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**PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE**



**YOUR CHOICE MATTERS**

## President Biden and the First Lady host Diwali celebration at the White House



President Joe Biden lights a diya Monday, October 28 at the Diwali Celebrations at the White House  
Photo: The White House via Twitter


**OCTOBER 29, 2024**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** US President Joe Biden on Monday, October 28, hosted a Diwali celebration at the White House that was attended by more than 600 eminent Indian Americans, including Congressmen, officials, and corporate executives, from across the country.

"As President, I've been honored to host the biggest Diwali receptions ever at the White House. To me, it means a great deal. As Senator, Vice President, and President; South Asian Americans have been key members of my staff. From Kamala to Dr. Murthy to so many of you here today, I'm proud that I kept my commitment to have an administration that looks like America," Biden said in a standing-only packed East Room of the White House.

Vice President Kamala Harris and First Lady Dr Jill Biden could not attend the event as they are on the campaign  
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**SHRI GURU NANAK DEV JI 555TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION**



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### Diwali in US gains official holiday status in Pennsylvania, Texas, New York



**OCTOBER 29, 2024**  
**NEW YORK (TIP):** As the glow of Diwali approaches, this festival of lights is gaining unprecedented recognition in the United States, showcasing the nation's commitment to celebrating cultural diversity. With states like Pennsylvania leading the initiative, Diwali is being officially acknowledged, reflecting its growing significance in American society.

In a historic move, Pennsylvania has become the first state in the US to officially declare Diwali as a public holiday. This decision underscores the state's commitment to inclusivity and cultural appreciation. The recognition of Diwali not only honors the festival's significance but also celebrates the diverse communities that partake in its festivities. Following Pennsylvania's lead, Texas has also announced Diwali as an official public holiday.

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### Mayor Eric Adams hosts Diwali Celebrations at the Gracie Mansion



The traditional diya lighting . Mayor Eric Adams (left) lights the Diya, as Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, CEO, Gracie Mansion Conservancy Rhonda Binda, South Asian Liaison, Community Affairs Unit, Sookranie Dhanpat, a religious leader, and Deputy Commissioner, Mayor's Office of International Affairs, Dilip Chauhan, look on, at the annual Diwali celebration at Gracie Mansion, on Oct. 24. -All photos / Jay Mandal-on assignment

**OCTOBER 25, 2024**  
**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** Mayor Eric Adams, on October 24, welcomed hundreds to Diwali celebrations at the Gracie Mansion. Welcoming the guests, the Mayor said that that he feels pleased to celebrate the festival of lights symbolizing

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Chinmoy Naik who has been the Deputy High Commissioner in Ottawa since February 2023 has been appointed the acting High Commissioner.  
Photo: Instagram- highcommissionofindia

### Chinmoy Naik named India's acting High Commissioner to Canada

**OCTOBER 21, 2024**  
**OTTAWA (TIP):** Chinmoy Naik has been appointed acting High Commissioner in Ottawa, the Indian High Commission in Canada said on Sunday, October 20. Naik assumed charge after the previous High Commissioner, Sanjay Kumar Verma,

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## COMMENT

# Diwali is about carrying forward a legacy of resilience, positivity, and the enduring belief that good will ultimately triumph

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is one of the most celebrated festivals in India and holds a deep cultural, spiritual, and historical significance for millions worldwide. The festival, also known as Deepavali, derives its name from the Sanskrit words "Deep" (lamp or light) and "Avali" (a row or series), symbolizing a row of lights. Celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and some Buddhists, Diwali brings communities together in a celebration of joy, prosperity, and the victory of light over darkness. Diwali's five days are marked by vibrant festivities, rituals, and a deeper connection with the divine, family, and oneself.

Diwali is more than just a celebration; it holds profound symbolism and messages that resonate universally. At its core, Diwali is about the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. Lighting lamps and candles is a symbolic act of removing the darkness within oneself, encouraging people to let go of anger, greed, and envy, and to cultivate virtues like kindness, compassion, and forgiveness.

The festival also serves as a reminder of the power of resilience and hope. Through the stories of Rama's return, Krishna's triumph, and Guru Hargobind

Ji's liberation, Diwali reinforces that despite challenges and setbacks, good will eventually prevail, and justice will be served. It inspires people to remain steadfast in their moral convictions and to uphold righteousness, even when confronted with difficulties.

Diwali's association with Goddess Lakshmi carries a message of prosperity that goes beyond material wealth. It urges individuals to cultivate inner prosperity through gratitude, self-awareness, and a positive outlook on life. While people seek blessings of abundance, Diwali reminds them that true wealth is found in meaningful relationships, community connections, and a well-balanced life.

Additionally, Diwali has environmental and social implications. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness about eco-friendly celebrations, with many opting for sustainable decorations, minimal fireworks, and a focus on community-centered celebrations. Diwali's message of light and purity can extend to respecting and preserving the environment, ensuring that celebrations do not harm nature but instead align with the ethos of harmony.

In the modern world, Diwali has transcended religious and cultural

BY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA

boundaries to become a global festival celebrated by diverse communities. Countries with significant Indian populations, such as Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States, witness grand Diwali celebrations with fireworks, feasts, and public gatherings. Many cities organize Diwali events, including dance performances, food festivals, and light displays, showcasing the vibrant colors and spirit of Indian culture.

As a unifying celebration of love, forgiveness, and renewal, Diwali offers a unique opportunity to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and appreciate the beauty of shared values. By promoting kindness, compassion, and community spirit, Diwali encourages everyone, regardless of cultural or religious background, to embody the essence of light and hope in their lives.

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is a profound celebration that goes beyond festivities and rituals. Its roots in mythology, combined with its universal message of light conquering darkness, make Diwali a cherished occasion for reflection, gratitude, and togetherness. Celebrating Diwali is not only about honoring traditions but also about carrying forward a legacy of resilience, positivity, and the enduring belief that good will ultimately triumph. Diwali, therefore, stands as a beacon of hope, inspiring people worldwide to find light within and share it with others, illuminating hearts and minds across the globe.

HAPPY DIWALI!

## GUEST COMMENT

## Neck and neck: On the U.S. presidential election

### Trump and Harris offer U.S. voters vastly different choices

With less than two weeks before voting day in the 2024 U.S. election, no clear winner has emerged in the contest between Democrat and incumbent Vice-President Kamala Harris, and Republican and former President Donald Trump, two candidates who could not be more mutually differentiated in terms of values profiles and public personas. Averages of national polls suggest that Ms. Harris has a slender lead of around 1.7%, with close to 48.1% of the results favoring her relative to Mr. Trump's 46.4%. Similarly, in seven key swing States which could end up having a decisive impact on the outcome of voting in the electoral college, Mr. Trump appears to be enjoying a small lead in Arizona, Georgia and North Carolina, even though that lead has switched back and forth between the two candidates. In

Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, Ms. Harris has nosed slightly ahead of Mr. Trump although now the advantage has slipped back to Mr. Trump in Pennsylvania, even if it is less than 1%. In Nevada it appears to be a dead heat, though in each of these swing States the lead is less than 3% - quite likely to lie well within the statistical margin of error. Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin were in the past Blue States, but Mr. Trump flipped them to Republicans in 2016. Incumbent President Joe Biden brought them back to the Democratic camp in 2020, a win that Ms. Harris would need to reprise if she is to emerge the victor.

The candidate that independent and undecided voters pick will determine whether the U.S. continues with a socially and economically progressive agenda under Ms. Harris, or whether a more conservative approach that is aligned to the personality and whims of Mr. Trump and his ad hoc approach to domestic and foreign policy, wins the day. As president,

Ms. Harris would oversee a broader role for government in regulating the economy, including by introducing tax cuts for the middle class and continuing the Biden plan for trade tariffs to boost U.S. global competitiveness. She would also champion the effort to protect abortion rights through Congress, advocate for humane policing of the southern border alongside immigration reform and ensure that Washington remains engaged with foreign allies to manage global conflicts. Mr. Trump's leadership paradigm would see, if he is back, the government hand out corporate tax rate cuts and exempt social security benefits from income tax. He would adopt a hawkish stand on immigration, including by accelerating deportations to possibly unprecedented levels. Global alliances may take a back seat, if it comes to pass. Whichever candidate prevails, on November 5, voters have a unique opportunity to shape the destiny of their country, at least for the next four years. (The Hindu)

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# JENIFER RAJKUMAR

Wishes You

# HAPPY DIWALI!

Jenifer is the **first**  
Indian-American woman  
elected to a NY State Office.

Jenifer led and won the  
fight to make Diwali a  
School Holiday in NYC!



We have lit an everlasting  
lamp in the hearts and  
minds of all Americans.

May we win in the fight  
of light over darkness.



*The woman who brought  
Diwali to New York*

Paid for by Jenifer Rajkumar for New York

## TWO MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO MURDER OF AIR INDIA KANISHKA BOMBING SUSPECT RIPUDAMAN SINGH MALIK MALIK WAS SHOT DEAD IN SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA IN 2022



Tanner Fox and Jose Lopez, killers of Air India Kanishka bombing suspect Ripudaman Singh Malik (in the picture) are set to be sentenced for the murder after they pleaded guilty in a Canadian court on Monday, October 21.

Oct 22, 2024

**VANCOUVER (TIP):** The two killers of Air India Kanishka bombing suspect Ripudaman Singh Malik are set to be sentenced for the murder after they pleaded guilty in a Canadian court on Monday.

As per a report in 'South China Morning Post', the court in New Westminster, British Columbia, has accepted the "pleading guilty" by the killers, Tanner Fox and Jose Lopez. They had shot dead Malik on July 14, 2022, in Surrey, British Columbia.

Malik was a prime accused in the Air India bombings that had killed 331 persons in 1985. He was later acquitted.

The court has asked Fox and Lopez to appear on October 31 for the sentencing. The South China Morning Post quoted a statement issued by the family of Malik that they were 'grateful' the killers were being brought to justice but "wish the two men to cooperate with the police in bringing those who hired you to justice".

"Tanner Fox and Jose Lopez were hired to commit this murder," the statement said. "Until the parties responsible for hiring them and directing this assassination are brought to justice, the work remains incomplete," they said.

# 13 Punjabis emerge victorious in Canada's British Columbia polls

## NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND CONSERVATIVE PARTY WIN 46 AND 45 SEATS, RESPECTIVELY, WHILE GREEN PARTY WINS TWO SEATS IN 93-MEMBER HOUSE

OCT 20, 2024

**VANCOUVER (TIP):** Thirteen candidates having roots in Punjab have won in the recent British Columbia provincial elections, further cementing the community's influence in Canadian politics. The victories come as the Indo-Canadian population, particularly the Punjabi community, continues to grow in size and prominence, especially in British Columbia.

The New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Conservative Party won 46 and 45 seats, respectively, while the Green Party emerged victorious on two seats in the 93-member House.

The successful candidates hail from different political backgrounds, representing both the NDP and the Conservative Party. They contested on diverse platforms, advocating issues such as healthcare reforms, economic development, climate action and greater support for immigrants.

Among the prominent winners was housing minister Ravi Kahlon, who retained his Delta North seat with a significant margin. Kahlon has been instrumental in driving policies related to housing and climate change.

Another notable victor is Raj Chauhan, the outgoing speaker of the British Columbia assembly. Winning for the record sixth time, he had earlier served as the assistant deputy speaker from 2013 to 2017 and the deputy speaker from 2017 to 2020.

Minister of state for trade Jagrup Brar won from Surrey Fleetwood for the seventh time. Born in Bathinda, Brar was once part of the Indian national basketball



Some of the winners. Top: Nikki Sharma, Ravi Kahlon, Harwinder K Sandhu  
Bottom: Raj Chauhan, Jagrup Brar, Mandeep Dhaliwal -Photo : TNS

team. Later, he moved to Canada for studies and settled here. He has been active in politics since 2004 when he was elected as an MLA.

Conservative Party candidate Mandeep Dhaliwal defeated minister of education and childcare Rachna Singh from Surrey North. However, prominent Punjabi leader Jinny Sims lost from Surrey Panorama.

NDP candidates Ravi Parmar won from Langford Highland, Sunita Dhir from Vancouver Langara, Reah Arora from Burnaby East and Harwinder Kaur Sandhu from Vernon Monashee. Harwinder won for the second time from the seat.

Attorney General Nikki Sharma won again from Vancouver Hastings, while Jessie Sunner triumphed from Surrey

Newton.

Conservative leader Harman Singh Bhangu has emerged victorious from Langley Abbotsford constituency, Honveer Singh Randhawa from Surrey Guildford and Tody Toor from Langley Willowbrook.

Their victories mark a significant moment for the Punjabi community, which has long played a vital role in the socio-economic fabric of British Columbia, particularly in the cities like Surrey and Abbotsford, where a large number of Indo-Canadian population resides. These regions have seen increased political mobilization in recent years, with local community leaders emphasizing the importance of political representation. (Source: TNS)

## US deports batch of Indian nationals staying illegally in US



Thousands of Indians enter the US illegally either from Canada or from Mexico.

Photo for representation only

flight.

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), send back Indian nationals, who did not establish a legal basis to remain in the United States, it said.

The DHS said, "this week's flight demonstrates the department's continued commitment to pursuing sustained cooperation with the Indian government and other international partners to reduce and deter irregular migration and jointly work to counter human smuggling".

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

## Two Indians sanctioned by the US for alleged ties to Houthi network linked to UAE-based ship company transporting Iranian oil

OCTOBER 18, 2024

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** The US has sanctioned 18 companies and individuals, including two Indians, for their alleged ties to a Houthi network transporting Iranian oil, revenue from which enables Houthi attacks on Israel and disrupting shipping in the Red Sea region.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned the companies, including the captains of vessels transporting illicit oil, for their ties to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force-backed Houthi financial official Sa'id al-Jamal and his network, a press note said on Thursday. The 18 companies sanctioned include Marshall Islands-registered Changtai Shipping and Motionavigations Limited, and UAE-based Indo Gulf Ship Management.



Rahul Rattanlal Warikoo and Dipankar Mohan Keot of Indian origin are among the 18 companies and individuals sanctioned by the US for their alleged ties to a Houthi network

Photo for representation only

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

# Indian American professor Aaron 'Ronnie' Chatterji named OpenAI's first Chief Economist

OCTOBER 24, 2024

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** To better understand AI's economic impacts, and help people harness its potential to solve hard problems and create a more prosperous future, OpenAI has appointed Dr. Aaron "Ronnie" Chatterji as its first Chief Economist.

In this new role, the Indian American Duke University professor of business and public policy and former White House CHIPS coordinator, will lead research into how AI will influence economic growth and job creation.

Chatterji's research will include the global economic impacts of building AI infrastructure, insights on longer-term labor market trends, and how to help the current and future workforce harness the benefits of this technology.

"At OpenAI, we believe artificial intelligence can transform economies through innovation and increased productivity," San Francisco, California, based AI research organization said in a media release announcing Chatterji's appointment.

"Our hope is that this work will inform efforts by policymakers, academics, and organizations around the world to maximize the benefits of AI as an



OpenAI has appointed Dr. Aaron "Ronnie" Chatterji as its first Chief Economist

economic driver in their communities, while helping them identify and prepare for challenges that come with the adoption of this powerful new technology," it said. "These efforts will also ensure that we can better serve OpenAI's developer community and help businesses of all sizes grow and compete."

"Like electricity, AI holds the potential to revolutionize our economy by accelerating innovation and boosting productivity. Dr. Chatterji's deep understanding of the dynamics that shape our economy and society will guide OpenAI's mission to create AI tools that fuel growth, solve complex challenges, and foster long-term prosperity," said Larry Summers,

OpenAI Board Member and former US Secretary of the Treasury.

Chatterji is currently the Mark Burgess & Lisa Benson-Burgess Distinguished Professor of Business and Public Policy at Duke University. He served as the Biden White House's CHIPS coordinator, overseeing the execution of the \$52 billion CHIPS and Science Act; as Acting Deputy Director of the White House National Economic Council; and as the Chief Economist of the US Department of Commerce.

He also served as a senior economist on President Barack Obama's Council of Economic Advisers and on multiple statewide advisory commissions on economic policy in North Carolina. He has published two books and over 30 peer-reviewed articles in top journals in strategic management, economics, finance and organizational studies.

Chatterji was previously a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and worked as a financial analyst at Goldman Sachs. He received his PhD from the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley and his BA in Economics from Cornell University.

## INDIAN AMERICAN GOOGLE CLOUD CHIEF AMIT ZAVERY MOVES TO SERVICENOW AS COO



Amit Zavery is taking the COO role at Santa Clara, California-based software company ServiceNow

Photo : ServiceNow

OCTOBER 24, 2024

**SANTA CLARA, CA (TIP):** Just a day after announcing his departure from Google after "six incredible years," the search giant's Indian American cloud chief Amit Zavery, is taking the COO role at Santa Clara, California-based software company ServiceNow.

ServiceNow that develops a cloud computing platform to help companies manage digital workflows for enterprise operations, said that Zavery will serve as "president, chief product officer (CPO), and chief operating officer (COO) to lead product and engineering, effective Oct 28."

"In his role as president, CPO, and COO, Zavery's responsibilities include ServiceNow's platform, products, engineering, cloud infrastructure, and user experience. He also leads enterprise-wide operations to ensure business rigor-from innovation to execution," the company stated.

Zavery, a Google Cloud and Oracle executive, brings extensive experience in enterprise innovation, transformation, and scale, it said.

"With more than three decades in enterprise technology, Zavery is a visionary leader who blends deep technical expertise with proven business acumen. He has extensive experience in platform development, enterprise applications, data management, middleware, security, and artificial intelligence (AI). Zavery's strong understanding of the enterprise market drives his customer-centric approach to engineering, ensuring solutions meet real-world business needs. He has played a pivotal role in the building and commercialization of enterprise-grade experiences, successfully scaling products and integrating AI across diverse business applications."

"Amit Zavery has an extraordinary track record of innovation and commercial execution," said Bill McDermott, chairman and chief executive officer of ServiceNow.

"We wanted a visionary product and engineering leader with a proven history of building market defining products and scaling world class platforms. With Amit, we found the dream innovator to captivate the market with a compelling vision for ServiceNow as the AI platform for business transformation. We could not be more excited to have Amit joining our leadership team."

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

## India American entrepreneur Rafe Husain launches Calibike



Rafe Husain's Calibike is an electric bike purposefully designed to complement America's first high-speed passenger rail system

OCTOBER 24, 2024

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Rafe Husain is the latest Indian American entrepreneur to make waves in the disruptor market. His innovation, Calibike, is an electric bike purposefully designed to complement America's first high-speed passenger rail system. The e-bike offers a last-mile solution for commuters traveling along the 218-mile Brightline West rail line connecting Las Vegas to Southern California.

Last month, the e-bike was launched by the mayor of Corona in Southern California. The eco-friendly bike, designed to revolutionize city commuting, aligns with California's goal of achieving zero-emission vehicle sales by 2035.

Additionally, Calibike qualifies for the state's Clean Vehicle Rebate Project, offering financial incentives to those purchasing electric vehicles. The company has also donated e-bikes to the City of Corona Park Rangers, enhancing park patrol mobility while reducing emissions.

Born in Lucknow, India, Husain is an electrical engineer with extensive expertise in 5G base station radio design and embedded systems. His work spans the use of oscilloscopes, logic analyzers, and spectrum analyzers to develop and test cutting-edge technology. He has also contributed to embedded motor control for DC motors and has played a key role in designing critical components in 5G systems.

Calibike is not Husain's first disruption of the market. He has earned several patents and has been recognized with the New Inventions Award from the University of Michigan for a device that senses ice thickness.

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

## Scottish Indian curator Satinder Kaur helps bring 1700s alive at King Charles III's Dumfries House

OCTOBER 20, 2024

**LONDON (TIP):** Dumfries House is one of the most majestic stately homes in Scotland, dating back to the 1700s and close to the heart of King Charles III - a regular visitor to oversee the work of his King's Foundation charity, headquartered at this royal estate near Glasgow.

Satinder Kaur, collections manager at Dumfries House, is brimming with excitement as her research has helped curate a major new offering for visitors to Dumfries House - an authentic 18th-century dining experience in the historic home's Pink Dining Room, complete with a "Butler Service" associated with the era and served on rare ceramics and silverware of the time thanks to the Royal Collection.

Starting this month, the Scottish Indian curator alongside Manager Evan Samson and Executive Chef Tom Scoble has successfully injected this added regal touch into the regular tours of the estate that visitors from around the world can book.

"As Collections Manager here at Dumfries House, it is a privilege to work with the fantastically varied collection of furniture, ceramics, glass and works of art that I'm looking after - dating from 1754 to 1759," Kaur told media during a tour of the estate located in the Scottish town of Cumnock, East Ayrshire. "I'm a second-generation immigrant and my parents are shopkeepers and post office owners."

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



Satinder Kaur's research has helped curate a major new offering for visitors to Dumfries House - an authentic 18th-century dining experience in the historic home's Pink Dining Room

# Mayor Eric Adams hosts Diwali Celebrations at the Gracie Mansion

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

victory of good over evil with them. He applauded Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, who initiated the demand for making Diwali a school holiday in New York City.



Mayor Adams addresses the gathering. L to R: Deputy Commissioner, Mayor's Office of International Affairs, Dilip Chauhan, CEO, Gracie Mansion Conservancy Rhonda Binda, Mayor Eric Adams, Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment

"Our Assembly Member is right. She personifies what it is to come to this amazing country and participate in government, not only for the entire state but specifically for the community that supported and encouraged her to run."

"When she had the vision of making sure that Diwali would be a recognized holiday, they told her it was not possible. We lobbied, we fought, and as she stated, there's nothing more determined than an Indian woman, and she showed that. And today, we celebrate Diwali as a citywide holiday, and it's something that we should all acknowledge."

"But more than that, look what we have done with Dilip Chauhan and others, and how it took 110 mayors before we



The honorees with the officials. From left to right: Deputy Commissioner, Mayor's Office of International Affairs, Dilip Chauhan, Vijah Ramjattan, Mayor Eric Adams, Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, South Asian Liaison, Community Affairs Unit, Sookranie Dhanpat, Acharya Leila Gossai, Sarina Jain, and Roni Mazumdar.

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment

were able to have an Indian woman to be a deputy mayor, in Deputy Mayor Meera Joshi."

"You are continuing to see your political strength. You're continuing to see what you can do. This is one of the most well-educated communities and business leaders. What you did during COVID with your doctors and medical professionals like other immigrant groups, you kept this city going," said Mayor Adams, surrounded by members of his administration, including NYPD First Deputy Commissioner Tonya Kinsella, and CEO of Gracie Mansion Conservancy, Rhonda Binda.

"We want to make sure that you no longer live in the shadows of the American dream, that you empower

yourself to be self-determinant about what the future holds for this entire city, if not the entire country."

"And don't lose sight that running for president is a woman with Indian and African American background. You are moving at a rate that no one thought was imaginable. You can never go back. You can never find yourself back in the shadows of the American dream. You must continue your progress. As you grace us today here at Gracie Mansion, we owe you as much as you owe this great country, we owe each other," he shared.

"Let's continue to grow. Let's continue to strengthen ourselves. And I say, as Diwali is the light that moves out of darkness, let's displace the hate and the darkness that is pervasive across the globe. It starts here in New York. It starts here on Diwali. It starts here with this great community. I love this community. Keep doing the great things you're doing," said Mayor Adams while thanking the glittering, colorful crowd."

He then joined Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, Dilip Chauhan, and others to light the Diya and then present Citations to community leaders- Vijah Ramjattan, Acharya Leila Gossai, Sarina Jain, and Roni Mazumdar.

In her address to the large crowd, Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, who has thrown her hat in the ring for the vacant seat of New York City Comptroller, applauded Mayor Adams for his contribution to the South Asian



Deputy Commissioner, Mayor's Office of International Affairs, Dilip Chauhan as EMCEE made sure the event was a success

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment

community and quipped that he was nicknamed the Hindu Mayor. She recalled that she had approached the politician to make Diwali a school holiday, and his answer was, "Yes, we will, and we must because anything is possible."

As such, starting on Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024, New York will commence the yearly school closing to commemorate Diwali, a religious festival on the Hindu calendar.

Assemblywoman Rajkumar called on the gathering to extend a round of applause for Mayor Eric Adams.

"When there was a hate crime at our beloved Tulsi Mandir, Mayor Adams stood with us. And he made sure the NYPD classified it as an anti-Hindu hate crime because he is always standing up for our community."

"Mayor Adams enjoys and loves his job. He focuses on making lives better here in the City of New York. But on this occasion of Diwali, he also reminds us of Ram, who had to wage an incredible battle to defeat evil."

"Ram had to put everything in to achieve victory. And on this Diwali, we celebrate Ram's victory when he returns victorious to Ayodhya," said Rajkumar.

"Let us all pledge to be the mayor's Hanuman. He has always stood with our community. And that is why on this Diwali, the Festival of Lights, we will always stand with our 110th mayor of New York City, Eric Adams," she said.

The beautiful annual festival, organized by Deputy



Promoting Veganism. Nitin Vyas, Global Public Relations Director, World Vegan Vision served vegan food which was much liked

Photo / Jay Mandal-on assignment



Entertainers were profusely applauded for their captivating performances -Photos / Jay Mandal-on assignment

Commissioner, Mayor's Office of International Affairs Dilip Chauhan, who served as emcee, South Asian Liaison, Community Affairs Unit Sookranie Dhanpat, and others, showcased a variegated backdrop and enchanting lighting. Energetic dance, accompanied by melodies, entertained the large crowd that partook in vegetarian Indian food, in keeping with the Hindu tradition of vegetarianism.

A prominent highlight of the evening was the participation of the World Vegan Vision, established by H.K./ Malti Shah and facilitated by Vice Chairman Satish Karnidkar. They generously provided delicious plant-based vegan mithai (sweets) and savory treats, aligning perfectly with the event's theme of promoting environmental sustainability and plant-based lifestyles.

The celebration also featured several Indian vendors who highlighted the richness of Indian culture. Vendors such as Vadilal Industry USA, managed by Ashwin Pandya, Ice Gola Express by Ankit Gandhi, and Suman Munjal Past president of New York Chapter, President Rakesh Bhargava, Tejal Raval, Nina Vyas, Anil NARANG along with Indira Daga from World Vegan Vision, showcased a wide array of flavors and experiences for attendees.

Nitin Vyas, the Public Relations Director, played a pivotal role in connecting the Mayor's office with the Indian vendors. His proactive efforts were crucial in fostering a smooth collaboration that ensured the participation of these vendors in the Diwali festivities.

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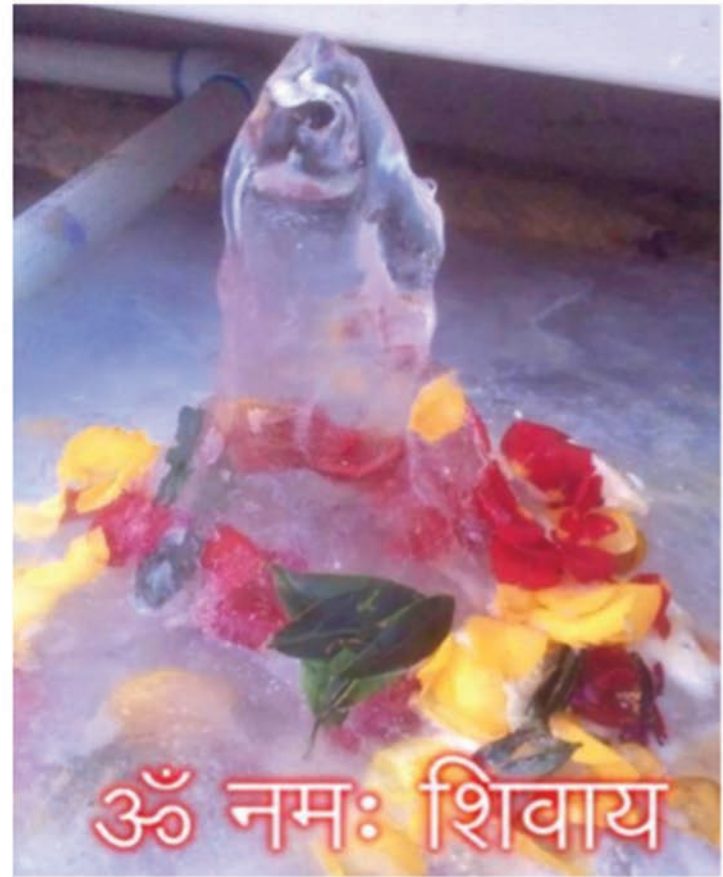


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# Need to review UN Charter to reflect change



BY ASOKE MUKERJI

**THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS STRENGTHENING THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM MUST, THEREFORE, BEGIN WITH REMOVING THE CONTRADICTIONS WITHIN THE UN CHARTER ON DECISION-MAKING**

**"AS THE UN PREPARES TO MARK ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY IN SEPTEMBER 2025, IT IS TIME TO PRIORITIZE COORDINATED ACTION TO CONVENE A UN GENERAL CONFERENCE TO REVIEW AND STRENGTHEN THE CHARTER, AS COMMITTED BY THE UN'S SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE. SUCH A "RULE OF LAW"-BASED INITIATIVE MUST BE TAKEN BY COUNTRIES THAT HAVE PUBLICLY COMMITTED TO "REFORM MULTILATERALISM", INCLUDING INDIA. ONLY THEN CAN THE ONGOING CRISIS IN MULTILATERALISM BE EFFECTIVELY OVERCOME."**

As we mark UN Charter Day today (October 24), it is important to acknowledge that Agenda 2030 on sustainable development represents the most significant ground-level achievement of the UN since 1945, giving it a "human face". Anchored in Article 1 and Chapter IX of the UN Charter, which advocate the mutual benefits of international socio-economic cooperation, Agenda 2030's derailment due to violent conflicts extracts a massive toll on humanity. In 2022, the UN Secretary-General reported that the number of people adversely impacted by conflicts worldwide exceeded 2 billion.

The UN Summit of the Future held in September 2024 characterized Agenda 2030 with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the "central objective of multilateralism" and called for strengthening the UN Charter to "keep pace with the changing world".

However, the summit adopted a "Pact for the Future" predominantly to reiterate the agreed commitments on Agenda 2030, without proposing any time-bound process for reviewing and strengthening the Charter. The consequent ambiguity for the future of multilateralism bodes ill for "we the peoples", in whose name the UN Charter was adopted in June 1945 "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war".

An effective response to the crisis facing multilateralism must be formulated within the framework and provisions of the UN Charter by the UN General Assembly (UNGA). As a legal treaty, the Charter balances mutually agreed principles and objectives with specific provisions regulating different aspects of multilateral governance. The UN's second Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjold, famously remarked in 1956 that the purposes of the UN Charter are "expressions of universally shared ideals which cannot fail us, though we, alas, often fail them".

Article 24 of the Charter puts the "primary responsibility" for maintaining international peace and security on the UNSC. The track record of the UNSC's failure in recent years to fulfil its responsibility is well documented. It failed to provide political leadership to the UN's

Prima facie, the UNSC should not be in such a situation. Article 25 of the Charter makes the UNSC decisions legally binding obligations for all UN member-states. The UNSC is given powers to impose economic sanctions under Article 41 and use armed force under Article 42 of the Charter to enforce its decisions. Any attempt by the UNGA to assert predominance on issues of peace and security are restricted by Article 12 of the Charter, which prevents the UNGA from making any recommendation on any dispute or situation on the UNSC's agenda unless requested to do so by the UNSC, while Article 10 of the Charter makes the UNGA recommendations voluntary, not mandatory like the UNSC decisions.

The crisis in multilateralism is due to the biggest anomaly of the UN Charter, which is the coexistence of two contradictory processes of decision-

oblige members of the UNGA under the Charter to uphold international peace and security. The first step towards strengthening the multilateral system must, therefore, begin with removing the contradictions within the Charter on decision-making.

The Charter contains an agreed framework in Article 109 for reviewing the provisions of the treaty. This was highlighted by Sir A Ramaswamy Mudaliar, who signed the Charter on behalf of India, in his first statement to the UNGA on January 18, 1946. He said that the veto had not been acceptable to "many nations", including India, and should be reviewed after 10 years, as referred to in Article 109. The UN's High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism recommended in 2023 to the Summit of the Future a "Charter Review Conference" to focus on the UNSC



Reform: Agenda 2030 of the UN needs a new direction. -Photo / ANI

fractured response to the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. It has compromised on countering terrorism by adopting double standards based on the political agendas of its permanent members. Its inability to resolve conflicts globally has undermined national efforts of UN member-states to implement Agenda 2030 in an increasingly polarized, confrontational and unpredictable world.

