ft in length, 24ft in width, and 25ft in height. The pillars there do contain lion carvings



even though the ratha as a whole is incomplete. The largest of the Five Rathas is the Dharamraja Yudhistar's Rath. This rath is also dedicated to Lord Shiva and is a gr

## Arjuna's Penance

The Arjuna's Penance is an enormous rock-cut relief, one of the largest in the whole world, situated in Mahabalipuram of Kanchipuram district, Tamil Nadu. It is also known by the name 'Descent of the Ganges' because the structure depicts either or both of these two significant and symbolic events of Hindu mythology; thus making this attraction spot a favourite among historians, scholars, academics as well as tourists who are enthusiastic about the cultural past of India.

## Mahabalipuram Beach

Also known as Mamallapuram by locals, Mahabalipuram Beach is 58 km from Chennai city in Tamil Nadu. The beach lies on the shore of the Bay of Bengal and comprises some rock-cut

sculptures. The scintillating beach has golden sand all along the stretch and is also famous for caves, massive rathas, chariots and temples. The surfers and swimming lovers are bound to have an amazing time at the beach.

The beach also has interesting places to attract tourists, including a crocodile bank with about 5000 crocodiles belonging to 6 different species, a school of art & sculpture and a snake venom extracting centre. There are also numerous resorts along the beach offering delicious food joints.

Mahabalipuram is a town mostly known for its shore temples which were constructed by Rajasimha, the king of Pallavas in old times. The coast stretches for about 20 km, and numerous lovely beaches are along the coastline. Also, at this captivating beauty of Mahabalipuram a dance festival is organised by the Department of Tourism of the Government of Tamil Nadu every year, where one can see extremely talented classical dancers performing against the backdrop of the sea.

## CONTD FROM PAGE 1

**Omar Abdullah sworn in as Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister**

overwhelmingly opted for the BJP, helping the party to win 29 out of Jammu's 43 seats. The Council has 10 ministerial berths including the Chief Minister. Of the six legislators who took oath on Wednesday (October 16, 2024), including Mr. Abdullah, three were from the Jammu region and three from the Kashmir region. The Chief Minister picked two non-Muslim members and one prominent Muslim face from the Jammu region.

Surinder Kumar Choudhary, an NC MLA from Nowshera in Jammu, was offered the post of Deputy Chief Minister. Another Hindu face is Satish Sharma, the son of former MP Madal Lal Sharma. Mr. Sharma was inducted into the Council of Ministers even though he did not win the election on the ticket of the NC or its ally, the Congress. Mr. Sharma, a former Congress leader, won from Jammu's Chhamb constituency. The third Minister from Jammu is Javed Ahmad Rana who was elected from the Pir Panjal valley, which witnessed polarization on the basis of caste between Gujjars and Paharis.

The J&K election verdict fell along regional and religious lines, except for islands like Inderwal, where a Hindu Independent candidate Payare Lal Sharma defeated a Muslim candidate Gulam Mohammad Saroori, who had quit the Congress in 2022 and joined Ghulam Nabi Azad's Democratic Azad Party. However, Mr. Saroori, who has represented the constituency thrice, contested as an Independent.

On the one hand, voters from the three valleys of J&K - the Kashmir valley, the Pir Panjal valley and the Chenab valley - elected candidates from the NC, Peoples Democratic Party, Congress, Awami Ittehad Party, and J&K Peoples Conference, as well as Independents. On the other hand, the plains of Jammu, especially the Samba, Kathua and Jammu districts, only voted for the BJP.

The BJP may not have the numbers in the Assembly, but its vote share of 25.5% posed a challenge to the NC to make the first move of reconciliation. The NC only had a 23.4% vote share and its ally Congress had a 11.9% vote share, though the alliance's combined vote share exceeded the BJP's. The Congress, which contested many seats in the Jammu region, failed to consolidate secular votes there. The party only won one seat from 10 districts in the Jammu region.

