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The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a profusely illustrated New Year edition to bid goodbye to 2024 and to welcome 2025.

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THE ADANI SAGA: A TALE OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION, POLITICAL PATRONAGE, AND GLOBAL EMBARRASSMENT PAGE 2
RED ALERT ON THE ADANI FRONT PAGE 8

Surprises galore in Assembly elections and by polls

BJP-LED MAHAYUTI TO RETAIN POWER IN MAHARASHTRA; HEMANT SOREN-LED ALLIANCE ALL SET TO RETAIN POWER IN JHARKHAND

I.S. SALUJA NOVEMBER 23, 2024 UPDATED AT 5 AM (ET)

NEW YORK (TIP): Even though the election results are many hours away yet, the trends do give an indication of the possible outcome.

The Assembly elections, in particular, in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, attracted keen contests. In both the States, political parties fought the elections as the battle for survival.

At the time of writing this report (5 AM ET), the reports coming in are placing the BJP-led Mahayuti in a comfortable position to retain power in Maharashtra. Hemant Soren-led alliance is all set to retain power in Jharkhand. Interestingly, in both the states the incumbency factor did not work. The news reports coming in suggest that the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance is on course

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It is Mahayuti Versus Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra

U.S. court issues arrest warrant for Gautam Adani: report



Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani File photo / PTI

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): Following the Gautam Adani's indictment in the U.S. over an alleged multi-billion-dollar fraud scheme, a New York judge has issued a warrant for Mr. Adani's arrest, media

reports said.

According to ABC News, quoting court records, the arrest warrant will be given to foreign law enforcement authorities.

Earlier, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has charged billionaire Gautam Adani, founder and chairman of the Adani Group, with allegedly defrauding American investors and bribing officials. The SEC alleged that the bribery scheme was orchestrated to enable renewable energy companies Adani Green and Azure Power to capitalize on a multi-billion-dollar solar energy project awarded by the Indian government. Adanis knew of U.S. probe when they sold 'bribe-linked assets' to TotalEnergies, say prosecutors In

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Crimes against humanity: Key U.N. committee adopts resolution paving way for first-ever treaty

NOVEMBER 23, 2024

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): A key United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly committee adopted a resolution on Friday, November 22, 2024, paving way for negotiations on a first-ever treaty on preventing and punishing crimes against humanity after Russia dropped amendments that would have derailed the effort.

The resolution was approved by consensus by the assembly's legal committee, which includes all 193-member U.N. nations, after tense last-minute negotiations between its supporters and Russia that dragged through the day.

There was a loud applause when the chairman of the committee gavelled the resolution's approval. It is virtually



A view of the International Criminal Court, in The Hague, Netherlands.

Photo File

certain to be adopted when the General Assembly puts it to a final vote on December 4. "Today's agreement to start up negotiations on a much-needed international treaty is an historic achievement that was a long time coming," Richard Dicker, Human Rights

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Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll: Priyanka's lead surges to 350,000 votes

NOVEMBER 23, 2024

WAYANAD, KERALA (TIP): Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday appeared to be heading towards her maiden electoral win, from Wayanad in Kerala, after registering an impressive lead of over 3.5 lakh votes against her nearest CPI rival, with party leaders and ally IUML predicting a big win for her amid the counting trends.

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Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi addresses a public meeting. File photo / PTI



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## COMMENT

# The Adani Saga: A Tale of Alleged Corruption, Political Patronage, and Global Embarrassment



BY  
INDRAJIT SALUJA

In recent years, the Adani Group, helmed by billionaire Gautam Adani, has repeatedly found itself at the center of allegations involving corruption, regulatory violations, and financial misconduct. Once hailed as a symbol of India's economic resurgence, the group is now under the scanner for alleged business malpractice and crony capitalism. The implications of these accusations are far-reaching, casting a shadow on India's governance and tarnishing its global reputation.

For years, critics and independent watchdogs have accused the Adani Group of circumventing business norms. The conglomerate, which spans infrastructure, power, mining, and logistics, has often been accused of exploiting regulatory loopholes and leveraging its political connections to gain an unfair advantage. Allegations have ranged from tax evasion to environmental violations, and more recently, to bribery for securing contracts.

The tipping point came in January 2023, when the U.S.-based financial research firm Hindenburg Research published a damning report accusing the Adani Group of stock manipulation, accounting fraud, and operating through shell companies in tax havens. The report, which sent Adani Group shares into a freefall, claimed the conglomerate had inflated its stock values to raise funds and sustain its operations. Hindenburg's findings raised alarms about corporate governance and transparency within one of India's largest business houses.

The latest blow to the Adani Group's credibility comes from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SEC has reportedly indicted Adani and his associates for allegedly using funds raised from American investors to bribe Indian state governments for lucrative contracts. This marks a significant development, as it places the Adani Group under U.S. jurisdiction due to the involvement of American shareholders.

The allegations highlight not just the misuse of foreign investments but also the complicity of Indian state governments in enabling such practices. The SEC's indictment underscores the

global dimensions of the Adani controversy, suggesting that the conglomerate's operations have far-reaching implications beyond Indian borders.

In India, the revelations have led to a growing demand for a thorough investigation into the Adani Group. Opposition parties, activists, and civil society organizations have called on the Modi government to probe the allegations, arguing that the credibility of India's regulatory framework is at stake. However, the government's response has been conspicuously muted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's perceived closeness to Gautam Adani has added fuel to the fire. Critics argue that Adani's rapid rise to become India's richest man coincided with Modi's ascent to national power. Reports suggest that Adani's financial support was instrumental in Modi's political campaigns, both as Chief Minister of Gujarat and later as Prime Minister. This symbiotic relationship has led to widespread allegations of crony capitalism, with Modi accused of shielding Adani from scrutiny.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the country's financial regulator, has also come under fire for its handling of the Adani case. SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch has faced accusations of financial irregularities and favoritism, further eroding public confidence in the institution. Critics argue that SEBI's inability to act decisively against the Adani Group reflects broader systemic issues, where regulatory agencies are compromised by political interference.

The Adani controversy is not an isolated case. Over the years, the Modi government has been accused of protecting individuals and entities close to the ruling party. From allegations of corruption involving party leaders to irregularities in awarding contracts, the pattern of shielding wrongdoers has

become a recurring theme. These actions undermine Modi's claims of providing a "clean administration" and have led to a growing perception that the government prioritizes loyalty over accountability.

The fallout from the Adani controversy extends beyond India's borders. The SEC's involvement has brought international attention to India's regulatory lapses and political favoritism. For Indians abroad, particularly in countries like the United States, the scandal has become a source of embarrassment. Diaspora communities now face uncomfortable questions about the state of governance and corruption in their homeland, tarnishing India's image as an emerging global power.

The Adani controversy underscores the urgent need for institutional reforms in India. Regulatory agencies like SEBI must be empowered to operate independently, free from political interference. Transparency and accountability must be prioritized to restore public trust in governance.

The Modi government must also address the growing perception of cronyism. Failure to do so risks not only its political credibility but also the nation's economic stability. A government that claims to be committed to the welfare of its citizens cannot afford to turn a blind eye to allegations of corruption, especially when they implicate some of the country's most powerful individuals and institutions.

The allegations against the Adani Group are more than just a corporate scandal; they are a test of India's democracy and its ability to uphold the rule of law. The government's unwillingness to act decisively sends a troubling message: that wealth and political connections can place individuals above accountability.

As the global spotlight continues to shine on the Adani controversy, India must confront the uncomfortable truths about its governance and regulatory systems. For a nation aspiring to be a global leader, the price of inaction is too high. It is time for India to clean house, not just for its own sake, but to restore its standing on the world stage.

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- Source Indian Journal Of Ophthalmology



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### The Challenge:

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- Treat 10,000 ROP-affected babies annually.

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# Indian Parliamentary delegation given a warm reception at the Indian Consulate



Hon'ble Members of Parliament, flanked by Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (extreme right), and Mayor of Edison Sam Joshi (second from the left)

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** An Indian Parliamentary delegation consisting of Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya, Shri Vijayasai Reddy V, Shri Akshay Yadav, Smt. Sandhya Ray, Shri Tejasvi Surya, and Ms. Bansuri Swaraj was accorded a warm reception by the Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan and the Indian American community representatives at the Indian Consulate here on November 20, 2024.

Diaspora members, including Edison Mayor Sam Joshi, Dr. Samin K. Sharma, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Mr. Gaurav Verma, Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Dr. Avinash Gupta, Mr. Rakesh Kaul, Dr. Hari Shukla, and Mr. Jatinder Singh Bakshi, shared their perspectives on different aspects of the Indian-American relationship and expressed a strong desire to give back to the motherland.

celebrations from January 8 to 10, 2025 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Incidentally, Mr. Pradhan hails from Odisha.

It is after many years that delegations of Members of Parliament have visited the United Nations. Covid period had disrupted the regular visits of these delegations. A delegation of Members of Parliament visited the Consulate a few days ago, to be precise on November 7, 2024. It included Ms Indu Bala Goswami, Ms Kavita Patidar, Shri Sudhanshu Trivedi, Shri Sambit Patra, Shri Vivek Thakur, Shri Dharmapuri Arvind, Shri Rajiv Shukla, Shri KTS Tulsi, Ms Sushmita Dev, Shri Ram Gopal Yadav, Shri Milind Murli Deora, Shri Tiruchi Siva, Ms Swati Maliwal, and Shri Tangella Uday Srinivas.



Members of Parliament and the Consul General shared their thoughts

Hon'ble Members of Parliament had an engaging interaction with distinguished members of the Indian-American community. They lauded the incredible achievements and appreciated the invaluable contributions of the Indian diaspora to the diverse fabric of the USA, celebrating their commitment to Indian heritage and their significant role in fostering a strong India-USA partnership.



Parliamentary delegation members with the Consul General and members of the Indian Diaspora at the reception

Earlier, Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan welcomed the members of the delegation, Sam Joshi, Mayor of Edison, and the Indian Diaspora members. He spoke about the Consulate's jurisdiction and consular



Delegation of Members of Parliament with the Consul General and members of the Indian Diaspora at the reception at the Consulate on November 7, 2024

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sambit Patra narrated the story of Guru Nanak Dev ji's visit to Puri where he had sung the holy AARTA, which is AARTI in Hindi language. It is one of the most poetical compositions of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Members of the Indian Diaspora that The Indian Panorama spoke to were appreciative of the initiative taken by the Consul General to have the delegations



Members of the Indian Diaspora who spoke on the occasion



Delegation of Members of Parliament which was given a reception at the Consulate on November 7, 2024. Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan is seen speaking on the occasion.

services. He spoke about the Bharat ko Janiye campaign launched by government of India to provide to the Indian Diaspora young people an opportunity to visit India and know the country of their origin. He also spoke about the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

interact with the community. They were unanimous in saying that such interactions helped create a better understanding of the perspectives and contribute to strengthening of relationships.

# Red alert on the Adani front

**ACTION BY US AUTHORITIES CALLS INTO QUESTION INDIA'S CAPITAL MARKET REGULATION**



BY SUCHETA DALAL

The Adani Group, one of India's most influential and high-profile conglomerates, finds itself in the crosshairs of an international controversy. In a damning indictment, the US Department of Justice (Eastern District, New York) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) have, in a joint action, filed civil and criminal charges, accusing the group of bribery, fraud, obstruction of justice and violations under the stringent Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

This scandal has laid bare challenges that India can no longer afford to ignore if it wants to maintain its position as an attractive investment destination and be seen as an economic powerhouse.

The alleged bribery scheme centers on a \$6-billion contract awarded to Adani Green Energy Ltd by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) in 2020. This was touted as a game-changer for India's renewable energy ambitions. However, the indictment claims that the project faced viability issues due to a lack of interest among state electricity utilities to buy the expensive power it generated. The group allegedly resorted to bribing officials of various state electricity utilities (Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh and Jammu & Kashmir) to buy power from the SECI. In doing so, it violated the declarations made under the FCPA and indulged in a series of misrepresentations to cover its tracks and also attempted to derail the investigation.

The 54-page indictment by the US Justice Department details how and why the FCPA is applicable in this case and directly links Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and key officials of the group in the payment of over Rs 2,000 crore as bribes in India. Arrest warrants against Gautam and Sagar have also been handed over to foreign law enforcement agencies. A statement from the White House that it is aware of the action signifies the seriousness of the matter.

Although the Adani Group has denied the allegations, terming them baseless, it is less credible this time because of the revelations in the indictment by the Justice Department. The scandal has sent shockwaves across global markets and the impact on the group has been on multiple levels. It has also raised critical questions about how Indian businesses are run, the role of our market regulator and the extent to which political clout shapes economic outcomes.

Stock prices of all Adani Group companies fell, while some key group energy stocks crashed by 10-22 per cent and fell further on November 21, when the broader market went up ferociously.



The Adani case has sent shockwaves across global markets.

Photo credit: Vivek Sharma

The impact on business has also been significant. Another immediate fallout was that Adani Green Energy Ltd had to postpone a \$600-million bond offering. GQG Partners, an investment management company listed in Australia, which made significant investments in the group even after the Hindenburg Research disclosures, informed the stock exchange that it was reviewing the situation with regard to its portfolios after the US action.

The next-level impact will be seen in the group's global businesses, which have attracted controversy in many countries. Kenyan President William Ruto was the first to respond by cancelling airport and energy deals of over \$2.5 billion. The airport project was the subject of enormous controversy, public protests, senate hearings and litigation. We are likely to see similar action in other jurisdictions where Adani projects have attracted protests or controversy.

In 2022, there were allegations that the Indian government pressured Sri Lanka

over handing a renewable energy project to the Adani Group. The Adani power project which supplies 10 per cent of the electricity to Bangladesh is already mired in controversy, and the group has been cutting power supply in a bid to recover payments. The Bangladesh High Court has ordered a high-level probe into the power deal with the group. The group has also been facing massive public protests over its coal mines in Australia.

Given the group's enormous and open influence over the NDA government and proximity to the Prime Minister himself, this case will not be viewed as just another instance of corporate wrongdoing. As the legal process unfolds, it will not only test the group but also India's broader corporate governance and regulatory framework. Under US laws, the charges themselves can be settled by negotiating a payment, without admitting or denying guilt, but it will be a hard bargain with many geopolitical implications in view of the global spread of the Adani empire and influence over India's ruling

**From weak regulatory oversight to the blurring of lines between corporate and political interests across political parties, this scandal has laid bare challenges that India can no longer afford to ignore if it wants to maintain its position as an attractive investment destination and be seen as an economic powerhouse.**

establishment.

The US action calls into question our capital market regulation. It is embarrassing that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has drawn a blank in its investigations despite enormous public scrutiny and an unprecedented Supreme Court-appointed committee. It is also hard to believe that despite being a member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions and having a bilateral agreement with the US SEC under an MoU on cooperation, consultation and technical assistance dating back to 1998, SEBI reportedly sought information from the US only after the SEC and the Justice Department went public with their action.

Logically, the US action ought to open a broad, multi-agency investigation in India over diverse charges levelled against it over its corporate acquisitions across sectors and states. A failure to do so will lead to long-term reputational damage to India's flawed business ecosystem. Going forward, companies seeking global capital are bound to face greater scrutiny and higher skepticism.

From weak regulatory oversight to the blurring of lines between corporate and political interests across political parties, this scandal has laid bare challenges that India can no longer afford to ignore if it wants to maintain its position as an attractive investment destination and be seen as an economic powerhouse.

*(Sucheta Dalal is an Indian business journalist and author)*



# Violence, militia & leadership crisis in Manipur

**MANIPUR'S UNENDING CRISIS CONTINUES TO TORMENT THE STATE, WITH THE RECENT VIOLENCE SHATTERING THE UNEASY CALM BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF THE IMPHAL VALLEY AND A SECTION OF THE HILL COMMUNITIES IN THE UPLANDS**



BY SANJOY  
HAZARIKA

Manipur's unending crisis continues to torment the state, with the recent violence shattering the uneasy calm between the people of the Imphal valley and a section of the hill communities in the uplands. For a brief period, public attention shifted to Shillong, capital of Meghalaya, where Chief Minister Conrad Sangma announced the withdrawal of his National Peoples Party's (NPP) support to the state government.

The NPP, with seven MLAs, is the second largest group in the 60-member Assembly. The Assembly is dominated by the BJP, which holds a comfortable majority on its own with 37 MLAs and a coalition with smaller parties, including the JD(U) with six and the Naga Peoples Front with five. In a sharp denunciation of Chief Minister Biren Singh - the NPP remains in the NDA led by the BJP at the Centre - Sangma, who also heads the NPP, declared that "there was no confidence in our party in the current leadership of Biren Singh."

Though he pledged to work for peace, the party clarified that it would rejoin the government only if Singh was removed.

However, removing Singh is easier said than done. While it has been a demand of the Kuki groups, which have felt deeply aggrieved, the latest massacre of a Meitei family of six - three women and three children - triggered angry attacks on the homes of MLAs and ministers in the Imphal valley. The majority Meitei population lives in the valley. Among the main driving forces of the Meitei campaign is the COCOMI (Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity), an NGO representing the valley.

While the Centre has been silent on the demand for Singh's removal, interviews with people on both sides of the divide indicate that the main challenge before the BJP and the Centre is to find a replacement who is strong enough to handle Manipur's complex politics. This would include not just holding the balance with allies but also controlling civil society, dealing with insurgent groups, managing the media and keeping



The NPP has said it would rejoin the Manipur govt only if CM Biren Singh is removed.

Photo: PTI

dissident MLAs in check. Until May 2023, when the ethnic eruption began, this cash-strapped state was seen as a place of promise and growth.

If anything, Singh has been a survivor. Over the years, he has honed his skills, besting rivals and rebels several times. In 2022, he led the BJP to a majority in the Assembly elections, crushing the Congress. A few weeks ago, much noise was made about a purported letter signed by 19 party MLAs critical of the CM, but it fizzled out.

In June last year, barely two months into the internecine conflict, Singh set out for Raj Bhavan with a resignation letter in hand for the Governor. A large crowd stopped the convoy, snatched the letter and tore it up in a theatrical, well-publicized display of support.

But Singh continues to face huge internal challenges. On November 21, 10 MLAs from the Kuki tribe, including seven from the BJP, attacked the state government, accusing it of favoring the majority Meiteis.

"The CM has mismanaged the situation from the start," said Yumnam Joykumar Singh, national vice-president of the NPP and a former deputy chief minister in Biren Singh's first term. "He says he is protecting the territorial integrity of Manipur, but where is this integrity? We cannot even travel to Jiribam or Moreh."

Even as talk swirls around the imposition of President's rule without the dissolution of the state legislature, the CM is unfazed. There is also growing criticism that he has no role in the security architecture, known as the

Unified Command, which coordinates the security operations in the state.

The Centre's point person for Manipur has been Home Minister Amit Shah and New Delhi's response to the latest spasm of violence has been to restore the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in areas from where it had been lifted and to fly 5,000 additional paramilitary troopers to Manipur to bolster the already substantial presence of security forces. This muscular approach to security issues has evoked mixed reactions.

When the Home Minister announced an ambitious plan earlier this year to fence the 1,643-km Indo-Myanmar border, Nagaland and Mizoram stiffly opposed it, while Tripura, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, all BJP-governed states, welcomed it. Singh's government and BJP MLAs have opposed AFSPA's reimposition. Some say that this concern stems from the fact that the sweeping law can be used against militias and vigilante groups, some of which are said to be close to the state's leadership.

Editor Pradip Phanjoubam said in an interview that the primary challenge was the proliferation of weapons accompanied by acute lawlessness, with a growth of pro-government militias as well as armed rebels of virtually all ethnic groups. "Anybody who has a gun in his hand becomes the law," he remarked. He described the bouts of fragile calm as an "absence of violence" in a "frozen conflict". An undercurrent of grievances and unmet aspirations runs across the state, threatening to erupt at

the slightest provocation.

The identity of the protagonist or antagonist often depends upon the perception of the viewer. In one incident, 10 Kuki men who were killed when fired upon by a CRPF unit, have been described variously as insurgents or village guards, depending on who is speaking. The precise circumstances which provoked the shooting remain unclear, as do many situations in Manipur.

A person with knowledge of the situation said that the Kukis had automatic weapons and had been trained by rebel cadres who sometimes led them there and elsewhere.

Revenge is also a factor. In the latest burst of violence in Jiribam, the ill-fated family, members of a relief camp, were walking to a market when an armed group took them captive. The group was reportedly seeking to avenge the death of a young Hmar woman allegedly killed by a Meitei vigilante group. The Hmars, while listed as a Scheduled Tribe, are part of the larger Kuki-Chin-Mizo group of tribes.

There are economic issues, too. Jiribam is a major entry point from Assam. It has a mixed population of Bengali-speaking Muslims, Meiteis and Hmars while a railhead, the earliest in Manipur, and a major highway have made it a commercial center. Different political groups as well as competing non-state armed groups have long vied for control here. It is in such complex frameworks that the ongoing conflict needs to be understood.

The impact of Manipur's tragedy appears limited to the Northeast. It has not become a live election or political issue across India. While warranting a few sentences in political campaigns across the country and rousing talks by opposition lawmakers in Parliament when issues conflagrate, it draws the occasional scathing editorial, commentary and news report in the media. Top officials and political leaders in Delhi remain occasionally engaged and deeply concerned, but the lack of a long-term strategy is visible.

*(Sanjoy Hazarika combines roles as researcher, columnist, mentor and practitioner. Author, journalist, filmmaker, policy analyst and human rights advocate, he is a former reporter for the New York Times)*

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# To protect US democracy from tyrants, we must protect the truly free press



BY ROBERT REICH

Reliable and independent sources of news are now threatened by growing alliances of oligarchs and authoritarians.

The mainstream media doesn't use the term "oligarchy" to describe the billionaires who are using their wealth to enlarge their political power around the world, but that is what is happening.

During the US presidential campaign, legacy mainstream media - who mostly answer to corporate or billionaire ownership - refrained from reporting how incoherent and bizarre Donald Trump was becoming, normalizing and "sanewashing" his increasingly wild utterances even as it reported every minor slip by Joe Biden.

The New York Times headlined its report on the September 2024 presidential debate between the president-elect and Kamala Harris - in which Trump issued conspiracy theories about stolen elections, crowd sizes, and Haitian immigrants eating pet cats and dogs - as: Harris and Trump bet on their own sharply contrasting views of America.

Trump also used virulent rhetoric towards journalists. He has called the free press "scum" and the "enemy within". During his campaign, he called for revoking the licenses of television networks and jailing journalists who won't reveal their anonymous sources.

Come 20 January, Trump and his toadies - including billionaires such as Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy - will have total control over the executive branch of the United States government. Trump's Maga Republicans will be in charge of both chambers of Congress as well.

Most members of the US supreme court, some of whom have been beneficiaries of billionaire gifts, have already signaled their willingness to consolidate even more power in Trump's hands, immunize him from criminal liability for anything he does, and further open the floodgates of big money into US politics.

All of this is sending a message from the United States that liberalism's core tenets, including the rule of law and freedom of the press, are up for grabs.

Elsewhere around the world, alliances of economic elites and authoritarians similarly threaten public access to the truth, without which democracy cannot thrive.

It's a vicious cycle: citizens have grown cynical about democracy

**HONEST PEOPLE STANDING UP IS PRECISELY WHAT RESISTING AUTHORITARIANISM AND PROTECTING DEMOCRACY REQUIRE. AMERICANS AND THE CITIZENS OF OTHER COUNTRIES MUST HAVE ACCESS TO THE TRUTH IF WE HAVE ANY HOPE OF STANDING UP TO TYRANNY.**



because decision-making has become dominated by economic elites, and that cynicism has ushered in authoritarians who are even more solicitous of such elites.

Trump and his lapdogs have lionized Victor Orbán and Hungary's Fidesz party, which transformed a once-vibrant democracy into a one-party state, muzzling the media and rewarding the wealthy.

Trump's success will likely encourage other authoritarians, such as Marine Le Pen and her National Rally party in France; Alternative in Germany, or AfD; Italy's far-right Giorgia Meloni; and radical rightwing parties in the Netherlands and Austria.

Trump's triumph will embolden Russia's Vladimir Putin - the world's most dangerous authoritarian oligarch - not only in Ukraine and potentially eastern Europe but also in his worldwide campaign of disinformation seeking to undermine democracies.

Evidence is mounting that Russia and other foreign agents used Musk's X platform to disrupt the US presidential campaign in favor of Trump. Musk did little to stop them.

During the campaign, Musk himself reposted to his 200 million followers a faked version of Harris's first campaign video with an altered voice track sounding like the vice-president and saying she "does not know the first

thing about running the country" and is the "ultimate diversity hire". Musk tagged the video "amazing". It received hundreds of millions of views.

According to a report from the Center for Countering Digital Hate, Musk posted at least 50 false election claims on X, which garnered a total of at least 1.2bn views. None had a "community note" from X's supposed fact-checking system.

Rupert Murdoch, another oligarch who champions authoritarianism, has turned his Fox News, Wall Street Journal, and New York Post into outlets of rightwing propaganda, which have amplified Trump's lies.

Jeff Bezos, the billionaire owner of the Washington Post, prohibited the newspaper from endorsing Kamala Harris. Evidently, he didn't want to raise Trump's ire because Bezos's other businesses depend on government contracts and his largest - Amazon - is already the target of a federal antitrust suit.

Bezos's decision demonstrated that even the possibility of a Trump presidency could force what had been one of the most courageous newspapers in the US to censor itself. Marty Baron, former editor of the Post, called the move "cowardice, with democracy as its casualty".

Citizens concerned about democracy must monitor those in power, act as watchdogs against abuses of power, challenge those abuses, organize and litigate, and sound the alarm about wrongdoing and wrongful policies.

But not even the most responsible of citizens can do these things without reliable sources of information. The public doesn't know what stories have been censored, muted, judged out of bounds, or preemptively not covered by journalists who'd rather not take the risk.

In the final weeks before the election, the billionaire owner of the Los Angeles Times, Patrick Soon-Shiong, blocked his newspaper's planned endorsement of Harris, prompting the head of the paper's editorial board to resign. Mariel Garza said she was "not OK with us being silent", adding: "In dangerous times, honest people need to stand up."

Honest people standing up is precisely what resisting authoritarianism and protecting democracy require. Americans and the citizens of other countries must have access to the truth if we have any hope of standing up to tyranny.

*(Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center)*

# Jenifer Rajkumar Launches Campaign for NY City Comptroller



Jenifer Rajkumar launches campaign for NY City Comptroller on Nov. 21 at the Palace in Woodside



Enthusiastic community support for Jenifer Rajkumar

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

**QUEENS, NEW YORK (TIP):** Stanford Law and University of Pennsylvania-educated lawyer Jenifer Rajkumar says she brings an unparalleled record of public service and leadership. This includes fighting workplace discrimination for 5,000 women - a case recognized by the United Nations as one of the top 10 in the world promoting women's equality.