Aggravating its acts of omission, the UNSC has been unable to enforce its own unanimous decisions, denting the declared objectives of the SDGs. The highly publicized human suffering and destruction in recent years in Afghanistan (despite UNSC Resolution 2513 of March 2020), West Asia (despite UNSC Resolution 242 of November 1967), and Ukraine (despite UNSC Resolution 2202 of February 2015), are only a few examples of the inability of the UNSC to lead the way to sustainable peace.

making within one treaty. Article 18 of the Charter upholds the democratic principle of sovereign equality in decision-making in the UNGA on the basis of one-country one-vote, providing for decisions being taken by consensus or by a majority vote if there is no consensus. Article 27.3 of the Charter, on the other hand, gives a dictatorial power of "veto" to China, France, Russia, the UK, and the United States as the five permanent members (P5) of the UNSC, allowing them to override without any explanation decisions proposed by each other, or by any of the 10 democratically elected non-permanent members of the UNSC representing the world's geographical regions.

The consequence is that while the vast majority of the UNGA membership may have firm views and proposals on how to respond to the growing political fragmentation of the multilateral system, only the UNSC can take decisions that

reform. Yet, so far, there has been no public discussion within the UNGA or the UNSC on implementing the review clause of Article 109 by convening a General Conference of the UN.

As the UN prepares to mark its 80th anniversary in September 2025, it is time to prioritize coordinated action to convene a UN General Conference to review and strengthen the Charter, as committed by the UN's Summit of the Future. Such a "rule of law"-based initiative must be taken by countries that have publicly committed to "reform multilateralism", including India. Only then can the ongoing crisis in multilateralism be effectively overcome.

*(The author is a retired Diplomat and a Distinguished Fellow, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF). He can be reached at 1955pram@gmail.com)*



# What is clicking on the U.S. presidential campaign trail



BY DIPANKAR GUPTA

**KAMALA HARRIS'S CAMPAIGN IS LEVERAGED ON A DIMINISHING STATISTIC WHILE DONALD TRUMP'S IS THE OPPOSITE**

**"While abortion rates are falling, immigration, which is Mr. Trump's cause, is rising. The immigration acts of 1965 and 1990 allowed Latin Americans and Asians in and, since then, the bulk of U.S. migrants have been Mexicans. There is a sharp rise too in unauthorised migrants who, today, comprise about 25% of foreign-born people in the U.S."**

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are so far apart that only a continental drift can bring them closer. It is not just that one is African-American and the other White. Or that one is a woman and the other is a man. Or that Kamala Harris is a Californian and Donald Trump a New Yorker. More significantly, Kamala Harris's campaign is leveraged on a diminishing statistic while Mr. Trump's is set on an ascending one.

## THE TWO CAMPAIGNS

Abortion rights are topmost on Ms. Harris's to-do list, but how pressing is that? The rate of abortion has fallen steadily in the United States since the 1970s when the verdict in *Roe vs Wade* was passed. Legalising abortion did not result in more abortions, as some of the opponents to the judgment feared. Nor was there a dramatic increase in abortion clinics.

While abortion rates are falling, immigration, which is Mr. Trump's cause, is rising. The immigration acts of 1965 and 1990 allowed Latin Americans and Asians in and, since then, the bulk of U.S. migrants have been Mexicans. There is a sharp rise too in unauthorised migrants who, today, comprise about 25% of foreign-born people in the U.S.

Between 1981 and 2021, abortion rates fell in the U.S. from 29.3 per 1,000 women in the 15-44 year age range to 11.6 abortions per 1,000 women. The fall is not because some States have put restrictions on abortion but rather on account of highly effective contraceptive methods, such as the intrauterine device. Also, more women seek careers now rather than raising children.

## CAUGHT IN INTERSECTIONS, THE HARRIS MULTICULTURAL TENT

To then peg an election campaign

primarily on abortion does not resonate with women the way it used to in the 1970s. No doubt, abortions still happen, often forcing women to travel, under duress, from their home State, which restricts abortion, to another where it is allowed. This can result in fatalities, but not at an overwhelming rate. Paradoxically, women beyond the child-bearing age are very committed to bringing abortion rights back simply because they fought for it in the 1970s. It was a great advance then not only because unwanted pregnancies were high but also because single parents could now pay greater attention to child rearing than child bearing.

immigrant from Germany and got in easily. Yet, he hid this ancestry for, in those days, Germans were looked down upon, much like the Mexicans are today. However, time and skin colour have erased that memory, and their descendants, like Donald Trump, have low tolerance for latter day Latin America migrants.

As the presence of migrants is combustible, all of them are clubbed together for the authorised ones are not bodily stamped. Fighting for the cause of migrants then becomes a huge altruistic effort for they cannot fight for themselves. It is home advantage for those who rally behind the "Make

of an elaborate ensemble in public with entertainers such as Bruce Springsteen, Usher, Lizzie, and now even Beyoncé. Barack Obama is also pushing for her onstage, and so has Michelle Obama. In the medley, one is likely to lose sight of the lead actor, Kamala Harris herself; she gets lost in the crowd.

## IN TOTALITY

The polls say it is an even fight but Ms. Harris's camp is working much harder as a lot of their trek is uphill. Mr. Trump, in contrast, is on cruise control and travels light. He is the star of the show - an entertainer and



Republican presidential nominee and former U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during an election rally in Atlanta on October 28, 2024. -Screen grab

## THE TIRADE AGAINST MIGRANTS

In contrast to the pre-1965 profile where most migrants were White, today about 50% of immigrants to the US are from Latin America, and as much as a quarter from Mexico alone. This probably explains why Mr. Trump's tirade against migrants from south of the border is so appealing. There are so many of them and they all look so different.

In 2022, about 10.6 million immigrants (or 23% of all immigrants in the U.S.) were Mexicans. Next were those from India (6%) and China (5%). Though 77% of immigrants are in the U.S. legally, about 25%, mostly Mexicans, are unauthorised. This was not so till 1968 when primarily Europeans and the British could enter the U.S.

Donald Trump's grandfather was an

America Great Again" banner.

This is also the reason why Mr. Trump does not have a full cast of celebrities on stage with him. His cause needs no translation into everyday tongue. Any attempt to undermine the huge presence of unauthorised migrants will be met instantly with hostility and disbelief. Unsurprisingly, Ms. Harris tends to wander when confronted with this issue.

As abortion rights actively matter to fewer women today, Democrats are forced to frame this demand in terms of rights and that always needs explanation. As Ms. Harris readily cedes ground on this if religious leaders intervene, the moral ownership of that right is vastly weakened. When law and morality clash, morality usually wins.

That is why Ms. Harris is usually part

political leader in one handy wrap. If he has somebody else on stage, that will be a side order. Nobody eclipses him when his show comes on.

In recent memory, the contrasting styles of the finalists has never been so stark. This is all because of the cause each one promotes. Ms. Harris's case is loaded with itsy-bitsy, fading numbers that need a regimen of grey cells to arrange. Mr. Trump's appeal has a gut feel that requires little explanation. He sets your heart thumping, so your brain can rest.

Somewhere along the line, by intuition or by luck, Mr. Trump has mastered the art of keeping it simple, even if it seems stupid. That is politics.

*(Dipankar Gupta taught for nearly three decades in the School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University)*

# Threats to U.S. Democracy: A Viewpoint



BY GEORGE  
ABRAHAM

**"IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY, AN I.D. IS REQUIRED FOR ALMOST EVERYTHING WE DO; WHY NOT A NATIONWIDE VOTER I.D. LAW TO UPHOLD ELECTIONS' INTEGRITY? IF INDIA CAN DO IT WITH 700 MILLION VOTERS, A MORE ADVANCED SOCIETY LIKE THE U.S. COULD ACCOMPLISH THAT TASK RATHER EASILY."**

**"America is a polarized nation today. Extreme partisan animosity suits the authoritarian elements on the Left and the Right. Totalitarianism and authoritarianism are two sides of the same coin. Their goal is power, and they have little or no patience for opposing viewpoints or succinct policies and vetted procedures. For them, even the destruction of democracy is permissible to achieve their desired ends. It is up to the conscious citizenry to be awake and do what is needed."**

One of the favorite slogans from the Left during the current American Election campaign is that Donald Trump, the Republican candidate for the Presidency, is a threat to democracy. America is indeed the world's oldest democracy, and the founders of this great nation have put together a system of government that protects individual freedom and liberty that is unmatched in the history of the world. Those of us who are recent immigrants are in awe of how relevant those provisions still are to protect the life and property of every citizen today, though they came into force in 1789 when most of the world was alien to those noble concepts.

Democracy is the rule by the people. It is a system of government in which the people of that country directly or indirectly decide laws, policies, leadership, and other polity. Essential elements of democracy also include pluralistic political parties, fair elections, transparent governance, civil liberties, and free media. Some studies state that 24 countries in the world are full democracies. The United States exemplified a multifaceted democracy that led the world in this grand experiment. However, today, questions are being raised about whether the country is fully living up to the letter and spirit of its Constitution or sliding fast toward the category of flawed democracies worldwide!

When one talks about threats to



At the core of healthy democracies are free and fair elections

democracy in the United States, the January 6, 2021, riots at Capitol Hill by Trump supporters are foremost in anybody's mind. It was an effort to prevent Congress from certifying the election, which Trump and his followers claimed was stolen from them. Undoubtedly, it was an egregious violation of the Constitution that would have subverted the rule of law and prevented the continuity of the government. A failure of peaceful transfer of power would have severe repercussions on the affairs of the State, and the ensuing power struggle would have destroyed the democratic fabric and destabilized American society. However, the system of government was resilient to thwart any such threat, and the institutions proved their mettle and saved democracy.

At the core of healthy democracies are free and fair elections. Unless there is a system in place to protect the integrity and practices of the election process, democracy itself will be in peril. Whether suppressing voting rights, manipulating EVMs or electoral rules, or attempting to overturn valid election results are all tantamount to threats to democracy and its foundational principles, and great vigilance by the citizenry is in order. In addition, allowing non-citizens to register and vote also imperils the true will of the people. In some States, an undocumented immigrant is eligible to get a driver's license and has the opportunity to register to vote, thereby possibly getting into the voter rolls. The recent suit filed by the Justice Department against the Commonwealth of Virginia challenging the removal of non-citizens from voting in the upcoming election is truly bizarre. It gives further fodder to the critics who argue that the current dispensation in governance favors winning at any cost. While the system should do everything to prevent voter suppression, the popular

narrative that a voter I.D. law would contribute to such an outcome is essentially baseless. In the United States today, an I.D. is required for almost everything we do; why not a nationwide voter I.D. law to uphold elections' integrity? If India can do it with 700 million voters, a more advanced society like the U.S. could accomplish that task rather easily.

Persecution and killings of political opponents are not a rare occurrence in countries ruled by authoritarian governments. Respecting diversity of opinions and defending the freedom of expression of every citizen is a hallmark of a thriving democracy. However, lately, even in the U.S., the power centers are increasingly focusing their efforts on weaponizing the justice system to undermine and weaken political opponents. In India, too, there are an increasing number of cases where investigating agencies are being deployed to destroy political opponents and silence the critics. Justice should be impartial and objective, without bias or favoritism. Otherwise, it is a more significant threat to democracy.

The term fourth estate refers to the press and news media in their 'explicit capacity of advocacy and implicit ability to frame political issues.' However, as we all witness today, objective journalism is simply dead. It is the fourth estate that should hold power to account today. Responsible journalism should call for upholding fundamental principles of defending democracy and citizen's right to self-governance. Without democracy, there will not be a free press, and without independent journalism, there can be no democracy. Unless the media is willing to discover the truth honestly, democracy will die a slow death. In the United States today, there is such a partisan divide among the media that the people are not well served. Consequently, so much misinformation and disinformation

across the 'Net confuse the public to the detriment of a genuinely democratic process. The failure of the press to practice objective journalism and their unwillingness to stand up for the moral code is one of the biggest threats to democracies everywhere.

The other important topic of our day is whether we should censor information to protect democracy. The spread of propaganda, misinformation, and biased narratives on social media is a growing concern in many democracies. The recent ban by the European Union on Russian TV brings that issue more into focus. Censorship is the suppression of ideas and information some individuals or groups find objectionable and dangerous. Censors would use the State's power to impose their view of what is true and dangerous. The recent disclosures of U.S. interference in social media activities are disturbing and border on influencing election outcomes, a key democratic process. We may all agree on preventing the proliferation of hate speeches across the 'Net, yet selective censorship is contrary to the First Amendment rights of every American. The First Amendment is obvious in this regard, 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.'

During the Covid period, the nation witnessed far more stringent measures curbing their civil rights and the political class, which was cavalier in imposing their worldview on others. The United States has also witnessed massive violations of human rights and structural racism, driving racial disparities and spurring protests across the country. The State's failure to protect its citizenry regardless of their race or ethnic background points to a structural flaw that could threaten democracy at its core.

America is a polarized nation today. Extreme partisan animosity suits the authoritarian elements on the Left and the Right. Totalitarianism and authoritarianism are two sides of the same coin. Their goal is power, and they have little or no patience for opposing viewpoints or succinct policies and vetted procedures. For them, even the destruction of democracy is permissible to achieve their desired ends. It is up to the conscious citizenry to be awake and do what is needed.

*(The author is a retired Chief Technology Officer, United Nations, and is Vice Chairman of IOC USA. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)*



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*Tom*

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# Embassy of India in Guatemala Hosts Buyers- Sellers Meeting on Indian Beauty and Cosmetic Products



Mr. Raghuvveer Kini, Director General of Chemexcil, shared his vast experience and insightful vision to the participants

**OCTOBER 22, 2024**

**GUATEMALA CITY (TIP):** The Embassy of India, in partnership with the Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXCIL), hosted a Buyers Seller Meet in Guatemala City on October 22, 2024. The event featured 20 Indian companies participating virtually while 30 Guatemalan companies attended in person.

CHEMEXCIL has significantly contributed to India's beauty and cosmetics industry by promoting exports, organizing trade fairs, and facilitating connections between Indian manufacturers and global buyers. The council provides market intelligence and trends analysis to help companies identify growth opportunities while enhancing industry skills through training programs and workshops. Overall, CHEMEXCIL has played a crucial role in positioning India as a key player in the global beauty and cosmetics market. Partnering with CHEMEXCIL for this event gave leverage due to its extensive expertise and established network in the beauty and cosmetics sector.

As a key promoter of Indian exports, CHEMEXCIL facilitates valuable connections between Indian manufacturers and international buyers, ensuring a successful engagement for both Indian companies and local partners in Guatemala. Their support enhances the visibility of Indian cosmetic products, paving the way for potential collaborations and growth opportunities in the region.

India's global presence in cosmetic products has grown significantly, driven by its rich heritage in Ayurveda, natural skincare, and holistic beauty solutions. Indian cosmetic products are increasingly in demand for their use of high-quality natural ingredients, such as essential oils, herbal extracts, and traditional Ayurvedic formulations that promote wellness. The country's cosmetic industry caters to a wide range of products, including skincare, haircare, and personal care items, which are now exported to over 150 countries worldwide. With a strong emphasis on innovation, sustainable practices, and adherence to international quality standards, India has successfully positioned itself as a key player in the global beauty and wellness market. India has made remarkable strides in the chemical, cosmetic, and dye industries, establishing itself as a global leader. The country's focus on sustainable manufacturing and eco-friendly practices has further enhanced its reputation in the international market. This meet not only aimed to further enhance our business relationships in these sectors but also sought to explore new avenues of growth, benefiting from the complementary strengths of Indian and Guatemalan industries.

Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra during his speech emphasized India's achievements in the chemical, cosmetic, and dye sectors, highlighting their global leadership and innovation. He encouraged local



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra emphasized India's achievements in the chemical, cosmetic, and dye sectors, highlighting their global leadership and innovation.

partners to explore collaborations with Indian companies to drive mutual growth and development in the region. Mr. Raghuvveer Kini, Director General of Chemexcil, shared his vast experience and insightful vision for the future of the chemical and allied industries. to this Buyer-Seller Meet.

The Buyers Seller Meet on cosmetics and beauty products has been a significant milestone in fostering collaboration between Indian companies and local partners in Guatemala. This event has not only highlighted the exceptional quality and innovation of Indian cosmetic products but has also opened avenues for mutually beneficial partnerships that can drive growth in both markets. Embassy of India in Guatemala is optimistic that the connections made today will lead to fruitful collaborations, increased trade, and a stronger presence of Indian beauty and cosmetic brands in the Central American region.

(Based on a press release issued by Ramesh Khulbey)

# Embassy of India in Guatemala hosts Buyers-Sellers Meeting on Indian Handicrafts and Home Decorative Items



Ms. Jigisha Tiwari, Sr. Manager, Invest India briefed the participants about ODOP items

**OCTOBER 23, 2024**

**GUATEMALA CITY (TIP):** The Embassy of India in Guatemala, in collaboration with Invest India, successfully organized a Buyers-Sellers Meet on October 23, 2024. The event aimed to promote the export of Indian handicrafts and home decorative items and foster meaningful business connections between Indian and Guatemalan companies. The meet witnessed active participation from approximately 50 Guatemalan companies who attended in person, while 25 Indian companies joined virtually to present their products and explore business opportunities.

Invest India, the national investment promotion and facilitation agency, played a significant role in organizing this BSM. Known for driving investment initiatives and facilitating trade, Invest India is a key partner for the promotion of Indian exports. Its involvement in the event was instrumental in ensuring

a wide reach and facilitating connections between Indian exporters and international buyers. In particular, Invest India has been actively promoting the 'One District One Product' (ODOP) initiative, which aims to boost the global presence of unique and traditional Indian products, including handicrafts. The organization's efforts in championing ODOP items have significantly contributed to the international recognition of India's diverse cultural products.

The Guatemalan market holds substantial potential for Indian artisans and exporters. With a strong local appreciation for cultural products and decorative items, Guatemala's market is receptive to unique, handcrafted items that tell a story. The country's rich ancient Mayan heritage resonates well with Indian artisans' traditional craftsmanship, making it an ideal destination for introducing Indian handicrafts and home decor. The buyers-sellers meet provided an excellent platform to tap into this demand, fostering trade ties that can bring mutual cultural enrichment and economic growth.

Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra emphasized India's longstanding tradition of craftsmanship and the increasing global demand for sustainable and ethically made products. He noted that the event showcases the rich cultural heritage and the artistic excellence of Indian artisans. By bringing together stakeholders from India and Guatemala, India is creating opportunities for trade and cultural exchange that will benefit both nations. He encouraged participants to engage in meaningful collaborations



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra emphasized India's longstanding tradition of craftsmanship and the increasing global demand for sustainable and ethically made products.

and explore the unique offerings from Indian artisans to drive mutual growth. Ms. Jigisha Tiwari, Sr. Manager, Invest India, highlighted the importance of platforms like BSM in bringing international exposure to Indian handicrafts. She stated that Invest India remains committed to promoting the export of Indian ODOP items, which reflect the unique skills and traditions of various regions in India.

The Buyers-Sellers Meet was a significant step toward expanding the presence of Indian handicrafts in Guatemala. It opened new business opportunities for Indian companies while catering to the local demand for authentic and cultural products. The Embassy of India, together with Invest India, remains committed to promoting trade initiatives that drive economic growth and foster cultural understanding.

(Based on a press release issued by Ramesh Khulbey)

# Breaking Barriers: Visualizing Equal Opportunities for Women in Defense



Panelists at the Breaking Barriers: Visualizing Equal Opportunities for Women in Defense



Permanent Representative of India, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, in his introductory remarks, highlighted the need for building inclusive security sectors, with equal representation of women

OCTOBER 25, 2024

**NEW YORK, NY (TIP):** Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations (UN), New York, in collaboration with Permanent Missions of Germany and Switzerland co-organized a high-level event titled Breaking Barriers: Visualizing Equal Opportunities for Women in Defense in New York on 25 October 2024.

President of the Swiss Confederation, Her Excellency Viola Amherd, delivered the keynote address at the event. Minister of National Defense of Liberia and senior military officials from India, Germany and Nigeria took part in the panel discussion at the event. The initiative was part of the ongoing Women, Peace and Security Week in the UN.



President of the Swiss Confederation, Her Excellency Viola Amherd, delivering the keynote address at the event

The event marked the release of the seminal UN global report on Equal Opportunity for Women in the Defense

Sector, an initiative of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

In his introductory remarks, Permanent Representative of India, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish highlighted the need for building inclusive security sectors, with equal representation of women. He also emphasized that patience and perseverance were key elements in our efforts to achieve this goal and that local social imperatives need to be factored in while reforming security sector institutions. Further, he underlined India's active participation in the initial survey that fed into the seminal

UN Global report.

The panelists shared their experiences, strategies, and perspectives on advancing gender equality in the defense sector, including in the areas of recruitment, promotion, and retention during the panel discussion. Lt. Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair (Indian Army), highlighted various measures taken by Indian Armed Forces in this regard. As one of the senior most uniformed personnel in India, Lt. Gen Nair exemplifies the strides India has made in the area.

# Care: A critical investment for gender equality and the rights of women and girls: UN Women

OCTOBER 29, 2024

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** If women's unpaid work were assigned a monetary value, it would exceed 40 per cent of GDP in some countries. Globally, women and girls spend more than 2.5 times as many hours a day on unpaid care work than men. This disparity prevents women and girls from fully realizing their rights and opportunities, throughout their lives. Women and girls remain the default providers of poorly paid and unpaid care work everywhere, and the most marginalized women - those who live in poverty, migrant women, women in informal work, and women from minority groups - shoulder the largest share of unpaid care work. An estimated 80 per cent of paid domestic workers worldwide are women.

The world needs to confront the serious disconnect between what is essential for societies and economies to thrive, what is counted, and what is prioritized in budgets and policies. This is a fundamental human rights issue, and one of the biggest drivers of gender inequality and poverty.

When we invest in comprehensive care



systems, we are investing in women, communities, societies and economies. This can simultaneously reduce women's time and income poverty, enhance their labor market participation and increase the number of decent care jobs, potentially creating almost 300 million jobs by 2035.

Today, in the second time that the world commemorates the International Day of Care and Support, we celebrate efforts being made across the world, from Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Panama

recently passing laws establishing National Care Systems, to Kenya using the data of its first national Time Use Survey to inform the development of its national care policy. We welcome the Philippines' Caregivers Welfare Act that upholds the rights of caregivers; Spain's approval of a strategy for a new model of long-term care in the community; and Canada's work with provincial, territorial, and Indigenous partners to provide a high-quality, affordable,

flexible, and inclusive early learning and childcare system, with new investments totaling up to \$30 billion over five years.

Today, we call for bold actions that transform care systems. We rally behind the Human Rights Council's call for the centrality of care and support from a human rights perspective and the Economic and Social Council's emphasis on promoting care and support systems for social development.

Engaging through multi-partner and multistakeholder platforms such as the Global Alliance of Care or the Generation Equality Action Coalitions we can support innovation, experience sharing and achieve greater impact.

As we approach the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, with its resounding recognition that equal is greater, let us all commit to action to transform care systems. Let us commit to the end of undervalued and gendered division of care work and instead build thriving, equitable and sustainable economies and societies for today and tomorrow.

# US house resolution introduced to formally recognize, commemorate Sikh genocide of 1984

OCTOBER 25, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Four US Congressmen, including co-chairs of the Sikh American Congressional Caucus, on Friday, October 25, introduced a resolution to recognize and commemorate the Sikh Genocide of 1984 formally.

"Sadly, many Sikhs have been targeted for their religious beliefs throughout history, including during the 1984 genocide," said Congressman David Valadao, co-chair of the Sikh American Congressional Caucus.

Observing that he is standing with the Sikh community in demanding recognition and accountability for this horrific event in history, Valado said this resolution is a small but important step to commemorate this tragedy and honor the innocent victims who lost their lives while practicing their faith.

"As we mark the 40th anniversary of the Sikh genocide, we remember a dark chapter in history that inflicted pain on Sikh families and communities. This is not just a distant tragedy - it hits home



Sikh community leaders with the Sikh American Congressional Caucus - File photo

for us here in the San Joaquin Valley, where so many of our Sikh neighbors have shared their stories of loss, survival, and resilience. This resolution is more than a symbol - it's a time to recognize this horrific time that our Sikh community experienced," said Congressman Jim Costa, co-chair of the Sikh Caucus.

Valadao and Costa introduced the resolution in the US House of Representatives, joined by Congressman Josh Harder, Vince Fong, and John Duarte.

The resolution is supported by the American Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, American Sikh Caucus Committee, Ensaaf, Jakara Movement,

Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF), Sikh Coalition, Sikh Coordination Committee East Coast (SCCEC), and the United Sikhs.

"This resolution marks a pivotal moment in our quest for justice and truth. The American Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, representing Sikh religious institutions across the nation, has long advocated for the recognition of the atrocities committed during the 1984 Sikh Genocide," said Gudev Singh, acting president of American Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (AGPC).

Pritpal Singh, founder of the American Sikh Caucus Committee, said this resolution is a turning point in their decades-long pursuit of justice and recognition. "For too long, the horrors of 1984 have been hidden from the global stage. Today, we honor the memory of those who suffered and ensure their voices will never be silenced," he said.

(Source: PTI)

## Indian Community Leaders Unite to Support Mayor Bill McLeod of Hoffman Estates in his Re-Election Bid

OCTOBER 20, 2024

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): On October 17, 2024, an energetic and inspiring fundraising event was held at the Marriott Chicago Northwest in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, to support Mayor Bill McLeod's re-election campaign.

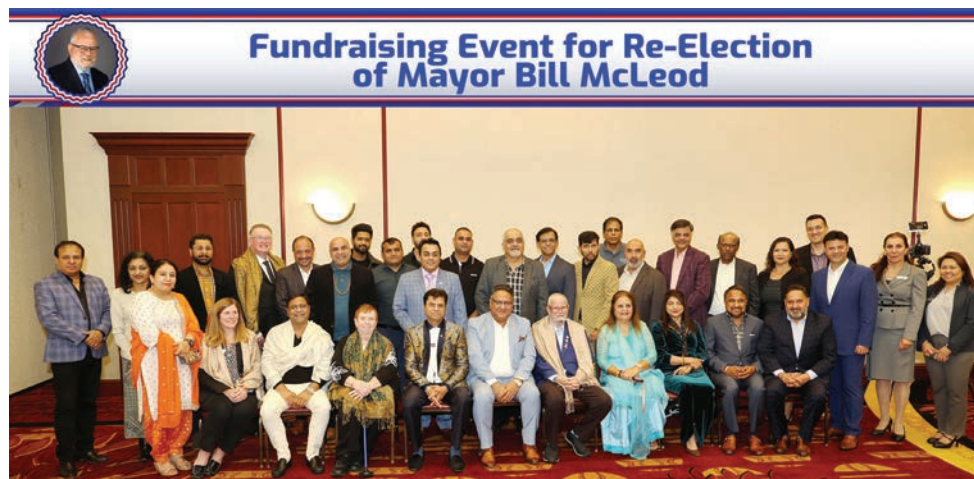
In total, the event has been able to raise over \$25,000, showing overwhelming support for Mayor McLeod's bid for a seventh term as mayor. It once again proves how his decades-long commitment to the village continues to resound with the people he serves.

The event began with a warm welcome from Neil Khot, one of the lead hosts and a key figure in the community.

Khot spoke passionately about Bill McLeod's remarkable commitment, stating, "Mayor McLeod has been a pillar of strength for Hoffman Estates. His leadership has brought this village from a quiet town to a bustling community where businesses thrive, and families feel at home."

He continued by emphasizing that Mayor McLeod's tenure has been defined by consistency and vision, which is why the community continues to rally around him for a seventh term.

For over 45 years, Mayor McLeod has been a vital part of Hoffman Estates, first serving as a village trustee in 1980 and later taking office as mayor in 1990. Throughout his time in office, McLeod has overseen substantial growth in the village, including business development, infrastructure improvements, and community-building initiatives.



Invited guests and Prominent community leader leaders with Mayor Bill McLeod

During the event, Sunil Shah, founder of the Federation of Indian Associations, shared his admiration for Mayor McLeod, emphasizing how he has consistently supported the Indian community and other diverse groups.

Shah stated, "Mayor McLeod is a friend to our community. His tireless efforts have helped make Hoffman Estates a welcoming and prosperous place for all of us."

Mayor McLeod's decades of service have left an undeniable mark on the village, and the event speakers made it clear that his work has touched the lives of many.

Mr. Amarbir Singh Ghoman and Mr. Harsharan Singh Ghoman, owners of Ghoman Group, a large, diversified business group were key to the fundraiser; Amarbir Singh praised the mayor's business-friendly policies, saying, "Under Mayor McLeod's leadership, Hoffman

Estates has become a place where businesses like mine can grow and succeed. His focus on economic development has been critical for our continued success."

One of the key elements of Mayor McLeod's platform has always been his commitment to fostering a pro-business environment in Hoffman Estates. His leadership has resulted in a village that is not only attractive to new businesses but also successful in retaining existing ones. His policies have helped stimulate economic growth, creating jobs and increasing the quality of life for residents.

Throughout the evening, several community leaders also took the stage to express their appreciation for Mayor McLeod's leadership and their confidence in his continued ability to guide Hoffman Estates. Many speakers shared personal stories of how Mayor McLeod has

positively impacted their lives and businesses, reinforcing the strong connection between the mayor and the people he serves.

The host committee for the event featured an impressive roster of local business leaders and community advocates, including Neil Khot, Sunil Shah, Harsharan Singh Ghoman, Khaja Moinuddin, Syed Hussaini, Amarbir Singh Ghoman, Dr. Vijay Prabhakar, Ajeet Singh, Vishal Thakkar, Nirup Krishnamurthy, Dr. Sreenivas Reddy, Mrs. Santosh Kumar, and Syed Nizami.

Each host committee member played a key role in ensuring the event's success, which raised more than \$25,000 to support Mayor McLeod's re-election campaign.

The evening started with musical notes from Raju Bankapur on flute and event ended with singing and songs from Hardik Tailor. A dinner with assortment of Indian cuisine was served.

As the evening came to a close, there was a palpable sense of optimism among attendees. Many expressed their hope for continued progress in Hoffman Estates under Mayor McLeod's leadership.

With the funds raised and the overwhelming support displayed at the event, Mayor McLeod's re-election campaign is off to a strong start. As Hoffman Estates looks ahead to the April 2025 election, the community remains confident that McLeod's steady leadership will continue to guide the village toward a bright and prosperous future.

(Photograph and Press release by Asian Media USA)

# Immigration remains key issue in US election campaign

OCT 28, 2024

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** With just nine days left for the US elections, immigration remained one of the contentious issues in the US presidential campaign, with many immigrants, including from India and other South Asian nations, fearing a backlash if Republican hopeful Donald Trump wins the poll.

In his campaign speeches, Trump promised a radical shift to tighten Washington's immigration policy and vowed to carry out the "largest" domestic deportation operation in American history of undocumented immigrants and review the existing refugee programs if he is re-elected.

The Republican leader has even resolved to end birthright citizenship for the children of immigrants living in the US illegally, triggering concerns among various diaspora communities, including from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

Various pro-immigration advocacy groups have criticized Trump over his rhetoric on immigration, saying the



Kamala Harris greets a child during a campaign event in Michigan.

discontinuation of birthright citizenship is legally questionable as it is enshrined in the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution.

On her part, Vice-President Kamala Harris has underlined the need for curtailing illegal immigration and that the US immigration system is broken

and requires legislative measures to fix it.

At a recent campaign rally, Trump accused Harris of bringing in "migrant gangs and illegal alien criminals" into the US, adding that "her policy of importing migrant gangs is a crime against our country." "This is a very sensitive issue and we are worried about the possible fallout of Trump's victory," said Mohammad Iqbal, a Bangladesh-origin green card holder living in Atlanta for over a decade.

"Trump's policy is creating panic among various migrant societies and that is why they are supporting Vice President Kamala Harris," he noted.

Vasudev Patel, general secretary of the Federation of Indian-Americans in Georgia, said the Republican leader is looking at welcoming "educated" and "peaceful" people to the US.

Kamala Harris and Tim Walz will crisscross the country to visit all seven battleground states in the coming days as part of a final blitz before the end of the presidential campaign.

# US elections: Pennsylvania emerges as must-win for both Harris, Trump

OCTOBER 21, 2024

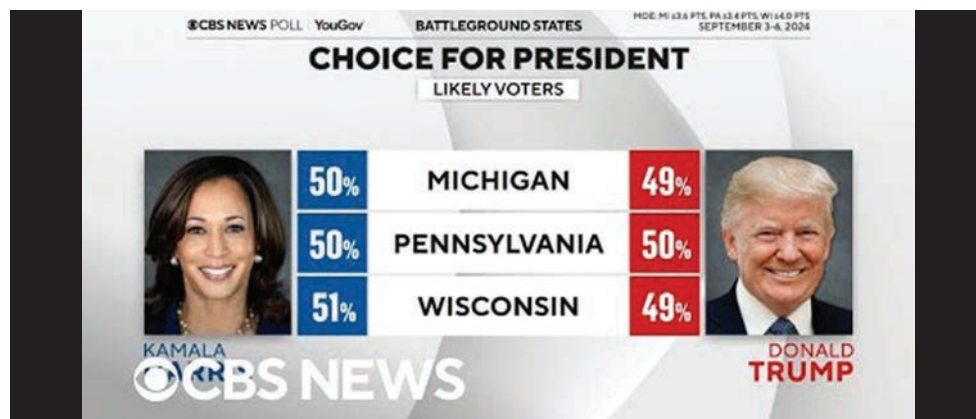
**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** Pennsylvania, the state that played a vital role in the US War of Independence, has emerged as the ground zero for the 2024 presidential elections. Political experts feel that Democratic nominee Kamala Harris and her Republican rival Donald Trump are headed for a cliffhanger in the state.