J&K Assembly poll result reiterates NC's status as guardian of Kashmiri nationalism

Mr. Abdullah may have laid the foundation of a government based on secular values, but there is a long way to go to bridge the gap between regions with divergent aspirations. The relationship needs more repair and the annual shifting of the capital between Srinagar and Jammu, locally called the Darbar Move, could be the second step towards mending the relationship between the two regions. The Darbar Move was ended by the previous Lieutenant Governor's administration, though it had for decades facilitated a rare cultural exchange and boost to business between different parts of J&K.

**Chief justice of India Chandrachud names Justice Sanjiv Khanna as successor, to retire on November 10**

**WHO IS SANJIV KHANNA?** : Born on May 14, 1960, Justice Khanna enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983.

He Initially practiced in the district courts and later in the High Court of Delhi in various fields of law, including constitutional law, direct taxation, arbitration, commercial law, company law, land law, environmental law and medical negligence.

Justice Khanna was a senior standing Counsel for the Income Tax Department. He had also functioned as a standing counsel for the National Capital Territory of Delhi and appeared as Additional Public Prosecutor

and amicus curiae in the High Court.

He was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and made a Permanent Judge in 2006. He was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court on January 18, 2019. Justice Khanna was ranked 33 in the combined seniority of High Court Judges on all-India basis, but the then Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had recommended him over others on grounds of merit and integrity.

Justice Khanna had led the Supreme Court which gave interim bail to former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to campaign in the Lok Sabha elections of 2024. He was also a member of the Constitution Bench which upheld the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir.

Justice Khanna is due to retire on May 13, 2025. (Source: The Hindu)

**Sinwar's death confirmed by Hamas and Israeli Foreign Minister**

The statement appeared to refer to a video the Israeli military circulated of Sinwar's apparent last moments in which a man sits on a chair in severely damaged building, badly wounded and covered in dust. In the video, the man raises his hand and flings a stick at an approaching Israeli drone.

Sinwar's killing, in what appeared to be a chance front-line encounter with Israeli troops on Wednesday, could shift the dynamics of the Gaza war even as Israel presses its offensive against Hezbollah with ground troops in southern Lebanon and airstrikes in other areas of the country. Hezbollah has fired rockets into Israel nearly every day since the Israel-Hamas war began.

Both Hamas and Hezbollah are backed by Iran, which hailed Sinwar as a martyr who can inspire others in challenging Israel.

Israel has pledged to destroy Hamas politically in Gaza, and killing Sinwar was a top military priority. Photos which were apparently taken by Israeli troops on the scene showed the body of a man who appeared to be him, half-buried in rubble and with a gaping wound in his head.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a speech announcing the killing on Thursday, October 17 night that "our war is not yet ended".

**FBI issues lookout notice against former Indian cop for bid to murder Gurpatwant Singh Pannun**

The lookout notice, though procedural, has come as a surprise for officials in the security circles in Delhi, according to news reports published in the Indian media. A senior official not wanting to be quoted said, "The India-US ties being so good, a lookout notice against a former Indian police official could have been avoided by the US."

The US Department of Justice, in a statement on Thursday, October 17 night, said the charges were against an Indian Government employee, Vikash Yadav (39), alias Vikas, alias Amanat, in connection with "his role in directing a foiled plot" to assassinate a US citizen. The reference was to Pannun, who heads the Sikhs for Justice, an organization banned in India.

US media, citing documents of the Department of Justice, had earlier identified the official as "Vikram Yadav". The Ministry of External Affairs had yesterday said the "person facing an indictment is no longer an employee of the Government of India".

An 18-page indictment has been uploaded on the website of the US Department of Justice. Under US laws, an indictment is not an assumption of being guilty.

The US said Yadav's alleged co-conspirator, Nikhil Gupta (53), was previously charged and extradited to the US from the Czech Republic on charges contained in the first indictment. Yadav remained at large, it said.