The outgoing Assembly Member, who has represented District 38 for many years and served as New York's first-ever Director of Immigration Affairs, managing a \$31 million project to provide legal services to immigrants, shared these sentiments when she kicked off her campaign for New York City Comptroller, on Nov. 21, adding, "I am ready to fight for the working people of New York City and remove the obstacles standing in the way

Photo/ courtesy Office of Jenifer Rajkumar of their dreams."

Rajkumar, a public servant for all New Yorkers, brought together a coalition of hundreds of supporters from all Five Boroughs at The Palace in Woodside, noting that she is running to make history as the first South Asian and first woman of color to be Comptroller.

A champion of education, Rajkumar, a former CUNY professor, said. "No one thought I would be standing here today. But nothing can stop a determined South Asian woman. For every New Yorker who has been underestimated and counted out, this campaign is for you," she told a rapt audience.

Rajkumar outlined her vision of wielding the Comptroller's powers to address the most pressing issues facing New Yorkers. She said she would develop solutions to address the 9,000 people committing most crimes, crack down on

reckless e-bikes, close the gender wage gap, create a bridge to college for high school graduates, improve access to affordable housing, and safeguard \$270 billion in pension fund assets for 700,000 current and retired City employees. She called for bold leadership and a culture of service to restore trust in City government.

She highlighted her record of achievements in Albany, at every step accomplishing what detractors told her was impossible. Rajkumar became the first South Asian woman elected to the New York State Office, defeating an incumbent by the widest margin of any primary challenger. She went on to pass the historic Diwali School Holiday bill so that now and forever, 600,000 New Yorkers can celebrate one of their most sacred days of the year without children missing school. This year, she passed the SMOKEOUT Act, empowering the city to close over 1,200 illegal smoke shops in

months.

She concluded her remarks with a rallying cry: "Are you ready to make this truly the greatest city in the world? Let's win this together!"

A coalition of activists from diverse communities, religious leaders of all faiths, local business owners, women leaders, and New Yorkers from all walks of life - many immigrants who came to New York to achieve the American Dream- applauded Rajkumar.

Among them were members of New York's Indian, African American, Latino, Jewish, AAPI, Muslim, Dominican, Colombian, Nepali, Bangladeshi, Tibetan, Filipino, Caribbean, Pakistani, Sikh, and LGBTQ+ communities. The crowd reflected the overwhelming momentum for her people-powered campaign, which raised more than any other Comptroller candidate in the latest filing period. (Source: Caribbean Life)

## Jharkhand Diwas Celebrated; Jharkhand Gaurav awards presented



Honorees with the Consul General Shri Binaya Srikanta Pradhan and BJANA President Sanjeev Singh



A captivating dance performance

NOVEMBER 16, 2024

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** Celebrating Jharkhand Diwas 2024: Honoring the Spirit and Achievements of Jharkhand The Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA) hosted a celebration of Jharkhand Diwas on Thursday, November 14th, 2024, at the Consulate General of India in New York.

Jharkhand Diwas commemorates the formation of Jharkhand as a separate state in India. The occasion celebrates the state's rich cultural heritage and its contributions to India's growth and development.

The Consul General of India, New York, Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan highlighted the importance of cultural

celebrations and appreciated the work done by BJANA in Jharkhand at the grass root level. Other distinguished guests, community leaders, and members of BJANA came together to mark the significance of Jharkhand Diwas and its cultural importance.

The achievements of the Jharkhand diaspora in the United States and the

collective impact of the people of Jharkhand on the global stage were highlighted at this event. Ms. Archana Sharma, a New Jersey based restaurateur, Mr. Arvind Prakash, an alumnus of BIT Mesra and founder of an IT services company and more.

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

# Singer Nikhita Gandhi helps raise funds for Rajasthan charity in UK

**SHE PERFORMED AT THE RAJASTHAN FOUNDATION CHARITY'S ANNUAL DIWALI BALL IN LONDON TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR CHILDREN'S CAUSES IN THE STATE, INCLUDING A SPECIAL NEEDS SCHOOL IN BHILWARA AND A GOVERNMENT SCHOOL IN BARMER**



Nikhita Gandhi

Photo: Instagram/ @nikhitagandhiofficial

NOVEMBER 16, 2024

**LONDON (TIP):** Popular singer Nikhita Gandhi performed at The Rajasthan Foundation charity's annual Diwali Ball in London to help raise funds for children's causes in the state, including a special needs school in Bhilwara and a government school in Barmer.

Gandhi, the playback singer behind several chart-toppers from box-office hits across five different languages, said she was overwhelmed by the response of audiences in the UK.

"Sometimes I do get nervous about doing a show abroad because I wonder if the Indian population here also is listening to the same music as we are in India, or do they have a different taste in music and Indian films," shared Gandhi at the conclusion of her UK visit earlier this week.

"But I was so overwhelmed and happy during my show. Everyone knew my old songs to the recent ones that dropped this year. When I was singing

'O Sajna' (from the film 'Ek Tha Raja') everyone was singing along and they knew all the lyrics. It just felt so good to receive such love and reciprocation and I really had a blast while performing for such a good cause," she said.

The Rajasthan Foundation (TRF) was set up to alleviate poverty, hardship, and distress among underprivileged women and children primarily in the state of Rajasthan.

Its aim is to bring together the Rajasthani community in the UK through initiatives across three pillars of community, culture and charity.

"At the Diwali Charity Ball 2024, we raised thousands of pounds to support the 'Home Based' programme at Sona Manovikas Kendra in Bhilwara, a school for children with special needs. The funds will also help reconstruct a new girls' washroom, a classroom and a drinking area at the Government Girls' School in Barmer district," said TRF board member Poonam Goel, a London-

based philanthropist of Rajasthani heritage.

Since its inception in 2005, TRF claims to have been focused on a mission to raise funds for charitable causes and has supported special needs educational institutes like Sona Manovikas Kendra (SMK) in Bhilwara and Navjoti Manovikas Kendra (NMK) in Jodhpur.

The charity says its donations have helped construct new buildings and improve wider infrastructure facilities for projects in the state over the years.

TRF has also supported Jaipur-based charity Jagruti to rebuild derelict and abandoned schools in slum areas. During the pandemic in 2020, TRF worked on food banks and also launched a "Connecting Elderly at Carehomes with Families" campaign, distributing electronic devices to care homes around London to enable self-isolating elderly inhabitants stay in contact with their families and loved ones. (Source: PTI)

## British Indian peer Karan Bilimoria appointed chair of key UK industry body



Lord Karan Bilimoria has been appointed chair of the influential International Chamber of Commerce United Kingdom (ICCUK)

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

**LONDON (TIP):** Prominent British Indian peer Lord Karan Bilimoria has been appointed chair of the influential International Chamber of Commerce United Kingdom (ICCUK) and welcomed the British government's relaunch of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) talks as part of his new role. Bilimoria, founder of Cobra Beer, will take the reins at ICCUK in the new year when the India-UK FTA negotiations are expected to resume in the wake of a meeting between Prime Ministers Keir Starmer and Narendra Modi at the G20 Summit in Brazil earlier this week.

As a champion of closer India-UK trade ties, the businessman welcomed the renewed "committed and concerted effort" to the FTA and called on both governments to set a deadline for completion.

"There are huge benefits for both

countries in goods, investments, and services. India is the fastest growing major economy in the world and Indian companies are already significant investors in the UK," said Bilimoria in a statement following the announcement of his new ICCUK role this week.

"An FTA will turbo-charge the special relationship between both countries and unleash significant untapped potential going forward. Both Prime Ministers should set a deadline, for example, June 30, 2025, by which to complete the deal, and the completion should be celebrated by the biggest prime ministerial-led delegations to both countries," he said.

India's Commerce and Industry Ministry Piyush Goyal said both sides would resume the "progress achieved previously and seek to bridge the gaps for expeditiously closing the trade deal".

Business and industry chambers within the India-UK corridor have welcomed movement towards restarting the talks, which were stalled due to general elections in both countries earlier this year.

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) is the world's largest business organization representing 45 million companies with 1 billion employees in over 170 countries. The ICCUK is the chamber's representative voice in the UK.

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

## Indian American tech founder Daksh Gupta faces death threats over work culture posts on X

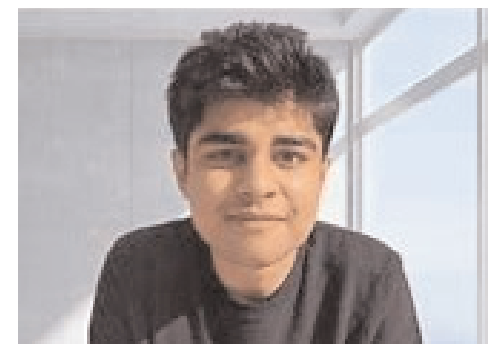
NOVEMBER 19, 2024

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP) :** Indian American tech founder Daksh Gupta received backlash after his social media post on startup culture and work-life balance on Nov. 9 went viral. Gupta, co-founder and CEO of San Francisco-based AI startup Greptile, found himself posting on X about the current hiring practices, which included being upfront about 14-hour workdays and grueling work environment at his early-stage startup to see if other founders did the same.

Gupta said: "Recently I started telling candidates right in the first interview that greptile offers no work-life balance, typical workdays start at 9am and end at 11pm, often later, and we work Saturdays, sometimes also Sundays. I emphasize the environment is high stress, and there is no tolerance for poor work."

It felt wrong to do this at first, but I'm convinced now that the transparency is good, and I'd much rather people know this from the get-go rather than find out on their first day. Curious if other people do this and if there's some obvious pitfall I'm missing." The X post which now has 1.6 million views and over 2,000 likes, received both good and bad criticism from viewers. The post has reportedly been shared on Reddit sparking discussion on the social platform.

The American Bazaar reached out to



Daksh Gupta received backlash after his social media post on startup culture and work-life balance on Nov. 9 went viral.

Gupta to ask what his thoughts were behind the post and he said, "It was a pretty casual tweet aimed at my typical small audience. I had less than 3,000 followers at the time and my tweets were only read by a few hundred people."

Gupta added in his email response that "startup people know the first few people at a startup must push exceptionally hard to reach escape velocity. I didn't want to hire someone who wants work-life balance and force them to work in this intense environment. To avoid that, I started telling people upfront (in the job posting as well as the first interview), that as an early-stage startup, the environment is extremely intense and doesn't offer any work-life balance."

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

# Four Punjabis make it to the British Columbia cabinet



Nikki Sharma

Ravi Kahlon

Jagrup Brar

Ravi Parmar

Nikki Sharma, Ravi Kahlon, Jagrup Brar and Ravi Parmar have been inducted in the British Columbia cabinet -Photo / courtesy Khalsa Vox

**NOVEMBER 19, 2024**  
**VANCOUVER, BC (TIP)** : Four Punjabis have been inducted in British Columbia cabinet in Canada.

According to reports, Nikki Sharma has been made deputy premier which is similar to a deputy chief minister's post in India.

Ravi Kahlon, Jagrup Brar and Ravi Parmar have been inducted as ministers while Punjabi Raj Chauhan is set to return again as the speaker.

## INDIAN AMERICAN, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, RICHARD VERMA TO DELIVER KEYNOTE AT DALLAS CHAMBER AWARDS BANQUET



Deputy Secretary of State Richard R. Verma will headline the 25th annual awards banquet of the US India Chamber of Commerce, Dallas-Fort Worth (USICOC)

**NOVEMBER 19, 2024**  
**DALLAS, TX (TIP)** : Deputy Secretary of State Richard R. Verma will headline the 25th annual awards banquet of the US India Chamber of Commerce, Dallas-Fort Worth (USICOC), the organization announced on Tuesday.

The event, which will be held at the Westin Dallas Park Central, on December 10, 2024, will bring together leaders from numerous sectors to celebrate innovation, leadership, and global partnerships, the USICOC said.

"We are honored to announce Deputy Secretary of State Richard R. Verma as the keynote speaker for the 25th Annual USICOC Awards Banquet!," the chamber said in a message posted on LinkedIn. "With an exceptional career spanning diplomacy, public policy, and private sector leadership, Deputy Secretary Verma has made historic contributions to strengthening U.S. global relations."

Founded in 1999, as the Greater Dallas Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, the organization supports professional, and business growth as well as the economic development in North Texas.

The founding chairman of the chamber was Indian American businessman Ashok Mago, the CEO and Chairman of Mago & Associates, a business and investment consulting firm based in Dallas.

Verma has previously served as the U.S. Ambassador to India from 2014 to 2017 - the first and only Indian American to serve as the head of American missions in India.

During his tenure in New Delhi, Verma strengthened the U.S.-India partnership across various domains, including trade, defense cooperation, technology, and cultural exchanges. His efforts laid the groundwork for the strategic collaboration that continues to thrive today. Additionally, he has served as Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs and contributed as a legal advisor on Capitol Hill.

Past speakers of Chamber events include Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, Sen. John Cornyn, former Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, and Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy.

## Indian American Sid Viswanathan founded startup Alchemy debuts first digital pharmacy product



Founder and co-CEO of Alchemy, Sid Viswanathan took to LinkedIn to share the product's release and why he thought it was critical for the long-term success of safety net clinics.

**NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP)** : Pharmacy startup Alchemy announced Tuesday, November 19, the launch of its digital product's first iteration, calling it "Release #1 of The Alchemy Digital Product."

Founder and co-CEO of Alchemy, Sid Viswanathan took to LinkedIn to share the product's release and why he thought it was critical for the long-term success of safety net clinics.

Alchemy's mission remains to serve safety net clinics by building in-house pharmacies, claiming they yield better financial results as well as improve patient outcomes. The pharmacy startup was born out of a need to support health clinics with physical, clinical and digital infrastructure to streamline pharmaceutical operations and better patient care.

The digital product was launched in service of Alchemy's mission, Viswanathan shared in a blog post highlighting the software solution. To provide long-term value for Alchemy's customers and their patients "beyond the walls of a pharmacy," the startup is investing in both clinical and digital products.

"When you focus on not only the 1st prescription fill, but also the 75th fill (because HIV patients are required to stay on treatment for the rest of their lives), you begin to think about the entire patient journey for that clinic and patient very differently, and realize there is so much that can be done to improve that clinic and patient's life from both a clinical and digital product standpoint," Viswanathan noted.

The current iteration of the digital product "Release #1" has built-in features such as Inbox and Task Management, Patient Profiles, and Patient Timeline View, making it convenient for patients to access refills to their essential medicines among other such benefits, removing the need for multiple pharmacy visits, long wait times, and other hurdles to access their medications.

Just last month, Alchemy announced a \$31 million seed investment, backed by the likes of basketball legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Andreessen Horowitz' a16z Bio + Health initiative and others to build and operate in-house pharmacies for independent clinics with a focus on providers that have large HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV) patient populations.

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

## Indian American Researcher Rajan Hooda Unveils How Ancient Egyptians build the Pyramids

Rajan Hooda, an Indian-origin researcher from the University of Chicago, claims to have cracked the code behind the construction of the Egyptian Pyramids



**NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

**CHICAGO (TIP)**: The Egyptian pyramids, iconic ancient masonry structures, have long fascinated people with their immense size and intricate design. For centuries, the question "How did the Egyptians build the pyramids?" has remained one of history's greatest unsolved mysteries. Now, Rajan Hooda, an Indian-origin researcher from the University of Chicago, claims to have cracked the code behind the construction of these colossal monuments. His breakthrough comes after over 50 years of dedicated research into the methods used by the ancient Egyptians.

In his new research paper, Hooda introduces the 'Theory of The Conjoint Solution and The Shrinking Dual L Notch Ramps', a revolutionary approach that offers unprecedented insight into the ancient pyramids' construction methodology. The 20-page research paper not only proposes a new method of construction but also provides what Mr Hooda asserts is irrefutable evidence for this ancient engineering feat.

Mr Hooda remembers being captivated as an eight-year-old when he first heard of 'one of the great mysteries in the history of mankind-a puzzle unsolved for the past 4500 Years'. He describes his work as "a labor of love and persistence that took me more than 50 years until I was finally able to put the last painstaking pieces of this immense three-dimensional jigsaw puzzle into place."

Calling the prevailing ideas structurally untenable, such as the use of an exterior ramp that was larger than the pyramid or a complex interior tunnel ramp, Mr Hooda's 'L Notch Ramp' is built like a cut-out notch within the footprint of each layer of stones. He theorizes that the pyramid was constructed like a "layer cake," comprising of 210 layers of stones. As he explains, "when the lowest layer of stones was completed, a small portion in one corner was left incomplete to create a small rising ramp from the ground to the top of the first layer-a height of 4.5 feet. This ramp was now used to transport stones needed to build the second layer. Like before, a small part of the second layer was left incomplete to extend the existing ramp from the top of the first layer to the top of the second layer of stones.

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

# FIA NY-NJ-CT-NE Announces the 2025 FIA Team to be led by Saurin Parikh



The FIA Board and Executive members. From L to R: Srujal Parikh, Srishti Kaul Narula, Sunita Miki Patel, Saurin Parikh, Anand Patel, HR Shah, Jayesh Patel, Sanjeev Singh, Mahesh Dubal, Priti Ray -Patel, Deepak Patel, Dr. Avinash Gupta, Alok Kumar, Ankur Vaidya.

NOVEMBER 14, 2024

**EDISON, NJ (TIP):** On November 13, 2024, the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) convened for its 2025 Election Cycle Meeting at Akbar Restaurant. The Election Commission, led by Chair Jayesh Patel and Co-Chairs Anand (Andy) Patel and Alok Kumar, finalized the selection of the 2025 Executive Team. The selection was confirmed by FIA's Voting Board Members, with trustees Srujal Parikh, Jayesh Patel, Anand Patel, and Dipak

Patel in attendance. Senior advisors Dr. H.R. Shah and Dr. Sudhir Parikh were also present.

Board Chairman Ankur Vaidya expressed his heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Avinash Gupta for his dedicated leadership through a challenging 2024 and acknowledged the 2024 Executive Team for their hard work and commitment. He extended a warm welcome to Saurin Parikh, Sreekanth Akkapalli, and the entire incoming 2025 team, reiterating the FIA Board's

commitment to empowering women, and millennials and building a diverse, representative leadership within the FIA, including the Executive Team.

he has passionately and voluntarily served since 2008. Over the years, Saurin has contributed extensively to the FIA across nearly every committee, demonstrating a meticulous approach to both new and ongoing initiatives. His unwavering dedication has earned him the position of President of one of the oldest community nonprofit umbrella organizations in the USA. Expressing gratitude for the trust placed in him, Saurin emphasized his readiness to elevate FIA's mission through enhanced community engagement, innovative programs, and initiatives that strengthen ties between the USA and India. A licensed Professional Engineer, Saurin serves as the Chief of Collection Systems Investigation (CSI) at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP), a role he has held since March 2019. With over 25 years of notable achievements in his professional career, he brings a wealth of experience



The FIA Executive Committee 2025

## 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- **President: Saurin Parikh** (Native: Gujarat)
- **Executive Vice President: Smita Miki Patel** (Native: Gujarat)
- **1st Vice President: Priti Ray-Patel** (Native: Gujarat)
- **2nd Vice President: Deepak Goel** (Native: Punjab)
- **Secretary: Srishti Kaul Narula** (Native: Punjab)
- **Joint Secretary: Mahesh Dubal** (Native: Maharashtra)
- **Treasurer: Sanjeev Singh** (Native: Bihar)
- **Joint Treasurer: Haresh Shah** (Native: Gujarat)
- **Immediate Past President: Dr. Avinash Gupta** (Native: Jharkhand)

Saurin Parikh has been unanimously appointed as the 38th President of the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) for 2025. His selection reflects the FIA Board's strong confidence in his commitment and dedication to this leading grassroots organization, which

and recognized accomplishments to his leadership at FIA.

The FIA has also affirmed the appointment of Mr. Sreekanth Akkapalli, who will join FIA in 2025 as the Convenor and Reception Chair. This marks Sreekanth's first position within FIA's leadership, though he brings valuable experience from leadership roles in various community organizations. As an established and successful entrepreneur from the Telugu community, Sreekanth through his expertise and business acumen will collaborate with the FIA Board, President-Elect Saurin Parikh, and the 2025 Executive Team to drive FIA's initiatives forward and higher. In a remote message, he expressed his dedication to fostering a welcoming environment for the Indian diaspora and enhancing community engagement in upcoming events. Past President Dr. Avinash Gupta shared his pride in FIA's accomplishments and pledged his support to the new leadership in the concluding remarks.

*(Based on a press release issued by Srujal Parikh)*

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# Indian Origin Seniors in New York Celebrate Diwali at a Gala in New York

NOVEMBER 16, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP):** BRUHUD New York Seniors, one of the largest senior organizations in the Tristate area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, celebrated its 16th Annual Deepawali Gala with great enthusiasm. The event, held at the Ganesh Temple Auditorium, witnessed an impressive turnout of over 700 attendees.

BRUHUD, a nonprofit organization based in New York, is dedicated to addressing issues relevant to its senior population, such as health and community engagement. Dr. Rekha Bhandari, a triple-board-certified expert in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care, in her message on the occasion highlighted a critical challenge faced by Indian seniors: loneliness. She noted, "The biggest epidemic among seniors is loneliness. Their problems are unique due to language and racial issues."



The room full gathering



Chief Guest Prem Bhandari addressing the gathering

abled individuals. By November 23, 2024, another 300 people are expected to be fitted with prosthetics. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts in supporting the Jaipur Foot movement and noted that under the "India for

honored with a plaque for his distinguished service to the diaspora. The award, presented by the Chief Guest Prem Bhandari, was accepted by Pragya Singh, Consul (Community Affairs).

issues and the health care that they should take care of themselves. He appreciated the medical fraternity for their cooperation with BRUHUD.

The evening was a blend of cultural celebration and community spirit, with



Pragya Singh, Consul, Community Affairs receives the award on behalf of Dr. Varun Jeph

The evening's Chief Guest, Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA and a prominent advocate for the Indian diaspora, made a significant announcement that two Jaipur Foot camps will be held in Gujarat in January 2025. The camps, to be held at Mahudi Jain Teerth near Ahmedabad and Dang for the tribal community, are sponsored by BRUHUD President Ajay Patel in memory of his late father, Shashikant Bhai Patel, who founded BRUHUD in 2009.

Bhandari shared updates from Jaipur Foot Founder Padma Bhushan D.R. Mehta, announcing that a Jaipur Foot camp at the Somnath Temple in Gujarat has already benefited 300 differently-

Humanity" campaign, Jaipur Foot USA's parent organization, BMVSS, has conducted 30 international camps sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, with the 31st camp currently underway in Madagascar. He also revealed plans for the first-ever permanent Jaipur Foot center in Malawi.

## HONORING THE DIASPORA'S CHAMPIONS

BRUHUD President Ajay Patel welcomed attendees and recognized individuals for their exceptional contributions

- o Dr. Varun Jeph, Deputy Consul General of India in New York, was



Girish Salian is honored

- o Mohan Nannapaneni, Founder of Team Aid, was lauded for his service, particularly in facilitating the repatriation of mortal remains from the U.S. to India.
- o Girish Salian, Air India's US Head, was honored for his exemplary service during the COVID-19 crisis.

The event also celebrated the efforts of past Consulate Generals of India in New York

- o Gyaneshwar Muley for initiating the "Consulate at Your Doorstep" program.
- o Sandeep Chakravorty for his remarkable work during the pandemic.
- o Randhir Jaiswal for achieving "zero pendency" at the New York Consulate.

In his speech, Prem Bhandari emphasized the importance of unity among Indian organizations, stating, "We may have different organizations promoting state-wise culture and heritage, but when it comes to unity, we must stand together as one."

Speaking on the occasion, BRUHUD President Ajay Patel said that in view of the observations made by Dr. Rekha Bhandari, BRUHUD will organize periodically health seminars with a view to educating the members on health



BRUHUD President Ajay Patel addressing the gathering

dignitaries like Ashok Sancheti, Advisor, Jaipur Foot USA; Harish Thakkar, Treasurer, Jaipur Foot USA; and Ravi Jargarh, Secretary, Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA), in attendance.

The gala concluded with Bollywood music performances, making it a night to remember for the Indian diaspora.



Mohan Nannapaneni with his award

# An Inspiring Fundraiser for Pokhrama Foundation at Trinity Church, Princeton, NJ

NOVEMBER 16, 2024

**PRINCETON, NJ (TIP):** A heartfelt and inspiring evening unfolded at Trinity Church, Princeton, NJ, where Kuleen Singh and Kunwar Singh hosted a remarkable fundraiser in support of the Pokhrama Foundation. This event brought together a community dedicated to transforming the lives of underprivileged children in rural India through education.

## A VISION BORN IN BIHAR

At the center of this movement is Ajay Singh, a visionary whose roots trace back to the small village of Pokhrama in Lakhisarai district, Bihar. Now a successful pharmaceutical entrepreneur in the United States, Ajay's journey of service began when he realized that the education his parents had sacrificed so much to provide him was the key to his own success. Aware of the countless bright children in his village who lacked access to education, Ajay was moved to take action.

In 2016, Pokhrama Foundation was born. The mission of the Foundation is simple yet profound: to provide world-class education to children in rural Bihar, empowering them to compete on a global stage. Together with his dedicated team, Ajay Singh is transforming the lives of children by opening doors to new opportunities.

The Power of Community Support The Foundation's journey has been supported by a growing community of passionate individuals. Ajay Singh's tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed; he was recently honored with the prestigious Bihar Vishwa Gaurav Samman by the Bihar Foundation USA for his exceptional contributions to the state's development. This recognition has further solidified the Foundation's mission to uplift the underprivileged.

Building a Sustainable Educational Model Ajay Singh emphasized during the event that the Pokhrama



Nishtha Singh and Garima Gaur

Foundation is committed not just to providing education but to creating a holistic environment for learning. The Pokhrama Foundation Academy currently educates 325 children across five villages in Lakhisarai. The Foundation's efforts have been particularly focused on encouraging girls' education; just last year, of the 57 students admitted, 32 were girls. Additionally, the Foundation runs a continuing education program for high school dropouts, preparing them for university entrance exams.

## JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The fundraiser was a resounding success, generating



Ajay Singh Founder Pokhrama foundation addressing the gathering

substantial support to expand the reach of the Foundation. However, the journey is far from over. The Pokhrama Foundation invites everyone who believes in the transformative power of education to contribute to its mission.