One needs 270 electoral college votes to win the presidential race and each of the 50 states in the US has a different number of electoral college votes. Pennsylvania has 19 while California, a Democratic bastion, has 54 electoral college votes, followed by Texas - a Republican stronghold - 40.

Given the political support in each state, experts have already figured out the number of electoral college votes going to a candidate based on past voting patterns, except for the seven battleground states.

These seven states are Nevada, which has six electoral college votes, Arizona (11), Wisconsin (10), Michigan (15), Pennsylvania (19), Georgia (16) and North Carolina (16).

With the fast-changing political dynamics, both the nominees now consider Pennsylvania a must-win. Thousands of volunteers from both Harris and Trump campaigns have arrived in this battleground state to convince the electorate to vote for their leaders.



Pennsylvania has emerged as the ground zero for the 2024 presidential elections

File photo

"We do not project either candidate reaches 270 electoral votes without winning Pennsylvania, which is currently a dead tie," The Hill's Decision Desk HQ reported in a recent forecast and analysis of polling averages.

The respected website 270towin.com gave 226 electoral college votes to Harris and 219 to Trump.

According to NBC News Election Desk, "Pennsylvania is emerging as the most critical battleground state in the 2024 election. Donald Trump won the state by less than one percentage point in 2016 and lost it by about one percentage point in 2020. Kamala Harris has remained competitive there and the state is classified as a 'toss-up'."

This is why both Harris and Trump are "pouring more money, time and energy into Pennsylvania than

anywhere else, waging an ad war as they crisscross the state," according to The New York Times.

"There may be seven main battlegrounds in the race for the White House in 2024, all of which could prove crucial. But Pennsylvania stands apart as the state that top strategists for both Harris and Trump have circled as the likeliest to tip the election," reported The New York Times.

According to the Daily, it is daunting for either Trump or, especially, Harris to reach the 270 electoral college votes needed to win without it.

Democratic National Finance Committee, during its recent Fall Retreat Programme in Philadelphia, arrived at the same conclusion that there is no pathway for a victory to Harris without winning Pennsylvania, informed

sources told PTI. The Trump Campaign also believes the same.

The Democrats are banking on winning the Blue Wall, which includes Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, while the Trump Campaign is giving a very tough fight to Harris in all three states. Trump won all three in 2016.

"Both the Harris and Trump campaigns see the state's 19 electoral votes as key to reaching the 270 needed to win the presidential election, while contests there could also determine control of Capitol Hill," PBS News reported.

On Sunday, the Trump campaign announced that it will launch a Bus Tour in Pennsylvania from October 21. Prominent among them include Indian American Kash Patel.

According to NBC News, both campaigns have blanketed the state in recent months, with their presidential and vice-presidential nominees making about 50 appearances over the past three months, easily the greatest total of any swing state.

"The campaign's dollars are flowing into Pennsylvania too. One of every four dollars spent on ads in the presidential race from Sept. 1 to 20 were spent in the state, according to AdImpact," the news channel reported.

On Sunday, Trump donned a McDonald's uniform and manned the fry station at a Pennsylvania franchise. (Source: PTI)

## US repatriated 1,100 Indians in 12 months

About 1,100 Indians who were staying illegally in the US were deported over the past one year, a senior official in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said on October 29.

Royce Bernstein Murray, Assistant Secretary for Border and Immigration Policy at the DHS, warned that all those illegally crossing Mexico or Canadian borders to enter the US would have to face similar consequences.

"In the American fiscal year 2024 that ended on September 30, the US repatriated 1,100 Indians," said Murray during an online media briefing. The last flight, she said, carried 100 illegal immigrants to India on October 22.

The senior official said the October 22 charter flight was "de-planed in Punjab". However, she did not mention where exactly the flight had originated from or the place of origins of the deportees.

"Large chartered flights, like the one on October 22, typically carry a 100 people... All those deported were adult men and women, and didn't include any children... They did not have an established legal basis to remain in the US," she said. Murray said individuals overstaying their visa could also be deported. "A person with a lawful entry but committing a serious crime can also face deportation," she said.

Source: TNS

## Amit Shah behind plot to target Sikh separatists, alleges Canada

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The Canadian government alleged on Tuesday, October 29, that Union Home Minister Amit Shah was behind the plots to target Sikh separatists on Canadian soil. The Central government has dismissed Canada's prior accusations as baseless, denying any involvement.

"The Washington Post" newspaper first reported that Canadian officials alleged Shah was behind a campaign of violence and intimidation targeting Sikh separatists in Canada.

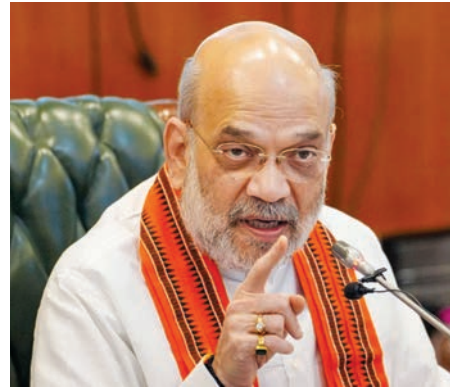
Canadian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison said to a parliamentary panel on Tuesday that he told the US-based newspaper that Shah was behind the plots.

"The journalist called me and asked if it (Shah) was that person. I confirmed it was that person," Morrison told the committee, without providing further details or evidence. The High Commission of India in Ottawa and the Indian Foreign Ministry had no immediate comment.

India has called Sikh separatists "terrorists" and threats to its security.

Canada in mid-October expelled Indian diplomats, linking them to the 2023 murder of Sikh separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil. India also ordered the expulsion of Canadian diplomats.

Washington has also charged a former



Amit Shah

Indian intelligence officer, Vikash Yadav, for allegedly directing a foiled plot to murder Sikh separatist leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a dual US-Canadian citizen, in New York City. The FBI warned against such a retaliation aimed at a US resident. India announced in November 2023 it would formally investigate the US allegations.

The accusations have tested Washington and Ottawa's relations with India, often viewed by the West as a counterbalance to China.

### Canada admits leaking details of Nijjar case to The Washington Post

Top Canadian officials have reportedly admitted to leaking details about India's foreign interference to The Washington Post, but these specifics were not shared with Canadians, The

Globe and Mail reported. This news comes amid ongoing tensions between Canada and India, particularly after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused the Indian government of involvement in the killing of a Canadian Sikh activist. According to the report, PM Justin Trudeau's national security and intelligence adviser has confirmed she leaked sensitive information about the Indian government's alleged role in murder, extortion and coercion to The Washington Post that was not shared with the Canadian public.

Nathalie Drouin told the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security on Tuesday that she did not require Trudeau's authorisation for the leak and insisted no classified intelligence was provided to the US publication the day before Ottawa expelled six Indian diplomats on October 13. On October 14, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Commissioner Mike Duheme stated that India was involved in the killing of three people, but he only identified the slaying of Nijjar.

During his news conference, Commissioner Duheme said, "Eight people have been charged with murder and 22 with extortion. Four Indian nationals have been charged in the killing of Nijjar outside a Sikh temple."

Source: Reuters and ANI

## India, Spain sign agreements in rail transport, customs matters

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India and Spain on Monday, October 28, finalised agreements for cooperation in rail transport and customs matters as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez charted a course for bolstering collaboration in political, economic, defence and security ties.

Modi and Sanchez, the first Spanish premier to travel to India in nearly two decades, held talks at the Lakshmi Vilas Palace in Vadodara after inaugurating a new production facility for C295 military transport aircraft. The two leaders also discussed regional and global issues such as the conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia, officials said.

"The partnership between India and Spain is like a prism that is multidimensional, vibrant and ever evolving," PM Modi said at the inauguration of the plant, speaking in Hindi. "I would invite Spanish industry and innovators to come to India and become our partners in our development journey."

Sanchez noted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised the growth forecast for the Spanish economy to 2.9%, which is four times the forecast for the Eurozone. "If Indian companies want to grow, they can trust Spain," he said.

The two sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on rail transport, which officials said, will boost cooperation in design, development and operation of infrastructure, rail facilities and equipment, as well as urban and regional railway systems.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, right, shakes hand with his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez in front of Lakshmi Vilas Palace before their meeting in Vadodara. (AP/Gujarat State Press Information Bureau)

They also signed an agreement on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters and agreed to set up a fast-track mechanism to facilitate mutual investments. They announced that 2026 will be observed as the "India-Spain Year of Culture, Tourism and AI".

Tanmaya Lal, secretary (West) in the external affairs ministry, told a media briefing in Vadodara that India perceives Spain as an important partner in the European Union. Spain is the fifth largest economy in the EU and two-way trade is worth almost \$10 billion. Spain's investments in India are worth \$4 billion, while Indian investments in the European country have touched \$1 billion.

Source: HT

## Salman Khan gets death threat again with demand for Rs 2 crore

Bollywood actor Salman Khan has allegedly received a death threat again along with a demand of Rs 2 crore following which the Mumbai police have registered an FIR against an unidentified person.

The Mumbai traffic police on Tuesday received an anonymous message, threatening the actor would be killed if he did not pay Rs 2 crore, the official said.

The police registered a case against the unidentified person and an investigation was on into the matter, he added.

Earlier this month, the Mumbai traffic police's WhatsApp helpline desk received a threat message demanding Rs 5 crore from the actor.

The police have arrested a man from Jamshedpur in this connection.

The Mumbai police on Monday arrested a man from Noida in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly issuing a death threat to Salman Khan and NCP leader Zeeshan Siddique.

Notably, Khan had earlier received death threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Suspected members of the gang had opened fire outside the actor's Bandra home in April this year. Source: PTI





## LAC DISENGAGEMENT

# India, China withdraw troops, dismantle temporary structures In Ladakh

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The disengagement process between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh reached completion on Tuesday, October 29, with both armies now verifying positions and dismantling each other's temporary infrastructure, news agency IANS reported citing defence sources. This process marks a significant step forward in the tense standoff that has gripped the region since Chinese incursions over four and a half years ago.

Defence sources report that dismantling temporary structures in key areas like the Depsang plains and Demchok is nearly complete, with verification efforts already underway on both sides. "The verification process is being done physically as well as through unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)," a source explained, underscoring the importance of accurate monitoring in ensuring stability.

Following the troop withdrawal, soldiers from both sides have been relocated to rear positions as part of the disengagement strategy. Patrolling access, which had been blocked since April 2020, will soon resume at previously inaccessible points. The patrolling will be conducted by small teams of around 10 to



15 soldiers, enhancing communication and safety. Notably, Indian forces will regain access beyond the previously contested 'bottleneck' area in the Depsang plains, while in Demchok, patrols will be able to reach Track Junction and Charding Nullah.

Last week, both nations acknowledged reaching an agreement on patrolling in Depsang and Demchok. Beijing confirmed that "the Chinese and Indian frontier

troops are engaged in relevant work, which is going smoothly at the moment," mirroring India's prior announcement. Sources within the Indian Army note that coordinated patrolling is expected to begin in the coming days, with both sides exchanging prior information to avoid potential face-offs.

Despite this progress, defence sources said to IANS that the large deployment of Indian troops sent to Ladakh during the

2020 standoff will remain in place. "There are no plans to move back by any troops from Ladakh in the near future till an atmosphere of mutual trust and verification is established," they said, highlighting the ongoing need for vigilance.

Similar disengagement protocols are also being discussed in Arunachal Pradesh, where a standoff in the Yangtse, Asaphila, and Subansiri Valleys has also drawn attention.

## Patrolling along LAC expected from October 31: Sources

"By Tuesday, Oct 29, evening, tents and temporary structures were removed from both locations. Vehicle and troop withdrawal has also been completed where required. Disengagement and verification were happening simultaneously," sources said.

Patrolling along the LAC from both countries is expected to begin on Thursday, October 31.

The sources indicated that the troops of the two countries will not conduct joint patrolling, implying that Indian and Chinese soldiers will not patrol together at the same time.

## ECI dismisses Cong allegations of irregularities in Haryana assembly polls

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has dismissed as "baseless" the Indian National Congress' allegations challenging the outcome of the Haryana assembly elections, which saw the BJP secure a historic third consecutive win.

In a strong response to Congress' allegations about alleged wrongdoing in certain electoral processes, the ECI on Tuesday, Oct 29, said the Congress has once again cast a "smoke of a generic doubt" over the electoral process in a manner similar to its past actions.

The ECI's rebuttal came in response to a series of grievances submitted by the Congress, which raised suspicions regarding the handling of electronic voting machines (EVMs) across 26 of the total 90 assembly constituencies. Among the Congress' allegations were concerns about tampering, citing EVMs showing a 99% battery status during the counting process, which the Congress argued could indicate possible manipulation. The party had also accused the ECI of deliberately slowing down the counting process and questioned the transparency and security of EVM handling.

"The commission categorically rejects all baseless allegations and apprehensions conveyed by Indian National Congress regarding all aspects of the electoral process in the recently concluded election to the state assembly of Haryana," the ECI said in an eight-page letter addressed to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

## Congress hits out at SEBI chief with fresh allegations

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Congress on Tuesday, October 29, renewed its attack on Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi) chief Madhabi Puri Buch, alleging that she rented out one of her properties to a company owned by someone associated with the top management of financial conglomerate Indiabulls.

The Congress on Tuesday renewed its attack on Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi) chief Madhabi Puri Buch, alleging that she rented out one of her properties to a company owned by someone associated with the top management of financial conglomerate Indiabulls. The party also accused Buch of holding shares in unlisted companies named in the so-called Paradise Papers.

"Ms Madhabi Buch owns another flat in Mumbai. In 2021-22, she earned rental income from a property rented out to a company called Green World Buildcon and Infra Private Limited, owned by Mukul and Vipul Bansal. Mukul



Madhabi Puri Buch

Bansal has a significant background with Indiabulls Group," Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara said at a press conference in Delhi.

The Sebi chief is under fire over US short-seller Hindenburg Research's report that alleged that she and her husband Dhaval Buch owned stakes in offshore entities linked to businessman Vinod Adani.

The couple, however, had dismissed the allegations saying, "Our life and finances are an open book. All disclosures as required have already been furnished to Sebi over the years. We have no hesitation in disclosing any and all

financial documents, including those that relate to the period when we were strictly private citizens, to any and every authority that may seek them. Further, in the interest of complete transparency, we would be issuing a detailed statement in due course."

The Congress leader also added that Buch was among the initial shareholders of Predible Health, which received funds from the central government, and continued to hold equity in the company while being a SEBI member. Among other investors was Jacesa Investments Limited, named in the Paradise Papers, with an address in St. Vincent in The Caribbean, infamous for being a tax haven, he added.

"This was discovered in 2017. Despite that, Buch held the company's equity (Predible Health) till 2021... She sold her stake to a US company making a return of almost 226 times," Khara said.

There was no immediate response from Sebi on the allegations.

# India in history this Week

## NOVEMBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 7

### 01 NOVEMBER

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



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

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

1956 The state of Madhya Pradesh was formed on the basis of language.

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

1960 Kalyani University was established in West Bengal India.

1966 The state of Haryana was carved out of Punjab.

1973 The name of Mysore was changed to Karnataka.

2000 The state of Chhattisgarh was formed.

### 02 NOVEMBER

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

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



1534 The fourth Sikh Guru Ramdas was born.

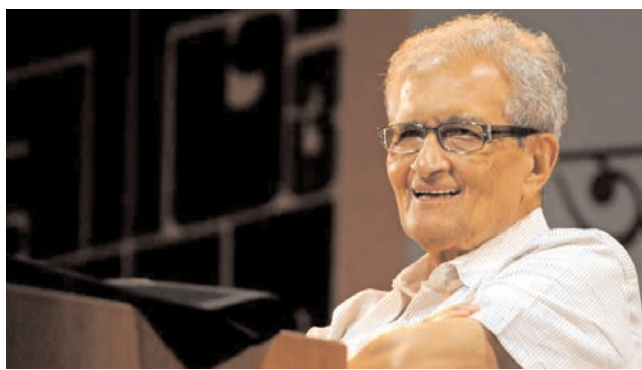
2012 Indian-American mathematician Shriram Shankar Abhyankar died.



### 03 NOVEMBER

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

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



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

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

### 04 NOVEMBER



1936 Birth of eminent mathematician Shakuntala Devi.

1970 Famous Kathak dancer Pandit Shambhu Maharaj passed away.

1822 Formal launch of water supply scheme in Delhi.



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

1954 The Institute of Himalayan Mountaineering was established in Darjeeling.

1984 OB Aggarwal became world champion of amateur snooker.

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

1845 The famous revolutionary of India, Vasudev

Balwant Phadke was born.

### 05 NOVEMBER

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

1920 Indian Red Cross Society was established.

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

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



1870 The great freedom fighter Chittaranjan Das was born.

### 06 NOVEMBER

1763 The British army defeated Meerkasim and captured Patna.

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

1998 India's proposal for ceasefire in Siachen rejected

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

1962 National Defense Council was established.

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



### 07 NOVEMBER

1858 Bipin Chandra Pal, the great revolutionary who fought against the British, was born.

1862 Bahadur Shah II, the last ruler of the Mughal Sultanate, died in Rangoon.

1876 Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay composed the song Vande Mataram in a village called Kantal Pada in Bengal.

1888 Renowned scientist Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman was born.

2006 India and ASEAN agreed to create a fund for the development of science and technology.

2008 The famous poet Rahman Rahi of Kashmir was conferred with the Jnanpith Award.

1711 The ship of the Dutch East India Company sank all of the 300 crew.



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# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS IGNITES SEAPORT MUSEUM AND ELSEWHERE

BY MABEL PAIS



Diyas

Photo: theculturetree.com

The South Street Seaport Museum presents Diwali Celebration on Friday, November 1, 2024 from 11am-6pm. Join the Seaport Museum and The Culture Tree for a full day of free Seaport Museum admission and festive activities to mark Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. Diwali, named for the row (avali) of clay lamps (deepa) that light up homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness, also marks the start of the Hindu New Year. Free general admission can be booked at [southstreetseaportmuseum.org/diwali](https://southstreetseaportmuseum.org/diwali).

From 11am to 6pm, step aboard the Seaport Museum's 1885 tall ship 'Wavertree' for hands-on Diwali fun! Create your own baggywrinkle decoration inspired by marigold garlands, a symbol of good fortune and faith, but with a maritime twist. Plus, decorate your own "diya lamp"-or in this case, a candle-and float it in a special pool on deck, symbolizing prosperity for the new year. The Museum is staying open one hour later so that you can enjoy the glow of your diya lamp after sunset.

From 4pm to 6pm, enjoy Diwali Puppet Storytime on 'Wavertree' and explore the significance and origins of Diwali and how it's celebrated worldwide. Read stories like 'A Kids Book About Diwali,' perfect for children and families. Following Storytime, dive into an interactive dance workshop where you'll learn mudras (hand gestures) from classical Indian dance and groove to popular Diwali songs in a lively performance!

## EXHIBITIONS

In addition to these exciting, all-ages activities, enjoy free access to the Seaport Museum's current exhibitions at 12 Fulton Street and explore the 1885 tall ship 'Wavertree.' Timed tickets for a free tour of the 1908 lightship 'Ambrose' are also available.

## THE CULTURE TREE

The Culture Tree promotes cultural literacy about South Asia through language and educational & cultural programs. Their goal is to create empathy, respect and understanding towards all different cultures and further inclusivity, while still helping address questions about Identity with heritage cultures.

The Culture Tree partners with museums, galleries, schools and libraries to implement their classes and programming. Their programs include celebration of key festivals and events, puppet shows, bi-lingual storytime, mindful eating, mindfulness and language classes in key South Asian languages.

They are also cultural & diversity consultants and advocate for cultural literacy and diversity & equity in children's programming and education. Learn more at [theculturetree.com](https://theculturetree.com).

## THE 1885 TALL SHIP 'WAVERTREE'

'Wavertree' was built at Southampton, England, in 1885 and, after a 24-year sailing career and circumnavigating the globe at least three times, is now the last remaining iron-hulled three-masted full-rigged cargo ship. Today, 'Wavertree' serves as the iconic centerpiece of the bustling waterfront that shaped New York City into a modern metropolis. Learn more at [southstreetseaportmuseum.org/about-wavertree](https://southstreetseaportmuseum.org/about-wavertree)

## THE SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM

The South Street Seaport Museum, located in the heart of the historic seaport district in New York City, preserves and interprets the history of New York as a great port city. Founded in 1967, the Museum houses an extensive collection of works of art and artifacts, a maritime reference library, exhibition galleries and education spaces, working 19th century print shops, and an active fleet of historic vessels that all work to tell the story of 'Where New York Begins.' Learn more at [southstreetseaportmuseum.org/about-wavertree](https://southstreetseaportmuseum.org/about-wavertree)

## CONNECT WITH THE MUSEUM

#SouthStreetSeaportMuseum  
#WhereNewYorkBegins  
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@seaportmuseum - X  
@seaportmuseum - TikTok



Rangoli

Photo: theculturetree.com

## CULTURE TREE EVENTS

Culture creates multi-sensorial Diwali events that are educational and experiential. Event options include:

- Puppet Show
- Dance Performance and Workshop
- Mithai making/tasting
- Book-reading with Dance Performance
- Henna Tattoo
- Art workshop (a variety of options)



Books on Diwali

Photo: theculturetree.com

**LEARN MORE AT [THECULTURETREE.COM/EVENTS](https://theculturetree.com/events).**  
**OTHER EVENTS HAPPENING IN AND OUTSIDE NYC**

**OCTOBER 26, 1-4PM, ASIA SOCIETY - DIWALI CELEBRATION**

**OCTOBER 26: ALL DAY BRONX CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - DIWALI**

**OCTOBER 26 AND 27, BOSTON, MA, PUPPET SHOW THEATER - RAMLEELA AND AMRITA'S TREE PUPPET SHOW**

**NOV 1, 11.30-12.30 NYPL, 53RD ST - PUPPET SHOW, BOOK READING, ART**

**NOV 1, ALL DAY, CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF MANHATTAN (CMOM) - DIWALI CELEBRATION**

**NOV 1, AFTERNOON, SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM - CREATE AND FLOAT YOUR DIYA, DANCE PERFORMANCE AND PUPPET STORYTIME**

**NOV 2, 10 AM, GANESH TEMPLE - DIWALI PUJA, MITHAI TASTING AND STORYTIME (ALMOST FULL)**

**NOV 3, INDIA CULTURAL CENTER, GREENWICH, CT - PUPPET SHOW AND ART ACTIVITY**

**NOV 5, 1.30PM NYPL, RIVERSIDE - PUPPET STORYTIME AND ART**

**NOV 7, BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - DANCES OF INDIA, STORYTIME, ART AND MITHAI MAKING**

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

# NJ SYMPHONY CELEBRATES NEW SEASON OPENING WEEKEND

BY MABEL PAIS

Following the brilliant performance by Renee Fleming and the New Jersey Symphony at the Season Opening Gala on October 6, the New Jersey Symphony opens the weekend season with Music Director Xian Zhang conducting Scheherazade, November 1-3.

## PROGRAM

**Fri, Nov 1 @ 8:00 pm**

Richardson Auditorium in Princeton

**Sat, Nov 2 @ 8:00 pm**

Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank

**Sun, Nov 3 @ 3:00 pm**

New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark

## XIAN CONDUCTS SCHEHERAZADE

Opening Weekend | New Jersey Symphony Classical

Xian Zhang conductor

Inon Barnatan piano

New Jersey Symphony

## GABRIELA ORTIZ KAUYUMARI

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Piano Concerto No. 17

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade

Xian Zhang conductor

Inon Barnatan piano

New Jersey Symphony

## GABRIELA ORTIZ KAUYUMARI



Xian Zhang with NJ Symphony

Credit: njsymphony.org

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Piano Concerto No. 17 in G major for Piano and - Allegro, Andante, Allegretto

Intermission

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade, Op. 35

Largo e maestoso - Allegro non troppo

Lento - Allegro molto

Andantino quasi allegretto

Allegro molto

## GABRIELA ORTIZ: KAUYUMARI

Mexico's most celebrated composer today created her Kauyumari based on an ancient rite of her homeland, which starts with a whisper and becomes a whirling,

joyous dance.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Piano Concerto No. 17 Mozart at his sunniest, and pianist Inon Barnatan turns this elegant piece into poetry with his "penetrating musicianship" (BBC Music).

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade Rimsky-Korsakov's heroine Scheherazade-here in the voice of the solo violin-tells tale after tale of adventure, beginning aboard the pirate Sinbad's storm-tossed ship.

Estimated concert duration: 1 hour and 45 minutes

## TICKETS

For individual tickets, visit [my.njsymphony.org](http://my.njsymphony.org)

**BUY THIS CONCERT AS PART OF A PACKAGE & SAVE**

Newark Series 2 - Thursdays and Sundays · Sun, Nov 3 at 3:00 PM

Newark Series 6 - Sundays · Sun, Nov 3 at 3:00 PM

Red Bank Series - Saturdays · Sat, Nov 2 at 8:00 PM

Princeton Series - Fridays · Fri, Nov 1 at 8:00 PM

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT  
NJSYMPHONY.ORG/SUBSCRIBE**

## ARTISTS

**Xian Zhang**

Learn more at [xianzhangconductor.com](http://xianzhangconductor.com)

**Inon Barnatan**

Learn more at [inonbarnatan.com](http://inonbarnatan.com)

**Gabriela Ortiz**

Learn more at [gabrielaortiz.com](http://gabrielaortiz.com).

# PAQUITO D'RIVERA PERFORMS WITH NJ SYMPHONY IN COLLABORATION WITH JAZZ FEST

BY MABEL PAIS



Paquito D'Rivera

Credit: njsymphony.org

Paquito D'Rivera is set to perform with the New Jersey Symphony in collaboration with the TD James Moody Jazz Festival. Carlos Miguel Prieto will conduct the performances. The performances will take place on Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 1:30 pm and Friday, November 8, 2024, at 8 pm, at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark; and Sunday, November 10, 2024, at 3 pm, at Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown.

The performance begins with Daniel Freiberg's Latin American Chronicles which includes three movements that draw on South American folk rhythms, including musical traditions of the Andes, Argentinian rural folk dance and modern jazz. In Adagio on a Mozart Theme, D'Rivera puts his own signature jazzy swing on the

enchanting theme from the middle movement of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto. The first half closes with Medley for Jazz Quintet and Orchestra, D'Rivera's four-movement suite that surveys several of Gershwin's masterpieces, with an emphasis on the opera, Porgy and Bess.

The second half of the program features Mexican favorites, starting with Carlos Chávez's Symphony No. 2, 'Sinfonía India' which is the composer's best-known composition and is based on the power of his country's folk melodies. Aaron Copland's El Salón México takes inspiration from a night in Mexico City where Copland was brought to a dance hall by none other than Chávez. For Danzón No. 2, Arturo Márquez draws inspiration from his friends who are professional ballroom dancers. José Pablo Moncayo's Huapango composition gets its title from a traditional dance of northern Veracruz and neighboring Mexican states, popular with mariachi bands.

## PROGRAM

Newark: Thursday, November 7 @ 1:30 pm

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Visit the instrument discovery zone an hour before the November 7 performance at NJPAC. Concertgoers will be able to explore the makings of orchestral music and try out instruments.

The show on Thursday, November 7, at 1:30 pm at NJPAC will follow a Relaxed

Performance format, which is designed to accommodate the differing needs of our patrons. The Symphony encourages you to bring your own sensory manipulatives, noise reduction headphones and other tools that will allow you to react and enjoy the music in a way that is most natural for you!

**For more information about the Symphony's Relaxed Performances and the resources you can expect to be available, visit,**  
[njsymphony.org/relaxedperformance](http://njsymphony.org/relaxedperformance).

**Newark: Friday, November 8 @ 8 pm**  
New Jersey Performing Arts Center

A Classical Conversation will take place prior to the performances on Friday, November 8, at 7 pm at NJPAC. Concertgoers will be able to learn more about the music performed from Symphony musicians, guest artists and other engaging insiders.

**Morristown: Sunday, November 10 @ 3 pm**

Mayo Performing Arts Center

Paquito D'Rivera with New Jersey Symphony

Part of the TD James Moody Jazz Festival

Carlos Miguel Prieto conductor

Paquito D'Rivera guest artist & co-curator

Paquito D'Rivera Quintet

Amber Monroe soprano

New Jersey Symphony

**Daniel Freiberg Latin American**

## Chronicles

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart/Paquito D'Rivera Adagio on a Mozart Theme

George Gershwin/Paquito D'Rivera

Medley for Jazz Quintet and Orchestra

Carlos Chávez Symphony No. 2,

'Sinfonía India'

Aaron Copland El Salón México

Arturo Márquez Danzón No. 2

José Pablo Moncayo Huapango

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

## ARTISTS

**Carlos Miguel Prieto**

Learn more at [carlosmiguelprieto.com](http://carlosmiguelprieto.com).

**Paquito D'Rivera**

Learn more at [paquitodrivera.com](http://paquitodrivera.com).

**Amber Monroe**

Learn more at [ambermonroe.com](http://ambermonroe.com).

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

# CURRENT DOCUMENTARY FILMS

BY MABEL PAIS

## STRIPPED FOR PARTS: AMERICAN JOURNALISM ON THE BRINK

Director: Rick Goldsmith; USA; 2023; 100m



Stripped for Parts: Journalism on the Brink - protest

Photo / Courtesy dmagpr.com

'Stripped for Parts: American Journalism on the Brink' is the story of one secretive hedge fund that is plundering America's newspapers and the journalists who are fighting back. Investigative reporter Julie Reynolds, Denver Post editorialist Chuck Plunkett and a handful of others, backed by the NewsGuild union, go toe-to-toe with the faceless Alden Global Capital in a battle to save and rebuild local journalism across America.

Who will control the future of America's news ecosystem: Wall Street billionaires concerned only with profit, or those who see journalism as an essential public service and the lifeblood of our democracy?

**OPENING DATE: CHECK LISTINGS AT STRIPPEDFORPARTSFILM.COM/SCREENINGS**

## BLACK BOX DIARIES

Based on the International Bestseller

Director: Shiori Ito; 2024; Japan/USA/UK; Japanese w/English subs; 103m



Director Shiori Ito

Photo / Courtesy norget.com

'BLACK BOX DIARIES' follows director and journalist Shiori Ito's courageous investigation of her own sexual assault in an improbable attempt to prosecute her high-profile offender. Unfolding like a thriller and combining secret investigative recordings, vérité shooting and emotional first-person video, Shiori's quest becomes a landmark case in Japan, exposing the country's desperately outdated judicial and societal systems.

From the director, Shiori Ito, "I pushed myself to the limit in shooting this documentary. Upon revisiting the hotel where I was raped, I felt the damage I was doing to myself might be too much. But at the same time, my desire to change society and tell this story kept me alive. Now, four years after winning the civil case, I can with more objectivity watch the scenes of my breaking down, passing moments of joy and normalcy, and absurd comedy in my novice investigator techniques - and to conceive how they can come together to form our film."

"A black box is defined as a system whose internal workings are hidden or not readily understood. Japan is a land of black boxes, and I learned what happens in this society when you start opening them. Our film is not about seeking criminal justice against my perpetrator or about politics of the left and right. Rather, it is the story of

one woman's experience - my black box, laid open for all to see."

**OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 25 AT FILM FORUM, NEW YORK.**

## ZURAWSKI V TEXAS

Directors: Maisie Crow (Jackson) and Abbie Perrault; USA; 98m

In an election year where the battle over reproductive healthcare rights is at the heart of America's political discourse, Zurawski v Texas reveals a historic courtroom challenge led by women demanding change. At the forefront is Amanda Zurawski, who suffered septic shock when doctors, constrained by restrictive abortion laws, refused to provide her with necessary medical care, leaving her ability to have children compromised. Amanda's story is not unique. Samantha Casiano, a mother of four, faced the devastating loss of her daughter, who was diagnosed with a fatal condition in utero. Forced to carry her baby to term, Samantha endured the heartbreak of her child's near-immediate death. Lawyer Molly Duane leads the legal fight against a Texas law so oppressive that it has made doctors fearful of acting, even when their patients' lives are at risk. Among these doctors is Austin Dennard, a plaintiff in the case who had to travel out of state to obtain her own abortion after learning that her pregnancy had a fatal diagnosis and a miscarriage was inevitable.

These deeply personal stories form the emotional core of Zurawski v Texas, a documentary that uncovers the traumatic consequences of restrictive healthcare legislation.

**OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 25. CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS.**

## MY NAME IS ALFRED HITCHCOCK

Director: Mark Cousins; 2022; Doc; Eng; 120m

A century after the debut of Alfred Hitchcock's first feature, he remains one of the most influential filmmakers in the history of cinema. But how does his vast body of work and legacy hold up in today's world?

Mark Cousins, the award-winning filmmaker, tackles this question and looks at the auteur with a new and radical approach: through the use of his own voice. As Hitchcock rewatches his films, we are taken on an odyssey through his vast career - his vivid silent films, the legendary films of the 1950s and 60s and his later works - in playful and revealing ways.

**OPENING DATE: OPEN IN THEATERS IN NEW YORK & LOS ANGELES, OCTOBER 25.**

## NOCTURNES

2024 World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award for Craft - Sundance Film Festival

Directors: Anirban Dutta & Anupama Srinivasan; 2024; India, USA; Hindi, English, Bugun; 83m



Moths

Photo / Courtesy cineticmedia.com

In the dark of night, two curious observers, ecologist Mansi with local observer Bicki, shine a light on a secret universe - the nighttime lives of moths. Together, these scientists are on an expedition to decode these nocturnal creatures in a remote ecological "hot spot" on the border of India and Bhutan. The result transports audiences to a rarely-seen place and captures through rapturous visuals the stunning biodiversity of our natural world. Featuring unforgettable immersive sound design that won a Special Award for Craft at Sundance, 'NOCTURNES' urges us all to look more closely at the hidden interconnections of nature and the whispered consequences of a changing climate.

**OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 25. CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS.**

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

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# Diwali – The Festival of Lights

The Festival of Lights, Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is the Hindu festival that symbolises the spiritual victory of knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and light over darkness. It is celebrated in various unique ways across regions of India.

Commencing with Dhanteras and concluding with Bhai Dooj, the celebrations span five days. Let's take a look at significance, history, and some lesser-known facts about the festival.

## History

According to Hindu belief, Ram, the Prince of Ayodhya, returned home with wife Sita and brother Lakshman after a 14-year exile, having vanquished Ravana, the King of Lanka. To celebrate Ram's return, the residents of Ayodhya lit rows of lamps on the streets and at every home. This is believed to have initiated the tradition of lighting lamps and celebrating the day as the Festival of Lights. Hindus also worship Ganesha and Lakshmi on this day.

## Significance

Diwali symbolises the triumph of knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and light over darkness. The worship of Ganesh and Lakshmi, followed by exchange of presents, is believed to bring peace and prosperity.

Hindus also consider Deepavali a lucky day that brings luck and wealth. It also signifies a fresh start and is considered an auspicious day to launch new businesses. As people light diyas, candles, and colourful lights to decorate their homes, eat delicious sweets, exchange gifts, and observe customs, the festival also strengthens a sense of community among worshippers.

## Date and Time

According to the lunisolar Hindu calendar, this festival is celebrated on the 15th day of Kartik, which is the darkest night of the year. This usually falls between mid-October and mid-



## Important information

- **October 29, 2024 (Tuesday): Dhanteras, 6:31 PM to 8:13 PM**
- **October 30, 2024 (Wednesday): Choti Diwali, 11:39 PM to 12:31 AM**
- **October 31, 2024 (Thursday): Main Diwali celebrations and Laxmi Pujan, 5:12 P.M. to 6:16 PM**
- **November 2, 2024 (Saturday): Govardhan Puja, 6:34 A.M. to 8:46 AM**
- **November 3, 2024 (Sunday): Bhai Dooj, 12:38 PM to 2:55 PM.**

November of the Gregorian calendar.

The Amavasya Tithi for Diwali 2024 will start on October 31 at 3:52 PM and end on November 1 at 6:16 PM. Laxmi Puja is to take place between 5:12 PM and 6:16 PM. The BSE and the National Stock Exchange have announced a special one-hour window from 6 PM to 7

PM on November 1 during which token 'Muhurat trading' will take place on the bourses.

## The Origin of Diwali

Historically, the origin of Diwali can be traced back to ancient India, when it was probably an important harvest

festival. However, there are various legends pointing to the origin of Diwali or 'Deepavali.' Some believe it to be the celebration of the marriage of Lakshmi with Lord Vishnu. Whereas in Bengal the festival is dedicated to the worship of Mother Kali, the dark goddess of strength.

Lord Ganesha, the elephant-headed God, the symbol of auspiciousness and wisdom, is also worshipped in most Hindu homes on this day.

In Jainism, Deepavali has an added significance to the great event of Lord Mahavira attaining the eternal bliss of nirvana.

## The return of Lord Rama

Diwali also commemorates the return of Lord Rama along with Sita and Lakshman from his fourteen year





long exile and vanquishing the demon-king Ravana. In joyous celebration of the return of their king, the people of Ayodhya, the Capital of Rama, illuminated the kingdom with earthen diyas (oil lamps) and burst crackers. These Four Days Each day of Diwali has its own tale, legend and myth to tell. The first day of the festival Naraka Chaturdasi marks the vanquishing of the demon Naraka by Lord Krishna and his wife Satyabhama. Amavasya, the second day of Deepawali, marks the worship of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth in her most benevolent mood, fulfilling the wishes of her devotees.

### The story of Lord Vishnu

Amavasya also tells the story of Lord Vishnu, who in his dwarf incarnation vanquished the tyrant Bali, and banished him to hell. Bali was allowed to return to earth once a year, to light millions of lamps to dispel the darkness and ignorance, and spread the radiance of love and wisdom. It is on the third day of Deepawali - Kartika Shudda Padyami that Bali steps out of hell and rules the earth according to the boon given by Lord Vishnu. The fourth day is referred to as Yama Dvitiya (also called Bhai Dooj) and on this day sisters invite their brothers to their homes.

### Lights & Firecrackers

All the simple rituals of Diwali have a significance and a story to tell. The illumination of homes with lights and the skies with firecrackers is an expression of obeisance to the heavens for the attainment of health, wealth, knowledge, peace and prosperity.

According to one belief, the sound of fire-crackers are an indication of the joy of the people living on earth, making the gods aware of their plentiful state. Still another possible reason has a more scientific basis: the fumes produced by the crackers kill a lot of insects and mosquitoes, found in plenty after the rains.

The tradition of gambling on Diwali also has a legend behind it. It is believed that on this day, Goddess Parvati played dice with her husband Lord Shiva, and she decreed that whosoever gambled on Diwali night would prosper throughout the ensuing



year. Diwali is associated with wealth and prosperity in many ways, and the festival of 'Dhanteras' ('dhan' = wealth; 'teras' = 13th) is celebrated two days before the festival of lights.

In each legend, myth and story of Deepawali lies the significance of the victory of good over evil; and it is with each Deepawali and the lights that illuminate our homes and hearts, that this simple truth finds new reason and hope.

### From darkness unto light

The light that empowers us to commit ourselves to good deeds, that which brings us closer to divinity. During Diwali, lights illuminate every corner of India and the scent of incense sticks hangs in the air, mingled with the sounds of fire-crackers, joy, togetherness and hope. Diwali is celebrated around the globe. Outside India, it is more than a Hindu festival, it's a celebration of South-Asian identities.

If you are away from the sights and sounds of Diwali, light a diya, sit quietly, shut your eyes, withdraw the senses, concentrate on this supreme light and illuminate the soul.



### 5 Days of Diwali 2024

#### Day 1: Dhanteras (October 29, 2024)

The celebrations of Diwali begin on Dhanteras. On this day, people pray for wealth and success and worship Lord Kubera and Goddess Lakshmi. Gold coins, bars, and jewellery are among the new things that devotees buy.

#### Day 2: Naraka Chaturdashi or Choti Diwali (October 31, 2024)

Choti Diwali, or Naraka Chaturdashi is observed on the second day. It honours Lord Krishna's triumph against the evil Narakasura.

#### Day 3: Diwali (October 31, 2024)

Lord Rama, Mata Sita, and Lakshman return to Ayodhya on Diwali. It also honours the triumph of good over evil. People use lights, colourful rangoli, and clay lamps (diyas) to adorn their homes on this day. In the evening, devotees also conduct Lakshmi and Ganesh Puja.

#### Day 4: Govardhan Puja (November 2, 2024)

Following Diwali, Indians celebrate



Govardhan Puja. It is devoted to the worship of the mountain, Govardhan Parvat.

It is stated that Lord Krishna saved the people of Mathura from Lord Indra by raising the mountain.

#### Day 5: Bhai Dooj (November 3, 2024)

Bhai Dooj, Bhai Beej, or Bhaiya Dooj are the names given to the final day of Diwali celebrations. It honours the unique bond between sisters and brothers. On this day sisters pray for their brothers' long life and prosperity.



# Dhanteras: Beginning of the festival of Diwali

**THE DAY IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN AUSPICIOUS DAY FOR BUYING GOLD AND SILVER JEWELLERY, UTENSILS, AND EVEN ELECTRONICS IN A BID TO WELCOME GODDESS LAKSHMI AND LORD KUBERA.**

**D**hanteras, which marks the beginning of Diwali, will be observed on October 29, Tuesday, this year. On this day, people worship Lord Dhanvantari, the God of Ayurveda, and Goddess Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth and prosperity. 'Dhan' denotes wealth, and 'Teras' denotes the thirteenth day of Krishna Paksha. The day is considered to be an auspicious day for buying gold and silver jewellery, utensils, and even electronics in a bid to welcome Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Kubera—both representing wealth and prosperity in Hindu mythology—to their homes. It is also believed that making 'big' purchases on this day yields good luck in matters of wealth and prosperity.

Dhanteras is celebrated for several reasons, rooted in Hindu mythology and tradition:

## Worship of Lord Dhanvantari

He is the god of health and Ayurveda, and is believed to have emerged from the ocean with a pot of amrita (elixir) during the churning of the milky ocean (Samudra Manthan).

## Arrival of Goddess Lakshmi

Dhanteras marks the arrival of Goddess Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, who is believed to bring good fortune and prosperity.

## Auspicious Beginnings

Dhanteras signals the beginning of Diwali celebrations, considered an auspicious time for new beginnings, investments, and purchasing valuable items.

## Honoring Wealth and Prosperity

The festival honours Lord Kubera, the god of wealth, and Goddess Lakshmi, symbolizing the importance of wealth and prosperity.

## Purification and Cleansing

Dhanteras is also associated with cleansing and purifying homes, minds, and souls, preparing for the illumination and joy of Diwali.

## History and legend

Dhanteras, celebrated on Dhanatrayodashi, holds profound significance in Hindu mythology. It is said that during the Samudra Manthana, devas (gods) and asuras (demons) churned the ocean of milk in pursuit of the 'amrit' (nectar of immortality). Goddess Lakshmi, the embodiment of prosperity and wealth, and Lord Kubera, the god of wealth, arose from the turbulent sea, while Lord Dhanvantari, the god of health and Ayurveda, emerged



with a pot of 'amrit', symbolising health and well-being. To honour them, devotees observe Dhanteras with reverence.

Another legend is that of the sixteen-year-old son of King Hima, whose horoscope predicted death by a snakebite on the fourth day of his marriage. Determined to save her husband, the clever bride devised a plan. She piled gold and silver coins at the entrance of their sleeping chamber and illuminated the area with lamps, creating a dazzling display.

As night fell, she sang enchanting songs and narrated stories to keep her husband awake and Yama, the god of death, at bay. When Yama arrived disguised as a serpent, the brilliance of the lamps and jewellery blinded him, preventing him from entering the chamber.

Instead, Yama climbed onto the coin heaps and listened to the bride's mesmerising tales and melodies. Entranced, he remained there until dawn, sparing the prince's life. As the sun rose, Yama silently departed.

Dhanteras is celebrated with a series of rituals aimed at welcoming prosperity and good health. The celebrations begin with cleaning homes and decorating entryways with rangolis and flowers to invite positive energy. Families often place traditional oil lamps (diyas) outside their homes to ward off negativity and darkness.



Buying precious metals, especially gold and silver, is considered highly auspicious on Dhanteras. Many people also purchase new kitchen utensils, symbolizing abundance, or invest in larger items like property or vehicles. This tradition is believed to bring good luck and prosperity for the coming year.

## Puja Rituals

Puja (worship) on Dhanteras is performed during the shubh muhurat (auspicious time), which this year is from 7:00 PM to 8:49 PM, according to Drik Panchang. During this time, devotees perform rituals to seek blessings for wealth, health, and happiness.

## Preparation

A small altar is set up with idols or pictures of Goddess Lakshmi, Lord Dhanvantari, and Lord Kubera. The space is decorated with flowers, diyas, and incense sticks.

## Offering of Prayers

Devotees offer sweets, flowers, and symbolic items of wealth, such as coins or gold ornaments, to the deities. Special mantras are chanted to invoke blessings for prosperity and health.

## Lighting Yama Deepam

Another important ritual is the lighting of Yama Deepam, an oil lamp placed outside the home to honor Lord Yama, the god of death, seeking protection for family members from negative influences.

Dhanteras is deeply symbolic, as it represents the blessings of wealth, health, and positivity for the coming year. The festival serves as a reminder of the importance of health and prosperity in life, with Lord Dhanvantari representing physical well-being and Goddess Lakshmi symbolizing material abundance.

The day's rituals also emphasize purification, both of the home and of one's inner self, setting a positive tone for Diwali. Lighting lamps and decorating homes with rangolis reflect the victory of light over darkness, symbolizing hope and prosperity.

This year, as families gather on Dhanteras, the festival will once again fill homes with the joy and blessings of good health, prosperity, and happiness, marking the beginning of a festive season that celebrates togetherness, light, and fortune.



# Diwali celebrations around the world



Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in the world. It is a significant Hindu festival that marks the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. While its roots are in India, Diwali is celebrated with great enthusiasm in various other parts of the world as well, transcending all cultural and religious boundaries. Let's dig deeper to explore how Diwali is celebrated worldwide.

## Nepal

In Nepal, Diwali is known as Tihar or Deepawali. The festival lasts for five days, with each day dedicated to honouring different animals such as crows, dogs, cows, and oxen. It is a unique celebration that highlights the bond between humans and animals. The final day, Bhai Dooj or Bhai Tika, is particularly significant, as it emphasises the love and affection between brothers and sisters.

## Sri Lanka

Sri Lankan Hindus celebrate Diwali

with traditional oil lamps and fervent prayers. Families light up their homes with diyas and visit temples to seek divine blessings. Diwali in Sri Lanka is a time for religious reflection and unity among the community.

## Singapore and Malaysia

Diwali is a public holiday in both Singapore and Malaysia, where a significant Indian diaspora resides. The streets come alive with colourful decorations, including intricate rangoli designs. The celebrations also include cultural performances, traditional Indian cuisine, and a festive atmosphere that spreads joy throughout the region.

## The United Kingdom

Diwali is celebrated by the British Indian community with great enthusiasm. The city of Leicester is known for hosting one of the largest Diwali celebrations outside of India. The highlight is a grand procession through the city center, featuring traditional music and dance performances, and a spectacular display of lights that



illuminates the city.

## United States and Canada

In North America, Diwali is celebrated by Indian communities and is gaining recognition and popularity. Major cities host Diwali events with vibrant decorations, dance performances, food stalls serving authentic Indian dishes, and colourful firework displays. Even the White House has been known to host Diwali celebrations, underscoring its significance.

## Australia

Diwali is celebrated by the Indian community in Australia, with cities like Sydney and Melbourne hosting public events. The celebrations include elaborate decorations, dance performances, traditional Indian dishes, and various cultural activities that bring the community together to celebrate the festival of lights.

## Trinidad and Tobago

In this Caribbean nation, Diwali is celebrated by the Indo-Trinidadian and Tobagonian community. The festival includes the lighting of diyas, decorating homes with colourful rangoli, and the preparation of traditional sweets. It is a time for families and friends to come together and celebrate their cultural heritage.

## South Africa

The Indian community in South Africa marks Diwali with great enthusiasm. Diwali celebrations in Durban, a city with a significant Indian population, are particularly grand. The festival is celebrated with prayers, cultural events, and the lighting of oil lamps, creating a warm and vibrant atmosphere that reflects the rich Indian heritage in the country.

Diwali, the festival of lights, transcends borders and brings together people from different cultures and



backgrounds. It is a time of joy, unity, and the triumph of good over evil. The way Diwali is celebrated worldwide reflects the diversity and inclusivity of this beautiful festival, making it a shining example of cultural harmony.



# Bhai Dooj: Celebrations to honor the bond between siblings

**B**hai Dooj, the festival that is celebrated just one day after the grand Diwali festival celebration is much like the festival of Raksha Bandhan that strengthens the brother-sister bond. It is one of the auspicious and very popular Indian festivals that are celebrated across India with great excitement. For every brother and sister, the day of Bhai Dooj festival celebration comes as a day of opportunity to celebrate their bond of love and care as well as strengthen it by following the auspicious rituals.

The most important ritual of the celebration of Bhai Dooj is the aarti and tika ceremony. On the day of Bhai Dooj sister firstly puts does the aarti of her brother with the holy flame and does the tika on her forehead and then she prays to God for his long and healthy life. This is the way of expressing care and love to brother by a sister. In this return, sisters get a token of love from brothers. It's a Bhai Dooj gift.

## Meaning and Significance

The majority of Hindu festivals and rituals put stress on the significance of family bonding and relationships. Although every relationship possesses its own value, but the brother-sister relationship is quite unique and unmatched. Hindu culture has manifested the greatness and glory of this relationship in many forms, out of which Bhai Dooj festival is an eminent form. This auspicious occasion also reveals the importance of siblings in someone's life.

The golden occasion of Bhai Dooj provides a golden chance to a woman, bound in the clutches of her day to day routine, to go to her native place and meet her parents and siblings. This festival is like a homage to the pious brother-sister relationship and it also strengthens this bond further.

With the passage of time, this Bhai Dooj festival has no doubt changed its form like use of e-mails, e-greetings, mobile phones, chocolate and beverage hampers, and so. But, the basic significance of Bhai Dooj and the feeling and emotion behind celebrating this wonderful festival is still the same, i.e., revealing and rejuvenating the eternal love of brother and sister. In the present context, we can say that Bhai Dooj will remain significant and consequential in the Indian culture as ever, in the years to come.

## Customs and Traditions

Customs and traditions are an inherent part of the rich Indian culture. In India, a lot of festivals occur one after the other, throughout the year. Each and every festival celebrated in India has its own social and cultural importance. Among these, one of the most significant



and awaited festival is the Bhai Dooj festival. The festival is named Bhai Dooj as it focuses on the brothers, and celebrated on the second day after the new-moon (Amavasya), or Diwali day. This day is also the third day of the Kartik month, according to the Hindu calendar.

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The basic theme behind the origination of the Bhai Dooj festival is believed to be the safety of women. But, there are also several mythological narrations associated with this festival. Two most popular stories are as mentioned below:

It is believed that once Yamraj (the god of death) visited her sister Yami. His sister became very delighted to see him and applied a tilak on his forehead. At this, Yamraj became so happy that he announced that the person whose sister will apply tilak on his forehead on that day would become free from the fear of



death and hell. From that day, the tradition of Bhai Dooj came into existence.

Another mythological tale says that after killing the devil named, Narkasur, lord Krishna went to his sister Subhadra. The day on which lord Krishna visited his sister was the second day after the new-moon day, or the dooj day. Subhadra gave her brother a warm welcome by doing his arti, applying a tilak on his forehead, sprinkling flowers over him, and offering him sweets. From then onwards, it became a tradition and got fame as the Bhai Dooj festival.

On the auspicious and delightful occasion of Bhai Dooj, sisters apply tilak (a holy mark) on their brothers' forehead. They perform arti of their beloved and caring brothers and offer sweets to them, as well. Brothers also take pledge of their sisters' safety and give them some gift or present as a reciprocation. Bhai Dooj is really a great festival, which clearly reflects the customs and

traditions of India.

## How to celebrate Bhai Dooj

The festival of Bhai Dooj is known to be based on mythological concept. The celebrations of Bhai dooj reflects the importance of unique cultural traditions that vary with different region of India. This helps to keep the family close and brings prosperity, well being and luck. Bhai Dooj falls on the two day after Diwali and is celebrated all over the country.

All the rituals and pooja held on Bhai Dooj is carried out in the general puja room or on the same platform that was decorated for Diwali pooja. Sisters decorate their puja thali with mithai, batashas, roli and rice along with the coconut. They light up the puja lamp and perform all the rituals. Once the pooja is performed by every members of the family, the sister applies tika on the forehead of the brother. After applying tika, she gives him a few of the eatables along with the coconut.

Those married women who stay close to their parent's place visit their brother early in the morning and greet them. Those staying far off either take out few days to visit her brother or express their love and blessings through posting greeting cards or e-cards and sending their good wishes. After all the rituals of Bhai Dooj is performed, brothers pamper their sisters by presenting the most memorable gifts. Most commonly, the girl of the house is given presents of clothes, utensils, and lots of mithai and fruits at festivals.

# Bandi Chhor Divas

**B**andi Chhor Divas is a Sikh celebration that commemorates the day when the sixth Sikh Guru, Guru Hargobind Sahib, and 52 Hindu kings, who were detained during the reign of Mughal Emperor Jahangir, were released from prison. The name translates to "day of liberation" or "release of the captives".

It coincides with the celebration of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. There's a public misconception that the two celebrations are just the same. Diwali is celebrated by Hindus and has its own significances while Bandi Chhor Divas is a Sikh holiday commemorating the Guru's release. The only connection between the two holidays is when Guru Hargobind was released and traveled back home to Amritsar, he arrived during the celebration of Diwali.

Bandi Chhor Divas also honors the martyrdom of Bhai Mani Singh who was executed in 1734 because of his refusal to pay religious meeting taxes.

In Sikh history and culture, it is the second most important day after Baisaikhi in the month of April that signifies the creation of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Guru Hargobind had been imprisoned in the Gwalior Fort on orders of the Mughal Emperor Jehangir. The reason for the young Guru's imprisonment was no more than religious bigotry and apprehension of the Emperor and the Mughals about the popularity of the Sikh religion and its growing military power. The Guru's father, and fifth Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Arjan Dev, had been martyred for similar reasons of religious bigotry.

While in Gwalior Fort Jail, Guru Hargobind came into the acquaintance of 52 Hindu Princes imprisoned there due to evident cases of political persecution and exploitation. They were interned under deplorable conditions by the oppressive Mughal regime. The Guru spent his time in prison looking after them and became their spiritual mentor.

The release of the Guru was negotiated with Emperor Jahangir by two Muslims, Sain Mian Mir, an old loyalist of the Sikh faith and a friend of Guru Arjan Dev Ji and Wazir Khan, the Governor of Lahore and another admirer of the Guru.

They convinced the Emperor that the Guru and the Sikhs held no ill will towards the Mughals and as such were not a threat to the Mughal Court as they were made out to be by some with a vested interest.

The Emperor realised his folly and agreed to free the Guru.

The Guru agreed to be freed only if the other Hindu Princes were also freed along with him. Jehangir, already under pressure, relented grudgingly and ordained, "Let those Rajah's be freed who can hold on to the hem of the Guru's dress and walk out of prison." Jehangir thought that only a few of the prisoners would be able to come out.

The Guru, however, outmanoeuvred the Mughal Emperor by getting a special dress with a large hemline made. Ultimately, all 52 princes who had been wrongly incarcerated managed to get freedom along with the Guru. Guru



Hargobind is also referred to as "Bandi Chor Baba."

The Sikhs celebrate the auspicious occasion as "Bandi Chor" (release of prisoners) Diwas. The arrival of the Guru at the holy city of Amritsar on Diwali Day was celebrated by lighting of hundreds of lamps. The Sikhs received their Guru in a manner similar to the one adopted by the people of Ayodhya when their beloved Prince came back from exile.

Another important Sikh event associated with Diwali and Bandhi Chor Divas is the martyrdom in 1734 of the elderly Sikh scholar and strategist Bhai

Mani Singh. Bhai Mani Singh was the Granthi (Head Priest) and Jathedar (community leader) of Akal Takth as appointed by Guru Gobind Singh. He was killed brutally by the Mughals for refusing to pay them a special tax for a meeting in the Gurdwara to commemorate Bandi Chor Divas.

In 1737 Bhai Mani Singh promised a tribute of Rs 5000/- to the Governor of Lahore, Zakaria Khan, for permission to hold a Sikh congregation in Harmandir Sahib for the Bandhi Chor Divas. The evil Zakaria Khan gave permission but also planned to attack the Sikhs when they congregated. Bhai Mani Singh came

to know of the plan and he sent messages stopping the Sikhs from coming for the congregation. Then Bhai Mani Singh told Governor Zakaria Khan that he would not pay the tribute since the congregation had not taken place due to the perfidy of the Mughals. Zakaria Khan got infuriated and ordered the arrest of Bhai Mani Singh. At that old age Bhai Mani Singh was told to convert to Islam or accept death by dismemberment. Bhai Mani Singh refused to accept Islam and was executed at Nakhaas Chowk, Lahore which is now known as Shaheed Ganj (place of martyrdom).



## Mirzapur The Film announced: Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal to reunite

Months after the release of the web series Mirzapur season 3, its makers have now announced Mirzapur: The Film. Taking to X (formerly Twitter) on Monday, Prime Video India shared a video featuring Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal, Abhishek Banerjee and Divyenndu.

The over 1.30-minute-long video also hinted at the return of Divyenndu, who played Munna Tripathi in the web series. His character was killed off in the second season.

Divyenndu said in Hindi, "I'm a Hindi film hero. A Hindi film is best enjoyed in a theatre. Need I remind you, I'm immortal." The video was shared with the caption, "Diwali pe sabko mithai milti hai, lekin yeh lo, Mirzapur ki asli barfi (Everyone gets sweets on Diwali but here is the real dessert of Mirzapur)."

Created by Puneet Krishna and directed by Gurmmeet Singh, the Mirzapur film is scheduled for release in 2026. It will mark the return of Pankaj (Kaleen Bhaiya), Ali Fazal (Guddu Pandit) and Divyenndu (Munna), along with Abhishek Banerjee, who plays the role of the compounder in the series. Following the nationwide theatrical release, the film will be available for streaming to Prime members in India and over 240 countries and territories eight weeks after its release. The crime thriller is an Excel Entertainment production. The first season was released in November 2018 and the second season in October 2020.

# Pooja Hegde to star alongside Varun Dhawan in David Dhawan's new film

According to recent reports Pooja Hegde has officially been cast alongside Varun Dhawan in David Dhawan's next film, dispelling earlier reports that South star Sreeleela, known for and , would be making her Bollywood debut in the project. Insiders confirm Pooja as the lead, marking her first on-screen pairing with Varun. When asked about the news, Pooja shared with ToI, "I have a bunch of announcements coming. I just let the production house announce it. Going ahead, you are going to see me in different roles. This year, I decided to take a step back, watch my entire filmography, and decide what I want to do next."

Instead of debating whether she was the right choice for the film, netizens took a different approach. Claims have emerged suggesting that the new movie may be titled and netizens were not impressed, to say the least. "Itna ghatiya movie title omg ??," said one unimpressed user on Reddit. Another fan expressed agreement by saying, "Why do so many romcom movie titles these days sound like they belong to low-budget, cheesy films?" Another user commented, "Ticket counter par jaake kya bolna hai ? its really great we have online booking else i don't think anyone would come and said this title." One more comment was, "Isse vahiyat title nhi mila inko."

Pooja Hegde's most recent film was Cirkus, a Hindi movie directed by Rohit Shetty that was released in 2022. In the film, she starred alongside Ranveer Singh as the female lead.

Meanwhile, Varun Dhawan is gearing up for the release of Citadel: Honey Bunny alongside Samantha Ruth Prabhu. It is set to premiere on Prime



Video on November 7, 2024. The Citadel series starring Richard Madden and Priyanka Chopra Jonas, is expanding further with localized versions, including Citadel: Honey Bunny.

## Shanaya Kapoor to make her Bollywood debut with Vikrant Massey in Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan



Following the success of 12th Fail, Vikrant Massey is riding high as he prepares for the release of The Sabarmati Report. In the midst of these projects, as per reports, he has also begun filming a romantic tale titled Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan, where he will star alongside Shanaya Kapoor under the direction of Santosh Singh. This film holds particular significance as it marks Shanaya Kapoor's debut in the industry. Meanwhile, Vikrant Massey will portray the role of a charming lover boy in the story. The film is produced by Mansi and Varun Bagla through their production house, Mini Films, with Santoshi Singh taking on the directorial role.

Shanaya Kapoor is embracing the spotlight with her upcoming project and has opened up about her heartfelt connection to her role. She expressed her excitement,

stating, "Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan holds a special place in my heart. It's very exciting for me to be sharing the screen with Vikrant in such a heartfelt and original story. My character is very close to my heart - she's strong, emotional, and vibrant. And I am grateful for this opportunity!"

Shanaya also expressed her gratitude towards her mentors and collaborators, acknowledging their support and guidance throughout her journey. "I'd like to thank Santosh for guiding me every step of the way," she said, expressing her gratitude for the director's guidance. Additionally, she acknowledged her appreciation for the team, saying, "I'm excited about working with dynamic producers like Mansi and Varun Bagla. Need all your love and blessings as we embark this journey," she added.



If a new report is to be believed, Brad Pitt has now sought the help of his other ex, Jennifer Aniston, to campaign against Angelina's film *Maria* at the Oscars 2025.

## Brad Pitt employs Jolie's 'haters' to campaign against her film

As the feud between actors and ex-spouses Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie gets uglier, the boundaries between personal and professional are blurring. If a new report is to be believed, Brad Pitt has now sought the help of his other ex, Jennifer Aniston, to campaign against Angelina's film *Maria* at the Oscars 2025.

*Maria* is a biopic of singer Maria Callas. The film recently had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival, and Angelina's performance was praised. There is already buzz about the actor's chances at the Oscars next year as a frontrunner for Best Actress. Netflix, where the film will eventually be released later this year, is said to be launching a big Oscars campaign for it.

Not if Brad has his say, though. An *In Touch Weekly* report claims that Brad and Jennifer Aniston have been recruiting people from Hollywood who don't like Angelina to deny *Maria* at the prestigious awards. "Angie has some powerful friends too, but it's Jen's group that has been proven to be able to steer the course of the nomination process, which is exactly what they did two years ago," the report quotes a source, adding, "Making peace with these people isn't an option, and it's not how Angelina does things. It's an extremely stressful position for Angie to be in, even more challenging than the transformation she made into Maria Callas to get into this position in the first place."

The report quotes another source as saying that even though Angelina is trying to campaign for the film through her social circle, it may be a losing battle. "You'd hope for Angie's sake, after all she put herself through to make *Maria*, that she could neutralize this threat but Jen's social network is incredibly powerful, it's tightly knit, and it's full of A-listers," says the source.

# Jennifer Lopez is 'auditioning' young men for 'revenge dating'

After her split from Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez is ready to turn the page—and she's doing it quite passionately. The pop star remained loyal throughout the relationship, even putting in all her efforts to save the marriage, but now that the duo has filed for divorce, all "bets are off," claims an insider.

Reports suggest she is auditioning a lineup of hot young men to help her feel fabulous again and maybe give Ben a little nudge of jealousy. Earlier reports surfaced that Ben is also open to dating again and has set some boundaries and conditions for his ideal next partner.

"She's given the go-ahead for these hunks to be auditioned and served up for her," an insider told Radar. "She was very respectful and totally loyal to Ben even after he walked out on her, but now all bets are off."

Another source claimed that the *Atlas* star is "desperate" to get over her ex, with whom she rekindled her decades-old romance and got married, only to end it after just two years while singing praises of their greatest love story. She wants to move past the "anguish," and the only way to do that is through the "no strings attached" approach with younger men who will make her feel "sexy" again.



"Her ego needs a serious reboot and being with young guys is great medicine because they will fawn all over her and make her feel sexy and desirable again," the insider told the outlet.

Earlier, in a cover story with *Interview*,

the "Jenny From the Block" singer opened up about the turbulent year and a summer that changed her life forever. Notably, Affleck moved out of their marital home before summer and started living in a rental place near Brentwood, close to his ex-wife Jennifer Garner, and their kids.

On the other hand, JLo kept touring, and they didn't meet on their second wedding anniversary or her birthday. "These things are not going to kill me. It's like, actually, I am capable of joy and happiness all by myself. Being in a relationship doesn't define me. I can't be looking for happiness in other people," she said during the interview.

A close friend revealed that it won't be difficult for Jennifer Lopez to find a lineup of attractive suitors. "They'll go through a vetting process and will have to sign NDAs, but after that, it's all systems go," the friend shared. "While she's not looking for anything serious right now, she definitely wants to enjoy herself. Who knows? One of these encounters might blossom into something more. But for now, her main focus is to feel fabulous and put Ben behind her for good," the pal said according to Radar.

## Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce may venture into the booze business: Report

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce are thinking big plans for the future of their joint brand once they are set to get hitched. The two are thinking of various businesses and setting up a booze business is right at the top of their list, a source revealed exclusively to *Life & Style*. Swift and Kelce have been dating since the summer of 2023 and have made several appearances at each other's concerts and games respectively.