The accusation is that in or around May 2023, Yadav



recruited Gupta to "orchestrate" the assassination of Pannun in the US. Yadav used Amanat as an alias. He directed the assassination plot from India, says the US indictment.

In the US, Gupta contacted an individual whom he believed to be a criminal associate, but in reality was a confidential source (named as CS in the indictment) working with US law enforcement. Gupta sought to hire a hitman to murder Pannun.

CS introduced Gupta to a purported hitman, who was in fact an undercover US law enforcement officer (named as UC in the indictment).

"Yadav subsequently agreed, in dealings brokered by Gupta, to pay UC \$1,00,000 to murder the victim (Pannun)," the indictment said.

Yadav and Gupta have been charged with murder-for-hire, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison; conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison; and conspiracy to commit money laundering, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the US sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors.

The US Department of Justice quoted FBI Director Christopher Wray as saying, "The defendant, an Indian Government employee, allegedly conspired with a criminal associate and attempted to assassinate a US citizen on American soil".

Yadav was employed by the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of India, which houses India's foreign intelligence service, the Research and Analysis Wing. He is originally from the Central Reserve Police Force.

The charge murder for hire carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

The two also face conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire charge, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison

The duo is also charged with conspiracy to commit money laundering, which carries a maximum 20-year jail term.



# History This Week **OCT 18 - OCT 24**

## OCTOBER 18



October 18, 1685 - The Edict of Nantes was revoked by King Louis XIV of France thus depriving Protestant Huguenots of all religious and civil liberties previously granted to them by Henry IV in 1598.

October 18, 1945 - The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial began with indictments against 24 former Nazi leaders including Hermann Göring and Albert Speer. The trial lasted 10 months, with delivery of the judgment completed on October 1, 1946. Twelve Nazis were sentenced to death by hanging, three to life imprisonment, four to lesser prison terms, and three were acquitted.

## OCTOBER 19

October 19, 1781 - As their band played The World Turned Upside Down, the British Army marched out in formation and surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown. More than 7,000 British and Hessian troops, led by British General Lord Cornwallis, surrendered to General George Washington. The war between Britain and its American colonies was effectively ended. The final peace treaty was signed in Paris on September 3, 1783.

October 19, 1960 - The U.S. embargo of Cuba began as the State Department prohibited shipment of all goods except medicine and food.

October 19, 1987 - "Black Monday" occurred on Wall Street as stocks plunged a record 508 points or 22.6 per cent, the largest one-day drop in stock market history.



October 19, 1990 - Beset by a seriously eroding economy, Soviet Russia's President Mikhail Gorbachev won parliamentary approval to switch to a market economy.

## OCTOBER 20

October 20, 1818 - The U.S. and Britain agreed to set the U.S.- Canadian border at the 49th parallel.

October 20, 1935 - Mao Zedong's 6,000 mile "Long March" ended as his Communist forces arrived at Yanan, in northwest China, almost a year after fleeing Chiang Kai-shek's armies in the south.

October 20, 1944 - During World War II in the Pacific, General Douglas MacArthur set foot on Philippine soil for the first time since his escape in 1942, fulfilling his promise, "I shall return."



October 20, 1968 - Jacqueline Kennedy married multi-millionaire Greek businessman Aristotle Onassis, ending nearly five years of widowhood following the assassination of her first husband, President John F. Kennedy.

October 20, 1973 - The 'Saturday Night Massacre' occurred during the Watergate scandal as President Richard M. Nixon fired Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox and Deputy Attorney General William French Smith. Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned. A firestorm of political protest erupted over the firings leading to widespread demands for Nixon's impeachment.

Birthdays - British architect Christopher Wren (1632-1723) was born in Wiltshire, in southwestern England. Considered one of the greatest minds of his time, he designed St. Paul's Cathedral and 52 churches for the City of London. His secular buildings included the "new" wing of Hampton Court near London and Greenwich Hospital, now the Royal Naval College.