Ajay Singh Founder, Anil Bansal supporter, Sanjeev Singh, Kumud Bansal and the attendees

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- o Annual cost for one child's education: \$650
- o Uniforms for 25 children: \$1,250
- o Installation of a bio-gas plant: \$2,500
- o Annual salary for one teacher: \$5,000
- o Playground equipment: \$6,000
- o Solar panel installation: \$65,000

Your generous support can help change the lives of hundreds of children, giving them the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

**DONATE NOW: FOR THOSE WHO COULDN'T ATTEND THE EVENT, YOU CAN STILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE POKHRAMA FOUNDATION'S MISSION BY VISITING**

**[:HTTPS://POKHRAMAFUNDATION.ORG/DONATE/](https://pokhramafoundation.org/donate/)**

About Pokhrama Foundation The Pokhrama Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to empowering



The attendees



Kids from Pokhrama school

underprivileged children in rural India through high-quality education. By fostering a nurturing and stimulating learning environment, the Foundation is breaking barriers and creating opportunities for the next generation. The Foundation has built the Pokhrama Foundation Academy, which serves as a beacon of hope, educating 325 children across five villages in Lakhisarai, Bihar. It has worked diligently to increase girls' enrollment and offers continuing education programs to support high school dropouts aiming for university. Together, we can transform lives and uplift communities. Let's make every contribution count!

*(Based on a press release issued by Alok Kumar)*



# NIAASC Hosts Successful 35th National Conference and 25th Anniversary Celebration, Empowering Senior Citizens with Practical Health and Wellness Insights



NIAASC presented a founders award to Rajeshwar Prasad for his vision and pioneering Spirit in advancing and shaping our senior Community.



NIAASC Board of Directors

NOVEMBER 14, 2024

**ELMONT, NY (TIP):** The National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens (NIAASC) celebrated its 35th National Conference and 25th Anniversary on November 9, 2024, at the Kerala Center in Elmont, NY. The day-long event brought together senior citizens, community leaders, healthcare experts, and supporters in a memorable gathering to mark 25 years of dedicated service to the senior Indian American community.

NIAASC President Gunjan Rastogi opened the event, welcoming attendees and acknowledging the accomplishments of NIAASC over the past 25 years. "Today is about celebrating not only our organization's history but also our commitment to continually addressing the needs of our senior community. We are incredibly grateful

for the dedication of our board members, supporters, and collaborative partners who have helped NIAASC grow and thrive," Rastogi said in her opening remarks.

Rajeshwar Prasad the founder and the chairman of NIAASC presented the Historical perspective of 25 years of NIAASC.

**The conference highlighted practical topics essential to the health, wellness, and daily life of seniors. Key sessions included:**

- "Practical Points to Achieve Healthier Outcomes with Nutrition" presented by nutrition expert Rita Shah Batheja, offering attendees valuable insights on how nutrition choices directly impact health outcomes and well-being.
- "How to Stay Out of Hospitals" by Dr. Subramaniam Srinivasan, focusing

on preventive healthcare measures that seniors can adopt to support long-term wellness and reduce hospital visits.

- "Enhancing Daily Life with New Technology" by Dr. John Power, who introduced seniors to technological tools designed to improve quality of life, mobility, and communication.

In addition to these engaging presentations, Sumptuous Breakfast was enjoyed by the attendees, which was sponsored by India Home. Gunjan Rastogi thanked the sponsors and donors for their contributions in making the conference free of charge to the NIAASC members and attendees. Gunjan Rastogi thanked the dedicated volunteers who helped moving the conference smoothly.

The presidents of the collaborating organizations Gobind Munjal -President of National AIA - Association of Indians in America (AIA) and Alex Esthappan President of the Kerala Center, thanked NIAASC for the partnership and for doing a great service for seniors.

After the Luncheon, guests enjoyed a cultural performance by talented artists

Pradep Rastogi and Vandana Kumar.

NIAASC honored Bharat Rana of FISANA and senior program of Indo-American Seniors of New York, for their service to seniors.

NIAASC also presented a founders award to Rajeshwar Prasad, for his vision and pioneering Spirit in advancing and Shaping our senior Community.

The day concluded with the 25th NIAASC General Body Meeting, featuring annual reports and organizational updates.

**ABOUT NIAASC :** Founded formally in 1999, the National Indo-American Association for Senior Citizens (NIAASC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving Indian American seniors through advocacy, information dissemination, and referrals. Over the past 25 years, NIAASC has grown into a respected institution that provides seniors with the tools they need to live independent, fulfilling lives.

For more information about NIAASC, its mission, and membership opportunities, please visit our website [www.niaasc.org](http://www.niaasc.org).

# Ramaavan - A Musical successfully completes its 3rd run in NYC

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP):** After successful shows in NYC in 2023, and productions in India earlier this year, Surati's Ramaavan - A Musical returned this fall for 6 shows at the off-Broadway Cullum Theatre in New York City.

Ramaavan - A Musical is an innovative dance and musical theater experience adapted from the celebrated ancient Indian epic the Ramayana, that has been loved and revered for centuries. The evolving musical has enthralled audiences of a variety of backgrounds and tastes. They have called Roy's interpretation of the ancient epic bold, innovative and universal in appeal. The treatment crosses boundaries of race, bias and preconceived societal notions as well as of traditional genres of dance and music in retelling one of India's greatest epics.

Recently Surati for Performing Arts received their first grant from the NEA for Ramaavan. Founder and Artistic Director of Surati, Rimli Roy says, "We are happy that we are able to stage this production in the Fall too, which is the Diwali season since the show also unravels the story of the festival of lights."

Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan praised the event, stating, "It was one of the best creative events,



and compliments to Ms. Rimli Roy for conceptualizing and bringing it together with a diverse group of artists. I am happy that the essence of the Ramayana was not compromised."

Hudson County music journalist and novelist Tris McCall shared his admiration for the production, stating, "I was particularly impressed by the quartet of Indian dancers. I loved watching what they did-it's not a tradition I know very much about, but I thought they



danced beautifully. The actress portraying the golden deer was terrific as well."

Carrying on the tradition, Surati will be hosting a grand Diwali celebration this weekend where they will also perform the songs of Ramaavan on November 15th at Surati Studios in Jersey City. The Ramaavan cast will be present at this event.

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

# ALL TRUMP'S MEN

## HERE IS A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS SELECTED BY US PRESIDENT-ELECT DONALD TRUMP FOR KEY CABINET POSITIONS AND TOP ROLES IN THE WHITE HOUSE



Donald Trump

Photo / PTI

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

**NEW YORK (TIP):** With Republicans in control of the Senate, US President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet nominations are expected to sail through the confirmation process, despite some potentially controversial picks. Trump aims to announce all Cabinet-level selections by Thanksgiving, setting the stage for his administration's policy agenda.

In a series of recent announcements, Donald Trump has outlined his vision for critical federal agencies, tapping a mix of loyalists, experienced professionals, and high-profile conservatives for top roles. Here's a comprehensive breakdown of the key appointees and their backgrounds.

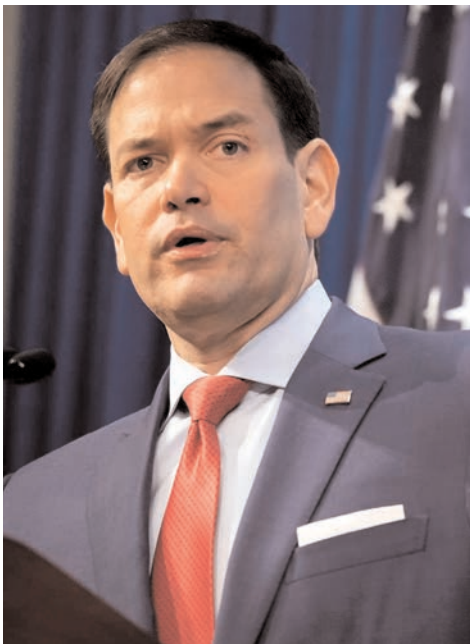
### WHITE HOUSE LEADERSHIP

**White House Chief of Staff:** Susie Wiles, a seasoned political operative and one of Trump's most trusted allies, will serve as the first female White House chief of staff.

**White House Counsel:** William McGinley, a fierce advocate of Trump's "America First" agenda, returns to the administration to guide legal strategies.

**Press Secretary:** Karoline Leavitt, a dynamic 27-year-old communicator and former Trump campaign spokesperson, will take charge of daily press briefings.

### NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENSE



**Secretary of State:** Senator Marco Rubio, a prominent China hawk and experienced foreign policy expert, is tasked with steering US diplomacy in a complex global environment.

**Secretary of Defense:** Pete Hegseth, an army combat veteran and outspoken advocate for military reform, promises to prioritise readiness and America's global strength.

**National Security Adviser:** Representative Michael Waltz, a Green Beret and China expert, will oversee national security strategy.

Former Representative Tulsi Gabbard, known for her controversial foreign policy views, will head the US intelligence community.

**CIA Director:** John Ratcliffe, a loyal Trump ally with experience in intelligence oversight, returns to serve in another top intelligence role.

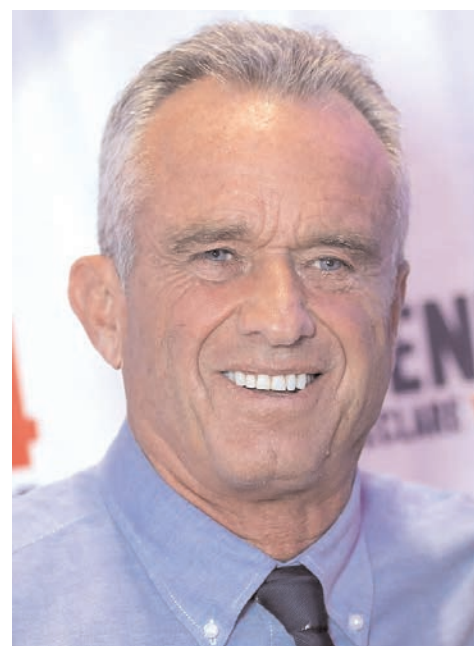
### ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP

**Secretary of the Treasury:** Scott Bessent, a Yale-educated hedge fund CEO and advocate for tariffs, will lead the Treasury. If confirmed, he would be the first openly gay Senate-confirmed Cabinet member in a Republican administration.

**Commerce Secretary:** Billionaire Howard Lutnick, CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald, will oversee trade and economic policy.

**Office of Management and Budget Director:** Russ Vought, a returning Trump official, is expected to champion conservative fiscal policies.

### HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY



**Secretary of Health and Human Services:** Robert F Kennedy Jr, a vocal critic of the pharmaceutical industry, is tasked with reforming healthcare policy.

**FDA Commissioner:** Dr Marty Makary, a surgeon and healthcare advocate, will serve under Kennedy to address public health challenges.

**Surgeon General:** Dr. Janette Nesheiwat, a double board-certified physician and public health advocate,

will focus on preventive medicine.

**CDC Director:** Former Representative Dave Weldon, a physician with decades of medical and legislative experience, will lead the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

### HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**HUD Secretary:** Scott Turner, a former NFL player and advocate for urban revitalisation, is set to lead housing policy reforms.

**Transportation Secretary:** Sean Duffy, a former congressman, will spearhead infrastructure development and modernisation efforts.

### DOMESTIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION



**Attorney General:** Pam Bondi, a staunch Trump defender and former Florida attorney general, replaces Matt Gaetz, who withdrew amid controversy.

**Deputy Attorney General:** Todd Blanche, who previously represented Trump in legal matters, will serve as Bondi's deputy.



**EPA Administrator:** Lee Zeldin, a former congressman, will lead environmental policy with a focus on deregulation and business-friendly initiatives.

**Department of Government Efficiency:** Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy will oversee efforts to streamline government operations, a move Trump calls "a revolution in cutting bureaucracy."

### FOREIGN RELATIONS

**UN Ambassador:** Representative Elise Stefanik, a strong Trump ally, is nominated for the role to champion the administration's "America First" agenda on the global stage.

**Ambassador to Nato:** Matthew Whitaker, a former acting attorney general, will take on strengthening alliances within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

**Ambassador to Israel:** Mike Huckabee, a former governor and staunch supporter of Israel, will lead US diplomatic efforts in the Middle East.

### OTHER KEY APPOINTMENTS

**Secretary of Energy:** Chris Wright, an oil and gas industry advocate, will lead energy policy with an emphasis on US energy independence.

**Secretary of Education:** Linda McMahon, a former wrestling executive and education reform advocate, is set to decentralise federal control over education.

**Secretary of Homeland Security:** South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem will prioritise border security and immigration enforcement.

**Veterans Affairs Secretary:** Doug Collins, a former congressman, will oversee reforms to improve care for military veterans.

### THE ROAD AHEAD FOR AMERICA

**TRUMP'S CABINET SELECTIONS SIGNAL A RETURN TO HIS SIGNATURE "AMERICA FIRST" POLICIES WITH A FOCUS ON DEREGULATION, BORDER SECURITY, HEALTHCARE REFORM, AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT. AS THE SENATE PREPARES TO REVIEW THESE NOMINEES, TRUMP'S ADMINISTRATION IS POISED TO ENACT SWEEPING CHANGES THAT COULD REDEFINE US POLICY FOR YEARS TO COME.**



**new jersey performing arts center**

# hip hop

**a magical  
cirque  
christmas**

**dec 5 @ 7:30PM**

Bring the family!  
*A Magical  
Cirque Christmas*  
features acrobats,  
aerialists, jugglers  
and more — with  
a holiday twist.



**the hip hop  
nutcracker**

with MC Kurtis Blow  
**Sun, Dec 8 @ 2 & 7PM**  
NJ PAC's original holiday  
mash-up remixes  
Tchaikovsky's ballet  
with supercharged  
hip hop dance  
(and some surprises)!



**the nutcracker**

The State Ballet Theatre  
of Ukraine  
**Sun, Dec 15 @ 2 & 7PM**  
Whether you're a  
kid or a kid at heart,  
*The Nutcracker* is sure  
to become your favorite  
Christmas tradition.



**PAW PATROL  
LIVE!  
A MIGHTY  
ADVENTURE**

**Sat, Dec 28 @ 10AM, 2PM  
& 6PM; Sun, Dec 29  
@ 10AM & 2PM**  
With bark-loads of  
interactive fun, *PAW Patrol  
Live! A Mighty Adventure*  
will leave tails wagging and  
kids cheering.

## tickets make great gifts!

<b>Jan 21</b> Swan Lake The State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine	<b>Feb 8</b> Patti LaBelle <i>The 80/65 Tour</i>	<b>Mar 14</b> Pinky Patel <i>#isaidwhatisaid Tour</i>
<b>Jan 26</b> Momix: Alice	<b>Mar 8</b> Academy of St Martin in the Fields with Bruce Liu	<b>Apr 26</b> Zakir Hussain's Masters of Percussion



Generous support for  
*The Hip Hop Nutcracker*  
is provided by the  
Smart Family Foundation/  
David S. Stone, Esq.,  
Stone & Magnanini

## 10 Naxals killed in Chhattisgarh encounter

Ten Naxalites, three of them women, were gunned down in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Friday, November 22, a senior police official said.

CM Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the security forces and said the era of peace and progress had returned to the Bastar region.

The gunfight broke out in the morning in a forest near Bhandarpadar village in the jurisdiction of the Bhejji police station, where a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation, said Sundarraaj P, IGP (Bastar range).

He said personnel of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and CRPF launched the operation based on inputs about the presence of Maoists from the Konta and Kistaram area committees on forested hills of Korajguda, Dantespuram, Nagaram and Bhandarpadar villages.

"Bodies of 10 Naxalites, including three women, clad in 'uniform', have been recovered from the spot," he said. Besides, 12 weapons, including an INSAS rifle, an AK-47 rifle, a self-loading rifle (SLR) and Barrel Grenade Launchers (BGLs), were also seized, he said. Two of the deceased have been identified as Madkam Masa (42), military in-charge of the south Bastar division of Maoists, and Lakhma Madvi, an area committee member, the IG said, adding that they were carrying a bounty of Rs 8 lakh and Rs 5 lakh, respectively.

## Rape case: SC notice to govt on Asaram plea seeking suspension of sentence

The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from Gujarat government on a plea filed by jailed self-styled godman Asaram seeking suspension of life sentence awarded to him by a trial court in a 2013 rape case.

A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Aravind Kumar told the counsel appearing for Asaram that it will examine the issue only if there are medical grounds.

"We will issue notice, but we will consider only on medical conditions," the bench said while posting the matter for hearing on December 13.

The Gujarat High Court on August 29 had rejected Asaram's plea for the suspension of life imprisonment in the case by a Gandhinagar court in 2023. Refusing to suspend the sentence and grant him bail, the high court had observed that no case for relief was made out. The sessions court in January 2023 convicted Asaram in 2013 rape case.

# India and Japan bolster defence ties, explore air domain cooperation

VIENTIANE (LAOS), (TIP)

India and Japan on Friday agreed to explore new areas of cooperation in the air domain as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh wrapped up his productive three-day visit to Laos by holding two significant meetings with his Japanese and the Philippines counterparts on the sidelines of the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) forum. In the first meeting, Singh and Japanese Minister of Defence General Nakatani hailed the increasing cooperation and collaboration between the two countries while recalling the "milestone event" of signing of the Memorandum of Implementation for transfer of the Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN) in Tokyo on November 15.

The UNICORN is a mast with Integrated Communication systems which will help improve the stealth characteristics of Naval Platforms. The Indian Navy is pursuing the induction of these advanced systems which will be co-developed by Bharat Electronics Limited in India with Japanese collaboration. When implemented, this would be the first case of co-development/co-production of Defence Equipment between India and Japan.



Defence minister Rajnath Singh and his Japanese counterpart, General Nakatani. (X)

In their meeting on Friday, November 22, both defence ministers reiterated the importance of defence industry and technology cooperation between the two countries while agreeing on enhanced cooperation in co-production and co-development in the defence manufacturing sector. "The two ministers affirmed the importance of multilateral defence cooperation and exchanges in the security environment which is growing its severeness, and concurred on working together widely with countries which share fundamental values such as democracy and the rule of law," read a statement issued by the Japanese Defence Ministry

after the meeting.

"The two ministers concurred on developing defence cooperation and exchanges to continue deepening further bilateral relationship, and sending messages that unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion cannot be tolerated," it added. According to the Indian Defence Ministry, both ministers also discussed the Reciprocal Provision of Supply and Services Agreement between the two countries and participation of militaries in various bilateral and multilateral exercises to further improve interoperability between the Indian and Japanese forces.

## 'Democracy first': In Guyana, PM Modi says never moved forward with expansionist vision

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India is doing its duty as a 'Vishwa Bandhu' for global brotherhood, in the spirit of 'democracy first, humanity first', Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi said on Thursday, Nov 21, in Guyana on the last-leg of his three-country trip.

Modi added that humanity guides India's decision-making and that it has never moved forward with "selfishness, expansionist vision, nor harboured any feeling of seizing resources".

He said India had shown that democracy is in our DNA, vision, and acts.

Speaking at the special session of Parliament of Guyana, the PM said that India does not view island nations as small countries "but as large ocean countries". "Bharat says every nation matters," he added, inviting them to visit India.

Talking about development partnership, he gave the slogan of 'collaborate globally, act locally'.

Modi said India-Guyana ties were of 'mitti' (soil) and full of cordiality. He talked about his visit twenty-four years ago, when he had visited the island nation as a "curious person to learn about culture and heritage of this beautiful country".

Modi began his three-nation trip on Sunday from Nigeria — the first visit by an Indian PM in 17 years.

His next stop was Brazil to attend the G20 Summit, where he met top international leaders such as US President Joe



Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, and British PM Keir Starmer.

Guyana and Dominica conferred top awards on Modi for his contribution during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Indian PM became only the fourth foreign leader to be awarded 'The Order of Excellence' by Guyana.

In another ceremony, Dominican President Sylvania Burton conferred the 'Dominica Award of Honour' upon the PM.

India had sent 70,000 Astra Zeneca vaccines to the Caribbean nation in 2021.

# Manipur violence: 90 additional companies of Central Armed Forces deployed

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Centre has deployed 90 additional companies, or nearly 9,000 personnel, of the Central Armed Police Force in Manipur since August, state Security Adviser Kuldip Singh said on Friday, November 22, reported The Hindu.

Presently, 288 Central Armed Police Force companies, which comes to around 29,000 personnel, were deployed in the conflict-ridden state, Singh said at a press conference in Imphal. Apart from this, personnel from the state police, the Army and the Assam Rifles were also present in Manipur.

Singh also said that the number of persons, including suspected militants, killed in the state since the clashes broke out between the Meiteis and Kuki-Zo-Hmars in May 2023 had risen to 258.

Singh's statements came amid an uptick in ethnic violence in Manipur over the past two weeks.

On November 11, the state police said that 10 suspected Kuki militants were killed in a gunfight with security forces in Jiribam district.

However, Kuki-Zo-Hmar organisations claimed that the persons killed in the gunfight were village volunteers. The term "village



volunteers" has been used for armed civilians guarding villages since the ethnic clashes broke out between the two communities in 2023.

After the gunfight, three women and three children, including an infant, from the Meitei community were abducted allegedly by Kuki militants. Their bodies were found floating on the Barak and Jiri rivers over the past week.

The abduction led to protests on November 16, with mobs storming and

vandalising the homes of MLAs, including of chief minister's son-in-law Rajkumar Imo Singh. Mobs also ransacked the offices of the BJP and the Congress.

At the press conference on Friday, Singh said that the police will look into the claims that the Meitei family was abducted in the presence of security forces, according to The Hindu.

"Whether they were SoO [Suspension of Operations] militants or not, will be verified by police," he

added.

The Suspension of Operations agreement was signed between the Centre, the Manipur government and two conglomerates of Kuki militant outfits – the Kuki National Organisations and United Peoples Front – in 2008.

Under the agreement, the security forces as well as the militant groups are prohibited from launching operations. The militant groups must abide by the laws of the land and are also confined to designated camps identified by the Central government.

Earlier this year, the state government withdrew from the pact when it came up for annual extension.

Singh said that 32 persons had been arrested for incidents of arson and vandalism at the homes and properties of legislators, The Hindu reported. A meeting to review security measures was also held in Imphal and combing operations were being conducted in the state, he added.

On Friday, Nov 22, the last rites were performed in Jiribam for nine persons who had died since November 11, which included the six persons abducted and killed, two others who were burned to death and one person who was shot by the police, according to The Hindu.

## India cancels more consular camps in Canada, says 'minimum security' not being provided

The Consulate General of India in Toronto announced on Thursday, Nov 21, that it had cancelled more consular camps due to the "continued inability" of Canadian authorities to provide "minimum security against heightened threats".

Consular camps are routinely organised by the Indian diplomatic missions in Canada, including the High Commission in Ottawa and the consulates in Vancouver and Toronto, to assist citizens of Indian origin with documentation services.

On November 3, protests by pro-Khalistan groups erupted during a consular camp organised by the Indian High Commission in partnership with the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton.

Since then, several such camps have been cancelled due to security concerns.

On Thursday, Nov 21, the Consulate General of India said it has had to cancel more camps, including one that was supposed to be held at a police facility.

"Consulate is fully sensitive to the difficulties faced by close to 4,000 elderly members of the diaspora in the Greater Toronto Area – both Indian and Canadian nationals – who have been deprived of an essential consular service," it said.

Videos of the November 3 incident in Brampton circulating on social media showed men and women attacking temple visitors with sticks.

## Waqf House panel chief says draft report ready, Opposition seeks extension

NEW DELHI (TIP)

With Opposition members saying that they will meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday to seek an extension to submit a report of the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, the panel's Chairman Jagdambika Pal said Thursday, Nov 21, that the "draft report is ready" and that "he hopes that members of the committee can reach a consensus" on the Bill.

Speaking to mediapersons after a meeting of the committee on Thursday, Pal said: "We had called the Ministry of Minority Affairs for today's (Thursday) meeting. The meeting lasted six hours. They gave a detailed explanation on the 44 amendments to the Waqf Bill. Before this, the Minority Affairs Ministry had deposited before the committee on 22nd (August) for 6.15 hours, and for 6.15 hours on October 15. On October 21, they deposited for seven hours. On October 29, they deposited for 3.15 hours. This way, in these sittings, our committee members have had the opportunity to ask questions as per each clause... The Ministry has answered them."

"Over five days for 29 hours, they got the chance to ask questions. After detailed deliberations, a good report will be prepared. I hope that all members of the committee will together hold discussions on clauses and we can reach an agreement. After the agreement, we hope to submit a good report in Parliament," he said, adding that there will be more meetings. The deadline to submit the report is November 29.

Responding to the Opposition members seeking an



extension, Pal said: "The Opposition was saying that here also. They have the right to meet the Speaker. But I feel the JPC worked, we are prepared. This Bill was referred to us by the Speaker and the Speaker's decision will be followed."

He added that 25 meetings have been held with various stakeholders like former judges, Islamic scholars, vice-chancellors, AIMPLB, Zakaat Foundation, and Bharat First since its formation in August. The first meeting was held on August 22.

An Opposition member said the submission of the report on November 29 "will be against principles of democracy". "If the committee Chairman decides to submit the report, it will go against the idea of the committee. Recently, a study tour was cancelled. More deliberations and conversation need to be held before we can submit the report. Also, if the report is submitted on Friday, when will members of the PAC get a chance to read it and raise issues," the member said.

# India in history this Week

## NOVEMBER 22 TO NOVEMBER 28

### 22 NOVEMBER

1517 After the death of Alexander Lodi, his son Abraham Lodi became the ruler of Delhi.

1968 The proposal to change the name of Madras State to Tamil Nadu got approval from the Lok Sabha.

1992 In Assam, a bomb blast on a bus by Bodo militants killed 27 people.

2008 Eminent Hindi poet Kunwar Narayan was selected for the Jnanpith Award in the year 2005.

1939 Birth of Samajwadi Party chief and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav.

1971 Pakistan violated the Indian air border and aerial conflict ensued between the two countries.

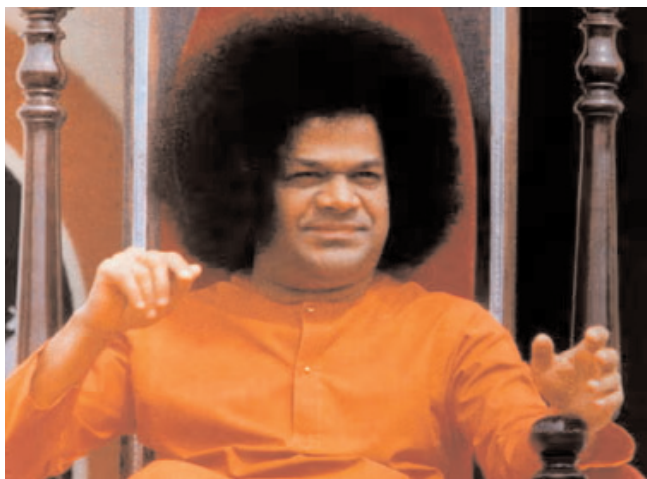
1830 Jhalkari Bai, the chief member of Rani Laxmibai's army, who was waging a war of independence against the British, was born.