According to the source, the couple is weighing several options and the liquor business is stunning up to be a good one. The source explained to the media outlet, "The sky is the limit as far as what they can do together with their combined reach, so they're looking at all kinds of opportunities where they could team up and the liquor business is a really obvious choice." They added, "There's so much money to be made and it's a very organic fit because they genuinely love making cocktails together and cutting loose."

The source revealed that the Kansas City Chiefs player is "taking it very easy when it comes to drinking because he wants to be at his best for the season" right now. However,



"taking it very easy when it comes to drinking because he wants to be at his best for the season."

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE 2024 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



BY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA

Elections are fundamental to any democracy, ensuring that the voices of citizens shape the leadership and direction of their country. In the United States, elections serve as the bedrock of democracy, allowing citizens to exercise indirect governance by choosing leaders who align with their values and aspirations. The U.S. stands as one of the most enduring democracies globally, demonstrating resilience and adaptability despite challenges. While it has faced moments of strain, it has never veered toward dictatorship, thanks in large part to its vigilant citizenry and robust democratic institutions. This is a testament to the commitment of the American people, who have maintained a system of governance that is both balanced and inclusive.

The United States has sustained its democratic

integrity with just two major political parties—the Democrats and the Republicans. This dichotomy, although not without its critics, has cultivated a mature democratic landscape similar to those seen in many European democracies, where governance is relatively stable, and political divides are streamlined. By contrast, nations like India, with a plethora of political parties shaped by caste, creed, and regional identities, showcase the diversity but also the complexities of multi-party democracies. In the U.S., the two-party system reflects an evolved democracy that efficiently channels political debate and decision-making.

The strength of American democracy lies in its people—their wisdom, values, and resilience. Historically, the U.S. has managed peaceful transitions

of power even amid significant challenges. However, the 2020 election saw unprecedented upheaval, culminating in an insurrection that has left many concerned about the stability of future elections. As the 2024 election approaches, these anxieties are palpable, especially given the potential for a repeat of the divisive atmosphere. Set for November 5, 2024, the election has garnered attention worldwide, with many viewing it as a pivotal moment for democracy in the U.S. Here, we will analyze the key candidates—Donald Trump and Kamala Harris—their respective strengths and weaknesses, and the central issues influencing voters this election cycle. Additionally, we will consider the insights of analysts, recognizing that while no prediction is foolproof, a thoughtful examination can offer valuable perspectives.

## :- THE CANDIDATES: STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES :-



**DONALD TRUMP**

Donald Trump, the Republican candidate, remains a polarizing figure in American politics. His base of support is solid, primarily among conservative voters who appreciate his "America First" approach. Trump's tenure as president from 2016 to 2020 showcased his commitment to prioritizing American interests in areas such as trade, immigration, and foreign policy. His economic policies focused on deregulation and tax cuts, appealing to the

business community and individuals who favor limited government intervention. Supporters argue that Trump brought a refreshing directness to politics, challenging traditional norms and confronting global entities in favor of national interests.

However, Trump's campaign faces considerable obstacles. His rhetoric, often described as divisive, has alienated certain groups and led to significant social polarization. Moreover, his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic remains a critical point of contention, with critics arguing that his administration's response lacked organization and empathy. Legal issues surrounding Trump's previous business dealings and his role in the January 6, 2021, Capitol riot have added further scrutiny to his candidacy. Despite these challenges, his followers remain fiercely loyal, viewing him as a champion against what they perceive as an overly bureaucratic and ineffective political establishment.



**KAMALA HARRIS**

Kamala Harris, the Democratic candidate and current Vice President, represents a historic choice for the nation as the first woman of color to serve as Vice President and potentially as President. Her background as a former prosecutor and Senator from California provides her with substantial experience in governance and law. Harris has advocated for social justice, healthcare reform, and climate change policies, all of which align closely with progressive

values and the priorities of the Democratic Party. Her approach is generally seen as a continuation of the Biden administration's policies, with a focus on unity, inclusivity, and equality.

Nonetheless, Harris faces challenges of her own. While she appeals to the Democratic base, particularly among progressives and minority communities, her tenure as Vice President has been critiqued by some as lacking visible achievements. Additionally, her prosecutorial record has drawn criticism from activists who argue that her approach to criminal justice reform is inconsistent. Harris's ability to rally moderate voters and appeal beyond her core base is crucial, as this election is expected to hinge on swing states and undecided voters. For her, establishing trust and presenting a clear vision for the future are essential to securing broad support.

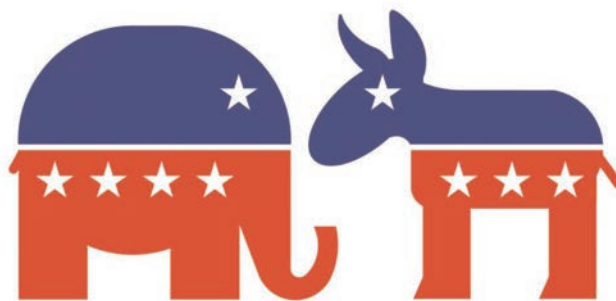
## :- KEY ISSUES SHAPING THE 2024 ELECTION :-

As Americans head to the polls, several pressing issues dominate the national conversation. Each candidate's stance on these issues could determine their success in garnering support from voters across the political spectrum.

**Economic Stability and Inflation:** Economic concerns are paramount, as inflation has impacted the cost of living and purchasing power for many Americans. Trump has promised to curb inflation through tax cuts, deregulation, and stimulating domestic energy production, emphasizing American self-sufficiency. Harris, on the other hand, has focused on long-term investments in renewable energy, education, and infrastructure, arguing that these efforts will build a resilient economy over time.

**Healthcare:** Healthcare remains a divisive issue, with Harris advocating for expanded access and affordability through policy reforms, including protections for Medicare and Medicaid. She emphasizes the importance of making healthcare accessible to all, drawing on her experience in the Biden administration, which pushed for expanded Affordable Care Act provisions. Trump opposes what he terms as "socialized medicine," instead favoring market-driven solutions and reforms aimed at reducing healthcare costs by increasing competition.

**Climate Change and Environmental Policy:** Climate change continues to be a critical concern, particularly for younger voters and progressives. Harris supports aggressive action on climate change, aiming for net-zero emissions by 2050 and investment in



The Republican Party and the Democratic Party are in a close contest in the November 5, 2024 election which is witnessing unprecedented and frightening divide

renewable energy. Trump has prioritized energy independence, advocating for increased oil and gas production while downplaying the immediate need for extensive environmental regulations.

**Immigration:** Immigration policies are among the most polarizing issues in the 2024 election. Trump is known for his stringent stance on immigration, with a focus on border security and reducing illegal immigration. Harris, conversely, promotes a more compassionate approach, supporting pathways to citizenship and comprehensive immigration reform. Voters are divided on this issue, with each candidate's stance aligning with their party's ideological framework.

**Social Justice and Civil Rights:** Issues of race, gender, and equity have gained prominence in recent years. Harris has championed policies to address

systemic inequalities, including criminal justice reform, voting rights, and protections for marginalized communities. Trump and his supporters often argue that these policies lead to excessive government overreach and stoke division. For many Americans, these issues are deeply personal, influencing voter decisions along party lines.

**Foreign Policy and National Security:** U.S. foreign policy is a significant topic, particularly concerning relations with China and Russia. Trump's "America First" approach emphasizes reducing U.S. involvement in foreign conflicts and focusing on strengthening the U.S. economy through fair trade agreements. Harris and the Democrats advocate for global alliances and partnerships to address issues like climate change, international security, and human rights, reinforcing America's role as a global leader. How each candidate addresses these international concerns will impact voter perceptions, especially among military families and international business stakeholders.

### ANALYST PERSPECTIVES AND PUBLIC SENTIMENT

Political analysts have diverse perspectives on the election, with some predicting a tight race and others anticipating a clear victory for one candidate. Many analysts agree that this election could see high voter turnout, driven by strong feelings about the candidates and the issues at stake. Trump's appeal to his base is formidable, but his challenge lies in broadening his appeal to undecided and moderate voters. Harris,

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# Why are swing States critical in this U.S. election?



BY VARGHESE K  
GEORGE

Which are the battleground States? How are Trump and Harris tailoring their messages to woo voters?



Trump, Vance hit campaign trail in Michigan, a swing state

Around 24.4 crore people are eligible to vote for the U.S. presidential election slated for November 5. In 2020, two-thirds of the eligible voters voted. The next President of the U.S. will be decided less by these national numbers than by a few thousand voters in some key places, which are called battleground or swing States, thanks to the unique features of the country's electoral system.

## WHAT TRANSPIRED IN THE LAST TWO ELECTIONS?

The last two elections of 2016 and 2020 demonstrated the outsize impact of the swing factor in several States, even as the country became more polarized. In 2020, President Joe Biden had a national lead of around 70 lakh votes over Donald Trump, but what mattered more were the small margins with which he won key States. Of around 67 lakh votes cast in Pennsylvania, Mr. Biden led over Mr. Trump by 81,660; in Michigan, he had 1.54 lakh more, of the total 54 lakh polled; in Wisconsin, Mr. Biden led by just 20,682 votes in a total of more than 32 lakh votes.

In 2016, Mr. Trump had trailed his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton by two percentage points, which was in excess of 20 lakh votes, but he could still emerge as the winner because he won key swing States. For instance, he won

Pennsylvania by 44,292 votes of the total 61.7 lakh votes polled; Wisconsin by 22,748 of the 30 lakh votes; and Michigan, by 10,704 of the 48 lakh votes polled.

## HOW IS THE WINNER CHOSEN?

The winner of the U.S. presidential contest is selected not by a majority of national popular votes, but by a majority in the electoral college of 538, which is 270. Members of the electoral college are apportioned between the States. Most U.S. States have a "winner-takes-it-all" system that allots all electors to the candidate who gets more popular votes. So, whether a candidate has one or one million votes more than their opponent in California, for instance, all 54 electoral college votes of the State, will be awarded to him or her.

Similarly, all 19 electoral college votes of Pennsylvania will be awarded to the winner of the popular votes within that State, regardless of the margin. This system could create the anomaly of a candidate winning the election, without winning more popular votes than the opponent, nationally. That is also why the main opponents this time, Mr. Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris, are trying to turn the battleground States in their favor in the last lap of campaigning ahead of election day.



Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris holds a campaign rally with her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz in Philadelphia, PA, another swing state

## WHICH ARE THE KEY STATES THAT WILL PLAY A ROLE IN PICKING THE WINNER?

Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Nevada, Arizona, and North Carolina are the battleground States of 2024; and the contest between Mr. Trump and Ms. Harris is a dead heat, going by all opinion polls. The average polling error for more than five decades in the U.S. is 3.4%. In all the seven swing States, in nearly all the polls, the leading candidate has a lead well within this margin. Like the last two elections, the margins could be very narrow and these States will decide who will be the President for the next four years. It is also possible that most of these States could swing to either side, as it happened in the last two elections, rather than being evenly divided between the two.

Even a minor swing among significant voting blocs in these States could turn the tide either way. Both candidates are trying to tailor their messages, particularly targeting these States. For instance, Latinos make up nearly a quarter of Arizona's voters. That possibly explains Mr. Trump's recent

attempts to portray his opponent as being disrespectful of the Catholic church. In Georgia, Black votes count considerably, and Mr. Trump has been trying to mobilize them behind his anti-immigration politics. Latest polling figures show Mr. Trump gaining more ground among Latinos and Blacks. Michigan, a State that turned Republican in 2016 and Democrat in 2020, has around two lakh Muslim voters. Democrats, and Ms. Harris, face a crisis of credibility among them, against the backdrop of the conflict in West Asia. They may not vote for Mr. Trump but could turn indifferent towards Ms. Harris. Mr. Trump had won North Carolina in 2016 and 2020, but Ms. Harris is making some new inroads, according to polls.

In the last stretch, there will be further concentration of firepower by both sides on the small numbers that count as big in the elections. Catching the swing voters in these States is what both candidates are focusing on now.

(The author is a senior editor with The Hindu)

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## An Overview of the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election

meanwhile, has the advantage of incumbency but must address concerns regarding her policy impact and her vision for the future.

Public sentiment is equally divided. Polls show that Americans are concerned about the polarization within the country, and many view this election as an opportunity to reset and restore unity. However, the legacy of the 2020 election and the January 6

insurrection has left a lingering fear of unrest. Observers worry that, regardless of the outcome, tensions may arise if the results are contested. Election security and integrity have thus become focal points, with both candidates urging their supporters to respect the democratic process.

## THE UNCERTAIN ROAD AHEAD

As Americans prepare to cast their votes on November 5, 2024, they face a critical decision that will shape the nation's future. This election, set against a backdrop of political division, economic strain, and global uncertainty, underscores the importance of democratic resilience. Trump and Harris each

represent divergent visions for America—one centered on conservative values and national priorities, the other on progressive ideals and global collaboration.

While predictions abound, the outcome remains uncertain, as does the response from a deeply polarized public. Yet, as history has shown, the strength of American democracy lies in its ability to adapt and overcome challenges. The citizens of the United States, armed with their votes and guided by their values, hold the power to determine the nation's course. This election is a reminder of the enduring strength of democracy and the role of the people in preserving it.

**Vote , and vote wisely.  
God Bless America!**

## ISRAEL STRIKES RESIDENTIAL BUILDING IN NORTHERN GAZA, KILLS 93 PALESTINIANS, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**DEIR AL-BALAH (TIP):** Gaza's civil defence agency said on October 27 that an overnight Israeli air strike killed 93 people in a residential building in the northern district of Beit Lahia.

"The number of martyrs in the massacre of the Abu Nasr family home in Beit Lahia has risen to 93 martyrs, and about 40 are still missing under the rubble," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP in an updated toll.

"The explosion happened at night and I first thought it was shelling, but when I went out after sunrise I saw people pulling bodies, limbs and the wounded from under the rubble," said Rabie al-Shandagly, 30, who had taken refuge in a nearby school in Beit Lahia.

"Most of the victims are women and children, and people are trying to save the injured, but there are no hospitals or proper medical care," he told AFP.

On Tuesday, Palestinians searched through the rubble of the building and removed the dead, while others mourned over the bodies of relatives.

The bodies of 15 people killed in the strike were brought to Kamal Adwan Hospital, its director Hussam Abu Safia told AFP.

"We are still receiving a number of martyrs and wounded," Safia said, adding that the hospital was struggling to treat patients due to a lack of staff and medicines.

"There is nothing left in the Kamal Adwan Hospital except first aid materials after the army arrested our medical team and workers when they invaded the hospital during the military operation in Jabalia," Safia said. The ministry's emergency service said another 20 people were wounded in the strike in the northern town of Beit Lahia, near the Israeli border.

The army also detained hundreds of Palestinians from the hospital including health care workers, patients and others who had sought shelter in the facility.

The Israeli military has repeatedly struck shelters for displaced people in recent months, claiming it were precise strikes targeting Palestinian militants.

Israel's latest major operation in northern Gaza, focused on the Jabaliya refugee camp, has killed hundreds of people and driven tens of thousands from their homes in another wave of mass displacement with many international organisations and countries terming it as an "ethnic cleansing."

More than 770 people have been killed by Israel in northern Gaza in just 19 days, according to Palestinian officials. (AFP)

# Hezbollah names deputy head Naim Qassem to succeed slain leader

**BEIRUT (TIP):** Lebanon's Hezbollah movement announced on October 27 it has chosen deputy head Naim Qassem to succeed Hasan Nasrallah as leader after his death in an Israeli strike on south Beirut last month.

"Hezbollah's (governing) Shura Council agreed to elect... Sheikh Naim Qassem as secretary general of Hezbollah," the Iran-backed group said in a statement, more than a month after Nasrallah's killing.

Hezbollah pledged to keep "the flame of resistance burning" until victory is achieved against Israel after all-out war erupted on September 23.

Qassem was elected by the five-member Shura Council, the group's main decision-making body, two days before Tuesday's announcement, a source close to Hezbollah said.

The source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is not authorised to speak to the press, said a new Shura Council would be elected after the end of the war.

The council may then opt to elect a new leader or keep Qassem in the top post, the source said.

Qassem had long operated in the shadows of Nasrallah, a towering leader who was one of the most enigmatic and influential figures in the Middle East.

Hashem Safieddine, the head of Hezbollah's executive council, was initially tipped to succeed Nasrallah.

But he too was killed in an Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs shortly after Nasrallah's assassination.

Hezbollah's Palestinian ally Hamas, whose October 7, 2023 attack on Israel triggered the Gaza war, welcomed Qassem's election.

"We consider this election evidence of



the party's recovery from the targeting" of its leaders, Hamas said in a statement, pledging "support for the new leadership".

Qassem, 71, was one of Hezbollah's founders in 1982 and had been the party's deputy secretary general since 1991, the year before Nasrallah took the helm.

He was born in Beirut in 1953 to a family from the village of Kfar Fila on the border with Israel.

He was the most senior Hezbollah official to continue making public appearances after Nasrallah largely went into hiding following the group's 2006 war with Israel.

Since Nasrallah's death in a huge Israeli air strike on September 27, Qassem has made three televised addresses, speaking in more formal Arabic than the colloquial Lebanese favoured by Nasrallah.

With less charisma and fewer oratorical skills than Nasrallah, Qassem said the group will soon replace its assassinated leader.

He claimed Hezbollah's military capabilities were intact and backed efforts by parliament speaker Nabih Berri to broker a ceasefire.

In his last speech on October 15, Qassem said a ceasefire was the only way Israel could guarantee the return of its residents to the north.

The Israel-Hezbollah war erupted last month after nearly a year of cross-border fire.

On September 23, Israel ramped up strikes on Hezbollah strongholds and sent in ground forces while killing one member of the group's top leadership after another.

The war has killed more than 1,700 people in Lebanon since September 23, according to an AFP tally of health ministry figures, though the real number is likely higher due to gaps in the data.

The Israeli military says it has lost 37 soldiers in its Lebanon campaign since it launched ground operations on September 30. (AFP)

## As Israel strikes deeper into Lebanon, fear rises in communities where the displaced took refuge

**AITO (TIP):** Dany Alwan stood shaking as rescue workers pulled remains from piles of rubble where his brother's building once stood.

An Israeli airstrike destroyed the three-story residential building in the quiet Christian village of Aito the day before. His brother, Elie, had rented out its apartments to a friend who had fled here with relatives from their hometown in southern Lebanon under Israeli bombardment.

Things were fine for a few weeks. But that day, minutes after visitors arrived and entered the building, it was struck. Almost two dozen people were killed, half of them women and children. Israel stated it targeted a Hezbollah official, as it has claimed in other strikes with high civilian death tolls.

This strike in northern Lebanon, deep in the Christian heartland, was particularly unusual. Israel has

concentrated its bombardment mostly in the country's south and east and in Beirut's southern suburbs, which are majority-Shiite areas where Hezbollah has a strong presence.

Strikes in traditionally "safe" areas where many displaced families have fled are raising fears among local residents. Many feel they have to choose between helping compatriots and protecting themselves.

"We can't welcome people anymore," Alwan said as rescue teams combed through the rubble in Aito. "The situation is very critical in the village, and this is the first time something like this has happened to us."

Aito is in the Zgharta province, which is split between Christian factions that support and oppose Hezbollah. Some Christian legislators critical of Hezbollah have warned of the security risks that could come with hosting

displaced people, mostly from the Shia Muslim community. They worry that many may have familial and social ties to Hezbollah, which, in addition to its armed wing, has civilian services across southern and eastern Lebanon.

Some also worry that long-term displacement could create demographic changes and weaken the Christian share in Lebanon's fragile sectarian power-sharing system. The tiny country has a troubled history of sectarian strife and violence, most notably during a 15-year civil war that ended in 1990.

Lebanon has struggled for decades to navigate tensions and political gridlock within its sectarian power-sharing government system. Parliament is deeply divided among factions that support and oppose Hezbollah and has been without a president for almost two years. (AP)

# Japan's ruling coalition loses majority in the lower house, creating political uncertainty

**TOKYO (TIP):** Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's ruling coalition lost a majority in the 465-seat lower house in a key parliamentary election on October 27, a punishment by voters' outrage over the governing party's extensive financial scandals.

Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party remains the top party in Japan's parliament, and a change of government is not expected. But the results create political uncertainty. Falling short of a majority makes it difficult for Ishiba to get his party's policies through parliament, and he may need to find a third coalition partner. The LDP's coalition retains a majority in the less powerful upper house.

All told, the ruling coalition with junior partner Komeito secured 215 seats, down sharply from the majority of 279 it previously held, according to Japanese media. It is the coalition's worst result since briefly falling from power in 2009.

Ishiba took office on Oct. 1 and immediately ordered the election in hopes of shoring up support after his predecessor, Fumio Kishida, failed to address public outrage over the LDP's scandals.

"The results so far have been extremely severe, and we take them very seriously," Ishiba told Japan's national NHK television late Sunday. "I believe the voters are telling us to reflect more and become a party that lives up to their expectations."

Ishiba said the LDP would still lead a ruling coalition and tackle key policies, compile a planned supplementary budget and pursue political reform.



He indicated that his party is open to cooperating with opposition groups if that suits the public's expectations.

The Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, led by centrist leader Yoshihiko Noda, made huge gains to 148 seats, from its previous 98. "We accomplished our goal of preventing the ruling coalition from a majority, which was a major achievement," Noda said.

Noda called the election a rare chance for a change of government, and said he seeks to lead a coalition with other opposition groups to do so. But his party has had trouble finding partners, and many voters were skeptical about the opposition's ability and inexperience.

For Ishiba, potential additional partners include the Democratic Party of the People, which calls for lower taxes, and the conservative Japan Innovation Party.

DPP head Yuichiro Tamaki said he was open to "a partial alliance." Innovation Party chief Nobuyuki Baba

has denied any intention to cooperate. The centrist DPP quadrupled to 28 seats, while the conservative Innovation Party slipped to 38.

Ishiba may also face backlash from a number of scandal-tainted lawmakers with former leader Shinzo Abe's faction, whom Ishiba had un-endorsed for Sunday's election in an attempt to regain public support.

The LDP is less cohesive now and could enter the era of short-lived prime ministers. Ishiba is expected to last at least until the ruling bloc approves key budget plans at the end of December.

"The public's criticisms against the slush funds scandal has intensified, and it won't go away easily," said Izuru Makihara, a University of Tokyo professor of politics and public policy. "There is a growing sense of fairness, and people are rejecting privileges for politicians." Makihara suggested Ishiba needs bold political reform measures to regain public trust. (AP)

## AT LEAST 126 DEAD AND MISSING IN MASSIVE FLOODING, LANDSLIDES IN PHILIPPINES

**TALISAY (TIP):** The number of dead and missing in massive flooding and landslides wrought by Tropical Storm Trami in the Philippines has reached nearly 130 and the president said on October 26 that many areas remained isolated with people in need of rescue.

Trami blew away from the northwestern Philippines on Friday, leaving at least 81 people dead and 34 others missing in one of the Southeast Asian archipelago's deadliest and most destructive storms so far this year, the government's disaster-response agency said. The death toll was expected to rise as reports come in from previously isolated areas.

Dozens of police, firefighters and other emergency personnel, backed by three backhoes and sniffer dogs, dug up one of the last two missing villagers in the lakeside town of Talisay in Batangas province on Saturday.

A father, who was waiting for word on his missing 14-year-old daughter, wept as rescuers placed the remains in a black body bag. Distraught, he followed police officers, who carried the body bag down a mud-strewn village alley to a police van when one weeping resident approaching him to express her sympathies.

The man said he was sure it was his daughter, but authorities needed to do checks to confirm the identity of the villager dug up in the mound.

In a nearby basketball gym at the town center, more than a dozen white coffins were laid side by side, bearing the remains of those found in the heaps of mud, boulders and trees that cascaded Thursday afternoon down the steep slope of a wooded ridge in Talisay's Sampaloc village.

President Ferdinand Marcos, who inspected another hard-hit region southeast of Manila Saturday, said the unusually large volume of rainfall dumped by the storm — including in some areas that saw one to two months' worth of rainfall in just 24 hours — overwhelmed flood controls in provinces lashed by Trami.

"The water was just too much," Marcos told reporters.

"We're not done yet with our rescue work," he said. "Our problem here, there are still many areas that remained flooded and could not be accessed even big trucks."

His administration, Marcos said, would plan to start work on a major flood control project that can meet the unprecedented threats posed by climate change.

More than 4.2 million people were in the path of the storm, including nearly half a million, who mostly fled to more than 6,400 emergency shelters in several provinces, the government agency said. (AP)

# Pope's child protection board urges transparency from Vatican sex abuse office and compensation

**VATICAN (TIP):** Pope Francis' child protection board called on October 27 for victims of clergy sexual abuse to have greater access to information about their cases and the right to compensation, in the first-ever global assessment of the Catholic Church's efforts to address the crisis.

The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors issued a series of findings and recommendations in its pilot annual report, zeroing in on the church in a dozen countries, two religious orders and two Vatican offices with detailed analysis.

In its most critical note, it called for greater transparency from the Vatican's sex abuse office, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. It said the office's slow processing of cases and secrecy

were retraumatizing to victims, and its refusal to publish statistics or its own jurisprudence continues "to foment distrust among the faithful, especially the victim/survivor community."

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, the commission's head, acknowledged the church's failure to victims in the past and said the commission would work to continue to address "the unjust suffering that you have endured."

"Nothing we do will ever be enough to fully repair what has happened," O'Malley told a news conference. "But we hope that this report and those that will come, compiled with the help of victims and survivors at the center, will help to ensure the firm commitment that these events never happen again in the church."

The 50-page report marks something of a milestone for the commission, which in its 10-year existence has struggled to find its footing in a Vatican often resistant to confronting the abuse crisis and hostile to endorsing victim-focused policies.

Juan Carlos Cruz, a survivor of sexual abuse who sits on the commission, said the report represented a significant step forward and gave him hope for further progress.

Its main conclusions, though, were of a global nature: Victims, it said, must have the right to information about their cases held by the church, since the secrecy and long processing times often serve to revictimize them. It proposed a special Vatican advocate or ombudsman to look after victims' needs. (AP)

## MYANMAR'S CIVIL WAR RESHAPED IN PAST YEAR WITH COORDINATED OFFENSIVE BY POWERFUL RESISTANCE GROUPS

**BANGKOK (TIP):** Three well-armed militias launched a surprise joint offensive in northeastern Myanmar a year ago, breaking a strategic stalemate with the regime's military with rapid gains of huge swaths of territory and inspiring others to attack around the country.

Before the offensive, the military's control had seemed firmly ensconced with its vast superiority in troops and firepower, and aided with material support from Russia and China. But today it is increasingly on the back foot, with the loss of dozens of outposts, bases and strategic cities that even its leaders concede will be challenging to regain.

The military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, giving rise to intensified fighting with long-established armed groups associated with Myanmar's ethnic minority groups, and sparking the formation of new pro-democracy militias.

But until the launch of Operation 1027, eponymously named for its Oct. 27 start, the military, known as the Tatmadaw, had largely been able to prevent major losses around the country.

Operation 1027 brought coordinated attacks from three of the most powerful ethnic armed groups — the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, the Arakan Army and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, together known as the Three Brotherhood Alliance — and they were able to quickly capture towns and overrun military bases and outposts along the Chinese border in northeastern Shan state. Two weeks later the Arakan Army launched attacks in its home western state of Rakhine, and since then other militia groups and PDFs have joined in around the country.

A year later into the offensive, resistance forces now fully or partially control a vast horseshoe of territory that reaches from Rakhine state in the west, across the north, and then south into Kayah and Kayin states along the Thai border. The Tatmadaw has pulled back toward the center around the capital Naypyidaw and largest city of Yangon.

Many expect the military to launch a counteroffensive when the rainy season soon comes to an end, bolstered with the influx of some 30,000 new troops since activating conscription in February and its continued complete air superiority. But at the same time, resistance groups are closing in on Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city in the center of the country. Facing threats from all around the country, "it doesn't look like there's any viable route back for the military to recapture any of the territory that it's lost," said Connor Macdonald of the Special Advisory Council for Myanmar advocacy group. (AP)

# Pakistan begins another vaccination campaign after worrying surge in polio cases

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Pakistan began a nationwide vaccination campaign on October 28 to protect 45 million children from polio after a surge in new cases that has hampered years of efforts to stop the disease in one of the two countries where it has never been eradicated.

Pakistan regularly launches such campaigns, but violence targeting the health workers and police assigned to escort them is common.

Militants falsely claim the vaccination campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilise children.

"The campaign is the third this year and will continue until Sunday in response to the alarming increase in polio cases," said Ayesha Raza Farooq, the prime minister's adviser for the polio eradication programme.

"We are re-energised in our efforts to combat polio," she said in a statement.

During the door-to-door campaign, children younger than 5 will be vaccinated and given drops of Vitamin A supplements to enhance their immunity.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif recently met with front-line health workers, urging them to ensure no child was left unvaccinated by going door-to-door.

Anwarul Haq, who is the coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication, also urged parents to fully cooperate with polio workers.

"Polio has no cure, but it can be prevented with this readily available vaccine," he said.



Pakistan has recorded 41 cases across 71 districts so far this year, Farooq said.

Most were reported from southwestern Balochistan and southern Sindh province, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and eastern Punjab province.

The surge in cases in new locations is worrying authorities since previous cases were from the restive northwest bordering Afghanistan, where the Taliban government in September suddenly stopped a door-to-door vaccination campaign.

Authorities in Pakistan say the Afghan Taliban's recent decision to stop door-to-

door anti-polio campaign will have repercussions beyond the Afghan border, as people from both sides frequently travel to each other's country.

The World Health Organisation has confirmed 18 polio cases in Afghanistan this year.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only two countries in the world where the spread of polio has never been stopped.

It is one of the world's most infectious diseases, so it continues to spread anywhere people are not fully vaccinated.

In severe cases, polio can cause permanent paralysis and death. (PTI)

## Hindus in Bangladesh stage major rally in Chittagong demanding minority rights

**DHAKA (TIP):** On October 26, thousands from Bangladesh's Hindu community gathered at the historic Laldighi Maidan in Chattogram (Chittagong) to express their determination to continue demonstrations until the interim government addresses their eight key demands. Organised by the Bangladesh Sanatan Jagran Manch (Unified Platform for Realising the Rights of Sanatans), this protest is one of the largest seen in months, with participants threatening to march to Dhaka if their requests remain unmet, reported The Times of India.

**THE DEMANDS PRESENTED BY THE LEADERS INCLUDE:**

**FORMATION OF A TRIBUNAL TO EXPEDITE TRIALS FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN MINORITY ATROCITIES.**

**APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION AND**

**REHABILITATION FOR VICTIMS.**

**ENACTMENT OF A MINORITY PROTECTION LAW WITHOUT DELAY.**

**CREATION OF A MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS.**

**CONSTRUCTION OF PLACES OF WORSHIP FOR MINORITIES IN EVERY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.**

**ESTABLISHMENT OF PRAYER ROOMS IN EVERY HOSTEL.**

**MODERNISATION OF THE SANSKRIT AND PALI EDUCATION BOARD.**

**A FIVE-DAY HOLIDAY FOR DURGA PUJA.**

On Thursday, Bangladesh's Environment Minister Syeda Rizwana Hasan had issued a statement acknowledging the demands of the Hindu community and announced the enactment of a two-day holiday for Durga Puja, marking the first time this

has occurred in the country's history.

The backdrop of this rally included recent incidents that raised alarms about the safety of minorities in Bangladesh. This marked one of the largest gatherings by Hindu groups since the ousting of Sheikh Hasina on August 5. Despite promises of safety from the interim government, led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus since August 7, crimes against minorities—including vandalism, looting, and bodily harm—have reportedly increased. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs condemned attacks on Durga Puja pandals and thefts from Hindu temples, describing these acts as part of a "systematic pattern of desecration" and called for the protection of minority communities during the ongoing festival season. (TOI)

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– Denise LaBelle



*"Unabashed romanticism. I loved it."*  
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# Sparkle & shine: Dazzling Diwali makeup guide

Diwali – the festival of lights, sweets, and glowing memorable moments is finally here! And what better way to illuminate your festivities than with a captivating Diwali makeup look that shimmers, shines, and steals the show.

This makeup guide celebrates love, light, and unapologetic self-expression, beautifully encapsulated in a radiant Diwali makeup look. It's not just about simple diwali makeup ideas; it's about artistry, creativity, and embracing your natural beauty with a touch of glitter and a sprinkle of magic. So, get ready to transform your visage and let your makeup tell a story as enchanting as the festival of lights.

## Hydrating Primer

To start off, apply a hydrating primer for a hydrating base. This ensures that your makeup stays in place without turning cakey. It also acts as an anti-pollution shield, giving you the ideal base around the clock. Whether you're creating a festive look or going for everyday glam, this primer is the perfect Diwali makeup buddy. It keeps your skin fresh and radiant throughout the celebrations.

## Full-coverage Foundation

Next, select a foundation shade that closely matches your skin tone. To do so, simply refer to our foundation shade finder and pick a shade that suits your skin type.