## OCTOBER 21

October 21, 1805 - The Battle of Trafalgar took place between the British Royal Navy and the combined French and Spanish fleets. The victorious British ended the threat of Napoleon's invasion of England. British naval hero Admiral Horatio Nelson was mortally wounded aboard his ship Victory.

October 21, 1879 - Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp with a carbonized filament at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey, keeping it lit for over 13 hours.

October 21, 1915 - The first transatlantic radio voice message was made by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company from Virginia to Paris.

October 21, 1944 - During World War II in Europe, American troops captured Aachen in western Germany after a week of hard fighting. It was the first large German city taken by the Allies.

October 21, 1967 - Thousands of anti-war protesters stormed the Pentagon during a rally against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C. About 250 were arrested. No shots were fired, but demonstrators were struck with nightsticks and rifle butts.



Birthdays - Jazz great Dizzy Gillespie (1917-1993) was born in Cheraw, South Carolina (as John Birks Gillespie). He was a trumpet player, composer, band leader and one of the founding fathers of modern jazz, known for his trademark puffed cheeks and bent trumpet.

## OCTOBER 22



October 22, 1962 - President John F. Kennedy appeared on television to inform Americans of the existence of Russian missiles in Cuba. The President demanded their removal and announced a naval "quarantine" of Cuba. Six days later, the Russians announced they would remove the weapons. In return, the U.S. later removed missiles from Turkey.

October 22, 1979 - The exiled Shah of Iran arrived in the United States for medical treatment. A few weeks later, Iranian militants seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took 66 Americans hostage. They demanded the return of the Shah for trial. The U.S. refused. The Shah died of cancer in July of 1980. The hostages were freed in January of 1981.

Birthdays - Hungarian composer Franz Liszt (1811-1886) was born in Raiding, Hungary. He was a brilliant pianist best known for Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, Liebestraum No. 3, and his Faust and Dante symphonies.

## OCTOBER 23

October 23, 1942 - British General Bernard Montgomery launched a major offensive against German forces under Erwin Rommel at El Alamein, Egypt.

October 23, 1956 - A Hungarian uprising against Communist rule began with students and workers demonstrating in Budapest. Soviet Russians responded by sending in tanks

and put down the revolt after several days of bitter fighting.

October 23, 1983 - Terrorists drove a truck loaded with TNT into the U.S. and French headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, exploding it and killing 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers.

October 23, 1989 - Hungary declared itself a republic 33 years after Soviet Russian troops crushed a popular revolt against Communist rule.



October 23, 1990 - Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol resigned after mass protests by students, becoming the first Soviet official of that rank to quit under public pressure.

## OCTOBER 24

October 24, 1861 - The first transcontinental telegram in America was sent from San Francisco to Washington, addressed to President Abraham Lincoln from the Chief Justice of California.

October 24, 1922 - The Irish Parliament voted to adopt a constitution for an Irish Free State, which formally came into existence in December.

October 24, 1929 - "Black Thursday" occurred in the New York Stock Exchange as nearly 13 million shares were sold in panic selling. Five days later "Black Tuesday" saw 16 million shares sold.



October 24, 1931 - Chicago gangster "Scarface" Al Capone was sentenced to 11 years in jail for Federal income tax evasion. In 1934, he was transferred to Alcatraz prison near San Francisco. He was paroled in 1939, suffering from syphilis. He retired to his mansion in Miami Beach where he died in 1947.

October 24, 1945 - The United Nations was founded.

October 24, 1980 - Communist authorities in Poland granted recognition to the trade union "Solidarity." It was subsequently outlawed in 1981 after the government imposed martial law. In 1989, it was re-legalized.