### 23 NOVEMBER

1937 The country's famous scientist Jagdish Chandra Bose died.

1983 For the first time in the country, a Commonwealth summit was held in New Delhi.

1997 Sahitya Academy Award winner Nirad C Chaudhary completed 100 years of his life.



1926 Spiritual Guru Sai Baba was born.

### 24 NOVEMBER

1877 The first Hindustani Kawasaji Jamsetji Patigara to become deputy commissioner was born.

2003 Uma Devi Khatri, who instilled a comedy in Hindi films, died.

1871 The National Rifle Association was organized.

1904 The first successful caterpillar track was produced.

1926 Eminent philosopher Sri Aurobindo attained complete accomplishment.

1944 Famous Indian film actor and film director Amol Palekar was born.



1986 Legislators were expelled from the House together for the first time in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

1988 For the first time under the Dal Balaul law, Lok Sabha MP Lalduhoma was disqualified.

2008 Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, accused in the Malegaon bomb blast case, accused the ATS of showing obscene CDs.

1881 India's freedom fighter and politician Chhoturam was born.

### 25 NOVEMBER



2014 Sitara Devi, the famous dancer of Kathak died.

1866 Allahabad High Court was inaugurated.

1879 Birth of saint poet TL Vaswani.

1949 The constitution of independent India was signed by the President of the Constitutional Committee and implemented it with immediate effect.

1960 The STD system of telephone was first used in India between Kanpur and Lucknow.



2001 Benazir Bhutto met Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in New Delhi.

1890 India's famous linguist, litterateur and scholar Suniti Kumar Chatterjee was born.

1890 Radheshyam Kathavachak, a prominent writer in Parsi theatre, was born.

### 26 NOVEMBER

1949 The supreme law of the country adopted our constitution.

2008 The terror attack on Mumbai shook the world.

2009 The Constitution of India adopted the Constitution.

1960 Telephone STD service started between Lucknow and Kanpur for the first time in India.

2012 Arvind Kejriwal formed a new political party called Aam Aadmi Party.



1948 National Cadet Corps was established.



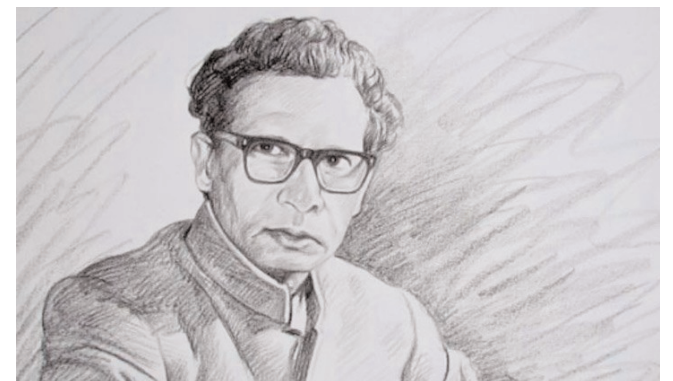
2008 The terrorist attack in Mumbai left 164 people dead, more than 250 injured.

### 27 NOVEMBER

1001 The Hindu Shahi ruler Jaipal was defeated by the invading Mahmud Ghazni.

1795 The first Bengali drama was staged.

1907 India's famous poet and writer Harivansh Rai



Bachchan was born in Allahabad city of Uttar Pradesh.

2011 The famous Indian classical musician Sultan Khan died.

2008 Uttar Pradesh became the first state in the country to pay the Sixth Pay Commission.

1881 India's famous historian and internationally renowned scholar of archeology Kashi Prasad Jaiswal was born.

1888 Famous freedom fighter and first Speaker of Lok Sabha Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar was born.

1978 India's famous social reformer Laxmibai Kelkar passed away.

### 28 NOVEMBER

1997 Prime Minister IK Gujral resigned from his post.



1962 KC de, the famous blind singer of Bengal, died.

1996 Captain Indrani Singh became the first woman to command an Airbus A-300 aircraft.

1927 Famous Indian physician Pramod Karan Sethi was born.

# LIVING LEGEND SMOKEY ROBINSON THRILLS NJ RESIDENTS

BY MABEL PAIS

"Smokey is my hero. When we met, he didn't realize he was my hero. I had never met anyone up close and famous....had never in my life met a black poet. He talked to us and encouraged us. What you feel about Berry, Smokey, I feel about you. I love you man, and thank you for being exactly who you are in my life."

Lionel Richie

"If a great writer is a poet, and a great poet is a genius, then Smokey Robinson is a miracle."

Diana Ross

**Motown Icon SMOKEY ROBINSON returns to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 8 PM.**

Once pronounced by Bob Dylan as America's "greatest living poet," acclaimed singer-songwriter Smokey Robinson's career spans over four decades of hits. He has received numerous awards, including the



Smokey Robinson

Credit : njpac.org

Grammy Living Legend Award, NARAS (National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences) Lifetime Achievement Award, Honorary Doctorate (Howard University), Kennedy Center Honors, and the National Medal of Arts Award from the President of the United States. He was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters' Hall of Fame, holds a BET Lifetime Achievement award and honorary

Doctor of Music degrees from Howard University and the Berklee College of Music. Throughout his career, Smokey Robinson has written over a thousand songs, many of which were top 40 hits. Among his long list of honors.

Smokey Robinson is an American Treasure born and raised in Detroit, Michigan; Robinson founded 'The Miracles' while still in high school. The group was Berry Gordy's first vocal

group, and it was at Robinson's suggestion that Gordy started the Motown Record dynasty. Their single of Robinson's 'Shop Around' became Motown's first #1 hit on the R&B singles chart. In the years following, Robinson continued to pen hits for the group, including 'You've Really Got a Hold on Me,' 'Ooo Baby Baby,' 'The Tracks of My Tears,' 'Going to a Go-Go,' 'More Love,' 'Tears of a Clown' (co-written with Stevie Wonder), and 'I Second That Emotion.'

Learn more about Smokey Robinson at [smokeyrobinson.com](http://smokeyrobinson.com).

## TICKETS

Tickets to see Smokey Robinson are available by visiting [NJPAC.org](http://NJPAC.org) or the NJPAC Box Office at 1 Center Street, Newark, New Jersey or calling 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

**VIP meet and greet packages available through [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com)**

## LAUGH YOUR HEAD OFF AT THANKSGIVING'S COMEDY FEST



Comedy Fest team

Credit : njpac.org

BY MABEL PAIS

Experience an unforgettable evening filled with laughs at the Thanksgiving Comedy Fest at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC)! Prepare for a side-splitting experience with some of today's funniest comedians. The stellar lineup boasts the comedic talents of Nephew Tommy, Sheryl Underwood, Finesse Mitchell, and Dominique. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to enjoy a night of uproarious entertainment on Saturday, November 30th at 8PM.

Nephew Tommy (Thomas Miles), known for his prank phone calls, is a comedian, radio host, and actor who co-hosts the immensely popular 'Steve Harvey Morning Show' with 9 million daily listeners. Learn more at [thomasmiles.com](http://thomasmiles.com).

Emmy winner Sheryl Underwood, co-host of The Talk, has performed on Def Comedy Jam, hosted BET's Comic View, and made memorable appearances in

Beauty Shop and I Got the Hook-Up. Learn more at [sherylunderwood.com](http://sherylunderwood.com).

Finesse Mitchell (Alfred Langston "Finesse" Mitchell), who has appeared on SNL, The Wendy Williams Show, The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, The Late Show with Seth Meyers, The Arsenio Hall Show, and numerous TV series and movies, is sure to bring the laughs. Learn more at [finessemitchell.tv](http://finessemitchell.tv).

Dominique (Dominique Witten), once a postal worker turned comedy sensation, has graced the stages of Last Comic Standing, Def Comedy Jam, and Chappelle's Show. Her comedy special 'Stop Me When I'm Lying' is available for streaming on Amazon. Check her out @dominquecomedi.

## TICKETS

Tickets to see Thanksgiving Comedy Fest are available by visiting [NJPAC.org](http://NJPAC.org) or the NJPAC Box Office or calling 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

## MULTI-FACETED BRAZILIAN COMEDIAN GRACES NJ

BY MABEL PAIS

RAFI BASTOS, a renowned Brazilian comedian known for his edgy and provocative stand-up comedy, is set to bring his show to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC) on Saturday, December 7th at 8:00 p.m.

Bastos has achieved significant success in his home country of Brazil and beyond. He has recorded three Portuguese-language Netflix specials, headlined at the renowned 'Just for Laughs' comedy festival, and co-founded South America's largest comedy club. Upon entering the U.S. comedy scene, Rafi quickly made a name for himself by performing in English at iconic venues such as the 'Comedy Cellar,' 'Laugh Factory,' and 'Hollywood Improv.' He has also gained widespread recognition on social media, being named "The Most Influential Man" on Twitter by The New York Times and amassing over 16 million TikTok followers.

Rafi Bastos is known for his unique style, with a tall stature, distinctive accent, and a rapidly growing social media presence. His comedic talents have earned him a dedicated following, with his videos garnering over 370 million views on YouTube alone. Rafi's influence extends beyond comedy, as he has also ventured into acting, hosting talk shows, and even reality TV. With a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective, Rafi Bastos is poised to deliver a memorable and hilarious performance in English, offering comedy fans an opportunity to experience his unique brand of humor in 'Unfamiliar Territory.' Learn more at [rafibastos.com](http://rafibastos.com)

**TICKETS** : For tickets to see Rafi



Rafi Bastos

Credit : njpac.org

Bastos, visit [NJPAC.org](http://NJPAC.org) the NJPAC Box Office, or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

NOTE: This performance does not include any Dodge Poetry Festival Pass.

**The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC)**

Follow NJPAC Online:

Website: [njpac.org](http://njpac.org)

Twitter: @NJPAC

Instagram: @NJPAC

Hashtag: #NJPAC

Facebook: [facebook.com/NJPAC](http://facebook.com/NJPAC)

YouTube: NJPACTv

Follow NJPAC's Standing in Solidarity Series Online:

Website: [njpac.org/takeastand](http://njpac.org/takeastand)

Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand

Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

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

# BI-COASTAL FILM FEST BANISHES NEED FOR CELEBRITY FOCUS



Peas and Carrots. Opening Night.

Credit :  
danceswithfilms.com



Here's Gianni! - Closing Night.

Credit :  
danceswithfilms.com

## BY MABEL PAIS

### Screening

Co-Director SIMANTINI CHAKRABORTY'S World Premiere I of 'THE ORIGINAL BADASS' Director UMAR RIAZ'S New York Premiere I of 'THE AFTER: A CHEF'S WISH'

### And many more

DANCES WITH FILMS (DWF) presents its festival for the 3rd New York City edition of the bicoastal film festival powerhouse. December 5-8 will be packed with an incredible number of feature-length narratives, documentaries, pilots, and shorts making their world, North American, and US premieres as DWF showcases those new works as part of the only indie film-focused film festival with a foothold in both Los Angeles and The Big Apple.

Among DWF NYC's lineup of 146 films, including 22 narrative and midnight features, 9 documentary features, 18 television and streaming pilots, and 92 short films (76 combined narrative and midnight, with 16 documentaries). More than half of this year's DWF NYC presentation will be making their world, North American or US premieres during the ambitious four-day film event in December. All screenings will take place at Regal Union Square (850 Broadway).

Cited by Moviemaker Magazine as one of the 2024 "Coolest Film Festivals" in the world, Dances With Films' rapid growth in New York City along with its current place as L.A.'s top film festival for platforming truly independent filmmaking, makes DWF the only film festival organization offering "discovery" titles in major film festival events in both of those cities. Showcasing brand new work by filmmakers on both coasts, most of which have yet to be seen or picked up for distribution has become a hallmark for Dances With Films' Founders and Directors Leslee Scallon and Michael Trent.

Scallon and Trent said, "We take the responsibility of discovering these films and filmmakers thus providing an opportunity for them to get distribution and representation furthering their careers. Just as New York City's energy and excitement has been a driving force for us, we embrace the absolute joy of seeing so much great work on the big screen for the very first time and helping our ever-growing family of filmmakers take their next steps toward realizing their dreams under the spotlight of this great city. We hope the audiences feel it the same way we do."

For more information about the Dances With Films NYC film lineup, events, passes, and tickets, visit [danceswithfilms.com](http://danceswithfilms.com)

### THE 2024 DANCES WITH FILMS NYC EVENT LINEUP

#### OPENING NIGHT FEATURE

Peas And Carrots - WORLD Premiere I  
DIR: Evan Oppenheimer; USA; 2024; 96m  
*Joey Wethersby is a typical 16-year-old New York girl --*

*if your typical New Yorker had parents who were in a one-hit wonder band in the 90's. And if your typical New Yorker found themselves travelling every night to a bizarre alternate reality, where everybody only says three words: "Peas and Carrots". Joey finds herself navigating this weird new world, while also dealing with her changing family dynamic, after she suggests that she and her parents (and, to her chagrin, her siblings) form a new band and start rocking out together.*

#### CLOSING NIGHT FEATURE

Here's Gianni! - NEW YORK Premiere I  
DIR: Christina Elioupolos; USA; 2024; 101.5m  
*Gianni and Plousia (Joe Cortese and Julia Ormond) own a charming family diner by the beach, where Gianni is a convivial host. Lately, Plousia learns that Gianni is facing dementia but hides his illness from coworkers and best friends (Kevin Pollak and Rosanna Arquette). As his condition worsens, Plousia becomes Gianni's full-time caregiver and lifeline. Knowing he misses his customers, Plousia conceives a whimsical idea of building a mini diner on their front porch for Gianni in his final days. Gianni serves up toast and bottomless coffee to his cherished patrons, making the world happier for everyone he meets.*

#### ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURES

A/Way  
DIR: Derek Shane Garcia; USA; 2024; 62m  
Adventure Tom - EAST COAST Premiere I  
DIR: Miguel Duran; USA; 2024; 110m  
Boundary Waters - NEW YORK Premiere I  
DIR: Tessa Blake; USA; 2024; 98m  
The Collaborator - EAST COAST Premiere I  
DIR: Travis Hodgkins; USA; 2024; 124.5m  
Double Exposure - NORTH AMERICAN Premiere I  
DIR: Howard Goldberg; USA; 2024; 93m  
The Ego Death Of Queen Cecilia - EAST COAST Premiere I  
DIR: Chris Beier; USA; 2024; 86m  
Good Friday - WORLD Premiere I  
DIR: Jason Mendoza; USA; 2024; 62m  
Lola Dust - WORLD Premiere I  
DIR: Dom Cutrupi; USA; 2024; 90.5m  
Magnetosphere - US Premiere I  
DIR: Nicola Rose; Canada; 2024; 89.5m  
Moonwater - WORLD Premiere I  
DIR: William Tyler Wiseman; USA; 2024; 118m  
Our Happy Place - WORLD Premiere I  
DIR: Paul Bickel; USA; 2024; 91m  
Screams From The Tower - EAST COAST Premiere I  
DIR: Cory Wexler Grant; USA; 2024; 118m  
Sergeant Pickle Breath And The Rooftop Warriors - WORLD Premiere I  
DIR: Jarrett Jung; USA; 2024; 78m  
Sonny Boy - WORLD Premiere I  
DIR: Kristen Hansen; USA; 2024; 90m

Step Back, Doors Closing - EAST COAST Premiere I  
DIR: Carter Ward; USA; 2024; 98m  
Year One - EAST COAST Premiere I  
DIR: Lauren Loesberg; USA; 2023; 93m

#### DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

A Cursed Man - WORLD Premiere I  
DIR: Liam Le Guillou; USA; 2024; 98m  
A Little Hope For Chicago - EAST COAST Premiere I  
DIR: Leon Lozano; USA; 2024; 74m  
All American - NEW YORK Premiere I  
DIR: Mark Andrew Altschul; USA; 2024; 87m  
Bastards Of Soul - EAST COAST Premiere I  
DIRECTOR: Paul Levatino; USA; 2023; 84m  
Bulletproof: A Lesbian's Guide To Surviving The Plot  
EAST COAST Premiere I  
DIR: Regan Latimer; Canada; 2024; 105m  
Calico Rebellion - WORLD Premiere I  
DIR: Victoria Kupchinetsky; USA; 2024; 75m  
The Donn Of Tiki - NEW YORK Premiere I  
DIRS: Alex Lamb, Max Well; USA; 2024; 100m  
The Kids Are Not Alright - WORLD Premiere I  
DIR: Mikaela Shwer; USA; 2024; 90m  
Spyral - EAST COAST Premiere I  
DIR: Bill Guttentag; USA; 2024; 83m

#### MIDNIGHT FEATURES

*Four features occupy this segment.*

#### PILOTS - TV & WEB

*There are twenty-four films in this category.*

#### NARRATIVE SHORTS

*Sixty-seven narrative shorts are featured in this segment.*

#### DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

*There are eighteen documentary shorts.*

#### MIDNIGHT SHORTS

*Nine midnight shorts are in this category.*

#### DANCES WITH FILMS (DWF)

Now in its 27th year, Dances With Films (DWF) champions the unflinching spirit at the very core of the independent film scene. With most film festivals relying heavily on celebrity, DWF have relied on innovation, talent, creativity, and sweat equity that revolutionized the entertainment industry. And that reliance continues to prove successful with alumni moving on to write, direct, and produce celebrity-studded vehicles, star in blockbuster movies, and television series, produce multi-million-dollar films and create hot TV shows.

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



# FILM & MUSIC FEST TAKES FINAL BOW FROM CURRENT FORMAT



DEVO

Credit : soundunseen.com

## BY MABEL PAIS

The SOUND UNSEEN FILM + MUSIC FESTIVAL's 25th Anniversary edition which took place, November 13-17 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and end its run, December 5-8 in Rochester, Minnesota and end its run, December 12-14 in Austin, Texas. The rare three-city presentation this year will not only be a celebration of Sound Unseen's impact on the world of music documentary filmmaking but will also mark the festival's last in the current format, as Sound Unseen will take a festival hiatus beyond its monthly screening series and special one-off presentations for the next calendar year.

## TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Sound Unseen, as well as how to purchase tickets, visit [soundunseen.com](http://soundunseen.com).

## THE 2024 SOUND UNSEEN FILM FESTIVAL LINEUP

### SCREENINGS IN ROCHESTER

1-800-On-Her-Own

Dir: Dana Flor; USA; 79m

*Ani DiFranco crashed onto the music scene in the early '90s, a thundering new voice in the cultural wilderness, unapologetically bisexual, political and feminist. Ani became a worldwide phenomenon when she beat the male-dominated music industry at its own game by founding Righteous Babe Records, the first "woman-run non-corporate queer-happy" label, still going strong after nearly 35 years. Prince called her "my hero." Ani simply called herself a folk singer, dedicated to art, activism and staying true to herself, no matter the cost.*

### 7 Nights In The Entry

Dir: Twin/Tone records; USA; 70m

*For a week in September of 1981 Twin:Tone Records took over this recently started small stage at First Avenue, back before it was legendary, and did a show that helped start the legend. This film captures bands like the Replacements and Hüsker Dü in their beginnings.*

### The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920)

Dir: Robert Wiene; Germany; 67 minutes

*At a carnival in Germany, Francis (Friedrich Feher) and his friend Alan (Rudolf Lettinger) encounter the crazed Dr. Caligari (Werner Krauss). The men see Caligari showing off his somnambulist, Cesare (Conrad Veidt), a hypnotized man who the doctor claims can see into the future. Shockingly, Cesare then predicts Alan's death, and by morning his chilling prophecy has come true -- making Cesare the prime suspect. However, is Cesare guilty, or is the doctor controlling him?*

### The Secret of Sleep (1970)

USA; 59m

*A photo-skit starring Spider John Koerner and Willy Murphy in which John receives a mysterious call and embarks on a utopian quest.*

### Swamp Dogg Gets His Pool Painted

Dirs: Isaac Gale, Ryan Olson; USA; 97m

*Hidden away in the suburbs of Los Angeles, legendary cult musician Swamp Dogg, along with housemates Moogstar and Guitar Shorty, have transformed their home into an artistic playground. Together, they navigate the tumultuous music industry, forging a unique and inspiring bond across time and space.*

### This Is A Film About The Black Keys

Dir: Jeff Dupre; USA; 89m

*This is a film about The Black Keys traces Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney's journey from a jamming session in a basement in Akron, Ohio, to rock 'n' roll super-stardom. Touring relentlessly for ten years, the duo navigated the highs and lows of life on the road, finally reaching escape velocity with their hit records *Brothers and El Camino*.*

### Zombies Live (2003)

Dir: Dee Limvere; USA; 35m

*Zombies Live is a DIY zombie film made by skaters and punk rockers in Rochester, MN. The film was screened once at the LoVEuGLY Cabaret in 2003 and then a limited number of VHS copies were sold at local shows and record shops. This is the first and last time (maybe) the film will be shown publicly since the premiere.*

## MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Thu. Dec. 5 Rad Owl + Scrunchies + TBA

Treedome Records | 7pm

Sun. Dec. 8 James Eugene Russell + Black

Widows + TBA

Little Thistle Brewing | 7pm

## SCREENINGS IN AUSTIN

### FEATURES

#### Bastards Of Soul

Dir: Paul Levatino; USA; 83m

*Bastards of Soul offers a deep dive into the heart of an electrifying Texas band on the cusp of international recognition. As they navigate their burgeoning success and spellbinding live performances, a global pandemic and the sudden tragic loss of their unexpected frontman, Chadwick Murray, cast a somber shadow. Having made his mark primarily as a bass player, Chadwick's transition to lead singer was captivating, revealing a dynamism that few could have predicted.*

#### Bloody & Bruised: The Untold Story Of The Back Room

Dir: J. Budro Partida; USA; 104m

*A documentary feature film that chronicles one of the most notoriously known (and often disregarded) music venues in Austin, Texas. It's a film that spans the 33-year history of the east Riverside club from its meager beginnings in the early 70s as a watering hole for country folk and bikers, to its glory years of 80s glam rock and metal, through its 90s grunge and hardcore era, and into the early 2000s punk and hip hop scene, before its demise in 2006.*

Linda Perry: Let It Die Here

Dir: Don Hardy; USA; 93m



Linda Perry: Let It Die Here

Credit : soundunseen.com

*Linda Perry is one of the most outspoken and recognizable artists of the past 30 years. The hat, tattoos, attitude, and of course, her massive hit single 'What's Up' with her band '4 Non Blondes' made her an icon. But, in the decades since that song topped the charts, Linda's been even more successful as a songwriter and producer for artists like Dolly Parton, Christina Aguilera, and Pink.*

#### Takin' Care Of Business

Dir: Tyler Measom; USA; 80m

*From a young age, Canadian Randy Bachman dreamed of becoming a famous rock star. His aspirations took off when he invested in a 1957 Gretsch 6120 guitar, which seemed to have a magical quality that inspired him to write hit songs effortlessly. Despite his success, his world came crashing down when the guitar was stolen in 1977, triggering a series of personal and professional setbacks.*

## SHORTS/MUSIC VIDEOS

Dale

Dir: Justin Streichman; USA; 9m

Dion & Denver

Dir: Zack Hosseini; USA; 15m

In The Darkness

Dir: Adilet Abish; Kazakhstan; 6 minutes

Pizza My Heart - WORLD PREMIERE

Dir: Elizabeth V. Newman; USA; 12m

Stud Country

Dirs: Lina Abascal, Alexandra Kern; USA; 11m

The Heart Of Texas

Dir: Gregory JM Kasunich; USA; 14m

Tr(O)l: New Kids On The Block, Total Request Live

And The Chain Letter That Changed The Internet

Dir: Yourgo Artsitas; USA; 17m

Too Much

Dir: Bobby Ross; USA; 4m

Variety - Plover

Dir: Taylor Browne; USA; 3m

## MUSIC PERFORMANCES

Thu. Dec. 12 - Opening Night screening

Linda Perry w/ LINDA PERRY: LET IT DIE HERE

Austin Film Society | 7:30pm

## SOUND UNSEEN

Sound Unseen founded in 1999, is a cultural organization dedicated to the role of film and music as a conduit of powerful ideas and diverse viewpoints. Its mission is to foster a greater appreciation of cinema, to bridge cultures, create and expand community, provide cultural exchange, networking opportunities and educational outreach through regular interaction with great films, filmmakers, musicians, and artists.

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



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सत्यमेव जयते



# Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz

## 2024-25

Are you a heartbeat away from India but oceans apart? Here's your chance to journey back to the land that flows in your veins.

**With great joy, we bring you the 5th  
Bharat Ko Janiye (Know India) Online  
Quiz 2024-25!**



**The top 15 winners in each category will be invited to a two-week India trip, starting with the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in 2025.**

The quiz is open to **Non-Resident Indians, Persons of Indian Origin** and **foreign nationals aged 14 to 50.**

Registration opens on **November 4, 2024** with a fun Model Quiz.

**Visit**

[www.bkjquiz.com](http://www.bkjquiz.com) for all other details or scan the QR code



**Know India a little more!**

# Thanksgiving- A Time to Share And Celebrate

Thanksgiving Day, one of the United States' most celebrated holidays, is here (November 28, 2024). Celebrated annually on the fourth Thursday of November, this day is dedicated to the harvest and other blessings of the past year. The day, associated with fun, food, and football, is mostly celebrated in the United States and Canada. On Thanksgiving Day, traditionally, the farmers thanked God for their autumn harvest.

The 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, who guided the nation through the Civil War, originally declared Thanksgiving a holiday and a day off for employees in 1863. Christmas shopping also starts on Thanksgiving Day, which comes before Black Friday.

Families and friends gather for a meal and play games and have fun on Thanksgiving Day. Pumpkin pie, cranberry sauce, potatoes, stuffing, and roast turkey are all staples. Families spend time together while playing a game or watching football.

## Thanksgiving at Plymouth

In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers—an assortment of religious separatists seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith and other individuals lured by the promise of prosperity and land ownership in the "New World." After a treacherous and uncomfortable crossing that lasted 66 days, they dropped anchor near the tip of Cape Cod, far north of their intended destination at the mouth of the Hudson River. One month later, the Mayflower crossed Massachusetts Bay, where the Pilgrims, as they are now commonly known, began the work of establishing a village at Plymouth.

Throughout that first brutal winter, most of the colonists remained on board the ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious disease. Only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from a member of the Abenaki tribe who greeted them in English.

Several days later, he returned with another Native American, Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe who had been kidnapped by an English sea captain and sold into slavery before escaping to London and returning to his homeland on an exploratory expedition. Squanto taught the Pilgrims, weakened by malnutrition and illness, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous



plants. He also helped the settlers forge an alliance with the Wampanoag, a local tribe, which endured for more than 50 years and remains one of the few examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans.

## When Was the First Thanksgiving?

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor William Bradford organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving"—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time—the festival lasted for three days. While no record exists of the first Thanksgiving's exact menu, much of what we know about what happened at the first Thanksgiving comes from Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow, who wrote:

*"Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together; after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deer; which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far*



A Mr. Potato Head balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, New York City.