Make small dots of the foundation on your forehead, nose, cheeks, and chin. Use your fingers and a brush, such as our Swipe Right Blending Brush, to blend



everything in for a flawless finish. Make sure to smooth it down to your neck for a seamless look.

## Concealer Magic

Up next in your Diwali makeup look is a concealer that leaves you with a flawless finish. Pick the facial regions you wish to conceal. The undereyes and the area around the nose are the regions that are usually concealed the most. Apply the concealer in dots with the applicator wand as per your desired coverage. Blend it in with your fingers or a makeup sponge.

Use your regular foundation and concealer. Make sure your base is natural and not very cakey. Use very

little to give your skin the natural look. Apply the concealer properly and spread it finely with your finger tips. Based on your skin type, use a face powder to set the base evenly all through your skin.

## Eyes

Go for golden eyes with a smokey look at the corners. OR simply choose the neutral eye makeup and add a little magic with a smokey look at the outer ends.

In case you want to look bold and play with colors, use colors like ivory and gold and use colored eyeliner to finish the look. Add a little shimmer in the edges for a more dramatic and festive look.

## Brows

Thick and finely shaped brows are in vogue. So, simply color your brows with a black or brown shadow using a fine brush. Avoid using pencils for their unnatural looks.

## Eye Lashes

Use long lasting, waterproof mascara on your lashes. Make sure you use enough to give your eyes the most beautiful look ever. Mascaras open up your eyes, making them look bigger and prettier.

## Eye Liners

Choose the eyeliner you are most comfortable with. However, the winged eye liner shape looks classy these days.

## Blush

Use a blush that adds a more glowing effect to your skin. Choose the color that highlights your cheeks perfectly. (Not very light colored)

## Highlighter

Use a highlighter on the cheekbones and also the bridge of your nose.

## Lips

Lip color is absolutely your choice. You can keep it light or even bright colored, based on your choice.

In case you are opting for a nude look, add a lot of gloss on your lips to add a little sparkle on them.

And if you are opting for colors, go for Pinks, Reds and Corals. And Lastly, Don't forget to carry your makeup essentials where ever you go for a final touch up.

## FOOD CORNER

### Malpua

#### Ingredients

200 gm all purpose flour, 1 teaspoon fennel seeds, 1 teaspoon powdered green cardamom, 1 cup ghee, 250 ml water, 50 gm khoya, 100 gm semolina, 1/2 teaspoon baking powder, 500 ml milk, 250 gm sugar, 1 pinch saffron.

#### Method

For making the sugar syrup, place water in a pan over medium flame. Add sugar in it and stir until fully dissolved. Then add 2-3 tsp milk and stir again, after a few minutes remove the scum that rises to the top. Once the sugar syrup is thick, remove the pan from the flame and keep aside. Mix maida, rava, khoya, baking powder, fennel seeds, cardamom powder and milk. Ensure the mixture is of pouring consistency and not too thick. Once the batter is ready, keep it aside for few minutes so that the flavour of spices and herbs gets absorbed. Now heat ghee in a pan over low flame. Pour a ladleful of the mixture and spread evenly. Keep the flame low and cook till it is light brown on both sides. Remove the cooked malpua and drain the excess ghee. Drop the malpua in sugar syrup and allow it to soak for 10 minutes. Repeat the same with the remaining batter. Drain the malpuas from the syrup, garnish with pistachios.



### Rice Kheer

#### Ingredients

3 cup rice, 6 blanched almonds, 1/4 cup sugar, 6 cup milk, 2 green cardamom.

#### Method

To begin with, slice the blanched almonds on a clean chopping board and keep them aside until needed again.

Keep a pressure cooker on medium flame and add milk in it. Allow the milk to come to a boil, then add rice in it followed by cardamom and sugar. Using a spatula, mix all the ingredients properly.

Cover the pressure cooker with a lid and allow the mixture to be cooked on medium flame for 10 to 12 minutes. Once done, do not immediately open the cooker rather allow the steam to first escape from the cooker. After that, open up the lid and reheat the milk mixture in the pressure cooker on high flame. Cook until a thick and creamy consistency is obtained.



## Gut hormone in fruit flies found to extend lifespan: Researchers

The gut could be key to understanding longevity, according to a study that found a gut hormone in fruit flies could control lifespan, a result important to humans as both species have many similar genes and hormones.

Researchers at Brown University in the US have found that suppressing the insulin-regulating 'neuropeptide F' hormone in the gut of fruit flies extended longevity. The findings are important for humans too, especially as new diabetes and obesity drugs developed from gut hormones in the same insect family are becoming widespread, the researchers said.

Understanding ageing mechanisms in flies may thus help explain what's happening in humans as well, they said. The findings are published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Reducing insulin and targeting related processes have been found to slow ageing and extend lifespan in animals in previous studies.

In this study, the researchers manipulated gene activity in the intestines of fruit flies such that they produced lower levels of the neuropeptide F hormone, and thereby lower levels of insulin.

The team then compared the hormone production in the gut to what was happening in the fruit flies' brains and connected all the results with the diet that the insects were consuming.

The researchers found that suppressing the gut activity of the neuropeptide F hormone extended longevity in the flies, as did blocking the activity of related proteins in their brains. These proteins control the production of 'juvenile' hormones, which are known to regulate physiology.

The researchers said that neuropeptide F hormone in the gut impacted ageing in flies by integrating these factors -- nutrient sensing, insulin processes and juvenile hormone production.



"Gut neuropeptide F modulates (fruit fly) ageing through the integration of nutrient sensing, insulin signalling, and juvenile hormone," the authors wrote.

"Based on (our) research, we suspect that overproduction of gut neuropeptide F in flies will have a negative effect on ageing and decrease lifespan," study author Marc Tatar, a professor of biology at Brown University.

The researchers explained that humans do not produce either of the neuropeptide F or juvenile hormones. Instead, gut hormones are involved in regulating insulin in humans.

Given how diabetes and obesity drugs, which are known to target hormones involved in controlling insulin, and the findings on the relationship between insulin and ageing in flies, it may be time to consider how the drugs could impact human ageing, the authors said.

Source: PTI

## Eat pistachios for better eyes

With age, eyesight starts to take a hit. However, a recent study explains how having a serving of pistachios on a daily basis can help improve vision and protect us from age-related vision problems. The study, led by Dr Tammy Scott, Tufts University, observed that adults with a diet inclusion of two ounces of pistachios daily for 12 weeks showed better improvements in eye health than the adults who consumed a regular diet.

The study focused on analysing special protective pigments in the retina, also known as macular pigments. These pigments act as internal sunglasses that help in filtering out the harmful blue light. It also helps in protecting the retina from age-related macular degeneration.

The study was conducted on 36 healthy adults between the ages of 40 and 70 with a diet consisting of low amounts of lutein-rich foods. The participants were divided into two groups -- one group was asked to add two ounces of unsalted pistachios to their diet, while the other group continued having their normal diet.

After six weeks, it was observed that the group that consumed pistachios regularly showed significant improvement in their eye health with increased macular pigment levels, while the other control group showed no changes.

Pistachios are an important source of lutein, a beneficial compound that helps in the formation of macular pigments in the retina. Usually, green leafy vegetables are the go-to food source for lutein, pistachios offer a distinct advantage over the others. Pistachios contain a natural fat content that helps the



body absorb lutein more effectively.

Dr. Tammy Scott, a research and clinical neuropsychologist and lead author of the study, in a media release, stated that as people age and face issues of vision impairment, it is important to consume pistachios daily for better eyes and vision.

Source: HT



## Music speeds up recovery from surgery, reduces stress levels

Listening to music may help patients recover from surgery through a lower heart rate, reduced anxiety levels, less opioid use and lower pain, according to researchers.

A reduction in cortisol levels when listening to music may play a role in easing patients' recovery, according to a meta-analysis presented at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress 2024 in San Francisco.

"When patients wake up after surgery, sometimes they feel really scared and don't know where they are," said Eldo Frezza, professor of surgery at California Northstate University College of Medicine. "Music can help ease the transition from the waking up stage to a return to normalcy and may help reduce stress around that transition."

Frezza and study co-authors noted that unlike some more active therapies such as meditation or pilates which require considerable concentration or movement, listening to music is a more passive experience and can be incorporated by patients without much cost or effort almost immediately after surgery.

To reach this conclusion, the team analysed existing studies on music and its role in helping people recover from surgery, narrowing a list of 3,736 studies to 35 research papers.

In their analysis, the researchers found that the simple act of listening to music after surgery, whether with headphones or through a speaker, had noticeable effects on patients during their recovery period:

Patients who listened to music had a statistically significant reduction in pain the day after surgery. Across all studies, patient self-reported anxiety levels were reduced by about 2.5 points, or 3 per cent.

Patients who listened to music used less than half of the amount of morphine compared to those who did not listen to music on the first day after surgery, the research noted.

They also experienced a reduced heart rate (around 4.5 fewer beats per minute) compared with patients who did not listen to music.

Source: IANS

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## FB owner Meta restarts facial recognition tech in 'celeb-bait' crackdown

Three years after Meta shut down facial recognition software on Facebook amid a groundswell of privacy and regulator pushback, the social media giant said on Tuesday it is testing the service again as part of a crackdown on "celeb bait" scams.

Meta said it will enroll about 50,000 public figures in a trial which involves automatically comparing their Facebook profile photos with images used in suspected scam advertisements. If the images match and Meta believes the ads are scams, it will block them.

The celebrities will be notified of their enrollment and can opt out if they do not want to participate, the company said.

The company plans to roll out the trial globally from December, excluding some large jurisdictions where it does not have regulatory clearance such as Britain, the European Union, South Korea and the U.S. states of Texas and Illinois, it added.

Monika Bickert, Meta's vice president of content policy, said in a briefing with journalists that the company was targeting public figures whose likenesses it had identified as having been used in scam ads.

"The idea here is: roll out as much protection as we can for them. They can opt out of it if they want to, but we want to be able to make this protection available to them and easy for them," Bickert said.

The test shows a company trying to thread the needle of using potentially invasive technology to address regulator concerns about rising numbers of scams while minimising complaints about its handling of user data, which have followed social media companies for years.

When Meta shuttered its facial recognition system in 2021, deleting the face scan data of one billion users, it cited "growing societal concerns". In August this year, the company was ordered to pay Texas \$1.4 billion to settle a state lawsuit accusing it of collecting biometric data illegally.

Source: Reuters

# Upgrades to expect with the M4 Mac lineup in a few days

Apple is going to begin unveiling their M4 Mac lineup next week, with updates to the iMac, MacBook Pro, and Mac mini to start off the new M4 transition. Although we're not getting a proper Apple Event, Apple marketing exec Greg Joswiak announced that there'll be a series of announcements over the course of next week, and highly suggested that it'll be Mac focused.

### 16GB RAM as standard

According to Bloomberg's Mark Gurman, Apple is likely to start shipping at least 16GB RAM on the new M4 Macs, including the base model 14" MacBook Pro, the new Mac mini, and the new iMac. Apple has been shipping 8GB of RAM on its base model Macs for the past 8 years, so this is a pleasant change. It definitely makes sense with Apple Intelligence being more memory intensive on our devices.

### Additional Thunderbolt ports

According to analysis of an M4 die shot done by Fred on Twitter, it appears that Apple's M4 chip is equipped with four Thunderbolt controllers, compared to two on the M3 chip and earlier. This likely means that all base M4 Macs will have additional Thunderbolt ports across the board. We already know that the base M4 MacBook Pro will have three Thunderbolt ports compared to two on the M3 model, thanks to the warehouse leak. The M4 iMac may potentially have four Thunderbolt ports as well, compared to the current 2 Thunderbolt and 2 USB-C.

### Smaller Mac mini

Recent reports have suggested that Apple's upcoming Mac mini will be the biggest redesign in the computers 14 year history, with the upcoming model expected to shrink significantly. In the process, it'll also likely lose support for USB-A, although it should gain some additional USB-C ports to make up for it. It'll also have ports on the front, similar to the Mac Studio. While we don't know a ton about what it'll look like, it sure should be exciting, especially given the fact that it's



Apples cheapest Mac.

### USB-C Magic Mouse, Keyboard, and Trackpad

Rumors point to there being a new iMac this month, which opens the door to Apple finally refreshing all of the Magic accessories. Given the fact that Apple has to comply with the European Union's USB-C mandate by the end of this year, it's almost certain that we'll be seeing goodbye to lightning on Apple's desktop accessories with the new M4 iMac refresh. Additionally, code spotted in the macOS 15.1 RC seems to suggest this fact as well, as there are new references to additional Magic Keyboard, Magic Trackpad, and Magic Mouse models.

### Space Black on the cheapest MacBook Pro

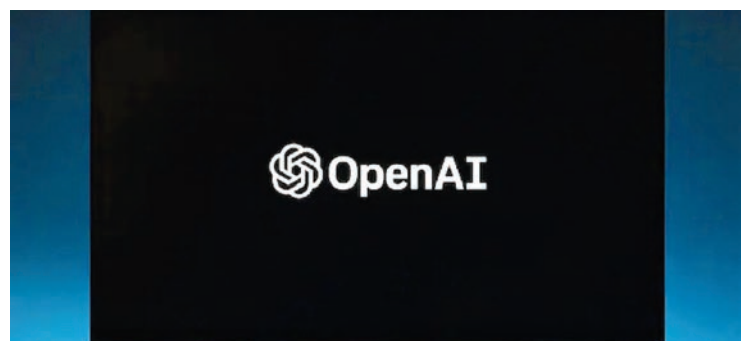
According to packaging leaks and a subsequent unboxing, the cheapest 14" MacBook Pro with the base M4 chip will be coming in Space Black for the first time. Last year, the base model 14" MacBook Pro with M3 still came in the older Space Gray color, likely because it was manufactured earlier than the later M3 Pro and M3 Max models.

# OpenAI to launch next flagship AI model before the end of 2024

OpenAI is reportedly planning to launch another flagship AI model, codenamed Orion. After launching OpenAI o1, the company is eyeing bringing the new model in December. The Verge report states that Orion won't be widely available via ChatGPT at first. OpenAI plans to offer early access to select partner companies, allowing them to develop their own products and features using the platform. This limited rollout will prioritise those businesses with which OpenAI has established close working relationships before broader release.

OpenAI's Orion model is not new, the company has been teasing its still-under-progress model for quite some time. According to the previous reports, the upcoming model is expected to be a significant advancement in artificial intelligence, potentially succeeding GPT-4. Orion builds upon the progress made by previous models, with a focus on enhancing reasoning, problem-solving, and language processing. It aims to reduce common AI issues like hallucinations by leveraging improved synthetic data generation, as described earlier. It was also reported that OpenAI was using o1, code named Strawberry, to provide synthetic data to train Orion.

According to The Verge, Microsoft engineers, OpenAI's primary partner for AI model deployment, are gearing up to host Orion on Azure as soon as November. Orion, viewed internally as GPT-4's successor, may not be labelled GPT-5 externally. However, OpenAI has not finalised the name so far. The release timing could shift as it remains tentative, with no



guarantees on when it will officially launch, as per the report.

While there is very limited information available around the Orion AI model, ChatGPT has something to say. We asked ChatGPT about the upcoming model, and it said, "This model aims to push boundaries in key sectors, including healthcare and finance, where accuracy and reliability are crucial. Orion's development reflects OpenAI's strategy to stay competitive in the rapidly evolving AI space, as it faces challenges from rivals like Google DeepMind and Meta's LLaMA models."

Last month, OpenAI fully unveiled the new AI model that thinks before responding -- OpenAI o1, from which the upcoming model will learn and grow. OpenAI o1 is itself a progressive step toward achieving human-like AI. It also demonstrates tangible improvements in key areas, such as generating code and tackling complex, multistep challenges with greater proficiency than its predecessors.





## Bitcoin Tops \$71,000 for First Time Since June as Election Nears

Bitcoin rose past \$71,000 for the first time since June, bolstered by inflows into dedicated exchange-traded funds as well as speculation about potential outcomes from next week's US election.

The largest digital asset climbed more than 2%, changing hands at \$71,310 as of 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct 29, in Singapore. Second-ranked Ether and meme-crowd favorite Dogecoin both added about 4%.

Bitcoin is viewed by some as a so-called Trump trade because Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump embraced digital assets during campaigning. Trump is ahead in prediction markets, while polls show a neck-and-neck race against Democratic candidate Vice President Kamala Harris.

The token drew succor from an overnight rally in stocks and is continuing to "price in a Donald Trump election victory," Tony Sycamore, a market analyst at IG Australia Pty, wrote in a note. Bitcoin needs a sustained break past \$70,000 to boost confidence that it can rally beyond March's record of \$73,798, he added.

Trump has vowed to make the US the crypto capital of the planet. Harris has adopted a more measured approach, pledging to support a regulatory framework for the industry. Their positions contrast with a crackdown on the sector under President Joe Biden. Trump has also said that he would ask billionaire Elon Musk — a major donor to his campaign — to head up a push to cut government spending. The effort is nicknamed the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, a reference to the Dogecoin token that Musk has embraced.

Options traders have increased bets that Bitcoin will reach a peak of \$80,000 by the end of November regardless of who wins the election. Implied volatility around Election Day on Nov. 5 is elevated. Spot-Bitcoin ETFs in the US have attracted about \$3.3 billion in net inflows so far this month. Bitcoin has jumped 70% in 2024 and lately weathered scaled back wagers on Federal Reserve interest-rate cuts as well as a report of greater US scrutiny of Tether, a stablecoin that acts as linchpin in crypto trading.

# RBI's rosy growth forecast baffles economists

MUMBAI (TIP)

The Reserve Bank of India's upbeat growth estimates for the world's fastest-growing major economy is causing both confusion and concern among economists.

The central bank has stuck to its forecast that India's economy will expand 7.2% in the year ending March 2025 despite recent evidence showing activity is starting to taper off. The RBI's outlook is far more optimistic than the 6.5%-7% growth projected by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Investment banks like Goldman Sachs Corp. have already downgraded growth projections to as low as 6.5%.

The RBI's bullishness is underpinned by its view that rural spending is improving and private investment is picking up. Economists, though, point to sluggish urban consumption and weakening exports as a worry. If those warning signals aren't heeded in time, the RBI runs the risk of keeping monetary policy too tight, undermining growth further, they say.

"The RBI's forecast is higher than what a margin error around market forecast would allow," said Dhiraj Nim, an economist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Corp. "I don't think the overall macro mix has evolved very encouragingly in the last couple of months" to support the central bank's predictions, he said.

From sales of cars and coffee to manufacturing, there has been a downturn in several sections of the economy. India's factory activity had been softening since July, although it registered an uptick this month. Passenger vehicle sales fell for two months in a row in September, while air travel has declined three out of the four months since June.

The lingering spell of weak demand for consumer goods in cities has hurt profits of some of the biggest companies in the country, like Hindustan Unilever Ltd., which makes everything from soap to tea. "The pattern is quite clear that urban growth has trended down in recent quarters," Rohit Jawa, the company's chief executive officer, said in an earnings call on Wednesday, October 23.

Muted economic activity comes at a time when the RBI has kept its key interest rate unchanged for almost two years. Governor Shaktikanta Das said earlier this month an interest rate cut at this stage would be "very, very risky" and he's in no hurry to join the wave of easing by global policymakers. He



reiterated on Friday that he wants to see inflation on a "durable descent" to the 4% target.

"There's a risk of a policy misstep if you keep rates higher for longer," said Teresa John, an economist with Nirmal Bang Institutional Equities, projecting a 6.6% expansion for the year. Monetary policy works with a lag, so the more time the RBI takes to cut rates, the greater time it will take to spread through the economy, she said.

While the RBI expects a revival in demand in the ongoing festival season, economists said that may not be enough to sustain long-term growth. The three-month long festive period, which culminates with the Hindu-festival of Diwali this week, typically makes up 20%-30% of the annual sales for various companies.

"There is hope that this Diwali will be lit, but the light might not last several quarters," said Achala Jethmalani, an economist at RBL Bank Ltd. "Even if there is a jump in consumption during the festive season, it is expected to be seasonal and the momentum could possibly fade" in later months, she said.

Even though momentum is picking up in rural markets after above-normal monsoons and a bumper crop, it's still not enough to make up for the bleakness in cities, where consumers spend much more. *Source: Bloomberg*

## 'Your money is being wasted': Elon Musk says he can cut \$2 trillion from US federal budget

PENNSYLVANIA (TIP)

Elon Musk claimed he can eliminate at least \$2 trillion from the federal budget, laying out his vision for substantial government spending cuts if Donald Trump wins the presidency.

"Your money is being wasted," Musk said at a rally for Trump in New York's Madison Square Garden. "We're going to get the government off your back and out of your pocket book."

Trump has said he would ask Musk, the world's richest person and a major donor to the Republican nominee's campaign, to head up an effort to cut government spending, nicknamed the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, a reference to a cryptocurrency Musk has embraced.

Critics have said this position would represent a conflict of interest for Musk. The companies he runs, including Tesla



Inc. and SpaceX, have billions of dollars worth of federal contracts and have benefited from federal spending, including electric vehicle tax credits and infrastructure investments.

The \$2 trillion target represents nearly a third of existing spending. The federal government spent \$6.75 trillion in fiscal year 2024, according to the Treasury Department.

Cantor Fitzgerald LP's Howard

Lutnick asked Musk on stage how much he could "rip out of" the budget under President Joe Biden and Trump's rival, Vice President Kamala Harris. Musk responded, "Well, I think we can do at least \$2 trillion, yeah."

Trump on the campaign trail has talked about reducing the federal debt, but has not detailed specific programs he would curb. Instead, the Republican nominee has promised a long list of tax cuts aimed at key groups of voters, reductions that economists have warned would balloon the deficit.

Musk has spent at least \$132 million to elect Trump and other Republicans in 2024, federal filings show. That level of giving has vaulted him into the upper echelon of political donors, making Musk one of the most prolific contributors of the entire 2024 cycle.

*Source: Bloomberg*



**BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA**



**ARIES** : Ganesha says many positive changes are possible for you this week for Aries. This is the time to focus on your goals and be determined towards whatever you want to do. This week new possibilities may emerge in your business or career, which you should take advantage of. There are also signs of improvement in your relationships. Spending time with family and friends will improve your mental state. This is the right time to resolve some old differences, which can strengthen your relationship. In terms of health, making some changes in your routine will be beneficial. Focus on exercise and a balanced diet. Practice meditation and yoga to reduce mental stress. There is also a possibility of improvement in financial condition. You may benefit from an old investment or get success in new financial plans. Be cautious and make the right decision, so that you can get better results. This week is for you to move forward and face new opportunities. Maintain your positivity and believe in your confidence.



**TAURUS** : Ganesha says there will be a new energy for Taurus this week. Things you were looking for will gradually come your way. Be prepared to see progress in your work life, and if you are working on a new project, this is the time to take it forward. Relationships will generally remain stable, but some minor setbacks may surprise you. Spending time with family will give you mental peace. In terms of health, regular exercise and a balanced diet will help maintain your energy. Resort to meditation and yoga to avoid mental stress. Welcome new opportunities this week, as these can open doors of success for you. Focus on your desires and dreams and do not hesitate to take bold steps to make them come true.



**GEMINI** : Ganesha says this week is an important time for Gemini natives. Your social life will increase dynamism, and new connections can be made. Spending time with friends and family will empower you with your emotional energy. This week can also bring positive changes for you at work. Your ideas and suggestions will be appreciated, and your relationship with your colleagues will strengthen. Keep in mind that your communication skills will be the key this time, so be clear and open in whatever you discuss. Health-wise, it is time to incorporate yoga and meditation into your routine. This will provide both mental peace and physical freshness. Your outlook towards life will be positive this week,

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - NOVEMBER 4 TO NOVEMBER 19, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

which will enable you to face new challenges. Financially, this week will bring harmony and balance. Make financial decisions wisely. Be careful in any kind of investment, so that you get benefits in the future. The time is favorable for buying materials or clothing. Thus, keep your thoughts clear during this week and take full advantage of the opportunities.

**CANCER** : Ganesha says for Cancer, this week is indicating many new experiences and opportunities for you. Your creativity and emotional depth will make you excel in a particular project or work. Spending time with family and friends will give you mental peace, so do not forget to give them priority. Your emotions may fluctuate this week. Take the help of meditation or yoga to keep your sensitive nature balanced. Be cooperative with colleagues at the workplace; your cooperative spirit will maintain good relations. Be cautious in financial matters too; avoid unnecessary expenditure. Be cautious in matters of love and relationships; maintaining communication is important. This is the time for you to understand yourself and pay attention to your needs. Move forward with caution and positivity this week, this will bring you success and satisfaction.

**LEO** : Ganesha says this week you will see positive changes in many aspects of your life. Your self-confidence will increase, which will make you feel encouraged to take on new challenges. Partnerships and a sense of cooperation at work will prove beneficial for you. Also, this week is the right time for you to move forward with your plans; an important project is in your hands that you can easily complete. There will be good changes in your personal life as well. Sweetness will increase in family relationships and you will be able to spend more time with your loved ones. If you are in a relationship with someone special, this week is a good opportunity to express your feelings clearly. In terms of health, this week you have to take care of your mental health. Doing meditation and exercise will help reduce stress. If you want to experience mental peace, meditate regularly. Maintain understanding and patience in relationships this week, as there may be some minor disputes, but you will be able to resolve them with clarity and a positive attitude. Overall, this week is a time of happiness and success for you.

**VIRGO** : Ganesha says this week, a lot of positive energy is going to flow in for Virgo natives. You will be able to add some new dimensions to your routine. This is the time to keep yourself open to new ideas, which can help you grow. Your approach to work will be positive. Your relationship with colleagues will be stronger. Your hard work is going to be rewarded while working on an

important project, so keep patience. This week will be full of celebration and love in my personal life as well. It is a good time to spend time with loved ones. Conversation with your family members is the perfect opportunity to share your feelings. In terms of health, you need to pay special attention to your mental health. You can reduce stress through yoga and meditation. Do not forget to express your feelings in a healthy week is also for self-evaluation. Clarify your goals and increase your commitment towards them. It is also time to celebrate your achievements.

**LIBRA** : Ganesha says this week, Libra natives have a great time finding harmony and balance. Sweetness will flow in your conversations, which will improve relationships. You will be able to share deep feelings with people around you at this time, which will strengthen your relationships. On the career front, your hard work and patience are going to pay off. Be open to new opportunities and focus on improving your skills. Think before making important decisions and move forward with confidence. For health, this is the time for exercise and meditation. Take some time to find mental peace, as your self-care is important to you. Your creativity will be at its peak this week, so write down your thoughts or invest in art. This will give you mental relief and increase your inner strength. Overall, this week is favorable for balance, positivity, and, self-revelation. Be mindful of your thoughts and feelings and try to strengthen your relationships.

**SCORPIO** : Ganesha says this week, Scorpio natives have a lot of possibilities and opportunities. Your energy is high, and you will be motivated to realize your desires. At work, collaborative efforts with the team will lead you to significant results. With the help of those working with you, you will be able to resolve difficulties. Positive changes can also occur in your personal life. Time spent with loved ones will make you stronger from within. Deep communication will strengthen your relationships even more. In terms of health, this week will allow you to find peace and balance. Practicing meditation and yoga will strengthen your mental health. In financial matters, this is the right time to invest wisely. Assess the current situation correctly and think enough before taking risks. Self-analyze this week and focus on your goals. You will discover the power and potential within you, which will help you move forward.

**SAGITTARIUS** : Ganesha says this week will be satisfying and encouraging for Sagittarius natives. Your confidence will be at its peak, which will help you move rapidly towards your goals. If you are working on a new project, the depth of your thoughts

and your creativity will prove to help make it successful. Personal relationships will become warmer. Time spent with family and friends will give you happiness and relaxation. Meeting an old friend can refresh your memories. In terms of love, spending time with your significant other will strengthen the relationship. It is important to be health conscious this week. Spend some time in exercise and meditation, this will improve mental and physical health. In the workplace, try to deal with your responsibilities serially, this will have a positive impact on you. Keep in mind, that it is important to maintain patience and stability in challenging times. This week it will be necessary for you to maintain a balance in your personal and professional life.

**CAPRICORN** : Ganesha says this week, the time is of positive change and growth for Capricorn natives. New possibilities are going to emerge in your work life, which will open up new paths to success for you. Your hard work and perseverance will prove to be very important during this time. Mutual understanding will increase in personal relationships. You will spend time with your loved ones, which will strengthen your relationship. Moments spent with family will be important for refreshment and happiness. It is important to be cautious in terms of health. Include regular exercise and a balanced diet in your routine. Meditation and yoga will also be beneficial for mental peace. At the end of this week, think about a big decision. Trust your intuition and move forward with what feels right. Overall, this is the time to make your aspirations and dreams come true, gear up, and move forward with positivity.

**AQUARIUS** : Ganesha says this week, doors to many new opportunities can open for Aquarius natives. This is the right time to test your creative ideas and take them forward. Collaborate with the team at work, as your group skills will benefit. Express your thoughts clearly, which will further strengthen your identity. Spend time with family members this week. They can play an important role in understanding and supporting your emotional needs. Small things will strengthen your relationships and create a deeper bond. From a financial point of view, be cautious and decide on big investments thoughtfully. Circumstances can be a bit uncertain, so you shouldn't take any big steps in a fit of impulse. Practice meditation and yoga for personal growth. This will not only improve your mental health, but it will also teach you new ways of self-dedication. You must take care of yourself at this time so that you can be full of positive energy. Self-reflect this week and try to take a concrete step towards your goals. If you bring changes in your thinking and attitude, the results will

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## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : NOVEMBER 4 TO NOVEMBER 10 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**NOVEMBER 4 :** Ganesha says today is going to usher in an explosion of creative energy. You'll have a hard time resisting the overpowering temptation to express yourself in original and creative ways today. Whether it be through the creation of works of art or literature, or even just by talking about your feelings with those you care about, let your inner artist show. Every thought and emotion you have is a brushstroke on the world, which serves as your canvas. Plunge headfirst into this wellspring of inspiration, and you will unearth the masterpiece that resides deep within you.

**NOVEMBER 5 :** Ganesha says the focus of the day is on interpersonal connections. You'll find that you're thinking a lot about the connections you value and the bonds that you've made over the years. It is a day to cultivate these connections, to reach out to individuals who are dear to you, and to let them know how much they mean to you. Keep in mind that seemingly insignificant actions can frequently have the most important effects. Therefore, send that message, make that call, and allow love to serve as

the compass that directs you.

**NOVEMBER 6 :** Ganesha says today is a day for reflection and self-examination. Take a break from the busyness of the world around you to concentrate on yourself for a while. What are some of the hopes and wishes that keep your spirit going strong? Do you have any worries or uncertainties that are preventing you from moving forward? Take advantage of today to face these feelings, get a better understanding of them, and release yourself from their shackles. After the day, you will have a sense of lightness and a greater connection to your authentic self.

**NOVEMBER 7 :** Ganesha says the winds of change are blowing, and with them come new opportunities and challenges. You'll have a decision to make today, so prepare yourself. Do you choose to remain in your comfort zone, or do you push yourself into the unknown? Keep in mind that we find the most growth when we step outside of our comfort zones. Therefore, gather up your courage, take a deep breath, and step into the next chapter that lies in wait for you.

**NOVEMBER 8 :** Ganesha says the natural world is calling to you today. Spend some time connecting with the world around you. This might be done by activities such as taking a stroll through the park, going on a hike in the woods, or even just sitting by a window and watching the world go by. The earth is filled with knowledge and experience, as well as stories to share. If you pay careful attention, you might be able to pick out the sound of the universe's beating heart.

**NOVEMBER 9 :** Ganesha says you'll find that you're standing at a crossroads today, between the things that have happened in the past and the opportunities that lie ahead. Be confident in following your intuition as you make your way through this intersection. You are being prodded to venture into the unknown by the secrets that the universe is trying to impart to you. Even though the way forward might not be entirely clear, keep in mind that each step you take is a demonstration of your tenacity and bravery. Embrace the experience of the voyage and let your intuition direct you along the way.

**NOVEMBER 10 :** Ganesha says today marks the beginning of a whole new era for you, which ushers in a clean slate as well as countless opportunities. You are being urged to make new plans, dream greater dreams, and pursue those dreams with a newfound enthusiasm today. You have the support and encouragement of the entire cosmos. So go ahead and take that leap of faith, and then sit back and watch as the universe reveals its beautiful secrets to you.

*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*

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also be positive. You can adopt new ideas and take advantage of them.



**PISCES :** Ganesha says this week is a time of new possibilities for Pisces natives. The depth and creativity in your thoughts will give you a chance to move in a new direction today. People at work will appreciate your abilities, and you will be successful in impressing them. In your personal life, you will get an important opportunity to spend time with your loved ones. This will further strengthen your relationships. However, do not hesitate to express your feelings, as openness will make your relationship even deeper. In terms of health, the beginning of the week may make you feel a little tired, but as the week progresses, your energy levels will improve. Meditation and yoga will help you improve your mental state. During this time, it is a great time to take up a new activity or hobby. Your insight and imagination will help you in this journey. Overall, this week is excellent for self-discovery and personal growth. Listen to your inner voice and open up to things that make you truly happy.