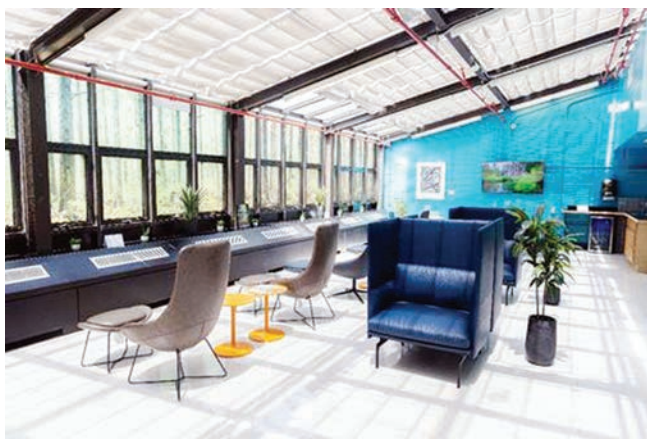
October 24, 1994 - For the first time in 25 years, British troops were absent from the streets of Londonderry, Northern Ireland, following cease-fires by Irish Republican Army (IRA) and pro-British forces.

# Nyc Health + Hospitals Honored By American Medical Association For Promoting Well-Being And Reducing Burnout

THE HEALTH SYSTEM IS ONE OF 62 NATIONWIDE TO EARN THE RECOGNITION THIS YEAR

OCTOBER 15, 2024

**NEW YORK, NY (TIP):** NYC Health + Hospitals announced on October 15, 2024 that it has earned the bronze-level Joy in Medicine recognition from the American Medical Association (AMA) for enhancing physician well-being and reducing burnout. After peaking during the Covid pandemic, the national physician burnout rate has dipped under 50 percent for the first time in four years. This is a milestone in preventing and reducing physician burnout, but continued efforts are essential to ensure doctors receive the support they need to thrive and achieve national health goals. Today's announcement builds on the health system's commitment to the mental health and wellness of its frontline staff. In July, NYC Health + Hospitals was recognized as a 2024 WellBeing First Champion for its efforts to remove invasive mental health questions on physician credentialing applications. In March, the health system announced a partnership with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to implement the Interactive Screening Program, an online self-screening tool for staff to connect to peer and clinical support before a potential crisis emerges. In addition, NYC Health + Hospitals' Helping Healers Heal program offers emotional first aid to health care providers who are suffering from workplace stress or anxiety and may be at high risk of feeling depressed caused by the demanding circumstances of the job and unexpected patient outcomes.



The new wellness room at NYC Health + Hospitals/Coler

These workforce wellness initiatives have been effective in enhancing staff wellbeing. In a survey of nearly 2,700 of its physicians, residents, and fellows, NYC Health + Hospitals found that clinician wellbeing had improved in 2023 compared to 2021:

- Overall stress reduced by 42%
- Compassion fatigue reduced by 61%
- Anxiety reduced by 44%
- Feelings of sadness reduced by 52%
- Symptoms of burnout that would not go away reduced by 22%

The AMA's Joy in Medicine Health System Recognition Program is designed for the unique challenges faced by health systems in building organizational well-being. Embarking on the designation journey provided a road map to implement programs and policies that support well-being, while building awareness about solutions that promote joy in medicine and spur investment within the reduction of burnout.



NYC Health + Hospitals earned the bronze-level Joy in Medicine recognition from the American Medical Association (AMA) for enhancing physician well-being and reducing burnout.

#### TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMA JOY IN MEDICINE AWARD, NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS HAD TO:

- Measure burnout, share the results, and evidence improvement
- Establish a formalized well-being committee and track key performance indicators
- Measure and monitor electronic health record data and use key results alongside of specialty leaders to improve
- Assess teamwork and identify strategies to enhance culture
- Implement crowdsourcing processes and active listening sessions to learn about our employees' experiences
- Move stigmatizing language surrounding mental health from licensure/credentialing applications
- Establish a peer support program to aid staff with coping through personal and professional experiences