© Sam20140218/Dreamstime.com

*from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."*

Historians have suggested that many of the dishes were likely prepared using traditional Native American spices and cooking methods. Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621, the meal did not feature pies, cakes or other desserts, which have become a hallmark of contemporary celebrations

## Origins of Thanksgiving National Holiday

Pilgrims held their second Thanksgiving celebration in 1623 to mark the end of a long drought that had threatened the year's harvest and prompted Governor Bradford to call for



a religious fast. Days of fasting and thanksgiving on an annual or occasional basis became common

practice in other New England settlements as well.

During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress designated one or more days of thanksgiving a year, and in 1789 George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the national government of the United States; in it, he called upon Americans to express their gratitude for the happy conclusion to the country's war of independence and the successful ratification of the U.S. Constitution. His successors John Adams and James Madison also designated days of thanks during their presidencies.

In 1817, New York became the first of several states to officially adopt an annual Thanksgiving holiday; each celebrated it on a different day, however, and the American South remained largely unfamiliar with the tradition.

In 1827, the noted magazine editor and prolific writer Sarah Josepha Hale—author, among countless other things, of the nursery rhyme “Mary Had a Little Lamb”—launched a campaign to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. For 36 years, she published numerous editorials and sent scores of letters to governors, senators, presidents and other politicians, earning her the nickname the “Mother of Thanksgiving.”

Abraham Lincoln finally heeded her request in 1863, at the height of the Civil War, in a proclamation entreating all Americans to ask God to “commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife” and to “heal the wounds of the nation.”

He scheduled Thanksgiving for the final Thursday in November, and it was celebrated on that day every year until 1939 when Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the holiday up a week in an attempt to spur retail sales during the Great Depression. Roosevelt's plan, known derisively as Franksgiving, was met with passionate opposition, and in 1941 the president reluctantly signed a bill making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November.

### Thanksgiving Food

In many American households, the Thanksgiving celebration has lost much of its original religious significance; instead, it now centers on cooking and sharing a bountiful meal with family and friends. Turkey, a Thanksgiving staple so ubiquitous it has become all but synonymous with the holiday, may or may not have been on offer when the Pilgrims hosted the inaugural feast in 1621.

Today, however, nearly 90 percent of Americans eat the bird—whether roasted, baked or deep-fried—on Thanksgiving, according to the National Turkey Federation. Other traditional foods include stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Volunteering is a common Thanksgiving Day activity, and communities often hold food drives and host free dinners for the less fortunate.

### Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade



Spectators are showered with confetti during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.  
© Joseph Sohm/Dreamstime.com



The First Thanksgiving, reproduction of an oil painting by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris, early 20th century. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.



A Thanksgiving Day dinner.  
© LightFieldStudios-iStock/Getty Images

Parades have also become an integral part of the holiday in cities and towns across the United States. Presented by Macy's department store since 1924, New York City's Thanksgiving Day parade is the largest and most famous, attracting more than 3 million spectators along its 2.5-mile route and

drawing an enormous television audience. It typically features marching bands, performers, elaborate floats conveying various celebrities and giant balloons shaped like cartoon characters.

Beginning in the mid-20th century and perhaps even earlier, the president

of the United States has “pardoned” one or two Thanksgiving turkeys each year, sparing the birds from slaughter and sending them to a farm for retirement. A number of U.S. governors also perform the annual turkey pardoning ritual.

### Thanksgiving Controversies

For some scholars, the jury is still out on whether the feast at Plymouth really constituted the first Thanksgiving in the United States. Indeed, historians have recorded other ceremonies of thanks among European settlers in North America that predate the Pilgrims' celebration.

In 1565, for instance, the Spanish explorer Pedro Menéndez de Avilé invited members of the local Timucua tribe to a dinner in St. Augustine, Florida, after holding a mass to thank God for his crew's safe arrival. On December 4, 1619, when 38 British settlers reached a site known as Berkeley Hundred on the banks of Virginia's James River, they read a proclamation designating the date as “a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God.”

Some Native Americans and many others take issue with how the Thanksgiving story is presented to the American public, and especially to schoolchildren. In their view, the traditional narrative paints a deceptively sunny portrait of relations between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people, masking the long and bloody history of conflict between Native Americans and European settlers that resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands. Since 1970, protesters have gathered on the day designated as Thanksgiving at the top of Cole's Hill, which overlooks Plymouth Rock, to commemorate a “National Day of Mourning.” Similar events are held in other parts of the country.

### Thanksgiving's Ancient Origins

Although the American concept of Thanksgiving developed in the colonies of New England, its roots can be traced both to Native Americans, as well as back to the other side of the Atlantic.

Both the Separatists who came over on the Mayflower and the Puritans who arrived soon after brought with them a tradition of providential holidays—days of fasting during difficult or pivotal moments and days of feasting and celebration to thank God in times of plenty.

As an annual celebration of the harvest and its bounty, moreover, Thanksgiving falls under a category of festivals that spans cultures, continents and millennia. In ancient times, the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans feasted and paid tribute to their gods after the fall harvest. Thanksgiving also bears a resemblance to the ancient Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot.

Finally, historians have noted that Native Americans had a rich tradition of commemorating the fall harvest with feasting and merrymaking long before Europeans set foot on America's shores.

## PUTIN 'GIFTS' LION, COCKATOOS AND BROWN BEARS TO NORTH KOREA ZOO

NOVEMBER 23, 2024

**PYONGYANG (TIP):** Russian President Vladimir Putin has gifted over 70 animals, including an African lion, brown bears, and cockatoos, to North Korea, highlighting the growing ties between the two nations. This unusual diplomatic gesture symbolises the strengthening relationship between Russia and North Korea in recent months.

The animals, which also included two yaks, were transported from the Moscow Zoo to the Pyongyang Central Zoo by air, accompanied by a team of veterinarians. The animals transferred were “a gift from Vladimir Putin to the Korean people”, the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment said.

The gift comes weeks after the US and South Korea revealed that North Korea had sent thousands of troops to fight alongside Russia in Ukraine.

Russian Minister of Natural Resources, Alexander Kozlov, who oversaw the relocation of the animals, said, “Cooperation between Russia and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea is not only about economics, trade and industry. It also encompasses numerous nature conservation projects. Now, the friendship between the Moscow and Pyongyang Zoos has been added to this list.”

In addition to the yaks, the animals sent to North Korea included an African lion, two brown bears, five white cockatoos, 25 species of pheasants, and 40 mandarin ducks, all destined for the Pyongyang Central Zoo.

Svetlana Akulova, General Director of Moscow Zoo, noted that the animal exchange is part of a broader effort to foster scientific and educational cooperation between the two countries. “With the support of the Moscow government, we plan to expand collaboration with our North Korean colleagues on joint scientific and educational initiatives, as well as the exchange of expertise and information on caring for rare species,” Akulova stated.

This exchange is not unprecedented. In April, Russia sent over 40 animals, including eagles, parrots, and pythons, to Pyongyang Zoo, according to the Russian news agency TASS. In return, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gifted Putin two rare Pungsan hunting dogs in June 2024, ahead of Putin’s planned visit to Pyongyang.

In June, Russia and North Korea revived a Cold War-era mutual defence pact. According to the Pentagon, over 10,000 North Korean troops have since been deployed to Russia’s Kursk region, where intense battles with Ukrainian forces have been ongoing since August, reported The New York Times. (Reuters)

# NATO and Ukraine to hold emergency talks after Russian hypersonic missile strike

NOVEMBER 23, 2024

**KYIV (TIP):** NATO and Ukraine will convene emergency talks on Tuesday after Russia escalated the nearly 33-month war by attacking the Ukrainian city of Dnipro with a new hypersonic missile. The missile, named Oreshnik, represents an experimental weapon that Russia claims is beyond the reach of current air defense systems.

The strike, which targeted a military facility in Dnipro, marked a significant escalation in the conflict. Ukrainian officials reported that the missile, traveling at Mach 11, carried six non-nuclear warheads that dispersed into multiple submunitions upon impact. While no fatalities were reported, the attack forced Ukraine’s parliament to cancel a session and heightened security across Kyiv.

Russian President Vladimir Putin described the strike as retaliation for Ukraine’s use of Western-provided longer-range missiles capable of hitting Russian territory. In a televised address, Putin warned that the Oreshnik missile is “so powerful that its conventional use could rival the effects of a nuclear strike.”

The missile was launched from the Kapustin Yar test range in Russia’s Astrakhan region, according to Ukraine’s intelligence agency. The Pentagon confirmed the missile’s experimental nature, linking it to the RS-26 Rubezh intercontinental ballistic missile program.

Dnipro, Ukraine’s fourth-largest city and a critical hub for military logistics



and humanitarian aid, was the focal point of the attack. The missile struck the Pivdenmash plant, a former Soviet facility that once produced intercontinental ballistic missiles.

NATO and Western leaders have condemned the attack, with Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavský calling it an “escalatory step” aimed at intimidating Ukraine and Europe. Lipavský expressed support for increasing air defense aid to Ukraine, emphasizing the need to counter such “heinous attacks.”

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, however, echoed Kremlin rhetoric, suggesting that the use of advanced US weapons in Ukraine implies direct American involvement. Orbán also warned against dismissing Russia’s nuclear rhetoric as a bluff.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk

said the war is entering a “decisive phase,” with dramatic developments highlighting the urgency of NATO’s unified response.

### BROADER IMPACTS OF THE ATTACK

Russia’s move has drawn sharp criticism for its use of advanced hypersonic technology in active conflict. The Oreshnik missile, which Putin claims is unmatched globally, is still undergoing testing. Russian officials confirmed plans to produce and deploy the missile depending on security threats.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, Russian drone strikes killed two people and injured 13 in Sumy, according to local officials. The drones, reportedly packed with shrapnel, targeted residential areas, underscoring the ongoing civilian toll of the conflict.

(With inputs from AP)

## Norwegian student arrested on espionage charges for Russia and Iran

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

**NORWEGIAN (TIP) :** A Norwegian student in his 20s has been arrested on suspicion of spying for Russia and Iran while working as a security guard at the US Embassy in Oslo, Norwegian authorities announced Friday.

The man, whose identity has not been disclosed, was detained at his home on Wednesday. Norway’s domestic intelligence agency, PST, stated that he is accused of engaging in intelligence-related activities that could harm national security.

According to a court order cited by Norwegian broadcaster NRK, evidence includes records of his communications with a contact allegedly guiding his espionage activities. The man reportedly admitted to collecting and sharing information with Russian and Iranian



authorities but denies the espionage charges, his attorney, John Christian Elden, confirmed.

“He is accused of obtaining information that could jeopardize the security of third countries,” Elden said.

The suspect co-runs a security company with a dual national of Norway and an Eastern European country.

Authorities are now reviewing the company’s operating license.

The arrested man is also studying security and preparedness at Norway’s Arctic University (UiT), marking the second espionage case linked to the university. In 2022, a UiT guest researcher arrested for espionage was later revealed to be a Russian intelligence officer posing as a Brazilian academic.

Norway, which shares a 198-kilometer border with Russia, has tightened restrictions on Russian nationals since the war in Ukraine began in 2022. The government is considering building a border fence to further bolster security.

Investigations into the current case are ongoing, with PST confirming no additional suspects at this time.

(With inputs from AP)

# Canada removes extra screening for passengers travelling to India days after implementation

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

**OTTAWA (TIP):** The Canadian government has lifted the enhanced security measures for passengers flying to India.

The office of Transport Minister Anita Anand confirmed to CBC News on Thursday that the additional measures had been "removed."

Although the measures appeared to have been in place since at least last weekend, Anand stated on Monday that the extra security screening was being conducted for passengers travelling to India "out of an abundance of caution."

According to reports, Air Canada in a notification informed passengers heading to Indian destinations over the weekend that due to heightened security mandates by Transport Canada, security wait times were expected to be longer than usual for their upcoming flights.

On Monday, an Air Canada spokesperson confirmed the development in an email, stating, "Transport Canada has introduced additional requirements for travellers to India, and Air Canada, like other carriers, is complying with these."

On Sunday, Toronto Pearson Airport posted on X, stating, "Departing



passengers may experience longer than usual wait times at international pre-board screening at Toronto Pearson this evening. If travelling, please check with your airline and leave plenty of time to catch your flight."

It was unclear whether this was linked to the enhanced security measures that had been implemented.

The enhanced screenings, implemented by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA), involved comprehensive checks of both

passengers and their baggage before they could enter restricted areas at airports.

These measures were reportedly introduced in response to rising diplomatic tensions between Canada and India, which escalated following allegations by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) linking Indian government agents to various criminal activities in Canada, including murder and extortion. Canada also expelled six Indian diplomats, leading to a reciprocal move by India. (AP)

# Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro charged with plotting coup

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

**BRAZIL (TIP):** Brazil's federal police have indicted former President Jair Bolsonaro and 36 others for allegedly attempting to orchestrate a coup to keep him in power following his defeat in the 2022 elections.

The findings, submitted to Brazil's Supreme Court on Thursday which termed it a coordinated attempt to "violently dismantle the constitutional state", will now await a decision on whether Prosecutor-General Paulo Gonet will formally press charges or dismiss the case.

Bolsonaro, a right-wing leader, has denied any attempts to cling to office after narrowly losing to his rival, leftist President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Since then, he has faced multiple legal challenges.

The federal police released a brief statement confirming that the Supreme Court had approved the disclosure of all 37 names implicated "to avoid the dissemination of incorrect news." Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes noted that the extensive 700-page document would require several days to



review.

Among those indicted are prominent allies of Bolsonaro, including his 2022 running mate Gen. Walter Braga Netto, former Army commander Gen. Paulo Sérgio Nogueira de Oliveira, Valdemar Costa Neto, chairman of Bolsonaro's Liberal Party, and longtime adviser Gen. Augusto Heleno.

The investigation, launched last year, led to the arrests on Tuesday of four military officials and a federal police officer accused of plotting to overthrow the government, including alleged plans to assassinate President Lula and other

top officials.

Other ongoing inquiries involve Bolsonaro's alleged smuggling of diamond jewellery into Brazil without proper declaration and accusations that he instructed subordinates to falsify COVID-19 vaccination records. Bolsonaro has denied involvement in these cases.

A separate probe concluded that Bolsonaro abused his authority to undermine confidence in Brazil's voting system, leading to a judicial ruling barring him from running for office until 2030. (Reuters)

## 'IT WILL HAVE NO CONSEQUENCES': HUNGARY PM DEFIES ICC ARREST WARRANT, INVITES BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

**HUNGARY (TIP):** Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán on Friday (November 22) extended an invitation to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to visit Hungary, openly defying an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Speaking on state radio, Orbán accused the ICC of "interfering in an ongoing conflict for political purposes."

Netanyahu responded by thanking Orbán for his "moral clarity" on the matter, stating that Hungary stood firmly "by the side of justice and truth."

The ICC had issued arrest warrants on Thursday for Netanyahu and former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, accusing them of using "starvation as a method of warfare." The move was swiftly criticised by allies such as the US, Austria, and Argentina. However, Hungary went further by formally inviting Netanyahu.

Orbán described the ICC's actions as "outrageously impudent" and "cynical," vowing to "defy this decision, and it will have no consequences for him."

"There is no choice here, we have to defy this decision ... I will guarantee Mr Netanyahu, if he comes, that the judgment will have no effect in Hungary and that we will not follow its terms," he said on Friday.

It is worth noting that ICC member states are obligated to enforce arrest warrants and detain suspects upon their arrival. However, the court lacks mechanisms to directly enforce its rulings.

The UK and EU have both indicated they are bound by the ICC charter and suggested that Netanyahu would be detained if he entered their territories.

"The UK will always comply with its legal obligations as set out by domestic and international law," Downing Street stated. The EU reiterated this stance, with Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell emphasising that the warrants are binding.

"This decision is binding on all states, all state parties of the court, including all members of the European Union," Borrell said.

Israel has denounced the ICC's move, labelling it "antisemitic" in an official statement. (AP)

## 10 GUNNED DOWN AT SUFI SHRINE IN AFGHANISTAN

**KABUL (TIP):** At least 10 people were killed in Afghanistan's Baghlan province when a gunman opened fire on Sufis participating in a weekly ritual at a local shrine, the country's interior ministry said on November 22.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack. The incident took place in Afghanistan's remote Nahrin district.

After taking control in 2021, the Taliban had vowed to restore security to the war-torn nation. Attacks have continued, many of them claimed by the local arm of the militant Islamic State (IS) group.

In September, 14 people were killed and six others injured in an attack claimed by Daesh in central Afghanistan. (Agencies)

## HOURS AFTER BAIL, PAK COURT SENDS IMRAN TO 5-DAY POLICE REMAND

**ISLAMABAD (TIP) :** An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on November 21 granted a five-day police remand of former prime minister Imran Khan, who was arrested formally by police hours after his bail in a corruption case was accepted.

Khan, 72, was arrested by Rawalpindi police in the New Town police station case on Wednesday night after securing bail in the second Toshakhana case and was produced before the Anti-Terrorism Court in Adiala Jail.

The police prosecution team sought a 15-day police remand but the court granted the five-day remand and ordered to continue the investigation inside the jail. (PTI)

## DENGUE DEATHS CROSS 400 MARK IN BANGLADESH



**Dhaka (TIP):** Bangladesh is battling its worst outbreak of dengue in years, with more than 400 deaths as rising temperatures and a longer monsoon season drive a surge in infections, leaving hospitals struggling to cope, particularly in urban areas.

At least 407 people have died from related complications in 2024, with 78,595 patients admitted to hospital nationwide, the latest official figures show. Kabirul Bashar, a zoology professor blamed shifting weather patterns due to climate change for the crises. (PTI)

# Militants kill 50, mostly Shiites, in Pakistan's KP

NOV 22, 2024

**PAKHTUNKHWA (TIP):** At least 50 people were killed and 20 others injured when several vehicles carrying passengers were targeted by militants in northwest Pakistan on November 21, officials said.

The militants ambushed the vehicles in the Kurram district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan.

The vehicles were travelling in a convoy from Parachinar to Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa when gunmen opened fire, the officials said.

Rescue authorities said 50 people, including eight women and five children, and 20 others were killed in the attack.

Most of the victims belonged to the Shia community, they said.

The vehicles were ambushed in areas dominated by the Taliban, a local journalist said.

According to local media, there were over 200 vehicles in the convoy.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur strongly condemned the attack and directed a delegation comprising the provincial law minister, lawmakers from the region,



and the chief secretary to immediately visit Kurram to assess the situation and submit a comprehensive report.

He also instructed relevant authorities to work on establishing a Provincial Highways Police unit to secure all roads in the volatile province.

Gandapur extended condolences to the

bereaved families and announced financial assistance for the families of the victims.

"Targeting innocent civilians is extremely tragic and condemnable. Those involved in this incident will not escape the grip of the law," he said. (PTI)

# Sri Lanka Prez opts for smaller Cabinet with fresh faces

**COLOMBO (TIP):** Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayaka on November 18 appointed a 21-member Cabinet in the new NPP government, keeping with his pre-election promise to streamline the governance system and ease the burden on taxpayers.

The National People's Power (NPP) has been advocating a smaller government to reduce costs for the public. Since the NPP won the presidential election in September, the government functioned with just three ministers, including the President.

As per the island nation's Constitution, there is a provision for appointing a 30-member Cabinet.

Dissanayaka retained the finance and defence portfolios, while appointing 12 new parliament members to key positions and entrusting eight veteran members, who have served since 2000, with significant responsibilities.

Among the fresh faces in the Cabinet are five professors. Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya, who holds the education portfolio, and Saroja Savithri Paulraj, who has the women and child affairs portfolio, are the two women members in the Cabinet. Paulraj, a minority Tamil from the Sinhala majority south, was involved in the party's long struggle.



A significant feature of the swearing-in ceremony was Fisheries Minister Ramalingam Chandrasekaran, who took his oath in Tamil, highlighting the representation of the minority community in the new government.

The new parliament will convene on Thursday.

The NPP, led by Dissanayake, swept the parliamentary elections held on Thursday by winning a two-thirds majority. It also dominated the Jaffna electoral district — the heartland of the nation's Tamil minority. The NPP won a

near 62 per cent of the vote, 2/3rd majority of 159 seats in the 225-member Assembly.

## 21 MEMBERS APPOINTED

Dissanayaka retains finance, defence portfolios

12 new members, 8 veterans appointed

Five professors among fresh faces  
Women members include Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya (education), Saroja Savithri Paulraj (women and child affairs)

(Reuters)





## PBD ITINERARY 2025

# 18<sup>th</sup> PBD CONVENTION 2025

8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> January  
Bhubaneswar

विकसित भारत की संकल्पना में प्रवासी भारतीयों का योगदान  
Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat



### Registration Before Nov 27<sup>th</sup> - 25% Discount

#### Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Check-In at Hotel ITC Welcome, Bhubaneswar

**7:00 PM**

**NRI- Conclave** at the Hotel ITC Welcome

#### Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**9:00 AM**

All delegates to Venue:  
Janata Maidan - 20 mins from the Hotel ITC Welcome

**9:30 to 10:30 AM**

Inaugural Session for Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

**10:30 to 12:00 AM**

Plenary Session 1

**12:00 to 2:00 PM**

Lunch

**2:00 PM**

Visit Jagannath Puri Temple,  
Konark For Refer Temple Light and Sound Show

#### Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**8:00 AM**

Breakfast at Hotel

**9:00 AM**

All delegates to Venue:  
Janata Maidan - 20 mins from the Hotel ITC Welcome

**10:00 to 11:30 AM**

Inaugural Session of the 18<sup>th</sup> PBD Convention

**12:35 to 2:00 PM**

Lunch

#### Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Morning Breakfast and Back to Destination

#### January 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Mahakumbh Mela at Prayagraj

**RSVP by  
Wednesday,  
November 20<sup>th</sup>,  
2024**

For Registration Please Contact

**Priti Patel** : +1 (732) 986-1301 (US)

**Rohit Korat** : +91 99090 36111 (IND)

**Email:** secretary@fianynjct.org

Scan  
PBD Venue



Whether you are still in your late 30's or a couple of years into your 40's, you can see significant changes in yourself. As you age, you start looking more mature, which can be disheartening for some. Your favourite pair of pants that made you look great the last time you wore them might not look the same way anymore.

Sure, it takes some time to adapt to ageing, but it shouldn't make you unhappy as the experiences you take along with you is a significant positive aspect of life. There are a few things you can do to look younger in your 40s and look graceful as ever.

#### Eat A Balanced Diet

If your hair, skin, and nails have started to look dull, it may be due to a lack of protein intake. Eating whatever your heart desires in your twenties is easy, but it is harder to get away with the same routine in your 40s. Eating a balanced diet full of healthy fats, grains, lean proteins, fruits, and veggies is essential to youthful, radiant looks and staying healthy. And the entire body will be healthy and young, from the head to the knees.

#### Regular Massages

It does not take long for wrinkles to appear when you're stressed out. Work on your physical health first, before anything else, to ensure that your mental health is in control. Go to the spa and get relaxing massages to alleviate stress. Brush all your worries aside and notice how you start to feel and look younger.

#### Change Your Hairstyle

If you've got grey hair, you're

# Things to adopt in your 40s to look younger



automatically assumed to be older. After all, it's one of the most visible signs of ageing. Regularly head to the salon to take care of your hair. Or just chop it. Short hair will take years off of your face instantly. Talk to your hairdresser and experiment with different hairstyles like fringes and bangs.

These hairstyles not just add playfulness to your personality but are also helpful in taking the focus off any wrinkles on your forehead. Getting your stylist to add some fringes or bangs to your short hair will help you feel and look younger!

#### Replace Your Eyeglasses With Contact Lenses

In your 40s, you may experience blurred vision while reading a book or watching television. This happens because our ability to see objects at close distances becomes worse, due to a condition called presbyopia. You can choose to wear prescription eyeglasses to correct your vision, however there is a catch – wearing eyeglasses may not only feel cumbersome but they also seem to add years to your face.

Normally, people associate thick-lensed prescription eyeglasses with older people. To avoid this, you may want to switch to multifocal contact lenses after consulting your optometrist.

Wearing multifocal toric contact

lenses will provide you the required visual acuity against presbyopia but also help you look younger and sharper than before. Talk to your eye care specialist about Bausch+Lomb's Biotrue ONEday Daily Disposables, which offers comfortable, clear and precise vision for up to 16 hours in a day, while also provides UV-A and UV-B protection against harmful sun rays.

#### Go For Fitted Clothing

When you shop for new clothes, don't just buy things off the rack. Find clothes that fit well, flatter your form and make you feel comfortable. You will instantly look happier and more put-together when you wear clothes that look like they were made for your body.

#### Have a Positive Attitude

When you look young at 40, it means you took on a life that you intended on having. Although it was probably not an easy road, you have made it to an age where you are wise enough to drop damaging habits.

There are plenty of approaches that one can adapt to slow down the ageing process. Diligently, take care of your diet, nurse your skin, work out and have as much fun as possible. Never let your age hold you back, after all, it is just a number.

## Struggling with hair fall? Add these superfoods to your daily diet

Healthy, luscious locks are the dream of almost everyone. There are millions of social media accounts dedicated to sharing tips to maintain fuller, shinier hair. Even more with advice to tackle hair loss struggles.

But there is one fact that every expert in the field agrees upon when it comes to growing healthy hair – that is to maintain a good diet. Food plays a pivotal role in ensuring the health of the hair.

Here are some of the superfoods that should be included in your diet to grow strong and shiny hair.

#### Carrot

Carrots are rich sources of Vitamin A. Beta carotene deficiency is often pointed out as the main reason for hair breakage. According to nutritionists, 100 grams of carrot contains up to 16 milligrams of beta-carotene. Moreover, carrots are loaded with biotin, Vitamin E, Vitamin C and Vitamin K which are essential for maintaining hair health. You could add carrots to curries, soups or salads for your daily diet plan. Carrot juice is delicious and is extremely nutritious.

#### Curry leaves

Curry leaves contain Vitamin B and antioxidants which boost blood circulation and hair growth. Besides, the amino acids in them improve hair growth and prevent hair fall. Curry leaves could be consumed as



they are or added to various dishes. Interestingly curry leaf powder too is readily available in the market which could be added in curries or sprinkled on rice.

#### Gooseberries

Having a gooseberry daily instantly boosts hair growth and keeps your hair healthy. The antioxidants in gooseberries prevent hair fall. It is also a great source of Vitamin C, Vitamin B and iron.

#### Almonds

Almonds are loaded with biotin which improves the production of keratin, a protein that helps keep the hair, skin and nails healthy and strong. Those who have severe hair fall could snack on almonds as they contain Vitamin E and fatty acids.

## FOOD CORNER

### Egg Salad Sandwich

A delicious dish, Egg Salad Sandwich is a healthy recipe made using tomatoes, onions and mayonnaise with bread slices and eggs! This breakfast recipe is a great sandwich and is a kids favourite! Try out this simple and easy to make recipe.

#### INGREDIENTS

4 bread slices, 4 teaspoon mayonnaise, 1 pinch salt, 2 teaspoon ghee, 1/4 cup finely chopped spring onions, 1 handful chopped lettuce loose-leaf, 2 boiled, finely chopped egg, 1/2 teaspoon chilli flakes, 1 dash spice black pepper, 1 sliced tomato, 1 sliced Red onion.