#### 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)

## Diwali Muhurat 2024 By Astrologer Chirag Daruwalla

### Vagh Baras

Monday, October 28, 2024

#### Muhurat

05:40 PM to 08:11 PM

### Dhanteras

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

#### Muhurat

6:46 PM to 8:22 PM

### Kali Chaudash

Wednesday, Oct 30, 2024

#### Muhurat

11:16 PM to 12:13 AM

### Diwali

Thursday, October 31, 2024

#### Muhurat

5:36 PM to 6:16 PM

### New Year

Saturday, November 2, 2024

#### Muhurat

08:10 AM to 09:34 AM

### Bhai Dooj

Sunday, November 3, 2024

#### Muhurat

01:17 PM to 03:38 PM

### Labh Pancham

Wednesday, Nov 6, 2024

#### Muhurat

06:12 AM to 10:08 AM



[www.ChiragDaruwalla.com](http://www.ChiragDaruwalla.com)

# Sikh History This Week

NOVEMBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 7

## 1st November



1916 Punjabi Americans and the Ghadar Party established a Punjabi newspaper "Ghadar." It advocated armed revolutionary struggle for India's freedom. GHADAR PARTY, a revolutionary group, founded in United States of America (USA) for the independence of India. Its members were Indian residents, primarily Sikhs, settled in USA. Their prime objective was to actively cause rebellion among members of the British forces, thereby forcing the fall of the British empire and hasten their departure from India.

1921 Gurdwara Hothian was forcibly captured and brought under SGPC's control. As the movement of non-cooperation gained momentum among Sikhs, the Akali leaders began their tour of the provinces urging the Sikhs to join the Akali Dal and rise as one man to liberate their Gurdwaras. On this day a large number of Akalis suddenly appeared at Gurudwara Hothian and captured it.

1921 Karam Singh of Daulatpur leads a jatha of 50 Akalis at the call of SGPC to capture the Gurudwara of Hothian.

1925 The Punjab Gurudwara Act established on July 8, 1925 was enacted. Speaking on the occasion, Tara Singh said that during the Gurudwara reform movement, Akalis suffered 30,000 men and women behind bars, 400 dead and 20,000 injured, besides dismissals from services, withdrawal of jagirs and pensions, confiscation of properties and imposition of fines, etc. These numbers were never refuted. Giani Nahar Singh, a contemporary, put the figures at 40,000 behind bars and 500 dead. With the enactment of Gurudwara Act, came to fruition, the Sikh efforts to assert its identity. However, this came only after a bitter struggle and a great deal of sacrifices.

1966 Punjab Suba came into existence.

## 2nd November



1708 Gur Gadhi, Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. SRI GURU GRANTH SAHIB: No institutionalized religion is safe from erosion till its tenets and doctrines have been enshrined in some tangible, though, permanent form. Great religions of the world, therefore, have taken care

to prepare or compile one volume which is sovereign and supreme in its authority. Assuredly, it will employ the medium of poetry to reach out to infinity. Such a volume then, is the Guru Granth, the sacred book of the Sikhs – a volume that takes its place alongside the world's greatest scriptures, the Vedas, the Zind-Avesta, the Bible and the Koran. Its power is the power of the puissant and winged word, and no exegesis or commentary or translation can ever convey the full beauty of its thought and poetry. In all mystic literature the appeal of the numinous and the ineffable is inexplicable, if not incommunicable. And yet the great Sikh scripture is not a knot of metaphysical riddles and abstract theorizings. On the contrary, since for the most part it employs the idiom of the common people, and draws its imagery, metaphors and symbols from the home, the street and the market-place, its poetry has a rare kind of immediacy, concreteness and urgency. To see a Sikh congregation intoning the sacred hymns in unison is to see massed spiritual energy take shape before your eyes. That's how the ordinary word changes into the logos and becomes oracular. The Sikhs indeed regard the Granth as a complete, inviolable and final embodiment of the message of the Guru. There is to be no word beyond the Word. And that's how Guru Gobind Singh, the Tenth Guru, spoke to the congregation shortly before his ascension.



1780 Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was born.

## 3rd November

1668 Bhai Dharam Singh was born in Hastnapur to father Sant Ram and Matta Sabho. He was among the first five members to be initiated into the Khalsa order. He was the second one to answer Guru Gobind Singh call and offered his head to the Guru. He remained in the company of his great Master when he went to Nanded where he breathed his last in 1708.

1753 Meer Mannu fell from his horse during an attack. As his foot was stuck in the saddles's stirrup, he was dragged to death. Subsequently, his wife Mighalani sought help of Abdali.

1834 Raja Sangat Singh of Jind passed away.

1988 The hearing began in the case of General Vaidiya's murder. On Aug. 10th, 1985, Harjinder Singh "Jinda" and Sukhdev Singh "Sukha", gunned down General Vadiya after his retirement from the Indian army. General Vadiya was the Chief of the Indian Army who ordered the attack on the holiest of the holy shrines at Amritsar and elsewhere in Punjab during 1984 operations. On Oct. 9, 1992, Sukhdev Singh "Sukha" and Harjinder Singh "Jinda" were hanged until death in Puna Jail.

## 4th November

1469 Prakash Utsav, Patshahi first, Guru Nanak Dev



Ji. In a world rife with falsehood, sunk in superstitions and plagued by all kinds of inequities and inequalities, Guru Nanak rang in the gospel of truth, universal love and brotherhood. The Founder Guru of the Sikhs and one of the greatest and saintliest of saviours, he redeemed the soul of a moribund society that had experienced a total eclipse, if not annihilation, of all abiding human values. The condition of the contemporary society has been vividly described by the First Master in the well-known words

Guru Nanak was born in a Bedi family at Talwandi (Nankana Sahib), near Lahore, in 1469. At an early age he learnt Sanskrit, Persian and the prevalent form of Gurmukhi. He was a precocious child with a pronounced penchant for religion. His father, Mehta Kalu, made vain efforts to woo him to a mundane mode of life. Accordingly, he was got employed in a Government store of the Nawab of Sultanpur where he served for 13 years.

It was in 1499 that the day of destiny of ecstatic communion with God came. While taking his daily bath in the rivulet Bain that flows near Sultanpur, Nanak had his illumination through a soul-stirring vision of Almighty God. It was here that the Guru delivered his great sermon in the memorable words: "There is no Hindu, there is no Musalman". The spiritual enlightenment enjoined on him a mission to the propagation of which he consecrated his entire life. He set out on his great Udasi's (Missionary journeys) to deliver God's message to sinning and suffering humanity.

1763 Sikh forces attacked and defeated Ahmad Shah's Jahan Khan at Wazirabad.

1982 Akali Dal organized morcha in Delhi during the 9th Asian Games. Haryana police harassed Sikhs on their way to Delhi. No rank, status, or position mattered. All Sikhs were thoroughly harassed and made to feel foreigners in their own home.

## 5th November

1840 Maharaja Khadak Singh, the first Prince designate of Maharaja Ranjit Singh died of slow poisoning. He was administered dozes of white lead in wine at the instance of Dhian Singh. The Dogra brothers had hatched a conspiracy to kill all the eligible princes of the Maharaja.

1920 Khalsa College was handed over to a Panthic College Committee.

1978 Killing of Sikhs took place in Delhi. The Delhi police fired at a Sikh protest procession and killed four Sikhs including the President of the Akali Party's Delhi unit, Jathedar Awtar Singh Kohli, Sardar Mohinder Singh, and Sardar Gobind Singh. The police sieged three Sikh shrines of Delhi. Entrance to the Sikh shrines was banned after a period of 200 years. The curfew around the Sikh shrines was not lifted until November 7 when a secret Akali meeting decided to send a band of the senior-most Akali Ministers of the Punjab to violate the curfew orders.



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# Govardhan Puja

Govardhan Puja is an auspicious festival in the Hindu culture that occurs a day after Diwali to commemorate the Baal Roop (child form) of Lord Shri Krishna. Govardhan Puja is also known as Annakut or Annakoot (meaning a "mountain of food"), in which devotees worship Govardhan Parvat (a hill) and offer 56 varieties (Chappan Bhog) of vegetarian food and sweets as a mark of gratitude.

The word Govardhan is derived from the Govardhan mountain located in Gokul (Uttar Pradesh), which was single-handedly lifted by Lord Krishna. Govardhan puja started from Brijbhoomi as a thanksgiving ceremony to the most lovable God Krishna and gradually became prevalent throughout India. According to the Hindu calendar, people of India celebrate this holy festival on the first day of Shukla Paksha in the Kartik month.

## How is Govardhan Puja Celebrated

Devotees celebrate this auspicious ritual Govardhan Puja or Annakut Puja with utmost devotion. The birthplace of Lord Krishna known as Brijbhoomi celebrates this festival with a grand ceremony. The idols of Lord Krishna and Goddess Radha are given milk bath and dressed in new clothes and ornaments in the temples of Mathura and Vrindavan.

The puja starts with devotees making heaps of cow dung in the form of a hill which represents a symbol of mount Govardhan and decorates it with different colors and flowers. Then, devotees perform 'Parikrama' (moving around the mountain) around the cow dung hillocks while doing Kirtans (a combination of music, dance, and devotional hymns).

The temples of Lord Krishna all across the country celebrate this festival by reciting bhajans, kirtans and by offering different foods, sweets, and flowers to the deities and distributing the prasada among all devotees. As per the tradition, devotees prepare and offer 'Chappan Bhog' (56 different food items made up of delicacies, sweets, or savories) to the Govardhan mountain as a respect towards Mother Nature. The festival of Govardhan Puja is associated with several other rituals and traditions. People living in different parts of India, celebrate this holy day while worshipping Lord Indra, the God of Rain, and Lord Vishwakarma, the divine architecture god for their blessings and support to live a comfortable life on earth.

## Significance

Govardhan Puja is an auspicious festival that upholds the powerful bond of faith, devotion, and protection between Gods and devotees. The story behind Govardhan Puja educates every human to respect the forces of nature and to always remember that, being a mortal, we are dependent on Mother nature and must be grateful for all the blessings bestowed on us. The story of Lord Krishna, lifting the mountain and saving the lives of thousands of devotees describes that bhakti or devotion is the only way to connect with divinity. Lord Krishna lifted and sheltered all living beings of Gokul village under the large mountain, Govardhan. So, the significance of Govardhan puja also rests on the belief of the devotees in their Lord and how the Lord will protect them against all odds and in every critical situation.

## Govardhan Puja Story

As per Vishnu Puran, once Lord Krishna asked His mother Yashoda the reason behind worshipping God Indra. Mother Yashoda explained that people worship God Indra because He is responsible for rain on Earth. Young Krishna disagreed with His mother and asked the villagers to stop worshipping God Indra. He had requested them to worship the Govardhan mountain, for the reason that Mount Govardhan is the one that provides natural resources to the villagers for their livelihood. All villagers agreed with Krishna as He was respected by everyone due to His knowledge and immense power. As a result, God Indra got furious by the act of the young boy Krishna and asked Varuna Deva (the god of rains) to pour continuous torrential



## Important information

**Govardhan Puja on Saturday, November 2, 2024**

**Pratahkala Muhurat - 06:34 AM to 08:46 AM**

**Duration - 02 Hours 12 Mins**

**Dyuta Krida on Saturday, November 2, 2024**

**Sayankala Muhurat - 03:23 PM to 05:35 PM**

**Duration - 02 Hours 12 Mins**

rain for seven days. Due to the heavy downpour, the people of Gokul requested Lord Krishna to save their lives.

The little God Krishna immediately asked the villagers to come near the Govardhan hill, where He uprooted and lifted the mountain on His little finger. Villagers, along with their cows and other animals, took shelter under the Govardhan mountain. After 7 days of continuous storms, Lord Indra accepted his defeat and stopped the storms as he realized that the young boy is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. This day is therefore celebrated as a festival that pays respect to Mount Govardhan. Since that event, Hindus started celebrating Govardhan Puja and Mount Govardhan becomes a major pilgrimage site for the devotees of Lord Krishna. On the day of Annakut, thousands of devotees offer a variety of food to the mountain after doing the 'Parikrama' of an eleven-mile path around the mountain and offering flowers and Diyas to the several shrines located in that region.

## Summary

According to the Hindu calendar, Govardhan Puja falls in the month of October-November. Hindus

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

**-- Arish K Sahani**

celebrates this holy day on the very next day of the grand Diwali celebration. People worship Lord Krishna as well as the Govardhan Mountain as a symbol that reminds the victory of good over evil. People from different regions celebrate this day according to their age-old tradition. Govardhan Puja is grandly celebrated in Mathura and Gokul because it is the birth place of Lord Krishna and He had spent most of his childhood in this region. Bhagavat Purana describes a beautiful story that Lord Krishna lifted Govardhan Hill with His little finger for 7 days and nights to provide shelter to the villagers of Gokul from torrential rains

Since this episode, Govardhan has turned into a pilgrimage and devotees' worship and offer prayers and food to the mountain. Hindu devotees around the world come to worship Govardhan mountain, which is located near Mathura in Uttar Pradesh. On this auspicious day, devotees offer 56 kinds of sweet dishes to Lord Krishna which are collectively called "Chhappan Bhog". Devotees worship Lord Krishna as well as 'Govardhan Parvat' with full devotion and they perform kirtans, aarti, bhajans, etc. Devotees with their utmost faith and love for Lord Krishna, offer prayer and seek his blessing for a life without hurdles.

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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.”**

Ujjain, considered to be one of the holiest cities of India, is an ancient city situated on the eastern bank of the Shipra River in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh. Ujjain is one of the four sites for the Kumbh Mela, the largest peace-time gathering on the planet that attracts 100 million people to the festival.

This makes Ujjain an important place of Hindu Pilgrimage. To add to that, it is also home to the Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga, one of the twelve Jyotirlinga shrines to the god Shiva. Ujjain is one of the most glorious cities of ancient India as it was also known to be the educational hub of various Indian scholars.

The immense wealth of Ujjain in terms of religion, architecture, and educational value makes this a top attraction amongst not only Indian travellers but also amongst foreign tourists as well. Ujjain is located at a distance of 52 km from Indore, which is also the nearest major airport.

#### Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga

Mahakaleshwar Temple, located in the ancient city of Ujjain in the state of Madhya Pradesh, is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas in India. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the Mahakal lingam at this temple is believed to be Swayambhu (self-manifested), obtaining currents of Shakti (power) from within itself. Mahakaleshwar is also one of the 18 Maha Shakti Peethas in India.

Another factor that makes Mahakaleshwar one of the most revered Jyotirlingas in India is the fact that the Mahakaleshwar idol is Dakshina Mukhi, facing south, unlike all the other Jyotirlingas. Considered no less than a Hindu pilgrimage, the Bhasma-Aarti of Mahakaleshwar Temple is hugely popular amongst the devotees.

The Mahakaleshwar Temple complex is a spacious courtyard with sculptural finery and sophistication that is influenced by Maratha, Bhumiya and Chalukya styles of structural design and is complete with impressive lingam sculptures of Mahakaleshwar. It also has the inscriptions of Omkaresvara and Nagachandresvara and images of Ganesha, Kartikeya and Parvati. The temple, which is spread over five levels, sees a huge throng of devotees during the Maha Shivaratri festival.

#### Kal Bhairava Temple

Bhairav is a fierce manifestation of Lord Shiva, and Kal Bhairava is the most important among the eight Bhairavas. If ancient scriptures are to be believed, Kal Bhairav temple is said to be related with the Tantra cult, a secret religious sect who thrived upon black magic.

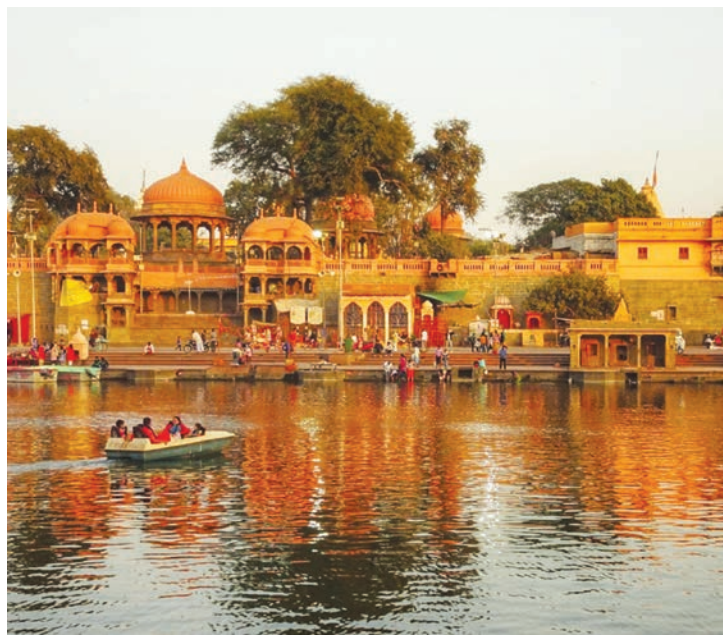
There is a Shivalinga in this temple which during Mahashivratri attracts thousands of visitors to this religious site.

#### Ram Mandir Ghat

Ram Mandir Ghat is of immense religious significance to Hindus because it is one of the four locations where the Kumbh Mela takes place every 12 years.

It is considered to be one of the oldest bathing Ghat in connection with the

# Ujjain: The home of Mahakaleshwar



Kumbh celebrations. Millions of people throng this place during the mega Kumbh festival as it is believed that a dip here can wash off all your sins. Watching the sunset from the Ram Mandir Ghat is one of the most enchanting scenes you'll experience.

#### Kumbh Mela, Ujjain

The Kumbh Mela is one of the most extraordinary human gatherings on the planet. Held in India, the fair commemorates the legendary Samudra Manthan event in Hindu Mythology. The fair takes place only once in every twelve years for twelve days which are equivalent to the twelve years of the Hindu gods in the mortal world. The banks of river Ganga at Haridwar; river Godavari at Nashik, the confluence of river Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati at Allahabad and river Kshipra at Ujjain serve as the venues for this huge carnival.

The Kumbh is held every three years

in one of the four cities, Haridwar, Allahabad, Nasik and Ujjain. The last Kumbh Mela was held in Ujjain in 2016. The next Kumbh Mela will be held in Ujjain in 2028.

Kumbh Mela is a Hindu pilgrimage of faith in which Hindus and people from all over the world gather together at a place to bathe in a sacred river. From ancient times, four fairs are widely recognised as the Kumbh Melas: the Haridwar Kumbh Mela, the Allahabad Kumbh Mela, the Nashik-Trimbakeshwar Simhastha and the Ujjain Simhastha.

These four fairs are held periodically at one of the four places by rotation. The main festival site is located on the banks of the river Ganga at Haridwar; Sarasvati at Allahabad; the Godavari at Nashik; and the Shipra at Ujjain. Bathing in these rivers is believed to clean people of all sins.

The Ujjain Kumbh Mela is a pompous and colourful event and is a treat for

travellers. It is an enriching experience which immerses the attendees of the fair in the colours of spirituality and old world charm. One is never too young or too old to attend the Kumbh Mela.

A ceremonial bath in these holy rivers is considered to be the essence and most significant ritual of this festival. It is believed that a holy dip in these rivers cleanses the soul of individuals and frees them from all their sins, as the rivers turn into the areas of sanctity during the favourable time of the Kumbh Mela.

#### Harsiddhi Temple

The Harsiddhi Temple boasts of an idol of Annapurna painted in dark red colour between the idols of Mahasaraswati and Mahalaxmi.

This temple, which was almost in an irreparable condition, until the Marathas decided to reconcile it. This is the reason why the temple has a Maratha touch to it.

# Suromurchhana Foundation honors Padma Shri Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri



Padma Shri Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri



Padma Shri Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri and Suromurchhana founder, vocalist Pt. Sanjoy Banerjee



Hindustani-Carnatic vocal jugalbandi by Suromurchhana musicians Smt. Namaami Karmakar and Smt. Samyukta Ranganathan. They were ably accompanied on tabla by Sri Amit Chatterjee, harmonium by Sri Anirban Chakraborty, and mridangam by Sri Kabilan Jeganathan

Suromurchhana Foundation for the Indian classical arts honored tabla torchbearer Padma Shri Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri with its first annual Pt. A. Kanan & Vidushi Malabika Kanan Award. Looking on (in red shirt) is Suromurchhana founder, vocalist Pt. Sanjoy Banerjee.

**OCTOBER 28, 2024**

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** This past Sunday, October 27, saw a major highlight of the 2024 NYC Indian classical music calendar as the Suromurchhana foundation for the Indian classical arts honored tabla torchbearer Padma Shri Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri with its first annual Pt. A. Kanan & Vidushi Malabika Kanan Award.

With a full complement of NYC's Hindustani musical luminaries and literati in the front row, the evening opened with a Hindustani-Carnatic vocal jugalbandi by

harmonium by Sri Anirban Chakraborty, and mridangam by Sri Kabilan Jeganathan.

After the award ceremonies for the guest of honor, Pt. Chaudhuri ascended to the stage to join Suromurchhana founder, vocalist Pt. Sanjoy Banerjee - again with Sri Anirban Chakraborty on harmonium - for an engrossing odyssey through a set of evening ragas.

On stage, after the concert, Pt. Chaudhuri expressed his great enjoyment of the music and the event overall. As the recipient of many major awards, he said that this award especially touches his heart because of his personal connection with the late Pt. A. Kanan who was an important source of support early in his career.

The event was made possible in part, with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.

# Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton Celebrates Local Business Leaders at Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce Legislative Breakfast



Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton honored local business leaders at the 39th Nassau Council of Chamber of Commerce Businesspersons of the Year and Legislative Breakfast on Friday, Oct. 25. -Photos / Office of Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

**OCTOBER 25, 2024**

**WOODBURY, N.Y. (TIP):** Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton (D - Glen Cove) proudly attended the 39th Nassau Council of Chamber of Commerce Businesspersons of the Year and Legislative Breakfast on Friday, Oct. 25. As part of the festivities, she joined the Nassau Council of Chambers in congratulating Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce

honoree Stella Shank, Executive Director of The Regency at Glen Cove Assisted Living; Roslyn Chamber of Commerce Vice President Barbara Kaplan, owner of Specialty Connections; and Port Washington honoree Corey Peterson, founder and president of Bayside Tax and Wealth, for being recognized by their respective Chambers of Commerce.

"Outstanding business leaders like Stella, Barbara

and Corey go above and beyond on a daily basis to create opportunities and strengthen our communities, and their passion for service is an inspiration for others to follow their lead," Minority Leader DeRiggi-Whitton said. "I salute you for all you do to make our downtowns so vibrant and dynamic, and I thank the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce for bringing us together to celebrate the best of Long Island."





With appreciation for your business and  
warmest wishes in celebration of  
**Diwali**



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# Emmy-Nominated Filmmaker Tirlok Malik's On Golden Years to be shown at Prestigious Teaneck Film Festival 2024 on November 10 at 11:30 AM



Emmy-nominated filmmaker Tirlok Malik says, "The immigrant experience is often accompanied by dreams, struggles, and sacrifices, but the journey to the American Dream doesn't end after reaching success. Retirement brings its own set of challenges, especially for immigrants trying to find where they belong."

OCTOBER 28, 2024

**TEANECK, NJ (TIP):** Emmy-nominated filmmaker Tirlok Malik's celebrated film 'On Golden Years,' will be screened at the prestigious Teaneck International Film Festival 2024 on Sunday, November 10, at 11:30 AM at Teaneck Cinemas (503 Cedar Lane, Teaneck, NJ 07666).

'On Golden Years' is a major highlight in Malik's career, known for exploring the immigrant experience in America through films such as 'Lonely in America,' 'Khushiyaan,' and 'Love Lust and Marriage.' During his illustrious



On Golden Years poster

to the fresh yet familiar energy of the story.

The film is co-produced by Iggy Ignatius who is also the co-director of the film. The film has been shot at the Indian retirement community Shantiniketan in Florida founded by Iggy. Other credits of the film are Director of Photography Christo Bakalov B.A.C., Music by Peter Lobo, Art Direction by Sunita Babber, Editing by Tom Knight and others.

'On Golden Years' also boasts the film debut of the Grammy Award-winning Indian-American singer Falu, who performs the item number song 'Raba Raba.' Falu had previously performed at prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall and The White House in the presence of President Barack Obama and Oprah Winfrey, alongside music legend A.R. Rahman. Falu's 'Abundance in Millets' song featuring the Indian PM Narendra Modi was also recently nominated for Grammy.

The screening of 'On Golden Years' at the Teaneck International Film Festival is proudly sponsored by David Nachman, Esq., Managing Attorney at Nachman, Phulwani, Zimovcak (NPZ) Law Group, P.C., New Jersey, a law firm specializing in immigration services and law.

Written and directed by Tirlok Malik, 'On Golden Years' reflects his signature focus on the Indian-American immigrant experience. Malik, who is an Indian-American and a proud New Yorker, has made films that resonate with global audiences by addressing the challenges and rewards of living abroad. His films often highlight the conflict between holding onto one's roots and embracing the new life and challenges that come with migration.

Malik says, "The immigrant experience is often accompanied by dreams, struggles, and sacrifices, but the journey to the American Dream doesn't end after reaching success. Retirement brings its own set of challenges, especially for immigrants trying to find where they belong."

The Teaneck International Film Festival, founded over 20 years ago with support from the nonprofit organization Puffin Foundation, Ltd., is renowned for its commitment to showcasing socially conscious films that inspire conversations on critical global and local issues.

Tickets for the Teaneck Film Festival screening of 'On Golden Years' are now on sale for \$10 and can be purchased at [TeaneckFilmFestival.org](http://TeaneckFilmFestival.org).

Don't miss the chance to see this heartfelt, humorous, and thought-provoking film and engage in a discussion with Tirlok Malik and the star-studded cast after the screening.

career, Tirlok Malik has worked with industry stalwarts like Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan, Mammooty, Sunny Deol, and Kangana Ranaut, among others. Malik, along with the cast of 'On Golden Years,' will be present for a special Q&A session following the screening at the Teaneck Film Festival 2024.

'On Golden Years' is an 85-minute romantic comedy-drama that delves into the complex emotions immigrants face when they reach the retirement phase of the American Dream. The film is set in Shantiniketan, the only Indian retirement community in the United States, located in Florida. Through its relatable characters and emotional storylines, the film explores themes of aging, identity, and reconciliation between regrets and contentment. It asks the poignant question: Where do we truly belong at the end of life's journey?

The film stars Ranjit Chowdhry, the iconic actor known for his performances in 'Lonely in America' and 'The Office,' Jyoti Singh, Reeves Lehmann, Shetal Shah, Noor Naghmi, Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, and Tirlok Malik himself. The film also features several new talents making their debut, adding

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# History This Week NOV 01 - NOV 07

## NOVEMBER 1

November 1, 1936 - The Rome-Berlin Axis was proclaimed by Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini following a visit to Berlin by Italian Foreign Secretary Ciano.



November 1, 1950 - President Harry S. Truman was the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt by two members of a Puerto Rican nationalist movement.

November 1, 1963 - South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu were killed in a military coup.

November 1, 1993 - The European Union came into existence as a result of the Maastricht Treaty.

November 1, 1995 - The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system.

## NOVEMBER 2

November 2, 1930 - Haile Selassie was crowned Emperor of Ethiopia.

November 2, 1947 - The first and only flight of Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" flying boat occurred in Long Beach Harbor, California. It flew about a mile at an altitude of 70 feet. Costing \$25 million, the 200-ton plywood eight-engine Hercules was the world's largest airplane, designed, built and flown by Hughes. It later became a tourist attraction alongside the Queen Mary ship at Long Beach and has since been moved to Oregon.



November 2, 1962 - During the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F. Kennedy announced on TV, "the Soviet bases in Cuba are being dismantled, their missiles and related equipment being crated, and the fixed installations at these sites are being destroyed."

Birthdays - American frontiersman Daniel Boone (1734-1820) was born in Berks County, near Reading, Pennsylvania.

Birthdays - James K. Polk (1795-1849) the 11th U.S. President was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He served from March 4, 1845 to March 3, 1849. He declined to be a candidate for a

second term, saying he was "exceedingly relieved" at the completion of his presidency.

## NOVEMBER 3

November 3, 1903 - Panama declared itself independent of Colombia following a revolt engineered by the U.S.

November 3, 1918 - Part of the German fleet mutinied at Kiel in the closing days of World War I.



November 3, 1948 - Dewey Defeats Truman banner headline appeared on the front page of the Chicago Tribune newspaper. Harry Truman actually defeated Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey for the presidency.

November 3, 1957 - Soviet Russia launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.

November 3, 1983 - White South Africans voted to allow Indians and "Coloreds" (persons of mixed race) limited power in the government, but continued to exclude blacks.

## NOVEMBER 4



November 4, 1922 - King Tut's tomb was discovered at Luxor, Egypt, by British archaeologist Howard Carter after several years of searching. The child-king Tutankhamen became pharaoh at age nine and died around 1352 B.C. at age 19. The tomb was found mostly intact, containing numerous priceless items now exhibited in Egypt's National Museum in Cairo.

November 4, 1842 - Abraham Lincoln married Mary Todd in Springfield, Illinois.

November 4, 1862 - Richard Gatling patented his first rapid-fire machine-gun which used revolving barrels rotating around a central mechanism to load, fire, and extract the cartridges.

November 4, 1890 - The first electrified underground railway system was officially opened in London.

November 4, 1942 - During World War II, British troops led by Bernard Montgomery defeated the Germans under Erwin Rommel at El Alamein after

a twelve-day battle.

November 4, 1956 - Soviet Russian troops moved in to crush an uprising in Hungary.

November 4, 1979 - About 500 young Iranian militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran, and took 90 hostages, including 52 Americans that they held captive for 444 days.

November 4, 1995 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated as he left a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

Birthdays - American humorist Will Rogers (1879-1935) was born in Oologah, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). "All I know is what I read in the newspapers," he once joked. He was killed in an airplane crash with aviator Wiley Post near Point Barrow, Alaska.

Birthdays - Famed TV journalist Walter Cronkite (1916-2009) was born in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was a leading correspondent for United Press International during World War II. From 1962 to 1981, he was the anchorman of the CBS Evening News and was widely regarded as America's most trusted journalist.

## NOVEMBER 5

November 5th - Remembered as Guy Fawkes Day in Britain, for the anniversary of the failed "Gunpowder Plot" to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I in 1605.

November 5, 1733 - The first issue of the New York Weekly Journal was published by John Peter Zenger, a colonial American printer and journalist. A year later, he was arrested on charges of libeling New York's royal governor.



November 5, 1911 - Aviator C.P. Snow completed the first transcontinental flight across America, landing at Pasadena, California. He had taken off from Sheepshead Bay, New York, on September 17th and flew a distance of 3,417 miles.

## NOVEMBER 6

November 6, 1917 - During World War I, the Third Battle of Ypres concluded after five months as Canadian and Australian troops took Passchendaele. Their advance, measuring five miles, cost at least 240,000 soldiers.

November 6, 1962 - The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning South Africa for its apartheid policies and recommended economic sanctions.

Birthdays - American conductor John Philip Sousa (1854-1932) was born in Washington, D.C. Best known for his rousing marches including The Stars and Stripes Forever, Semper Fidelis, and El Capitan.



Birthdays - Polish composer, pianist and patriot, Ignace Paderewski (1860-1941) was born in Kurylowka, Podolia, Poland.

Birthdays - Inventor of the game of basketball, James Naismith (1861-1939) was born in Almonte, Ontario, Canada.

## NOVEMBER 7

November 7, 1917 - Russian Bolsheviks overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky in Petrograd. The Council of People's Commissars was then established as the new government of Russia, with Nikolai Lenin as chairman, Leon Trotsky as foreign commissar and Josef Stalin as commissar of nationalities. This event was celebrated each year in the former USSR with parades, massive military displays and public appearances by top Soviet leaders.



November 7, 1944 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term, defeating Thomas E. Dewey. Roosevelt died less than a year later on April 12, 1945.

November 7, 1962 - Richard Nixon told news reporters in Los Angeles "...just think how much you're going to be missing. You won't have Nixon to kick around any more, because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference." Nixon's statement came the day after he lost the election for California governor to incumbent Edmund G. Brown. In 1968, Nixon re-entered politics and won the presidency, defeating Hubert H. Humphrey. Re-elected in 1972, he resigned in 1974 during impeachment proceedings resulting from the Watergate scandal.

November 7, 1967 - Carl Stokes became the first African American mayor in the U.S., elected mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.

November 7, 1989 - The East German government resigned after pro-democracy protests.

November 7, 1989 - L. Douglas Wilder became the first African American governor in U.S. history, elected governor of Virginia.

November 7, 1990 - Mary Robinson became Ireland's first female president.