"As the largest public municipal healthcare delivery system in the nation, we are thrilled to have achieved Bronze designation for the American Medical Association's Joy in Medicine recognition program," said Jeremy Segall, MA, RDT, LCAT, FPCC, System Chief Wellness Officer and Assistant Vice President, Human Experience. "Meeting all requirements this honor recognizes our system's commitment to reducing



Staff relaxing in the new wellness room at NYC Health + Hospitals/McKinney.

burnout and improving the overall holistic well-being of our healthcare professionals. We united together as a system to build the culture necessary to enhance joy in medicine, reminding us all why we chose the line of work that we are in. The healthier we are as staff members the more engaged we are with our own individual purpose behind the why of who we are as healthcare professionals, which then more meaningfully aligns us with NYC Health + Hospitals' mission, vision, and values impacting the experience of all seeking and providing services."

"Physicians are humans caring for other human beings, strained by factors beyond their control and challenged by the enormous expectations placed on them to continuously deliver high quality, compassionate care. There is no doubt change is needed, but what needs to change is not the doctors," said AMA President Bruce A. Scott, MD. "A national movement is gaining momentum to transform health care work systems and fix the root causes of physician burnout. Health organizations that have earned the AMA's Joy in Medicine recognition are leading this movement with bold visions for redesigned clinical systems to foster professional well-being and support quality care."



The new wellness room at NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan  
Credit: Katherine Hui

"The goal of the Joy in Medicine Health System Recognition Program is to equip health systems with evidence-informed strategies that promote physician well-being," said Christine Sinsky, MD, AMA vice president of professional satisfaction. "Reducing burnout requires health system leaders to invest in systems-based solutions that provide resources to match the demands placed on physicians. There is so much health systems can do to improve physician well-being while also improving patient care. We designed the Joy in Medicine Health System Recognition Program to provide leaders with an actionable road map to solutions that will help physicians and patients thrive."

Since its inception in 2019, the AMA Joy in Medicine Health System Recognition Program has recognized more than 100 organizations across the country. In 2024, a total of 62 health systems nationwide earned recognition with documented efforts to reduce system-level drivers of work-related burnout and demonstrated competencies in commitment, assessment, leadership, efficiency of practice environment, teamwork, and support. These 2024 organizations join a strong cohort of currently recognized organizations from the 2023 program.

Learn more about the AMA Joy in Medicine Health System Recognition Program at [ama-assn.org/joyinmedicine](https://ama-assn.org/joyinmedicine).

## Champions trophy: Play in Pak and return home same day: PCB to India

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has reached out to the BCCI and proposed an arrangement, allowing India to return to either New Delhi or Chandigarh in between matches during the Champions Trophy next year if the team is not willing to stay in Pakistan due to security reasons. The PCB has “verbally” suggested to the BCCI that the Indian team can set up camp in either New Delhi or Chandigarh/Mohali and use chartered flights to travel to Lahore for their matches. A PCB source though confirmed that the board had not made any suggestions in writing to their Indian counterparts. “It is true that these options have been discussed verbally between officials as a way to ensure that India play their matches in Pakistan,” the source said.

The Champions Trophy is slated to take place from February 19 to March 9, with matches scheduled in Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Karachi. Due to its proximity to the Indian border and logistical ease, the PCB has planned India's matches in Lahore. India's three group-stage matches in the tournament are slated for February 20 (against Bangladesh), February 23 (against Pakistan), and March 2 (against New Zealand). The ICC is considering a hybrid model for the tournament, with some matches played outside of Pakistan. The hybrid model is being considered due to India's unlikely participation in the tournament, as they have not toured Pakistan since 2008.

# Virat Kohli crosses 9,000 runs in Test cricket

BENGALURU (TIP)

Batting maestro Virat Kohli became the fourth Indian to cross 9000 runs in Test cricket, scaling another peak in a glorious career during the third day of the opening match against New Zealand here on Friday, October 18.

Kohli joined an august company featuring Sachin Tendulkar (15921), Rahul Dravid (13265) and Sunil Gavaskar (10122).