#### Method

Mix the eggs, mayonnaise, red chilli flakes, salt and pepper powder in a bowl. Spread this on 2 bread slices. Top it up with the tomato, spring onions, red onion and lettuce leaves. Cover with the remaining slices. Heat a tawa over low flame. Place the sandwiches and apply little ghee around the edges. Cook for 30 seconds on each side and remove. Serve with french fries.



# Foods to boost mood, immunity and nourish your body

## Fatty fishes for omega-3

Omega-3 fatty acids, which is packed with fatty fish like salmon, mackerel, and sardines, serve as essential for mood shifting and cognitive function. By supporting the normal functioning of neurotransmitters, omega-3 fatty acids have been confirmed to help mitigate the symptoms of depressive disorders and anxiety. Consuming these fish at least three to four times a week helps boost the immune system while encouraging confidence.

## Rich leafy greens

Folate, a B-vitamin which encourages the manufacturing of serotonin, the "feel-good" neurotransmitter, is prevalent in dark leafy greens like spinach, kale, and Swiss chard. Increasing occurrences of depression have been correlated with folate shortages. Additionally, these greens are exceptionally high in antioxidants which strengthen the immune system and combat the effects of oxidative stress.

## Fermented foods for gut health

Probiotic-rich foods that help maintain a healthy microbiome in the gut include kefir, yoghurt, kimchi, and sauerkraut. The gut may be referred to as the "second brain," thus maintaining it is essential to regulating your mood. It's already been shown that a healthy microbiota in the gut boosts defences, lowers nervousness or stress, and enhances psychological wellness.

## Citrusy fruits for vitamin C

Vitamin C serves as a vital component for the immune system to work properly and can be found in excess in citrus fruits like oranges, grapefruits, and lemons. Furthermore, vitamin C contains antibacterial properties that can safeguard the human body from the hardships of winter. Constant indigestion assists in safeguarding the body from infectious agents and colds, making it strong throughout the colder months.

## Add root vegetables to your diet

Rich in carbohydrates that are complex and fibre, root



vegetables like sweet potatoes, carrots, and beets offer an uninterrupted source of energy that can be utilised all day long. By promoting blood sugar management, these veggies contribute to preventing energy dumps that can exacerbate stress and mood. Their anchoring, rustic attributes also correspond with the wintertime desire for comfort and nourishment.

## Magnesium from nuts and seeds

Magnesium, which is plentiful in nuts and seeds, especially walnuts, almonds, and pumpkin seeds, helps minimise anxiety as well as stress. Magnesium also aids in greater relaxation and ease of movement, all of which are crucial to conquering the winter blues. Snacking on an assortment of nuts or seeds might automatically improve your mood.

## Drink herbal teas to unwind

Herbal teas with soothing characteristics, like peppermint, lemon balm, and chamomile, may minimise tension and promote calmness. The concerns that frequently follow the winter season can be decreased by frequently ingesting these teas, which may help promote sound sleep and soothe the body's nervous system. *Source: HT*



# Excessive screen time may raise risk of early puberty

As children are increasingly exposed to screens from a young age, a new study in rats suggests that long-term exposure to blue light emitted from devices like smartphones and tablets may lead to early puberty.

The research, presented at the 62nd Annual European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology Meeting in Liverpool, is the first to explore the connection between blue light exposure, bone growth, and pubertal development.

The study found that prolonged exposure to blue light accelerates bone growth and increases bone age, potentially triggering early puberty.

"This is the first study to show how blue light could potentially influence physical growth and development, prompting further research into the effects of modern screen exposure on children's growth," said lead researcher Dr. Aylin Kilinc Ugurlu, from Gazi University in Turkey.

While the study was conducted on rats, Dr. Ugurlu cautioned that "we cannot be sure that these findings would be replicated in children. However, our data suggest that prolonged exposure to blue light accelerates both physical growth and the maturation of the growth plate, leading to early puberty."

During normal growth, children develop long bones, such as the femur, which progressively elongate at each end before solidifying, halting growth in height. Girls typically reach their maximum height between ages 14 and 16, while boys finish growing between ages 16 and 18.

However, recent studies have shown an increase in early puberty among both girls and boys. Research suggests that while children may grow quickly at first, they often stop growing earlier than expected. One potential factor is the increased use of blue light-emitting devices, Ugurlu explained.

For the study, 18 male and 18 female rats, each 21 days old, were divided into three groups of six. The rats were exposed to either a normal light cycle, six hours of blue light, or 12 hours of blue light until the first signs of puberty appeared.

# Vitamin B12 supplement containing cyanocobalamin is as toxic as cyanide

Whenever we come across any statement on social media that may impact health, we ensure to always get it fact-checked by experts. We did so again, this time when we read that vitamin B12 supplements containing cyanocobalamin are as toxic as cyanide. According to physician Dr Dennis Walker, if your B12 supplement ingredient says "cyanocobalamin", throw it in the trash. "The 'cyano' portion of this is most disturbing. This breaks down into cyanide, which is deadly and toxic at high levels. Instead of cyanocobalamin look for vitamin B12 in the form of methylcobalamin, or hydroxycobalamin. No cyanide, and absorbs just as well," said Dr Walker.

Symptoms of vitamin B12 deficiency include anaemia, feeling tired or weak, trouble while walking, weight loss, irritability, poor appetite, and diarrhea. Notably, vitamin B12 supplements are advised when one is found to have a deficiency. "It is believed that vitamin B12 supplement plays a crucial role in energy metabolism and nervous system function," said Dr Aniket Mule, consultant internal medicine, Wockhardt Hospitals.

Cyanide is a toxic, carbon-nitrogen chemical compound that is lethal and exists in many forms, including gas, liquid, or solid.

Dr Vichar Nigam, consultant, internal medicine,



Manipal Hospital, Kharadi, Pune, contended that cyanocobalamin is "safe" for long-term use. "There are two commonly used vitamin B12 supplements: cyanocobalamin and methylcobalamin. Cyanocobalamin is a synthetic form that is absorbed better than methylcobalamin, though it doesn't stay in the body as long. This makes it helpful for conditions where vitamin B12 absorption is low, like pernicious anaemia," said Dr Nigam. *Source: The Indian Express*

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## DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



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## Nokia expands pact with Microsoft for data centre routers, switches

Nokia on Thursday, November 21, announced a five-year expansion of its multi-year agreement to supply Microsoft Azure with data centre routers and switches.

Nokia's data centre networking portfolio will enhance the scalability and reliability of Azure data centres around the world. The partnership will grow Nokia's global footprint to over 30 countries and strengthen its role as a strategic supplier for Microsoft's worldwide cloud infrastructure.

As part of the expansion, Nokia will supply its 7250 IXR-10e platform to deliver multi-terabit-scale interconnectivity within Microsoft's data centres. Nokia will also continue to deliver its custom developed management top of rack switch that is used extensively throughout the Azure network, said the company.

The Nokia SONiC-based data centre routers and switches will be deployed both in greenfield locations and used in support of Microsoft's migration from 100GE to 400GE connectivity within existing facilities. "As a result of this new deal, Nokia will further increase the scalability and reliability of Microsoft Azure data centres around the world. This win affirms Nokia's commitment to being a strategic supplier for tier one hyperscaler companies, and highlights that our multi-year strategic investments and approach have put us on the right trajectory," said Vach Kompella, SVP and General Manager of IP Networks business at Nokia. *Source: IANS*

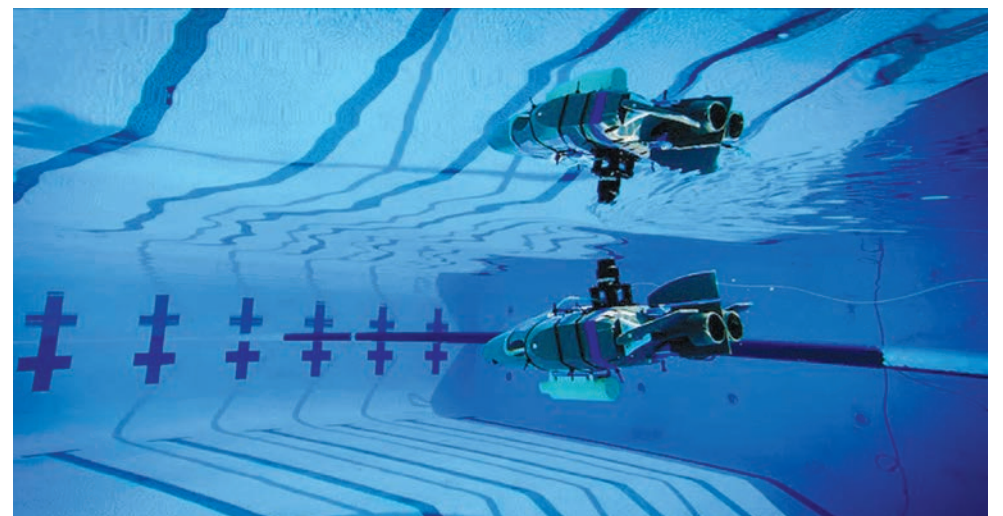
# NASA unveils underwater robots for exploring Jupiter's moons

To investigate the enigmatic underwater seas of Jupiter's moons, including Europa and Enceladus, NASA has unveiled cutting-edge underwater robots. Sensing With Independent Micro-swimmers (SWIM) is a project that includes these robots, which were developed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Measuring just over two kilograms and standing 16.5 inches tall, these small, autonomous robots are capable of identifying temperature and chemical cues that may point to the existence of life. Currently being tested in pools, the robots will be a component of NASA's trips to these frigid worlds if they are approved and funded. These developments have the potential to completely transform our understanding of far-off moons and their capacity to support life.

These robots are part of a larger effort to find life beneath the ice surfaces of Jupiter's moons, including NASA's Europa Clipper and the ESA's Jupiter Ice Moons Explorer (JUICE), both of which are scheduled to launch in the early 2030s. The Dragonfly mission NASA will investigate Titan, Saturn's moon, which is likewise thought to feature a subterranean ocean. These initiatives are a reflection of the increased curiosity about the possibility of extrasolar life.

### What's the Mission?

NASA's Europa Clipper, set to reach Europa in 2030, will conduct flybys to study whether the moon's vast subsurface ocean could sustain life. But scientists are already thinking ahead with the SWIM (Sensing With Independent Micro-swimmers) project. This mission envisions a swarm of cellphone-sized swimming robots that



would be delivered to Europa's ocean by a cryobot — a device capable of melting through the ice.

### How Do These Robots Work?

Each robot in the SWIM swarm would autonomously search for signs of life by detecting chemical signals and temperature changes. Engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) have created prototypes to test the concept. These palm-sized robots, equipped with propellers and steering fins, performed well in pool trials, demonstrating the ability to navigate, correct their course, and even perform search patterns — all without direct human control.

### Big Ideas in Tiny Packages

The robots used in tests are about 16.5 inches long, but the final space-ready versions would be much smaller, around 5 inches. Despite their size, they pack advanced sensors to measure ocean conditions like temperature, pressure, and chemical

makeup. Cutting-edge acoustic communication technology would allow the robots to share data and coordinate movements in the alien environment.

### From Pools to Space

Pool tests showed that the robots could operate efficiently, and computer simulations mimicked conditions on Europa. These simulations helped fine-tune the robots' design, ensuring they can work in extreme conditions while balancing battery life and exploration range.

### Why It Matters

The SWIM robots are still years away from being ready for a space mission. However, their potential is enormous, not only for exploring distant moons but also for studying Earth's oceans or monitoring polar ice conditions. By developing these tiny, autonomous explorers, NASA is taking a significant step toward uncovering the secrets of water worlds beyond our planet.

## Hackers are spreading malware using fake AI video tools

With Artificial Intelligence powered tools available on the internet, threat actors are using the opportunity to infect Windows and macOS-powered machines. These malware not only steal your cryptocurrency wallet credentials but also target your passwords and browsing history.

According to a recent report by Bleeping Computer, threat actors are spreading malware via fake websites that impersonate an AI video and image generator named EditPro.

In the image below, you can see that the new AI video tools are being spread via posts on X, claiming that users do not need any 'special skills' and can use the AI video generators for free. The report states that clicking on the images redirects you to a fake website offering the EditProAI tool, with '.pro' and '.org' domains used to spread Windows and macOS malware respectively.

As it turns out, these fake websites look real and even



have a cookie banner on the bottom, which adds to the legitimacy. When users tap on the 'Get now' button,

your system will start downloading a file called "Edit-ProAI-Setup-newest\_release.exe" for Windows and "EditProAi\_v.4.36.dmg" for macOS.

When cybersecurity experts analyzed the '.exe' file, they noticed that the AI tool setup was laced with the Lumma Stealer malware. In case you accidentally downloaded the program, we recommend you change your saved passwords as your accounts may have been compromised.

To give you a quick recap, Lummar Stealer is a Windows malware while AMOS infects devices running macOS. However, both malware are designed to steal cryptocurrency wallets, login credentials and browsing history from popular browsers like Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Edge. The data collected is then sent back to the hacker, who can then use it for future attacks or sell it on the dark web.

*Source: The Indian Express*

## Strong US dollar, domestic sell-off push rupee to all time low of 84.50

Indian rupee depreciated eight paise on Thursday, November 21, to settle at an all-time low of 84.50 against the US dollar. The currency was dragged down by a massive sell-off in domestic equity markets and rising crude oil prices amid geopolitical uncertainty.

At the exchanges, the rupee opened at 84.41 and touched its lowest-ever level of 84.51 against the US dollar during the intraday. The session ended at 84.50 against the dollar, surpassing its all-time low of 84.46 on November 14, news agency PTI reported.

Forex traders said the US dollar strengthened as global investors continue to buy the currency in search of a safe haven amid escalating tension between Russia and Ukraine. The continuous outflow of foreign funds also added to the woes of the Indian rupee.

"We expect the rupee to trade around 84.5 against the dollar by the end of December. A strong dollar continues to create a depreciating bias for currencies globally and is likely to sustain FPI outflows from Indian markets in the near-term. However, interventions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), supported by India's healthy foreign exchange reserves, should help keep rupee volatility in check," Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings, told PTI. The Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) pulled out approximately USD 4 billion from Indian markets in November, following a record USD 11 billion outflow in October.

# Adani Group could find funding harder after US indictment

Autam Adani's conglomerate could find it harder to get funding following a U.S. arrest warrant for its billionaire founder, with some banks considering halting fresh credit to the Indian group due to an alleged \$265 million bribery scheme.

Some global banks are considering temporarily halting fresh credit to the Adani Group after the U.S. indictment but maintaining existing loans, sources told Reuters.

Ratings agency S&P warned in a statement that the group will need regular access to equity and debt markets given its large growth plans, but it might find fewer takers.

"We believe domestic, as well as some international banks and bond market investors, look at Adani entities as a group, and could set group limits on their exposure," it said.

However, S&P added that the rated entities have "no immediate and lumpy" debt maturities.

Senior executives at two of Adani's global lenders said that they have had multiple calls within their respective banks to discuss exposure to the group and what the impact of the indictment would be on its financial position.

Research firm CreditSights highlighted refinancing for the conglomerate's green energy business, which is at the centre of the allegations, as its biggest near-term concern.

Bonds issued by the Adani Group dropped sharply for a second day on Friday and although the shares of some Adani firms clawed back some of Thursday's losses, the overall market value of all 10 stocks has dropped by \$27.9 billion over two sessions.

Adani Green Energy, which is at the centre of the U.S. allegations, has lost nearly \$7 billion of its value.

U.S. authorities have charged Adani and seven other people with agreeing to pay bribes to Indian government officials to obtain contracts that could yield \$2 billion of profit over 20 years as well as to develop India's largest solar power project.

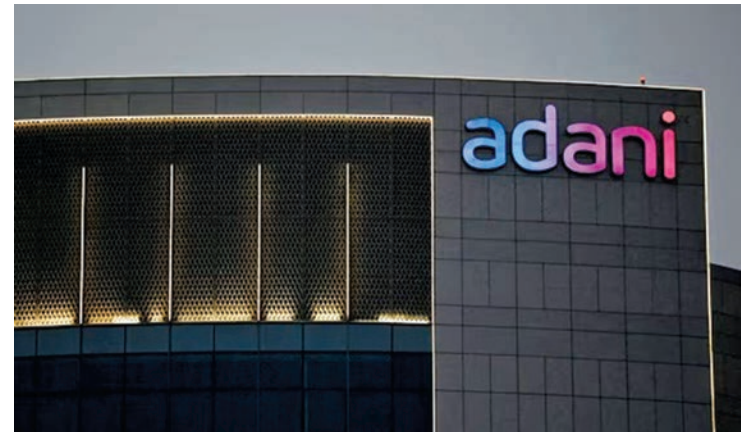
Adani Group has said the accusations as well as those levelled by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in a parallel civil case are "baseless and denied" and that it will seek "all possible legal recourse".

Some analysts said the fallout was unlikely to be limited to the Adani group of companies.

"India's renewable energy sector, a critical pillar for global climate goals, may face reduced international investment as a result of this controversy," said Nimish Maheshwari, an independent analyst who publishes on Smartkarma.

"Investors may demand greater transparency and due diligence, slowing down the pace of project financing."

The Securities and Exchange Board of India, the country's



market regulator, is making preliminary checks to see if disclosures made by Adani entities were inadequate and if they breached local market regulations, a SEBI official told Reuters.

SEBI did not respond to a request for comment.

The regulator has completed a separate investigation into the group, but not yet issued orders, after Hindenburg Research in January 2023 alleged improper use of tax havens and stock manipulation, which the group has denied.

Falls in Adani dollar bond prices on Friday included a 2.5c drop on the dollar for 2029 Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone bonds. At 87.8c, they are down more than 5c over the two sessions.

Longer-dated maturities have fallen around 5c in two days and trade just below 80c.

Adani Transmission and Adani Electricity Mumbai bond prices had similar declines.

Investors are also watching to see if more Adani deals could be scuttled after Kenya cancelled a procurement process worth nearly \$2 billion that had been widely expected to award control of the country's main airport to the group.

It also nixed a 30-year, \$736-million public-private partnership deal that an Adani Group firm signed with the energy ministry last month to construct power transmission lines.

Adani Green also cancelled a scheduled \$600 million U.S. bond sale.

U.S. prosecutors say Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and others bribed Indian officials to gain business advantages in renewable energy projects in India that benefited Adani Green and a company called Azure Power, which was listed on the New York Stock Exchange until late 2023. *Source: Reuters*

Bitcoin is nearing the \$100,000 mark as crypto enthusiasts bet that United States President-elect Donald Trump will usher in a more welcoming regulatory environment for digital assets.

The world's most popular digital currency rose as high as \$99,073 on Thursday, November 21, extending its surge since Trump's re-election on November 5. The commodity has risen more than 60 percent since election day as investors anticipate Trump's incoming administration to ease regulatory and legal hurdles to its use.

Trump, who called the asset a "scam" during his first term, accepted campaign donations in cryptocurrency, and has pledged to make the US "the crypto capital of the planet" and accumulate a national bitcoin reserve.

Trump and his three sons in September also announced the launch of their own crypto business, World Liberty Financial, which investors have taken as

## Bitcoin nears \$100,000 as investors bet on crypto-friendly Trump policies



a promising sign of the president-elect's belief in the sector.

In another bullish signal for the sector on Thursday, United States Securities

and Exchange Commission (SEC) chair, Gary Gensler, who was widely disliked among crypto investors for his aggressive enforcement actions

targeting the sector, confirmed that he would step down in January.

Trump had pledged to fire Gensler on "day one" of his administration, though the president does not have the authority to remove the SEC chair before the end of his or her term.

While viewed by supporters as a ticket to big returns and financial freedom, Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are known for their volatility and have faced government crackdowns in several parts of the world.

After climbing to a record high of \$69,000 in late 2021, Bitcoin plunged to less than \$16,000 over the following year.

The commodity burst past its previous peak in March after gaining more than 300 percent since November 2022.



**BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA**



### ARIES

Ganesha says you will be successful in your daily tasks and your health will also be good.

This week is the right time for you to start new plans. You will get monetary benefits and you can improve your financial condition. This week you have to control your language and only talk to people if you think. Do your work carefully and stay away from your working people. You will get a chance to spend time with your loved ones and you can also increase your entertainment with them. This week you should take care of your physical and spiritual health. You may get good proposals from marriageable people and you can buy some items for your home or vehicle. This week is the time for good decisions for you and you should move towards new enthusiasm in your life. You will be successful in your work this week.



### TAURUS

Ganesha says you may face many obstacles in your work. You have to pay attention maintain

patience in your work and keep your situation in mind. You also have to pay attention to your health. To keep yourself healthy, you have to take care of your daily food. You have to include a healthy diet and exercise in your routine. This week you should be excited to do something new. You have to pay more attention to your work and try to achieve your goals. You have to cooperate with your colleagues and take the right advice from them. You have to maintain continuity in your work and work hard in your work to achieve your goals. This week will be very favorable for students. They will achieve success in their studies.



### GEMINI

Ganesha says this week's horoscope will not be favorable for you. You may face some challenges

in your personal and business life. You should be careful in your business and understand your investments. You should make the right decision regarding your work. This week you may also need to pay attention to your health, so take care of your diet and exercise. This week's horoscope will not be favorable for you. You may face some challenges in your personal and business life. You should be careful in your business and understand your investments. You should make the right decision regarding your work. This week

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - NOV 25, 2024 TO DEC 1, 2024

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

you may also need to pay attention to your health, so take care of your diet and exercise.



### CANCER

Ganesha says this week's horoscope is very auspicious for Cancer people. You are going to get a lot of success in the coming days. You will get a chance to perform very well in your work. You will get a great opportunity to show your abilities which will help you move forward. You will also get a very good time for new work which will prove to be very beneficial for you in the coming time. You will also get a lot of success in your business which will prove to be very beneficial for you in the coming time. You will also get a chance to perform very well in your business, which will prove to be very beneficial for you in the coming time. You will also get a lot of success in your business, which will prove to be very beneficial for you in the coming time.



### LEO

Ganesha says this week's horoscope is expected to be very good for Leo. You will taste success in all areas of your life today. You may get good returns from your old investments and employed people may also benefit from promotion or increment. Your source of income may also increase and a big property-related settlement may also be reached. If you have a case going on in the court, then the decision may come in your favor. On this day, you can also take a gift for your partner and new flowers of love will bloom between you. You have to take care of your health and it is important to pay attention to your diet. You will get the support of family members and you will fulfill your responsibilities well. Keep your diet healthy so that you can fight any disease easily. This week you are expected to improve both financial and family conditions.



### VIRGO

Ganesha says this week will be inauspicious for Virgo from the beginning. You have to maintain peace of mind before starting your day. Whatever work you do this week, you will not get success in it. You may need to stay away from your friends and family. You may need to put in more effort to run your business well. You will have to control your speech and choose your words carefully. You will need to maintain good relations with your job people. Today will not be a good day for you regarding money. You may need to spend more time with your loved ones. You may spend money on entertainment. You may get a good proposal for

marriage from your marriageable people. You may need to buy some items for your home.



### LIBRA

Ganesha says this week's horoscope will not be favorable for Libra people. You may feel unfavorable and you may have difficulty in fulfilling your needs. You have to restrain your emotions and control your thoughts today. You may get some monetary benefits in your job and business, but you have to be careful in your work and stay away from your competitors. You will also have to control your speech as there may be arguments with your relatives. You will have to focus on your work today and work to achieve your goals. You will also have to take care of some things in your social life and try to spend time with your friends and family. You will also have to spend time with your loved ones and share your happiness with them.



### SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week will be excellent for the people of Scorpio zodiac. Today will be a very auspicious day for you. You will get a lot of happiness in your life. Do not ignore health, otherwise it can cause you trouble. Try to take care of your health. You may get some special gifts from your relatives. There will be love in your married life and there will be a lot of respect in your pair. Employed people will be very busy and your work will also be appreciated. If you are preparing for a government job, then you may get to hear good news today. You need to control your increasing expenses, otherwise, you may face problems later. Do not do any work in excitement, otherwise you may be misunderstood. Complete the necessary tasks on time and make a budget for your income and expenditure.



### SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week will be good for Sagittarius people. You may have to be busier in your daily activities. You need to take care of your health, so do not ignore your health. Otherwise, you may have to face difficulty. You may get some special gifts from your relatives which will make you happy. Your married life will also be full of love. Employed people will be very busy and your work will also be appreciated. Today some people may get to hear the good news of a government job. You need to keep your expenses under control otherwise you may have to face problems later. Do not do any work with over-enthusiasm because you may be misunderstood. You should complete your necessary tasks on time and make a budget for your income and expenditure.



### CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week will not be favorable for Capricorn from the beginning. You will need to focus on your work. Also, you have to be careful of your opponents. You should not trust anyone completely. This week you do not need to react to everything. You have to stay calm and avoid conflict with your family. Anger can harm your work. This week your expenses may increase due to which you may feel a shortage of money. You need to stay mentally strong. Spending some time on your favorite hobby can calm your mind. Students may need to take a break from studies this week.



### AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week will be very good for you. You will get a lot of success in your daily activities. Do not ignore your health and try to spend more time with your loved ones. You may get special gifts from relatives and love will pour into married life. Employed people will be very busy and your work will be appreciated. According to your information, people preparing for government jobs can get good news. You need to control your expenses and not do any work with overexcitement. You should make a budget for your income and expenditure. This week is indicated to be very good for Aquarius people. You will get a lot of success in your daily activities and your day will also go very well. Therefore, you should not ignore your health.



### PISCES

Ganesha says this week will not be favorable for you. You have to take care that you complete your tasks on time and control your expenses. You also have to take care of your health. Otherwise, you may have to face problems. This week you may get special gifts from your relatives and love will pour into your married life. Employed people will be busy with their work and they will also get respect. People preparing for a government job may get to hear some good news today. But you have to pay attention to your increasing expenses. You should not do any work in excitement, as it can be misunderstood for you. Therefore, you should complete the necessary tasks on time and make a budget for your income and expenditure.

**AUTHOR BIO :** Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website [chiragdaruwalla.com](http://chiragdaruwalla.com). He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: [info@chiragdaruwalla.com](mailto:info@chiragdaruwalla.com)

## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : NOVEMBER 25 TO DECEMBER 1 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

**NOVEMBER 25 :** Ganesha says today you can get many opportunities to prove yourself in the workplace, which can also lead to your promotion. Your hard work may pay off today, if you are looking for monetary gains then today you are likely to get a high-paying client. If you are planning a new business venture, a new important prospect is very likely to arise immediately as soon as you start your new venture.

**NOVEMBER 26 :** Ganesha says big opportunities may knock at your door today, be aware of them, and soon they may work in your favor. Try to worship Lord Shiva by chanting the Om Namah Shiva mantra, it can be beneficial for your personal and professional life. Today can be a satisfactory day for you. The chances of taking the next step in your relationship are high today. May your entire day be filled with doing the things you love and spending time with your favorite person in the lap of nature.