Birthdays - Polish chemist Marie Curie (1867-1934) was born in Warsaw, Poland. In 1903, she and her husband received the Nobel Prize for physics for their discovery of the element Radium.

# BJANA organizes a Spectacular Diwali celebration with more than 700 Community Members



The Honorees - Alok Kumar, Dr. Surabhi Prasad, Chittaranjan Sahay, Rashmi Tewary and Mr. Kamlesh Tewary - Tewary Law Firm, New Jersey- with the Guest of Honor Mr. Upendra Chivukula and the organizers

**OCTOBER 27, 2024**

**EDISON, NJ (TIP):** The Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA) held its spectacular annual Diwali celebration on Oct 26th, 2024, in the ballroom of the Royal Albert's Palace, New Jersey, USA. The

melodious singing by children and adults from the community, and a poem recital. Attendees were also treated to engaging exhibitions by generous sponsors, heartfelt messages from distinguished guests, delectable Indian cuisine, and an energetic dance floor -

Bihar Mr. Nitish Kumar, Honorable Chief Minister of Jharkhand Mr. Hemant Soren, and the Honorable Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Mr. Vijay Kumar Sinha conveyed his heartfelt congratulations and Diwali wishes to the entire Bihar and Jharkhand community

The event was honored by the attendance of BJANA's founding members, Mr. Mrityunjay Singh and Mr. Rajendra Prasad. BJANA team proudly kicked off the planning for their 50th anniversary celebrations going to be held on May 24th and 25th, 2025, with the



The Executive team of BJANA

event was attended by more than 700 community members from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Delaware. The attendees got to enjoy cultural programs, exhibitions by sponsors, Indian festive food, and performance by Indian Idol fame singer Sonakshi Kar who came all the way from India just for this event.

This vibrant extravaganza featured an array of activities that showcased the rich cultural diversity of Bihar and Jharkhand. The event included captivating dance performances,

thanks to singer Sonakshi Kar and her team who enthralled the audience with their melodious performances that kept everyone on their feet throughout the night.

The guest of honor, Mr. Upendra Chivukula, Commissioner of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, applauded the BJANA team for all their efforts and extended his warm wishes for a Happy Diwali to all. Ms. Pragya Singh, Consul (Community Affairs) also graced the event as a special guest. Furthermore, the Chief Minister of

in the United States.

BJANA felicitated distinguished community leaders Mr. Alok Kumar - New Jersey, Dr. Surabhi Prasad - New Jersey, Mr. Chittaranjan Sahay - Connecticut, Mr. Lalit Jha - Press Trust of India, Washington DC, Ms. Rashmi Tewary and Mr. Kamlesh Tewary - Tewary Law Firm, New Jersey during this Diwali celebration. Recognition of this kind highlights BJANA's commitment to acknowledging and celebrating those who have made a lasting impact on the community.

esteemed founding members and many past presidents of their organization.

Mr. Sanjeev Singh, the President of BJANA, took the stage to address the attendees. He emphasized BJANA's ongoing fundraising efforts and charitable activities in the USA, Bihar, and Jharkhand, expressing gratitude to the community members for their active participation and unwavering support for BJANA's philanthropic endeavors. He thanked all the committee members and volunteers for their efforts and hard work.



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**H.K. Shah**  
(Founder of World Vegan Vision)



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# India-Canada diplomatic spat: Dialogue is the only way out feels a vast majority in Indian Diaspora



BY PRABHJOT SINGH

The diplomatic spat between India and Canada continues unabated, a vast

majority in the Indian Diaspora wants an early end to it suggesting both sides should exercise extra restraint and sit across the table to resolve the issues amicably. "Both India and Canada as members of the Commonwealth have well organized administrative structures to take care of all such aberrations than taking in washing

their dirty linen in public.

"Nothing comes out of such tit-for-tat policies as the public at large is the sufferer," say several members of the Indian Diaspora, both in Canada and elsewhere in the world. Both countries affirm that their sovereignty is based on the Rule of Law and they have strong law enforcement pieces of machinery to

tackle sensitive issues like foreign interference. Besides, they have diplomatic channels open to them to thrash out issues that are transnational or related to internal security or the overall well-being and security of the people. The two nations have strong people-to-people contacts besides huge bilateral trade.

WE TALKED TO A CROSS-SECTION OF PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE, INCLUDING POLITICS, ACADEMICS, SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS, IMMIGRATION, < PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND MEDIA ON THIS RAGING SPAT. HERE ARE EXCERPTS FROM WHAT THEY SAID:



Gurbax Singh Malhi

**G**urbax Singh Malhi, the first turbaned Sikh to sit in a federal Parliament outside India, says: "For the public, it is not good. The public suffers."



Tejinder Aujla

**T**ejinder Singh Aujla, a social activist and hockey promoter from Surrey, says that Canada is a soft target for India and its agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW). He feels that Canadian politicians are not as cunning as their Indian counterparts and it is why the Canadian Prime Minister spoke about foreign interference in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in the House of Commons.

"We all come from farming backgrounds and know that irked by farmers' agitation, the Indian government pointed fingers at Canadians of Punjabi origin blaming them for supporting the farmers back home.

"Canadian Sikhs were happy that their Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stood by them and exposed the alleged interference of Indian agents in targeting Canadians on Canadian soil. A blame game does not help anyone. It is time for the Indian Government to cooperate with the investigations and stop blaming overseas Sikhs," concludes Tejinder Aujla, holding that Five Eyes is supportive of the Canadian stand.



Prof. I S Saluja

**P**rof. I S Saluja, a veteran journalist and Editor-in-Chief of The Indian Panorama, one of the most credible newspapers in North America, says: "The diplomatic tensions between India and Canada are not the result of a sudden incident but have deep historical roots. For decades, the two countries have had differing perspectives, particularly around the presence of a sizable Punjabi Sikh community in Canada. Punjabis, especially Sikhs, began settling in Canada almost a century ago, contributing significantly to its economy, particularly in agriculture and transportation. Over time, the community became politically influential, with many Sikhs holding positions of power in Canadian politics.

"The relationship between India and Canada, however, began to sour in the 1980s, when Sikh separatists in Canada began supporting the demand for an independent Khalistan, a movement India strongly opposed. India accused Canada of providing sanctuary to these separatists, which Canada denied. This longstanding issue resurfaced with the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Khalistani leader, in 2023. Canada accused India of orchestrating the murder, a charge India has vehemently denied.

"This accusation has further strained relations, with Canada insisting that it had intelligence from the Five Eyes alliance supporting its claims. India, on the other hand, remains sensitive to foreign criticism of its handling of separatist threats. The expulsion of diplomats and media narratives on both sides have exacerbated the situation, leading to a diplomatic standoff. Resolving these tensions will likely require diplomatic intervention, possibly through a neutral third party like the United States, to prevent further damage to bilateral ties and ensure the welfare of the Punjabi community in Canada.



Seema Jham

**S**eema Jham, a Public Relations and Communications professional, based in Toronto, writes: "The ongoing diplomatic tensions between India and Canada are undoubtedly complex. Both nations, as two of the world's largest democracies, have much to offer each other.

"This diplomatic strain could have implications for various sectors, including trade, education, and the movement of people between the two countries.

What's happening now should be resolved through diplomatic action and open discussion, aimed at fostering collaboration, intelligence sharing, and mutual respect, rather than blame and accusations. Both countries have enjoyed a longstanding relationship, and there is immense potential for continued cooperation.

Economically, the stakes are high. India is Canada's 9th largest trading partner, with bilateral trade reaching \$8 billion in 2023. This figure could grow significantly if current issues are resolved. As a developing country, India relies heavily on foreign direct investment, with Canada being one of its major investors. A prolonged diplomatic standoff could hinder growth for both nations.

To move forward, both sides must engage in diplomatic dialogue, showcase mutual respect, and explore new avenues for collaboration and intelligence sharing.

"I hope that both governments can engage in constructive dialogue and work toward a solution that benefits both nations," she adds.

CONTD ON PAGE 55



Herb Dhaliwal

**H**erb Dhaliwal, the first Indo-Canadian to become a federal Minister in Canada, says: "In regard to the Canada/ India relationship it has come to the lowest point in history. The Modi government is now seen, in the West, as a bunch of criminals and gangsters and the media as a mouthpiece for them.

"India was the Centrepiece of the Canadian Indo-Pacific strategy is dead. A Canadian security team travelled to India to provide evidence of the killing of a Canadian citizen to get the cooperation of India but no cooperation came only stonewalling. I hope the media and the citizens of India will hold their government accountable for its actions.

CONTD FROM PAGE 54



Shafoli Kapur

**S**hafoli Kapur, the Toronto-based Immigration specialist, says: "For the Indian community in Canada, this situation is particularly delicate. As one of the largest immigrant populations in Canada, Indian Canadians have significantly contributed to the country's economic, social, and cultural fabric. However, this spat could increase polarization within the community, especially among Sikhs and Hindus, potentially giving rise to distrust and divisions. Many fear that the political rhetoric may amplify xenophobic sentiments or mischaracterizations of Indian diaspora groups. Additionally, visa restrictions and travel warnings could impact businesses, students, and family connections between the two countries.

"In essence, while diplomatic disagreements can evolve, the Indian community in Canada may bear a more personal brunt of the fallout, navigating rising tensions both between their home and adopted nations.

**N**aveen Prudhvinadh Chintada, who moved from Hyderabad some years ago to make Canada his new home, says: "As I observe the changing diplomatic ties between India and Canada over the past year, it is evident that both countries have hit rock bottom in their relationship. The deterioration became more pronounced when Mélanie Joly, Canada's foreign minister, made a strong and bold statement, indicating that there are active plans to impose sanctions on India. Such measures could have far-reaching consequences, directly impacting the vital trade relationship between the two nations. Currently, Canada exports \$4.3 billion worth of goods and services to India while importing \$3.8 billion from India. In this scenario, any aggressive actions could potentially hurt Canada's economy more, given the trade imbalance.

"Moreover, during a recent press conference, the Canadian government was unable to convincingly present or explain the evidence they claim to have against the Indian government. This raised concerns not only about the credibility of their allegations but also about the potential international fallout.

"At the same time, many Canadians are growing increasingly dissatisfied with the current government, citing weak leadership and poor decision-making. Canada, once celebrated for being a beacon of multiculturalism and inclusivity, is no longer as open



Naveen Prudhvinadh Chintada

or welcoming, especially toward its growing South Asian communities. These recent allegations against India could escalate tensions and make the situation for Indian communities in Canada even worse, leading to greater division and mistrust."

Nirmal Singh, a scholar based in Florida, says: "The Five Eyes (FVEY) is an Anglosphere intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries are party to the multilateral UK-USA Agreement, a treaty for cooperation in signals intelligence and are understood to have supported the Canadian position so far.

The picture changed when Canada declared India's High Commissioner and some of the High Commission

staff as persons of interest in the ongoing controversy. Media reported that NZ conditionally supports Canada in its action - the caveat being if proven. The UK and Australia also have let their positions known in support of Canada. The US had a clear position so far but the stakes have been raised by recent developments.

New India Abroad in an analysis reported that "The prime ministers of India and Canada could benefit politically in the short term from the unprecedented expulsion of top diplomats from each country, analysts said on October 15 "

<https://www.newindiaabroad.com/english/news/deepening-canada-india-standoff-seen-as-a-short-term-boost-for-modi-trudeau>

As for Sikhs in India, they are weighed down by the problems that seem to be only getting worse for Indian Punjab as evidenced by a news report a day or so back where a Farmers group and the Arhtiyas et al were protesting together. It indicates that the fear of a failing farm economy is now affecting all Punjabis.

My submission is that it is well recognized that there is hardly any support among Sikhs in India including those living in Punjab for the creation of Khalistan. Therefore, the development of Punjab could be delinked from the Khalistan-related happenings elsewhere. This could go a long way in the optimization of the Punjabis in national endeavours.



Lord Rami Ranger

**L**ord Rami Ranger, a senior and respected member of the Indian Diaspora in the UK, feels strongly about this tiff. He says: " First, Canada should not support the Khalistanis. They will damage the Canada-India relationship.

"Second, not allowed parade showing Mrs Gandhi being shot and PM Modi in a cage.

"Thirdly, Canada should not allow the Indian flag to be desecrated in public.

"If Canada had the evidence, it should have been discussed with India in private.

"Finally, Canada should give land to make Khalistan," he concludes.



Tarlochan Singh

**T**arlochan Singh, a former MP and Chairman of the Minorities Commission in India, comments: " I feel Trudeau is overstretching the killing of Najjar. For so many months they have been investigating and could not go to the Court to convict the assailant. They are only after the collaborators. They want to blame the Indian Embassy and Raw. This is a political game. Fault lies with Trudeau who himself addresses Press Conferences. No Prime Minister of any country has done this.

*(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. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com*

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# RANA Celebrates 25th Deepmahotsav: Honors Distinguished Achievers



Deputy Consul General of India Varun Jeph, himself a Rajasthani, praised the RANA organizers for showcasing the Rajasthani culture



Dr. Samin Sharma, Chairman, Deepmahotsav spoke about the superiority of Indian Americans in every field in the US



RANA President Prem Bhandari spoke highly about the honorees and the RANA team

**OCTOBER 28, 2024**

**LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP):** The 25th RANA Deepmahotsav was celebrated on Sunday, October 27, in grand style on Long Island, drawing distinguished guests from across the community. The event was honored by the presence of Dr. Varun Jeph, Deputy Consul General of India in New York, as the Chief Guest. Rajasthan's former Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Mr. B.L. Soni joined as a Special Guest.



Honoree Jugal Ladda

A key highlight was world-renowned invasive cardiologist Dr. Samin Sharma, Chairman of the Diwali Gala, presenting a generous \$100,000 donation check to RANA President Prem Bhandari, who also serves as Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA. Additionally, checks totaling \$110,000 were given to Bhandari in support of Jaipur Foot and Apna Ghar by Chandra and KK Mehta (\$60,000) and Rajeev Daga (\$50,000). Furthermore, Chandra and KK Mehta pledged an impressive half a million dollars towards a charity project in Jodhpur, India.



Honoree Mukul Arya

Dr. Raj Bansal expressed his admiration for Prem Bhandari's commitment to social causes and pledged an amount from \$1 up to half a million dollars to assist in repatriating mortal remains to India. Bhandari recently joined the NGO Team Aid as Chief



Honoree Bobby Jain

Advisor, focusing on support for families in his late parents, has already contributed nearly half returning loved ones' remains from various parts of a million dollars to the institution.



Honorees Dr. Rohit and Bharati Dandiya

the world. Dr. Bansal, known for building a reading hall at SMS Medical College in Jaipur in memory of

Honors were also bestowed upon Dr. Rohit Dandiya and his wife, Bharti Dandiya, for their philanthropic work, which includes funding a sports complex at SMS Medical College with contributions nearing half a million dollars, along with a recent quarter-million-dollar pledge to a Jain organization in Jaipur. In the field of medicine, Dr. Mukul Arya was recognized, while young entrepreneurs Jugal Kishore Ladda and Akhil Jain were celebrated for their achievements.

In his speech, Prem Bhandari announced a new initiative, Toys for Toddlers, aimed at bringing comfort to hospitalized children with uncertain futures.

The celebration concluded with soul-stirring Rajasthani folk music, followed by a traditional Rajasthani dinner, capturing the spirit of Rajasthan's vibrant culture and hospitality.



Entertainers from Rajasthan

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

## President Biden and the First Lady host Diwali celebration at the White House



Dancers from the Sa Dance Company perform at the White House Diwali reception on Monday, October 28, 2024

trail. Biden's remarks were preceded by Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy, US Surgeon General; Sunita Williams, Retired Navy Officer and NASA Astronaut who sent a recorded video message from the International Space Station and Shrusti Amula, Indian-American Youth Activist who introduced the president.

"In late November 2016, a dark cloud formed from hate and hostility toward immigrants, including South Asian Americans. We hear once again in 2024. It was then that Jill and I hosted the first Diwali reception and it was at the Vice President's residence. An Irish Catholic President, Vice President at the time, opened our home for holiday celebrations by Hindus, Buddhists, Jainists, Sikhs, and more. How America reminds us all of our power to be the light, all of us," he said.

Biden, who lit the formal diya in the Blue Room of the White House, said the South Asian American community has enriched every part of American life. "That's the truth. That is among the fastest-growing, most engaged communities in the country you are now," he said.

"On this day in America, we think about that journey of light. Early in our nation's founding, A generation before diya, in the shadow of suspicion, now in a time Diwali is celebrated openly and proudly here in the White House. We also know today we face an inflection

point," he said.

One of those rare moments that only come once every several generations, where the decisions we make today will determine the future to come for decades, literally. Every generation has been called to move us forward, to be the nation we say we are. But only once in every few generations, we are reminded not to take the idea of America for granted, because it's never guaranteed. That moment is now, Biden said.

"American democracy has never been easy. In a country as diverse as ours, we debate, we dissent as we forge a path forward through compromise and consensus. But the key is we never lose sight of how we got here and why. For me, 50 years of public service comes with the clarity of confidence in America. We're a nation with a heart, a soul that draws from old and new," he said.

"In America, everything runs deep, especially the courage to serve and protect, to heal and to bear witness, to immigrate, to dare to dream. With my presidency, I've tried to channel that American spirit by bringing to bear all my experiences and wisdom gained from it, and to get us through one of the most difficult periods in our nation's recent history, and to be a bridge between generations, like in memory and imagination," Biden said. (Source: PTI)

## Diwali in US gains official holiday status in Pennsylvania, Texas, New York

The state's lively celebrations reflect the importance of the festival, inviting residents to engage in activities that promote hope and goodwill. Texas's acknowledgment of Diwali exemplifies the growing appreciation for diverse cultural practices across the nation.

New Jersey has joined the ranks of states celebrating Diwali, showcasing a commitment to fostering cultural diversity. The recognition of this festival of lights in New Jersey highlights the state's dedication to creating an inclusive environment for its residents and embracing the rich tapestry of cultures that contribute to its identity.

In New York, known for its cultural diversity, Diwali has been embraced as an official holiday. This recognition allows communities from various backgrounds to come together in joyous celebrations, fostering cultural exchange and unity. New York's

vibrant Diwali events reflect the importance of the festival in bringing people together to share in the spirit of togetherness.

The celebration of Diwali extends beyond the United States, with numerous countries recognizing it as a public holiday.

Nations such as Fiji, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Singapore, South Africa, and Trinidad and Tobago honor the festival's significance and the universal values it represents, showcasing its global appeal and message of light triumphing over darkness.

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## Chinmoy Naik named India's acting High Commissioner to Canada

and five other officials were withdrawn by India earlier this week amid the ongoing diplomatic row with Canada.

Naik has been the Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of India, Ottawa since February 2023.

A 2004-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service, Naik has served in the Indian Embassy in Beijing and Paris. He has also handled matters pertaining to Eurasia, disarmament, new technologies and cultural diplomacy, while being posted in New Delhi.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ॥



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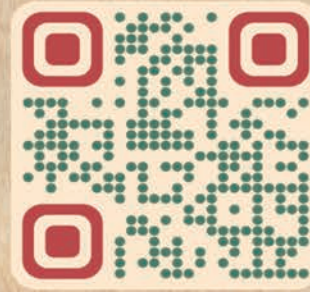
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## DIWALI SPECIAL

### Is being a cultural Hindu becoming the new normal?

The global Hindu community is increasingly embracing cultural identity over strict rituals. Yet, prominent Hindus in the US and India tell Lotus that a 'cultural Hindu' is not denying or discarding his or her faith. Festivals like Diwali build the community and are an opportunity to nourish the soul.

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Happy  
Diwali

# Canada: Bhajan Brar and Tajinder Grewal script history in Saskatchewan politics



BY  
PRABHJOT SINGH

Two turbaned Sikhs were among the three candidates of South Asian descent declared successful in the Saskatchewan Provincial Assembly elections. Bhajan Singh Brar and Tajinder Singh Grewal, both of the New Democratic Party (NDP), thus became the first turbaned Sikhs to sit in the Saskatchewan Assembly.

After the preliminary round of vote counting, Bhajan Brar (Regina Pasqua) and Tajinder Grewal (Saskatoon University-Sutherland) were declared successful. Noor Burki, also of NDP (Regina Coronation Park), was the third candidate of South Asian descent to be declared successful.

In all 14 candidates of South Asian descent were in the field.

The ruling Saskatchewan Party, led by incumbent Premier Scot Moe, won a majority, bagging 34 seats in a House of 61. In the outgoing Assembly, the Saskatchewan Party had 48 seats, while the NDP occupied the

remaining 13. This time, the NDP, led by Carla Beck, put up a splendid fight, taking its tally to 27.

The NDP virtually made a clean sweep as it won all 12 seats in the Regina region and 13 of the 14 seats in the second major urban area of Saskatoon.

In 2020, Gary Grewal became the first Canadian of Indian origin to sit in the Saskatchewan Provincial Assembly. He decided not to seek re-election this time.

Both Bhajan Brar and Tajinder Grewal, not only won with impressive margins over their rivals from the ruling Saskatchewan Party but also scripted history. They join the select band of Canadian politicians of Punjabi descent who would sit in the Assembly sporting their turbans. Never before any Sikh wearing a turban has sat in the Saskatchewan Provincial Assembly.

**Bhajan Brar** is a community leader, a father and a grandfather. He contested the Saskatchewan Provincial Assembly elections for the second successive team. In 2020 he lost narrowly. Bhajan Brar has been a dedicated volunteer, having worked with numerous organizations throughout Regina. Bhajan has been trained as an engineer and has spent time working as both a journeyman



Bhajan Brar and (right) Tajinder Grewal with NDP leader Carla Beck.

electrician and a power engineer. He says he is devoted to ensuring a brighter future for all people in Saskatchewan.

**Tajinder** is a renowned scientist and a devoted community leader. He represented the Saskatchewan NDP as its candidate in Saskatoon University-Sutherland. Tajinder Grewal has had a profound impact on the scientific and cultural landscapes of Saskatchewan, holding significant roles at SGS Canada Inc., the University of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Research Council and the Punjabi Cultural Association of Saskatchewan. A dedicated volunteer and board member, he has served on many

foundations and community organizations. Tajinder says he has dedicated his life to public service.

The third successful candidate of the South Asian community is Noor Burki who also won the NDP ticket and he defeated Riaz Ahmed of the ruling Saskatchewan Party.

Other candidates of South Asian descent who contested on various party tickets were unsuccessful. They include Parminder Singh, Rahul Singh, Khushdil (Lucky) Mehrok, Jaspreet Mander, Mohammad Abushar, Mumtaz Naseeb, Liaquat Ali, Mohammad Riaz, Caesar Khan, and Riaz Ahmad.

# Nepal loses to USA by three-wickets in a nail bite finish in ICC ODI series

BY  
PRABHJOT SINGH

October 28, 2024

**GRAND PRAIRIE, TX (TIP):** Cricket fans at Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium in Texas could not have asked for more as the home team batters stole the thunder and recorded an exciting three-wicket win over fancied Nepal with two balls to spare in a tall-scoring game.

Needing 286 to win, allrounder Shardyl van Schalkwyk plundered a six to long off on the fifth ball of the last over bowled by Sompal Kami to give the US a historic triumph, the first major win for the home team after its super run in the T20 World Cup in June this year.

Earlier opener Shayan Jahangir and skipper Monank Patel figured in a 161-run second-wicket partnership before all-rounder Harmeet Singh took command of the game to make sure that the home team romps home victorious to the great cheers of Sunday revelers. Shayan completed a superb century by making 104 from 97 balls with 12 boundaries and four hits to the maximum.

Sunday revelers enjoyed every bit of this high-scoring game, which saw 13 hits to the maximum as both teams crossed past the 280 mark.

Put to bat first, Nepal started on an impressive note with openers - Anil Sah



Nepal lost to USA by three wickets in an exciting match on October 27, played at Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium in Texas.

and Asif Shaikh - putting on 96 for the opening wicket partnership. Both completed their half-centuries in a game where their captain Rohit Paudal needing a boundary to complete his century was yorked by Saurabh Netravalkar on the last ball of the Nepalese innings. Nepal made 286, a challenging total on a batter-friendly and even wicket.

Anil Sah made 56 off 62 balls with the help of five boundaries while his opening wicket partner contributed 52 off 53 balls with the help of seven boundaries and a six. After the openers left, skipper Rohit Paudal and Aasif Shaikh took command of the game and added 56 for the fourth wicket. Rohit hit

eight boundaries and three sixes in his 75-ball innings. Aasif Shaikh, who went before Rohit, made 37 from 45 balls with the help of two fours and a six.

Nosthush Kenjige was the pick of the US bowlers as he ended with an impressive figure of four for 52. Saurabh claimed the 10th and last US wicket with the last ball of the innings. He finished with two for 63. Shadley (1/57), Jasdeep (1/69) and Harmeet Singh (1 for 46) were the other successful US bowlers.

Though skipper Monank Patel promoted Andries Gous in his place to open the innings, the move did not work. Andries returned to the pavilion

with only four runs on board. A second-wicket partnership between Monank and Shayan Jahangir enthused the local cricket fans as they not only kept on accelerating the run rate but also figured in a valuable 161-run second-wicket partnership.

After their partnership, it was the Harmeet and Shadley pair that put on 71 runs for the seventh wicket to bring the home team to the brink of a historic win. After Harmeet left, it was Jasdeep Singh, who hit a towering six and made 11 runs in the 49th over to make the score 282 for seven. Needing only five runs in the last over, Shadley made sure of the triumph with a massive six to the long off boundary on the fourth ball of the 50th over.

Nepal 286 in 50 overs (Anil Sah 56, Asif Shaikh 52, Rohit Paudal 96, Aasif Shaikh 37, Dipendra Airee 13, Nosthush Kenjige 4 for 52, Saurabh Netravalkar 2 for 63, Shadley 1 for 57, Jasdeep Singh 1 for 69 and Harmeet Singh 1 for 46 lost to USA 291 for 7 in 49.4 overs ( Shayan Jahangir 104, Monank Patel 62, Harmeet Singh 57, Shadley 29 not out, Jasdeep Singh 11 not out, Sompal Kami 2 for 37 and Kushal Bhurtel 4 for 23) by three wickets and two balls to spare.

*(Prabhjot Singh is a senior journalist. He writes with equal aplomb on sports and politics. He can be reached at Prabhjot416@gmail.com)*

## Australia wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade retires, moves to coaching role

Matthew Wade, a T20 World Cup winner in 2021, on Tuesday, October 29, retired from international cricket, and will now start working in a coaching role in Australia's white-ball set-up.

Wade, a wicketkeeper-batter, will join Australia's coaching staff under Andre Borovec for the upcoming T20I series against Pakistan, and the Tasmanian will also be with the group for the ODI series starting at Melbourne next week.

The 36-year-old has played 36 Tests, 97 ODIs and 92 T20Is in a career that spanned across 13 years, and his last appearance for the national team was in this year's T20 World Cup.

However, Wade will continue to play domestic cricket for Tasmania and Big Bash League for Hobart Hurricanes at least for the next two seasons.

"I was fully aware my international days were most likely over at the end of the last T20 World Cup. My international retirement and coaching have been a constant conversation with George (Bailey) and Andrew (McDonald) over the past six months," Wade said in a statement released by Cricket Australia.

"Coaching has been on my radar over the last few years and thankfully some great opportunities have come my way, for which I am very grateful and excited," he added.

## Aaqib, Saqlain in fray to replace Kirsten

Current senior selector Aaqib Javed and former spinner Saqlain Mushtaq are in fray to replace Gary Kirsten as Pakistan's new white ball coach after the former Proteas batter stepped down due to his differences with country's cricket board.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), on Monday, officially confirmed that Kirsten had resigned and as an interim arrangement it has asked the red ball coach, Jason Gillespie to manage the team for the white ball series in Australia from November 4. But Gillespie has intimated that he would look at it as a one-off arrangement.

"The problem is both Kirsten and Gillespie were not happy with their sudden demotion in powers with the selectors given powers to call all the shots," one source said.

He said since Gillespie was in the middle of the England series he reluctantly accepted the changes but has publicly made it clear he is no happy at not being involved in the selection process.

"The situation now is that PCB has to appoint a new white ball coach given the number of white ball commitments of the national team coming up and leading up to the Champions Trophy early next year," the source said.

"One option is to let assistant coach Azhar Mahmood continue as interim head coach but Aaqib or Saqlain could also land the job."

Saqlain has remained head coach of the Pakistan team before but was replaced by Mickey Arthur early last year when Najam Sethi was in power in the board.

# India lose first home series in 12 years as New Zealand win 2nd Test

PUNE (TIP)

India crashed to their first Test series defeat at home in 12 years with Mitchel Santner yet again exposing their frailties against quality spin bowling as the crushing 113-run defeat in the second match enervated the team's pole position in the World Test Championship.

If the hosts endured their first defeat after 18 consecutive Test series victories, New Zealand celebrated their first ever series-victory on the Indian soil in nearly 70 years.

The Kiwis have been travelling to this part of the world since 1955 but Black Caps could never break the Indian citadel all these years.

Indian batters, once considered the best players of the spin bowling, danced to the tune of Santner, who dominated the home line-up with 13 wickets in the match, including seven in the first innings.

In pursuit of 359, Indian batters cut a sorry figure once again. They were bowled out for 245 with Yashasvi Jaiswal's 77 and Ravindra Jadeja (42) being the only ones to resist the Kiwis.

India's successive batting collapses, beginning with the historic low of 46 all-out in the first essay of Bengaluru Test which they lost by eight wickets, culminated with first series loss at home since 2012-13 when England vanquished them.

Kiwis broke India's string of 18 consecutive Test series wins at home. It was also India's only fourth Test series defeat in their own backyard since turn of the century.

The heavy defeat means that India stay on top in the WTC table with 98 points but their percentage points (62.82) got hit badly as Australia are now marginally behind at 62.50.

Before travelling to Australia for the Border Gavaskar Trophy, it was imperative for India to win the series at home and consolidate their top position to ensure that they make the WTC final.

India's task has only got tougher now because of the sheer challenge Australia are going to pose before them.

On Saturday, October 26, facing an uphill battle to keep the series alive and safeguard their record, none of the specialist Indian batters barring the 22-year-old Jaiswal, who smashed a 65-ball 77, could withstand the challenge of Santner's orthodox left-arm spin.

Santner's (7/53 and 6/104) 13 wickets in the game heralded a remarkable triumph for New



New Zealand's Mitchell Santner with teammates celebrates the wicket of India's Virat Kohli on the third day of the second Test, in Pune, on Saturday, October 26, 2024. PTI

Zealand, who mastered the conditions and played better cricket than India to beat Rohit Sharma's team in their own game.

The Kiwis gave India a taste of their own medicine after putting first-innings runs on the board and squeezing the oppositions.

The target could have been much bigger had India not fought back on the third morning to snaffle the remaining five wickets for 57 runs to keep New Zealand to 255.

After losing the top and middle order, packed with greats of the game, India did not have much hopes left in the game but the pair of Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin (18) did their best to delay the inevitable.

It was a pitch where batters did not have any assurances unless they had a game plan — which Jaiswal showed on the final day of the contest.

Jaiswal waged a lone battle of sorts with nine fours and three sixes but none of the famed Indian batters, including mainstays Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, could pose any challenge to the Kiwis.

From a promising 81/1 at lunch, the home team lost six wickets for 97 runs, struggling to negotiate Santner who yet again weaved his magic around the Indian batters.

Skipper Rohit, caught at short leg off bat-pad to defend as he charged down, was first to depart in the first session.

Jaiswal though took the Kiwi attack by the scruff of its neck, batting with confidence and aggression. With Shubman Gill (23 off 31) he added 62 runs for the second wicket.

The partnership broke when Gill

was squared up by Santner to edge to the first slip and Jaiswal, the best of the lot by a long margin, too edged one to the first slip soon.

Superstar Kohli (17) started off with a powerful flick for a four on the backfoot. He ran hard between wickets and batted with resolve until Santner forced him on the backfoot and trapped him in front of the wickets.

Santner kept chipping away as the pitch played perfectly to his tunes, getting some deliveries to turn away from the bat while some to straighten up while pitching them all in same areas.

Jaiswal, who was beaten by one from the left-arm New Zealander before he was dismissed, could not reach to the pitch of the ball before it kissed the bat's edge to settle in Daryl Mitchell's hands.

India's misery compounded with Rishabh Pant (0) getting run-out after a miscommunication with Kohli. In a final blow to India's resistance, Sarfaraz Khan (9) failed to read the turn of the ball which crashed onto his off-stump as he jarred his bat into the ground in defence. Washington Sundar's resistance lasted 47 balls for 21 and ended shortly before tea as Glenn Phillips (1/37) got his named added to the list of wicket-takers, getting the Indian all-rounder caught at short leg.

### Brief scores

**NEW ZEALAND:** 259 and 255 all out in 69.4 overs (Tom Latham 86, Glenn Phillips 48, Tom Blundell 41) beat **INDIA:** 156 and 245 all-out in 60.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 77, Ravindra Jadeja 42; Mitchell Santner 6/104).

Source: PTI



## An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

**Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins**



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