However, he is the slowest among them to reach this landmark, having taken 197 innings. The 35-year-old Kohli reached the mark after crossing his half-century in India's second-innings. Batting at No. 3, Kohli fell for a nine-ball duck in the first innings as India were all out for 46.

In the recent Test series against Bangladesh, Kohli became the quickest batter to complete 27,000 international runs in only 594 innings.

Meanwhile, a counter-attacking India kept alive the hopes of a miracle turnaround through free-flowing fifties from the troika of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Sarfaraz Khan, reaching 231/3 in their second innings on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand.

Kohli (70), who completed 9,000 Test



runs during the course of his knock, got out to Glenn Phillips off the last ball of the day, edging to wicketkeeper Tom Blundell, leaving Sarfaraz (70) at the crease at close. The deficit at the end of an overcast day was a less intimidating 125. Kohli and Sarfaraz added 136 runs for the third wicket after skipper Rohit did the early running with a fluent 52.

This was after New Zealand posted a total of 402 all out to gain a massive

lead of 356 runs thanks to Rachin Ravindra (134) and Tim Southee (63), who added precious 134 runs for a flowing eighth-wicket stand.

The largest deficit India has overturned to win a Test in their cricketing history is 274 during the iconic Kolkata Test against Australia in 2001.

Such an epic is still some distance away, but hopes will be flickering after the day's effort with the bat.

## Bollywood Stars Vidya Balan, Kartik Aaryan attend grand opening of Pro Kabaddi League Season 11

HYDERABAD (TIP)

The Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) Season 11 kicked off on a star-studded note as Bollywood celebrities Vidya Balan and Kartik Aaryan graced the opening match between the Telugu Titans and the Bengaluru Bulls. The actors' presence to promote their upcoming movie 'Bhool Bhulaiya 3' added glamour to the already electrifying atmosphere at the GMR Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad.

Kartik Aaryan, talking about his childhood, shared, "I used to play gali kabaddi as a kid but not on a professional level the way it is being played here at the Pro Kabaddi League. It is a lot of fun to watch."

Vidya Balan, the First Shero of our time, expressed her excitement for the season, saying, "I have enjoyed watching kabaddi. Today we met Pawan (Sehrawat) and Pardeep (Narwal) who are fantastic players. Good luck to the teams for the first match. Pawan is a high-flyer and Pardeep is a record-breaker so I wish them luck for the season."

The opening night promises thrilling action, featuring star raiders Pawan and Pardeep, followed by a clash between U Mumba's Sunil Kumar – the most expensive Indian defender in PKL history at INR 1.015 Crores – and Dabang Delhi K.C.'s attacking powerhouse, Naveen Kumar. PKL 11 made history even before the first whistle, with eight players crossing the INR 1 crore mark in the auction. The league is set to unfold across three cities, starting in Hyderabad, then moving to Noida, and concluding in Pune.

With its blend of celebrity glamor, record-breaking player valuations, and a focus on fan experiences, PKL 11



is set to take over the sporting excitement as the season rolls into the households for the next three months.

For all updates on the Pro Kabaddi league, log on to [www.prokabaddi.com](http://www.prokabaddi.com), download the Official Pro Kabaddi app or follow @prokabaddi on Instagram, YouTube, Facebook and X.

The Pro Kabaddi League Season 11 will be broadcast live on the Star Sports Network and streamed on Disney+ Hotstar from October 18.

For further information, please contact:

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## 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**



**New Goutami Institute building to be constructed 2024**

**3.5 + million served**  
**325,000 + vision restoring surgeries**  
**30,000 + surgeries on children**

Services Include:

- Treating disease and vision problems
- performing free cataract surgeries
- distributing glasses and visual aids
- conducting community research
- providing education to physicians and the public



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.

**Join our Vision.**  
**Give the gift of sight today.**

**Visit [eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://eyefoundationofamerica.org)**

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