**NOVEMBER 27 :** Ganesha says you are doing amazing in terms of health.

You can feel like a new person today with a day full of energy and enthusiasm. Your health has finally recovered and you are doing great. A series of new opportunities may suddenly open up for you professionally. You need to think out of the box as well as go the extra mile to reap maximum benefits. Once you start being decisive, the results can be positive for you.

**NOVEMBER 28 :** Ganesha says your health is going to improve a lot, today you may feel more energetic and healthier and ready to take on any task that comes your way. May your day be filled with love and surprises. You may attract a lot of attention from your favorite people which may make you feel like you are on cloud nine today, if that is not enough, you are very likely to benefit from a new prospect.

**NOVEMBER 29 :** Ganesha says today you can feel blessed to have found your partner. Because they can be your biggest support system through all the good and bad. You can feel today that

they are saviors and you can immediately start planning for your future. Today you can get attracted to genuine people in your life as you are not influenced by people who show off today. Meeting old friends can increase your enthusiasm. New equations are created in the workplace. Beware of enemies who may try to defame you as you are very outspoken today.

**NOVEMBER 30 :** Ganesha says you can see the greatness in your day if you pay attention to the little good things that happen throughout the day. It is advised not to get into heated arguments with them as it can hurt the relationship, which can also hurt your health. May your entire day be filled with doing the things you love and spending time with your favorite people i.e. your friends and family in the lap of nature. Lots of exercise in the form of games can also make you happy.

**DECEMBER 1 :** Ganesha says you may undergo a positive change in your mental and physical health. This positive

change can help you participate and be more involved in social events. Overall, today your day can be spent in the fun. You may make a lot of profit today in your business which may set a positive tone for the day. You will no longer have to do the things you hate at work. You may have the time, space, and ability to follow your passion.

*Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [www.bejandaruwala.com](http://www.bejandaruwala.com) | [info@bejandaruwala.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwala.com) | +91 81412 34275*

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

# Sikh History This Week

## NOVEMBER 22 TO NOVEMBER 28

### 22nd November



1664 Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji visited Sri Amritsar. About a month after his installation as the Guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur decided to visit Amritsar and pay homage at Sri Harmandir Sahib. Since Guru Hargobind's departure from Amritsar to Kiratpur in 1635 no other Guru had visited Harmandir Sahib. The custody of the shrine had fallen in the hands of Minas, Prithi Chand's descendants, who were staunch enemies of the Sikh Gurus and their families. On hearing of the arrival of Guru Tegh Bahadur in Amritsar, the occupants closed the doors of the shrine and refused to admit the Guru and his party into the Gurudwara. Guru Tegh Bahadur with his followers camped under a tree only a few meters to the north of Akal Takhat. This place was later known as Thara Sahib and a gurudwara was built at the site. A few days later, on the full moon light, Makhana Shah and his men, who had accompanied the Guru to Amritsar, managed to get admittance into Harmandir Sahib. Guru Tegh Bahadur went in and offered his prayers.

1693 Aurangzeb issued orders that read: "News from Sirhind, Gobind declares himself to be Guru Nanak. Faujdars ordered to prevent him from assembling his forces." When these orders did not produce much effect, "a general order was issued for their massacre."

1818 Maharaja Ranjit Singh's forces conquered Peshwar.

1840 Co-regency of Chand Kaur and Sher Singh formed.

1848 Anglo-Sikh war was fought at Ram Nagar, Gujranwala.

### 23rd November

1845 Sikh troops marched to the Sutlej ferries.



1938 Kahan Singh Nabha, a great Sikh scholar passed away.

### 24th November



1271 Bhagat Nam Dev Ji was born at Nursi Bahamani, district Sitara (Maharashtra). His verses have been included in Sri Guru Granth Sahib. He died in 1349 at Pandarpur.

Nam Dev was a celebrated saint whose name was a household word for the people of Maharashtra. They chanted his hymns amidst their families.

He was born in the village of Narsi Bamni in the Satara District of Maharashtra. His father was Dam Seti and mother Gona Bai. He was inspired to bhakti by his father and later became a disciple of Vishoba Khechar. They say, that once, when his maternal grandfather was to go out somewhere, he instructed Nam Dev to offer milk to God. Following the instructions literally, he placed a cup of milk before the image of the Lord. With a child's unquestioning faith and unflattering devotion he created such an atmosphere that God drank the proffered milk. Another time, when Nam Dev was absorbed in meditation, the proud Brahmans, jealous of his spiritual attainments, threw him out of the temple, saying that being a Shudra, he had no business to be in a holy place. Nam Dev bore the humiliation calmly and sat outside the back wall of the temple and plunged into deep meditation. Moved by his love and devotion, God performed a miracle and the temple gate moved to where Nam Dev was sitting. Seeing this, the Brahmans recognized his greatness and besought him for forgiveness.

1598 Akbar visited Guru Arjan Dev Ji at Goindwal. Guru Arjan's perception of the times to come was not withstanding Akbar's high regards for him. According to the Court historian, Abdul Fazal's Akbar Namah, Guru Arjan accorded a prodigious reception to Akbar on this day at Goindwal. Akbar was really impressed by Guru Arjan's bewitching and handsome appearance, sweet and melodious voice and fascinating and charming manners, his princely style of living, his warm reception and his singing of hymns in praise of God. At Guru Arjan's instance, Akbar issued orders to remit the revenue by one-sixth.

1675 Martyrdom, Ninth Patshah, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

1969 Fateh Singh announced another fast unto death for transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab. The fast was to begin on Jan. 26, 1970, to be followed by self-immolation on Feb. 1, 1970.

1979 "Maerath Morcha" announced on behalf of All India Sikh Student Federation.

### 25th November

1710 Sikhs successfully attacked and killed Rustam Dil Khan near Sadorae.

1888 The final straw, causing a breakup among Singh and Arya Samaj, came at the Lahore Arya Samaj anniversary celebrations. Here Lala Guru Datt Arora in a speech sharply criticised Sikhism. Pertinently, he said that is Swami Dayanand called Guru Nanak a fraud, what

did that matter? Swamiji had the sum of the Vedas in his hands! He continued that "Guru Gobind Singh was not even a hundredth part like our Maharishi Sawami Dayanand Saraswati and it is difficult to say whether the Sikhs have any religion or not, but surely they have no knowledge of any kind." Other Arya speakers, specifically Pandit Lekh Ram and Lala Murlidhar rose to second Lala Guru Datt's comments and added their own words of sarcasm to the criticism of Sikh religion.

1967 Lachman Singh Gill became the Chief Minister of Punjab.

### 26th November



1708 Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur) stormed Samana Town, leaving 10,000 dead, followed up by routing Faujdars of Kapuri and Mustabad. Samana was a center of traditional Sikh hatred. The executor of Guru Tegh Bahadur belonged to this place; his son had beheaded the two younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh; evacuation of Anandpur Sahib was made by the Guru on strength of false promises made by Ali Husain of Samana. The Khalsa army punished the tyrants and their associates. Later, the city of the "Jallads" (executioners) was placed under the charge of Fateh Singh, one of the five Councillors.

1871 Giani Rattan Singh Namdhari and his assistant Rattan Singh were hanged outside Ludhiana jail in open public view.

1949 The Sikhs rejected the new Constitution of India. The Sikh members refused to sign it.

1972 The first Gurdwara service was held at the Guru Ram Das Ashram in Los Angeles, California.

1973 A young Navy enlisted man was ordered to report for captain's mast at Miramar Naval Air Station at San Diego to explain the uniform he wore. When he reported for duty on this day, he was told that white turbans are definitely non-regulation.

### 27th November

1502 Guru Amar Das married Bibi Mansa Devi of village Sankhetra, district Sialkot, daughter of Baba Devi Chand of Behl Clan. After the marriage, Bibi Mansa Devi was renamed as Bibi Ram Kaur. They had their first child in 1519, a daughter Bibi Dani, when Guru Amar Das was 40 years old. Other children from this marriage were Baba Mohan born in 1521, Baba Mohri born in 1522, and Bibi Bhani born in 1534.

1914 Sikhs unsuccessfully attempted to attack Ferozepur Fort. Bhai Sahib Randhir Singh, a stalwart of the Ghadr movement, took part in this attack and was consequently arrested on May 9, 1915 and galloped for a long term of imprisonment till Oct. 4, 1930 under section 121 (a) of the Indian Penal Code in the Second Lahore Conspiracy Case.



**K**aal Bhairav Jayanti, also known as Kala-Bhairav Ashtami or Bhairav Jayanti that falls on the eighth lunar day (Ashtami) in the fortnight of the Krishna paksha (waning phase of the moon) of every month in the Hindu calendar. This year, the festival falls on 22 November. Hindu devotees celebrate this auspicious festival to worship Lord Bhairav ("terrible") a fearsome and wrathful manifestation of Lord Shiva. Different stories from Shiv Purana describe that Kaal Bhairav is the supreme Lord of ghosts, goblins, zombies, mutants, witches, and other magical creatures. Kaal Bhairav Jayanti is celebrated throughout India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. This day is considered more auspicious if it falls on a Tuesday or a Sunday. Chanting of mantras and reciting Kaal Bhairav Katha (story) on this day, leads to success, develops a spiritual mind, and destroys enemies like anger, greed, and lust. One of the oldest and holy cities of India, Varanasi, celebrates a grand ceremony on the day of Bhairav Jayanti. Millions of pilgrims visit the temple of Lord Bhairav which is believed to be re-structured and build in the mid-17th century AD. Though Lord Kaal Bhairav appears as a fearsome and wrathful manifestation in many scriptures and Vedic textbooks, He is a highly benevolent form of Lord Shiva. Thus, pleasing Kaal Bhairav is very easy and can be easily done by chanting the Kaal Bhairav mantra with a pure heart.

#### Kaal Bhairav Puja Vidhi

The most appropriate and auspicious time to worship Kaal Bhairav is during the evening hours of a Sunday or a Tuesday. Hindu devotees visit a temple while carrying sacred materials such as coconut, flowers, sindoor, mustard oil, black sesame, etc to worship Kaal Bhairav.

- Devotees take an early morning bath and then start performing the puja.
- Most of the devotees visit a temple in the evening to worship all the three deities- Goddess Parvati, Lord Shiva, and Lord Kaal Bhairav.
- They offer flowers, Diyas, sweets, and fruits to the deities.
- After this, people worship Lord Kaal Bhairav with mantras and prayers.
- Once the puja is completed, devotees recite the Kaal Bhairav Katha (story").
- Devotees stay up all night to listen to the stories of Lord Shiva and Lord Kaal Bhairav from a priest or an eminent speaker
- Devotees perform the Kaal Bhairav aarti during midnights with some traditional music along with conchs, bells, and drums.
- Devotees observe a full day fast and break the fast only after the midnight aarti with some fruits and Prasad
- As per teachings of sacred texts, Lord Kaal Bhairav rides on a dog. So, some devotees serve sweets and milk to the dogs.

Followings are few things that must be considered on this auspicious day -

#### Do's:

- Wake up before sunrise and take a holy bath.
- Do not hurt dogs, instead offer them milk, sweets, and other foods.
- Visit a temple of Kaal Bhairav or Lord Shiva.

#### Don'ts:

- Do not sleep during the daytime, you may incur financial losses.
- Avoid eating any type of food (other than fruits) during a fast on Kalashtami.
- As per expert's opinion, it is a sin to worship Kaal Bhairav for the destruction of your enemies.

#### Mantras to chant during the puja

A devotee should chant Kaalbhairava Ashtakam on this day to please Lord Bhairav. By chanting this Ashtakam one can realize the true meaning of life and can free himself from grief (shoka), attachment and delusion (moha, maya), poverty (garibi), greed (lobha),

# Kaal Bhairav Jayanti



anger (kopa), and sufferings (pida).

#### Kaal Bhairav Mantra

*"Hrim batukaya apadudharanaya kuru kuru batukaya hrim."*

*"Om hreem vam vatukarasa Apaduddharaka vatukaaya hreem"*

*"Om Hraam Hreem Hroom Hrime Hroum Ksham Kshetrapaalaava Kaala Bhairavaaya Namaha"*

#### Raal Bhairav Gayatri Mantra

*Om Kaalakaalaaya Vidhmahey, Kaalaatheethaaya dheemahi, Thanno Kaala Bhatrava Prachodhayaath.*

#### Kaal Bhairav Beeja Mantras

*"Om aim hraam kleem shri batukbhairavaya"*

#### Significance

Lord Shiva had taken several incarnations. But one of the most fearsome avatars of Lord Shiva is the Kaal Bhairav. The worship of Kaal Bhairav with complete devotion fulfils all the desires of a devotee.

- Evidences from Hindu mythology describes that those who worship Lord Kaal Bhairav and observes fast on His Jayanti help themselves to get relieved from all their sins as well as to bring victory in all spheres of life
- On this holy day, the chanting of Bhairav Asthak with devotion destroys the frightening dreams and brings success in all endeavors
- It is believed that performing Kaal Bhairav puja before any marriage ceremony, childbirth, or any auspicious work helps to destroy all obstacles.
- Astrologers advocate that observing fast on this day eliminates all "Shani and Rahu doshas from

**"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**

the Kundali of a devotee

#### Legend

Kaal Bhairav Jayanti is one of the holy festivals that possesses immense significance and importance for the followers of Lord Shiva. Bhairav is considered as a manifestation of Shiva's wrath. According to the Hindu scriptures, one day the trinity of Gods: Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma were discussing their supremacy and power. But eventually, the discussion had gone at such an extreme level that the great rishis and sages were called to suggest a solution. After giving deep thought and several discussions they came up with a suggestion, Lord Brahma expressed his concern and rejected that suggestion. Seeing this behaviour of Lord Brahma, Lord Shiva felt slighted by the remarks made by Brahma and got angry as that was an insult to him. Suddenly, Lord Kaal Bhairav, a fearful incarnation of Lord Shiva appeared from His forehead and chopped up one head out of the five heads of Lord Brahma. Since that day, Hindu devotees celebrate Kaal Bhairav Jayanti and offer prayers to get bestowed with success, good health as well as to get rid of all their accumulated sins.

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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."

# Art: Ipsitaa, India's first "triple threat" talent



BY PRABHJOT SINGH



She is all rolled into one. A multi-talented artist, an academic scholar, a kathak dancer, a trained singer, an actress, and a coach make Ipsitaa, a globe-trotter Chandigarh girl, cynosure of all eyes. Her journey to stardom commenced with her debut song, 'First Kiss,' in collaboration with the celebrated artist Yo Yo Honey Singh. That sensational track amassed 238 million views on YouTube and received 34 million streams on Spotify.

She belongs to rare category multi-talented artists, who also achieved academic excellence at institutions like London School of Economics, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Cornell as well as Stanford. With her unique blend of talent, Ipsitaa is poised to become India's first 'triple threat' talent, following in the footsteps of her idols in the West who have proven through their determination that girls, can indeed, do it all.

Ipsitaa's musical prowess continued to flourish with the release of four independent songs, each a testament to her talent and artistry. Notably, her single - 'Solo Laila' - garnered widespread acclaim for its empowering message to women, boasting 20 million views on YouTube and 1.4 million streams on Spotify. Next, she

was seen in her soul-stirring Punjabi ballad, 'Nikaah,' which resonated deeply with women around the world.

Her diverse portfolio also includes 'Dilbara,' and a captivating independent Christmas Album, 'Songs of Christmas' showcase her versatility.

Born in Chandigarh and raised in various cities around North India (due to her parents' background in civil service), Ipsitaa showed an early inclination towards singing, acting, and dancing. She began cultivating her skills in pop and opera singing at the age of 12. A testament to her prodigy is the distinction she achieved in the Grade 8 Voice Exam in the category of Vocals: Rock & Pop conducted by Trinity College, London, where she emerged as the topper in North India.

Her early successes extended to her role as the youngest member of the international choir, the Capital City Minstrels, and a position as the lead singer and soloist in her school, where she garnered numerous awards at the inter-school, state, and national levels. She also attained a senior diploma in Kathak at the age of 14. Notably, the performing arts were not her only pursuit.

Her academic brilliance afforded her acceptance offers from Ivy League colleges including Yale, Princeton, Columbia, and Cornell, as well as Stanford. She chose to pursue her dream of attending Yale, where she double majored in Economics and Psychology, while also participating in 14 productions, ranging from operas and musicals to postgraduate-level plays at the Yale School of Drama (for which she was selected via competitive auditions as one of the only undergraduate performers).

She founded Yale's first Indian Classical dance group and took the role of the lead Kathak dancer. Ipsitaa's academic passion for Behavioural Economics led her to pursue higher education. She received an MSc in Behavioural Science from the London School of Economics, where her thesis titled 'Does Engaging in Arts

Improve Life Satisfaction?' demonstrated her commitment to both academics and the arts. But it was only after her fortuitous discovery by Yo Yo Honey Singh's team, through her covers and mashups online, that Ipsitaa realised her true calling in music.

Ipsitaa's artistic endeavours are not solely a reflection of her remarkable talent but also a manifestation of her commitment to addressing significant societal issues.

Her body of work beautifully articulates the struggles and aspirations of women, exploring themes such as the sacrifices imposed by culture and religion, the importance of nurturing dreams without constraints, and the imperative nature of



questioning societal expectations. Ipsitaa's powerful voice serves as an instrument for change, and her passion for addressing women's issues has garnered her a dedicated following. She aspires to blend her Western music training with her Indian heritage to craft songs that resonate deeply with the modern Indian woman.

As she embarks on her journey as a professional artist, she envisions a future filled with music that empowers, inspires, and brings forth the voices of countless women who have remained voiceless in their aspirations and desires.

"Kadar Na Jaane" was a new age pop

song by Ipsitaa that speaks directly to girls, encouraging them to focus on themselves and their own well-being instead of investing in relationships with boys who fail to appreciate their worth. The lyrics vividly depict the common scenario of a girl being wooed by someone who may not have sincere intentions, highlighting the importance of recognising one's value and not settling for less. The song paints a picture of a girl being pursued by someone who may not truly care for her. Despite the promises and declarations of love, the girl is urged to see through the facade and realise her own worth.

The song also serves as a powerful anthem for self-love and empowerment. It encourages girls and women to prioritise honesty, self-respect, and integrity in relationships, and to walk away from those who do not value them. It is more than just a song; it's a powerful reminder for girls to focus on themselves, embrace their worth, and not settle for anything less than genuine love and respect. It is a full out performance music video using colourful sets, new age, K-Pop inspired visuals and dance choreography. It is a video that no other Indian artist has done before to set a new benchmark for Indian pop music.

*(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)*

## IFFI Goa Yacht Pavilion is a game-changer for our producers and filmmakers: Yusuf Shaikh



BY MURTAZA ALI KHAN

The Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association (IMPPA), the oldest and one of the most prestigious film bodies in India, is set to make waves at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa. In a historic initiative led by IMPPA President Shri Abhay Sinha and his dedicated team, the association has secured a luxurious three-storey yacht as its exclusive pavilion for the event.

This state-of-the-art floating venue, parked opposite the Marriott in Goa,



Yusuf Shaikh, Senior IMPPA representative and International Film Festival Committee head

offers a 200-seat LED-screen-equipped banquet space, a dedicated press conference area, trailer launch facilities,



IFFI Goa Yacht Pavilion poster

and even a party hall with a dance floor and swimming pool. The yacht will serve as a vibrant hub for celeb-studded events, press interactions, muhurats, masterclasses, and networking opportunities for the film fraternity.

The IMPPA pavilion at the 55th IFFI will offer masterclasses by top industry experts, including the FIAPF head, on legal rights, IPR, copyright, and screenwriting. It will also serve as a platform for trailer launches, muhurats, and networking opportunities, fostering global collaborations and showcasing Indian cinema to international audiences.

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

# Pahalgam: Ideal destination for hiking, trekking, and fishing



**P**ahalgam, popular as the valley of shepherds, is also the base camp for the pilgrims to the holy Amarnath cave. The place attracts tourists to explore its scenic beauty and the picturesque Lidder valley located in the high Himalayas. An ideal destination for hiking, trekking, and fishing, Pahalgam receives heavy snowfall from December to February. Its thick pine and cedar forests provide a natural habitat for the brown bear. During your vacations in Pahalgam, you may visit Hajan, a picnic spot, which lies on the way to Chandanwari.

Here are some of the must see places in Pahalgam that make your tour quite memorable no matter when you visit:

## Baisaran Hills

Known worldwide as the 'Mini Switzerland' owing to its long, dark meadows looking like those found in Switzerland, Baisaran is a picturesque glade, set just 5 km far from Pahalgam. The thick pine timberland that lends the green-carpet look to the glade gives a differentiating hue to snow-topped crests of the encompassing mountains. One of the top places to visit in Pahalgam, a trip to the knoll is really a treat for the senses. Furthermore, Baisaran is a perfect campground for trekkers who wish to travel further up to Tulian Lake. To get there you need to ride the ponies. An off-beaten track it lets one enjoy panoramic views of the Lidder Valley.

## Pahalgam Golf Course

The Pahalgam fairway offers gorgeous views of the azure skies overhead a thick green turf and snow-covered peaks standing tall at the backdrop. For golf aficionados, playing their favorite sport here is a one of a kind experience. But novices too can try a hand at golf amidst the rich ambiance of the Pahalgam Green.

## Kolahoi Glacier

A breathtakingly beautiful spot Kolahoi Glacier is one of the must see

sightseeing places in Pahalgam. The lone way to get to the Kolahoi Glacier is through a laborious trek, not for the weakling. At 18,000 feet, the stunning views upon entry truly make the journey a memorable experience. The trek is flushed with dense green mountain vegetation & green glades. Thundering River Lidder, thick conifer backwoods with ice cold loquacious rivulets are all there to make the trek to the icy mass all the more memorable.

## Aru Village & Valley

When in Pahalgam, take a tour of the town of the Lidder Valley, Aru. Just 15 kilometers away from Pahalgam, it's the median location for any hike to the Kolahoi glacier, set at a height of 18,000 ft. The drive up to Aru is a scenic one so be ready with your cameras for some stunning shots of the Valley. On the way you'll also see plenty of young fowls and calves. The blue canopy over the head, surreal surroundings, whispers of the local pines & conifer woodlands and wonderful green glades, make Aru an idyllic honeymoon destination.

## Chandanwari

Chandanwari, located on the periphery of Pahalgam, is one of the top tourist places having great religious importance. It is the initiation point of the Amarnath Yatra, an important pilgrimage held in the Hindu month of Sawan. Endowed with breathtaking beauty, this spot is a chief attraction for travelers coming to the Kashmir Valley. Undulating landscapes and sporadic greenery overhangs the topography of this little and picturesque hamlet.

## Tulian Lake

Among the top tourist activities in Pahalgam, a visit to the Tulian Lake is a never to miss opportunity. Set in the midst of the Zaskar and Pir Panjal Mountain ranges the lake gives stunning views of the bordering snow-capped peaks that are for the most part 300 meters above its level. Primarily overlaid



with snow, Tulian Lake journey is a perfect way to witness the natural beauty of Kashmir Valley. Its way from Baisaran is a bit weary, with unmarked trekking trails, but the barren hills and the eye-catching landscape make up for the tiredness.

## Betaab Valley

Betaab Valley is a beautiful spot located in the upper east side of Pahalgam. This valley ascribed its name to the hit Bollywood film Betaab, which was shot in its picturesque surrounding. Sprawling lush meadows, snow-topped peaks and winding streams form the amazing topography of this valley. Aside from being a spot with noteworthy topography, the valley is a well known trekking base and campground for

voyagers who are looking to scout the adjacent highland regions. The secluded settings, and the natural lush surroundings of the Betaab valley attracts many just-married couples, who are on a honeymoon trip to Kashmir.

## Mattan

Mattan, located a couple of kilometers from Anantnag on the Pahalgam road, is a sacred Hindu pilgrimage site. The holy place attracts large number of devotees from all parts of the country. It is one of those religious spots in India where the ministers and savants used to assemble for worshipping the Sun God. The temple is well known for its lovely Shiva Lingam, which is safeguarded inside a captivating brick structure encompassed by clear blue water on all sides.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

## Surprises galore in Assembly elections and by polls

to retain power in Maharashtra, and winning nine seats so far and was leading in 217 of the 288 Assembly seats, as per the latest figures of the counting process in the November 20 elections.

After the certainty of the poll outcome, the focus has now shifted to BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, the architect of his party's stunning victory. Political circles are abuzz with reports that the state's second Brahmin to become the CM will don the post for the third time.

As per the latest figures from the Election Commission, the BJP has so far won nine seats and is leading in 125, the Shiv Sena has won three and is ahead in 53 seats, while the NCP has won two and is leading in 37 seats.

In the MVA, the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) candidates were leading in 11 seats, Congress in 20 and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) in 19 seats.

The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi has suffered a crushing defeat, with its candidates leading in just 50 seats, a far cry from the boasts - till this morning - by many of its senior leaders that the combine will trounce the Mahayuti.

### JHARKHAND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren during a public meeting.

File photo / PTI

In Jharkhand, Hemant Soren's JMM-led alliance was all set to retain Jharkhand as it was leading in at least 50 seats in the 81-member state Assembly on Saturday, as per the Election Commission data.

The performance of the BJP-led NDA, which was seen as confident about its prospects in the state after an aggressive campaign, was poorer than its expectations. It was leading in only 29 seats.

The BJP's poll plank was driving out "infiltrators" from the Santhal Parganas region, but it seemed to have fallen flat in front of the 'Adivasi' card played by the JMM, which also sought people's sympathy over the arrest of Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

### BENGAL BYPOLLS



Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee

In Bengal Bypolls, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's TMC has taken a massive lead, and the party eyes a clean sweep.

Ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) candidates have taken an unassailable lead in the bypolls held in the six Assembly constituencies in West Bengal, with counting underway since 8 am on Saturday.

These results are drawing significant attention, especially in light of the ongoing protests related to the RG Kar Medical College incident, which has sparked public outcry in the state.

The bypolls were held in Naihati, Haroa, Medinipur, Taldangra, Sitai (SC), and Madarihat (ST), following the resignation of sitting MLAs who had secured victories in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, thus vacating their assembly seats.

These elections are seen as an important political test for the state's ruling party.

## U.S. court issues arrest warrant for Gautam Adani: report

September 2024, TotalEnergies paid \$444 million into a joint venture with Adani Green Energy for a 50% stake in 1.15 gigawatts of solar installations at the Khavda solar park. File

In September 2024, TotalEnergies paid \$444 million into a joint venture with Adani Green Energy for a 50% stake in 1.15 gigawatts of solar installations at the Khavda solar park. File | Photo Credit: Reuters

"Gautam and Sagar Adani knew their renewable energy company was under U.S. investigation for suspected bribery when they sold part of India's largest solar park to France's TotalEnergies," prosecutors alleged in legal documents reviewed by Reuters.

TotalEnergies did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Friday (November 22, 2024) on whether it knew the Adanis were being probed by U.S. authorities over an alleged bribery and fraud scheme when it bought the Khavda solar stake.

U.S. prosecutors on Thursday (November 23, 2024) charged eight people - including Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, and the former CEO of Adani Green Energy Limited - with promising and then making improper payments to officials between July 2021 and 2024 to ensure the solar project's success.

In September 2024, TotalEnergies paid \$444 million into a joint venture with Adani Green Energy for a 50% stake in 1.15 gigawatts of solar installations at the Khavda solar park - the project at the heart of the bribery charges.

The French oil and gas company is not named in the criminal case. The Adani Group has called the allegations baseless. It did not immediately respond to an email seeking comments about this story.

According to the U.S. indictment, FBI special agents served Adani Green Energy Executive Director Sagar Adani with a search warrant and grand jury subpoena in March 2023 - more than a year before the sale to TotalEnergies. These documents identified Adani Green Energy, its former CEO Vneet Jaain, and chairman Gautam Adani as under investigation for alleged bribery to obtain business advantages for the firm.

TotalEnergies bought a 20% stake in Adani Green Energy in January 2021 - after the company won what was then the world's largest solar order, and just months before the alleged payments to officials began.

Sankaran Ratnam, TotalEnergies' country chair for India and the French firm's nominee to the board of directors of Adani Green Energy, did not respond to a request for comment on whether he had been aware of the investigation at the time TotalEnergies bought the stake in the Khavda assets.

## Crimes against humanity: Key U.N. committee adopts resolution paving way for first-ever treaty

Watch's senior legal adviser for advocacy, told The Associated Press. "It sends a crucial message that

impunity for the kinds of crimes inflicted on civilians in Ethiopia, Sudan, Ukraine, southern Israel, Gaza and Myanmar will not go unheeded," he said.

The resolution calls for a time-bound process with preparatory sessions in 2026 and 2027, and three-week negotiating sessions in 2028 and 2029 to finalize a treaty on crimes against humanity.

Mr. Dicker said Russia's proposed amendments left in question whether treaty negotiations would have been completed. Russia's Deputy U.N. Ambassador Maria Zabolotskaya said Russia withdrew the amendments "in a spirit of compromise." But she said Russia "dissociates itself from consensus."

"This, of course, does not mean that we are not ready to work on this crucial convention," Ms. Zabolotskaya told the committee.

The International Criminal Court was established to punish major perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide and it has 124 countries that are parties to it. The ICC says crimes against humanity are committed as part of a large-scale attack on civilians and it lists 15 forms including murder, rape, imprisonment, enforced disappearances, sexual slavery, torture and deportation. But the ICC does not have jurisdiction over nearly 70 other countries.

There are global treaties that cover war crimes, genocide and torture - but there has been no specific treaty addressing crimes against humanity. And according to sponsors of the resolution, led by Mexico and Gambia and backed by 96 other countries, a new treaty will fill the gap.

Kelly Adams, legal advisor at the Global Justice Center, also called the resolution "a historic breakthrough" after many delays. Pointing to "the proliferation of crimes against humanity around the world," she expressed hope that a treaty will be "strong, progressive and survivor-centric."

Amnesty International's Secretary General Agnes Callamard expressed disappointment that the timeline had been extended until 2029, but said, "What's important is that this process will deliver a viable convention."

"It is long overdue and all the more welcome at a time when too many states are intent on wrecking international law and universal standards," she said. "It is a clear sign that states are ready to reinforce the international justice framework and clamp down on safe havens from investigation and prosecution for perpetrators of these heinous crimes."

After the resolution's adoption, Gambia's Counselor Amadou Jaiteh, who had introduced it hours earlier, called its approval "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a difference," to hope for a world without crimes against humanity, "and a world where voices of victims are heard louder than their perpetrators."

## Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll: Priyanka's lead surges to 350,000 votes

The Congress-led UDF's candidate from this hill constituency, Priyanka on Saturday extended her lead by close to 3.5 lakh votes after four hours of counting of the ballots in the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll, according to the Election Commission.

Reacting to the lead achieved by Priyanka, Congress' ally Indian Union Muslim League and Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said she would get more votes than her brother Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha polls in April this year and will win by a record margin.

"An amazing first trend on counting day is the massive early lead for our leader @priyankagandhi ji in Wayanad, Kerala, by-election. People of Wayanad are surely going to record in victory margins today and Priyanka ji will make Parliamentary debut with a grand win," Reddy said in a post on 'X'.

IUML supremo Panakkad Sadiq Ali Shihab Thangal said that going by the trends, Priyanka will get more votes than what Rahul got and the majority she achieves would also be higher than that of her brother.

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



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# History This Week NOV 22 - NOV 28

## NOVEMBER 22

November 22, 1935 - Trans-Pacific airmail service began as the China Clipper, a Pan American flying boat, took off from San Francisco, reaching the Philippines 59 hours later. The following year, commercial passenger service began.



November 22, 1943 - The Cairo Conference occurred as President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Chinese Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek, met to discuss the war in the Pacific against Japan.

November 22, 1963 - At 12:30 p.m., on Elm Street in downtown Dallas, President John F. Kennedy's motorcade slowly approached a triple underpass. Shots rang out. The President was struck in the back, then in the head. He was rushed to Parkland Memorial Hospital where fifteen doctors tried to save him. At 1 p.m., John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, was pronounced dead. On board Air Force One, at 2:38 p.m., Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn in as the 36th President.

November 22, 1975 - Juan Carlos was sworn in as King of Spain, following the death of General Francisco Franco who had ruled as dictator since 1939.

November 22, 1990 - British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced she would resign after 11 years in office, the longest term of any British Prime Minister in the 20th century.

Birthdays - Charles De Gaulle (1890-1970) was born in Lille, France. He led the Free French against the Nazis during World War II and later became President of France, serving from 1958-69.

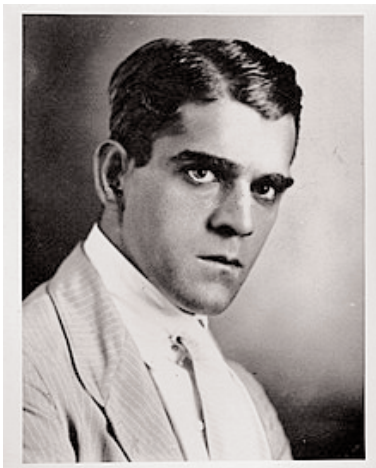
Birthdays - Barnstorming aviator Wiley Post (1898-1935) was born in Grand Plain, Texas. He was a self-taught pilot who became an international celebrity in the 1930s and co-authored *Around the World in Eight Days*. In 1935, Post and his friend Will Rogers began a flight to the Orient, however, the plane crashed near Point Barrow, Alaska, killing both of them.

Birthdays - British composer Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) was born in Lowestoft, Suffolk, England. Best known for his operas including *Peter Grimes* and his choral works *A Ceremony of Carols* and *War Requiem*.

## NOVEMBER 23

Birthdays - Wild West outlaw Billy the Kid (1859-1881) was born in New York City (probably as Henry McCarty, better known as William H. Bonney). He was a

ruthless killer who escaped from jail and a sentence of hanging at age 21. He was recaptured at Stinking Springs, New Mexico, but escaped again. At Fort Sumner, on the night of July 14, 1881, he reportedly asked, "Who's there?" only to be shot twice through the heart by Sheriff Pat Garrett.



Birthdays - Horror film actor Boris Karloff (1887-1969) was born in London (as William Henry Pratt). Best known for appearing in the title role in *Frankenstein* and *The Bride of Frankenstein*.

## NOVEMBER 24



November 24, 1969 - The U.S. Army announced that Lt. William L. Calley had been charged with premeditated murder in the massacre of civilians in the Vietnamese village of My Lai in March of 1968. Calley was ordered to stand trial by court martial and was later convicted and sentenced to life in prison. However, his sentence was later commuted to three years of house arrest by President Richard Nixon.

November 24, 1989 - In Czechoslovakia, mass demonstrations resulted in the resignation of the entire presidium and secretariat of the Czechoslovak Communist Party.

November 24, 1992 - The U.S. military departed the Philippines after nearly a century of military presence. In 1991, the Philippine Senate had voted to reject a renewal of the lease for the American military base.

November 24, 1998 - Britain's Queen Elizabeth II opened a new session of Parliament by announcing a bill to do away with the centuries-old right of aristocrats to sit in the House of Lords, thereby taking membership and voting rights away from 759 Dukes, Earls and other hereditary nobles with titles dating

as far back as the Middle Ages.

Birthdays - German Field Marshal Erich von Manstein (1887-1973) was born in Berlin. His plan for the German invasion of France in 1940 involved staging a surprise attack through the Ardennes Forest, and was a stunning success. He went on to achieve several important victories over the Russians in the East, but was dismissed by Hitler in 1944 following a series of arguments over military strategy.

Birthdays - Motivational lecturer Dale Carnegie (1888-1955) was born in Maryville, Missouri. Best known for his 1936 book *How to Win Friends and Influence People* which sold millions of copies and was translated into 29 languages.

## NOVEMBER 25

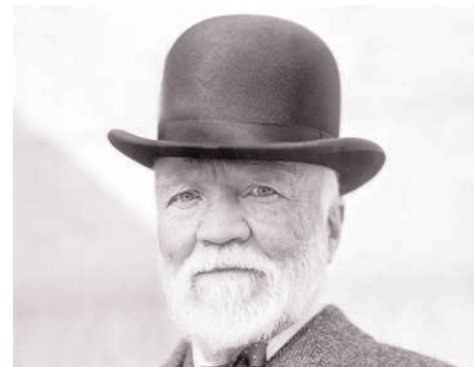
November 25, 1936 - Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan signed the Anti-Comintern Pact, an agreement to collaborate in opposing the spread of Communism.

November 25, 1963 - Three days after his assassination, John F. Kennedy was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

November 25, 1974 - Britain outlawed the IRA (Irish Republican Army) following the deaths of 21 persons in a pub bombing in Birmingham.

November 25, 1992 - The parliament in Czechoslovakia voted to divide the country into separate Czech and Slovak republics.

November 25, 1995 - By a margin of less than one percent, Ireland voted to legalize divorce, the closest vote in the nation's history.



Birthdays - American financier Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was born in Dunfermline, Scotland. He emigrated to America, made his fortune in steel, then became a major philanthropist. Among his gifts; over 2,500 libraries, Carnegie Hall, Carnegie Foundation, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He once wrote, "The man who dies rich dies disgraced."

Birthdays - American temperance leader Carry Nation (1846-1911) was born in Garrard County, Kentucky. She was famed as a hatchet-wielding smasher of saloons.

Birthdays - Pope John XXIII (1881-1963) was born in Sotte il Monte, Italy (as Angelo Roncalli). He became the 261st Pope of the Roman Catholic Church in 1958 and served until his death in June of 1963. During his reign, he convened the Second Vatican Council which modernized the mass and increased openness to other religions and denominations.

Birthdays - Chilean military leader

Augusto Pinochet (1915-2006) was born in Valparaiso, Chile. He overthrew President Salvador Allende in 1973 and remained in power until he lost the elections in 1990.

## NOVEMBER 26



November 26, 1922 - In Egypt, Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon first went inside the tomb of King Tutankhamen.

November 26, 1940 - During the Holocaust, Nazis began walling off the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw, sealing in 400,000 inhabitants while denying them adequate food, sanitation and housing.

November 26, 1979 - After an absence of 21 years, the International Olympic Committee voted to re-admit China.

November 26, 1992 - British Prime Minister John Major announced Queen Elizabeth II had agreed to pay taxes on her personal income.

November 26, 1998 - In Dublin, Tony Blair became the first British Prime Minister to appear before the Irish Parliament, which had been created 80 years earlier in defiance of the British government.

## NOVEMBER 27



Birthdays - Israeli statesman Chaim Weizmann (1874-1952) was born near Pinsk, Byelorussia. He helped bring about the British government's Balfour Declaration, which called for the establishment of a national home for Jews in Palestine.

Birthdays - Czech leader Alexander Dubcek (1921-1992) was born in Uhrovec, Slovakia. In 1968, as first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, he attempted to achieve "socialism with a human face" and loosen Soviet Russia's control of his country. This resulted in a military invasion by the Russians.

## NOVEMBER 28

November 28, 1905 - Irish political party Sinn Fein was founded in Dublin by Arthur Griffith.



November 28, 1919 - Lady Nancy Astor was elected as the first female in the British House of Commons.

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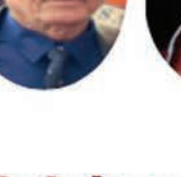
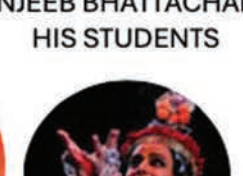
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## Shraddha Kapoor to join Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR for special song in War 2: Report

Shraddha Kapoor, after winning hearts with her performance in *Street Dancer 3D*, is now reportedly in talks to join Hrithik Roshan for *War 2*. Latest reports suggest that she could be joining Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR for a special song in the film. Although Shraddha won't be the female lead in this high-octane thriller, her possible collaboration with the two stars has generated significant excitement. But there is no official confirmation yet.

This news comes after Shraddha was reportedly replaced in *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, where she was initially considered for a special song opposite Allu Arjun. However, negotiations fell through, and Sreeleela was later confirmed for the track, as seen in *Pushpa 2* trailer. Despite missing out on this project, Shraddha's potential involvement in *War 2* has sparked a fresh wave of enthusiasm among her fans.

Directed by Ayan Mukerji, *War 2* is set to release on August 14 next year and is part of the YRF Spy Universe. Kiara Advani is set to star opposite Hrithik Roshan, while Jr NTR will play the antagonist. Jr NTR was recently seen at Hyderabad airport, reportedly on his way to Mumbai for the shoot of *War 2*. The franchise has been making headlines since Hrithik's cameo in *Tiger 3*, which was widely celebrated by audiences.

# Big B calls out 'speculations' about his family amid divorce rumors of Abhishek-Aishwarya

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan's divorce rumors are all around the internet. A lot has been said about their marriage. The Bachchan family is always in the news but recently, we have heard a lot of negative stories around them. It has been said that Aishwarya does not get along with the family and the couple has been living separately. Abhishek and Aishwarya were not spotted for Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding as well. This made people believe that they are not together. Even during birthdays, the couple have not wished each other on social media.

We also heard of rumours that said Abhishek Bachchan's Dasvi costar Nimrat Kaur is the reason for this. However, now, Amitabh Bachchan has finally reacted to these rumours. He took to his blog on Tumblr and opened up about the speculations about his family.

He wrote, "It takes immense courage conviction and a sincerity to be different and believe in its presence in life .. I rarely say much about family, because that is my domain and its privacy is maintained by me .. Speculations are speculations .. they are speculated untruths, without verifications .. Verifications are sought by the seekers to authenticate their business and commercials of the profession they be in .. I shall not challenge their desire to be in the profession of their choice .. and I shall appreciate their effort in serving society .."

He went on to indirectly slam people for using question marks and sharing unverified things as news. He shared how these questions and unverified informations can be harmful.

He shared, "But untruths .. or selected question marked information can be a



legal safeguard for them that inform .. but the seed of suspected belief is sown with this most used emblem .. the question mark .. ? write express whatever you like .. but when you follow it up with a question mark, you are not only saying that the write may be questionable .. but also quite surreptitiously wanting the reader to believe and expand on it, so that your

write gets valued repeats .."

He spoke about being credible while writing about a particular thing and shared the disregard of how what's written may affect the individual. He concluded saying, "I have question marked it .. SO THERE .., !!! move on to the next .. EaCH PROFESSION CAN HAVE THESE QUALITIES .. and this is my safeguard in the write .."

## Kangana's Emergency finally gets theatrical release date



After much anticipation, Kangana Ranaut's political drama *Emergency* has received censor clearance and is now scheduled for a theatrical release on January 17, 2025. The film, set during the 1970s when the Emergency was declared, promises to offer a gripping exploration of one of the most pivotal and most spoken about chapters in Indian democracy.

Written, directed, and headlined by Kangana Ranaut, *Emergency* portrays the life and times of India's first female Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. Sharing the update with fans on social media, Kangana wrote, "17th January 2025 – The epic saga of the nation's most powerful woman and the moment that altered India's destiny. #Emergency – Unveils Only in cinemas on 17.01.2025 (sic)!"

The film was initially scheduled for release on September 6 this year. However, it ran into controversy

after multiple complaints by several Sikh groups were made alleging that the film showed the Sikh community in a bad light. The censor board reviewed the film again and issued around 13 cuts and changes to the film, passing the content with a U/A certificate. The revising committee told the makers to comply with the changes and obtain the certificate for its release in theatres. The list of cuts included removal of a few violent scenes, and a reference to Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale as 'saint or sant' in a dialogue.

It features a powerful ensemble cast, including Anupam Kher, Mahima Chaudhary, Milind Soman, Shreyas Talpade, Vishak Nair, and the late Satish Kaushik. Produced by Zee Studios, Manikarnika Films and Renu Pitti, *Emergency* boasts a musical score by Sanchit Balhara and G.V. Prakash Kumar, with dialogues and screenplay crafted by the acclaimed Ritesh Shah.



## Robert Pattinson joins cast of Christopher Nolan's upcoming film

Hollywood star Robert Pattinson is set to reunite with director Christopher Nolan for the filmmaker's upcoming feature film.

The untitled project is Christopher Nolan's next film following the success of the multiple award-winning *Oppenheimer*, which earned him his first Academy Award for Best Director.

Robert Pattinson, who played one of the lead roles in Christopher Nolan's 2020 sci-fi action thriller *Tenet*, will star alongside Matt Damon, Tom Holland, Zendaya, Anne Hathaway, and Lupita Nyong'o in Nolan's upcoming film.

According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, plot details for the untitled film are being kept under wraps, but sources suggest that the setting is not contemporary. It is also unclear whether the movie will take place in the past or the future.

Christopher Nolan wrote the script and is directing the film, which will be distributed by Universal Pictures.

The filmmaker is also backing the project alongside producing partner and wife, Emma Thomas, for their Syncopy banner.

Universal Pictures has set a release date of July 17, 2026, for the movie.

# Angelina Jolie reveals all her six kids are with her ex-husband Brad Pitt

Angelina Jolie, known for her roles in films like *Maleficent* and *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*, recently opened up about her most cherished role—being a mother. In an interview with *Good Morning America*, Jolie, 49, shared how motherhood is the greatest joy of her life, far surpassing her career in the entertainment industry. When asked if there was anything in her life that compares to the passion Maria Callas had for singing, she responded, “Motherhood. It’s my happiness. You can take everything else away from me. Nothing else matters.”

Jolie has six children with her ex-husband Brad Pitt: Maddox, Pax, Zahara, Shiloh, and twins Knox and Vivienne. While the world has watched her children grow up in the spotlight, Jolie emphasized their desire for privacy. “None of them want to be in front of the camera,” she said, referring to her children’s reluctance to participate in the public eye after their early exposure due to their famous parents’ high-profile relationship.

Jolie also noted how her children, particularly her daughter Shiloh, are “quite private.” She explained that Shiloh is “extremely private,” adding that the children “weren’t born with privacy,” a reference to the intense media attention they received from a young age. “So I hope they can have that as they get older,” Jolie said, underscoring her hopes for her children to lead a more private life in the future.

Despite their preference for privacy, Jolie has allowed glimpses into her family life on rare occasions. Recently, her children have started to show interest in the entertainment industry, albeit in quieter, behind-the-scenes roles. Her two eldest sons, Maddox and Pax, worked with Jolie behind the scenes on her latest film *Maria*, where she portrays legendary opera singer Maria Callas. Jolie called the experience of working with them “amazing.” Furthermore, she collaborated with her youngest daughter, Vivienne, on the Broadway show *The Outsiders*. While these experiences allow her children to engage in the creative world, they do so away from the intense glare of the public eye.

Jolie’s youngest son, Knox, recently made his first public red carpet appearance in three years at the 2024 Governors Awards, where he accompanied his mother as her plus-one. Despite the long absence from public events, Knox appeared relaxed as he walked the carpet arm-in-arm with Jolie,



suggesting that while the children may shy away from the spotlight, they are comfortable in certain settings, especially when with their mother.

## Nicole Kidman ‘lying’ about Tom Cruise viral divorce meme?



Nicole Kidman’s 2001 divorce from Tom Cruise has been a subject of much public fascination, and one iconic image of Kidman, which many fans believe represents her post-divorce glow, has recently stirred controversy. The image shows Kidman walking down the street with her arms raised in a gesture of apparent relief, which has been widely circulated as a meme with the notion that it captured a moment of freedom after her tumultuous marriage ended. However, Kidman has now set the record straight, claiming that the photo has been misunderstood and is, in fact, from a film shoot.

In an interview with *GQ*, Kidman addressed the viral image, clarifying, “That wasn’t me; it was from a film, not real life. I know that image!” Her statement shocked many fans, who had long believed the picture was an authentic, post-divorce paparazzi shot. The internet quickly erupted in disbelief, as Kidman’s explanation seemed both vague and unsatisfactory. Fans took to social media to voice their confusion, with some skeptics even claiming that Kidman was “lying” about the origins

of the image.

One social media user wrote, “I just did a deep dive, and not only does she fail to specify the movie, but none of her countless fans have a single theory on what film it could be from. I feel confident concluding that she’s lying—it’s a post-divorce paparazzi shot.” Another chimed in with, “I searched everywhere. THIS IS NOT FROM A MOVIE.” Despite Kidman’s statement, there appears to be no concrete evidence that the outfit, consisting of a sheer patterned top and green capris, was worn by Kidman in any film.

The image has become meme gold over the years, often associated with Kidman’s personal life and her divorce from Cruise. Kidman herself had previously described the split as blindsiding and painful, but it seems that fans are reluctant to let go of the image’s perceived connection to her freedom from the marriage.

Some fans even doubted her explanation outright, saying, “I doubted it from the moment she gave that vague explanation,” while another remarked, “Oh please don’t ruin that for us.”



## Messi's Argentina likely to play in Kerala in 2025

Lionel Messi is likely to come to India. Again. Not to Kolkata this time but Kerala.

Kerala's sports minister V Abdurahiman said on Wednesday that the Argentina national football team, including its talismanic skipper, is expected to visit the state and play an international friendly next year.

The statement was made following discussions between the state's sports ministry led by Abdurahiman and the Argentine Football Association (AFA) in Madrid last September. Kerala chief minister Pinayari Vijayan also made a similar announcement through a Facebook post.

"The world's number 1 football team Argentina including Lionel Messi will visit Kerala next year. The match will be held under the complete supervision of the state government. The state's traders have promised to provide financial assistance to conduct the match," Abdurahiman told reporters.

The minister said the AFA officials will visit Kerala in the next one-and-a half months to hold further talks. Asked when the team including Messi are likely to visit and who they will play against, the minister said: "Those details will be chalked out later. The match will have to be conducted as per the FIFA window for international friendlies." Kochi is one of the options to host the match, Abdurahiman said.

# Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Bumrah gets fifer as Australia bowled out for 104

PERTH (TIP)

India captain Jasprit Bumrah deservedly got his 11th five-wicket haul while debutant Harshit Rana bowled a fiery opening spell as Australia were bowled out for 104 at the stroke of lunch despite a stiff last-wicket resistance from Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood on the second day of the opening Test here on Saturday, November 23.

The Indian team would be a touch disappointed that they couldn't get a handy lead, which seemed to be on the cards once Australia were reduced to 79 for 9. But Starc (26 off 113 balls) shielded Hazlewood (7 not out off 31 balls) admirably during their 25-run last-wicket stand that lasted 18 overs and got the lead below 50 (46 runs), making it a contest of who bats better in the second innings.

The day began on a bright note as Bumrah (5/30 in 18 overs), bowling the second over of the day, got one to rear up from back of the length and Carey's edge carried at a good height to Rishabh Pant behind stumps.

The skipper's celebration was understated as he purposefully strode back to his bowling mark even before Nathan Lyon had arrived.

At the other end, Bumrah started the day with burly Harshit Rana (3/48 in 15.2 overs) carrying on from where he had left off on the opening day.

Unlike on the opening day, the rookie speedster used more short balls, and one such well-directed delivery accounted for Lyon, who



was pounced at gully by KL Rahul.

With 71 runs behind India's first-innings score of 150, one had expected the visitors to get rid of the last pair. But the short-ball tactic didn't work well against Starc, who chuckled while reminding his former KKR teammate, "I have a long memory Harshit".

Starc showed good defensive qualities before taking his chances

now and then with some aerial hits. Harshit was replaced with Nitish Reddy for three overs but, with the ball being 40-plus overs old and the seam suppressed, there was not much incisiveness to his wicket-to-wicket bowling.

Finally, Harshit, coming for his second spell of the day, had Starc trying to slog and the skier was taken by Pant. *Source: PTI*

## India beat China, defend Women's Asian Champions Trophy

RAJGIR (TIP)

The Indian women managed to overcome the disappointment of a pedestrian semifinal performance and upped their game when it mattered most, registering a 1-0 win against China in the final to successfully defend the Asian Champions Trophy at the Rajgir Sports Complex here on Wednesday, November 20.

The scoreline may indicate it was a close contest and for the first half, it was so before the Indians, like in every game, shifted gears in the third quarter and took control. And while China deserved credit for not making it any easier for India, the host was not troubled much once they went ahead. Deservedly, it was Deepika -- who topped the tables with 11 goals through the tournament and was named Player of the Tournament -- who scored the lone goal of the match for India. Unlike previously, it was a cautious start by India, aware that the Chinese would come hard, come fast and create chances early on. They did and for the first few minutes, India had to fight hard to survive the

Chinese onslaught before slowly settling down, getting better at ball control. A penalty corner for China in the 18th minute saw Lalremsiami -- adjudged player of the match -- rush out quickly before Bichu Devi went full stretch to clear the rebound with her stick. India's constant push resulted in four quick penalty corners in the 20th minute but India's poor form with PCs continued, a mix of off-target shots, ineffective variations and some good saves by the Chinese goalkeeper. China managed a 2nd PC three minutes later but to no avail. But the Indians were slowly growing in the game and within seconds of resumption in the 3rd quarter, India earned its 5th PC.

The injection was not stopped cleanly but the ball was kept in play, dragged in and then Deepika unleashed a controlled reverse hit that the Chinese defence and goalkeeper had no answer to. The Indian attack was impressive even when it did not result in a goal. Sangita Kumari was a delight with her nippy runs and amazing ball control, repeatedly entering the Chinese circle.



Indian women hockey team's Deepika being greeted by teammates after scoring the first goal against China during the final of the Women's Asian Championship Trophy at Rajgir. | Photo Credit: MOORTHY RV/ The Hindu



## An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

**Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins**



**New Goutami Institute building to be constructed 2024**

**3.5 + million served**  
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**30,000 + surgeries on children**

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In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.