



The

INDIAN



PANORAMA

19th YEAR

www.theindianpanorama.news

EVER TRUTHFUL

1 Indian American Weekly : Since 2006

VOL 19 ISSUE 04 • NEW YORK / DALLAS • JAN 24 - JAN 30, 2025

ENQUIRIES: 646-247-9458 • info@theindianpanorama.news

India celebrates 76th Republic Day with military prowess on full display

The parade, held at the Kartavya Path in the heart of the national capital, featured key moments of pageantry and precision, with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto serving as the chief guest



The Indian Navy tableau at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi's Kartavya Path on Sunday, January 26.

Photo: YouTube/DD India

THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

We wish
Readers
Happy 76th
Republic
Day of India

JUSTICE, economic and political LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and to promote among them all FRATERNITY, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, we ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

INSIDE

CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY AMID CHALLENGES: ON INDIA'S 76TH REPUBLIC DAY PAGE 2

TRUMP REWRITES US TIES WITH RUSSIA & CHINA PAGE 8

WHY TRUMP 2.0 FEELS SO DIFFERENT ALREADY PAGE 9

REPUBLIC DAY SPECIAL PAGE 26

THE ENTERPRISING RAJNI BECTOR PAGE 54

JANUARY 26, 2025
NEW DELHI (TIP): India celebrated its 76th Republic Day on Sunday with a grand display of its military might that included elite marching contingents, missiles and indigenous weapon systems, with Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto gracing the occasion as the chief guest.

In a first, a tri-services tableau,

depicting the broader spirit of "jointness" among the armed forces, rolled down Kartavya Path, the centerpiece boulevard of the National Capital.

It displayed a battlefield scenario, demonstrating a synchronized operation in land, water and air with the indigenous Arjun battle tank, Tejas fighter aircraft and Advanced Light

Helicopter. The theme of the tri-services tableau was "Shashakt aur Surakshit Bharat" (strong and secure India).

The parade commenced with President Droupadi Murmu taking the salute shortly after she and Subianto, flanked by the Indian president's bodyguards, arrived at Kartavya Path in a "traditional buggy".

CONTD ON PAGE 50



India's Ambassador to the United States Vinay Kwatra unfurls the Indian National Flag on January 26, 2025

Indian Embassy in Washington D.C. Hosts Republic Day Celebrations

JANUARY 27, 2025
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) Embassy of India hosted a reception to celebrate the 76th Republic Day of India with friends of India and prominent members of the Indian community. The event celebrated the spirit of Indian constitution and showcased elements of Indian culture and cuisine.

India's Ambassador to the United States Vinay Kwatra unfurled the Tricolor and relayed the President

CONTD ON PAGE 15

India's 76th Republic Day Celebrated enthusiastically at the Indian Consulate, New York

JANUARY 27, 2025
NEW YORK CITY (TIP): An attractively decorated entrance to the India House in Manhattan welcomed guests to India's 76th Republic Day celebrations on January 26th morning.

India's Consul General in New York Binaya Srikanta Pradhan unfurled the Tricolor and the ornate room echoed with the enthusiastic singing of the Indian National Anthem.

Following the flag hoisting, Consul General Pradhan read out the President of India's Address to the Nation, and

CONTD ON PAGE 6



Consul General of India Binaya Srikanta Pradhan unfurls the Tricolor at India House in celebration of the 76th Republic Day of India on Jan 26, 2025



Some of the gurdwaras in New York and New Jersey are believed to be used as a hub by Sikh separatists

Photo for representational purpose only

US agents visit gurdwaras in New York, New Jersey as Trump escalates immigration crackdown

JANUARY 24, 2025
NEW YORK (TIP): Law enforcement officials from the US Department of Homeland Security have started visiting gurdwaras in New York and New Jersey to check for the presence of

CONTD ON PAGE 50



Andy Singh

516-441-7000
16 E. Old Country Road
Hicksville, NY 11801

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com



OMNI MORTGAGE CORP.
Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans



Herman Singh

718-441-7000
118-18 101 Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services
Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

VICE PRESIDENT:

Chitagam Saluja

CHIEF EDITOR:

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR

ADMINISTRATION:

Gauri Beri

CONTRIBUTING

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,

SnapsIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

CORRESPONDENTS :

SACRAMENTO:

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS:

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS

LONDON

Nirpal Singh Shergill

SPL CORRESPONDENT

DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:

Chandan Singh

CHANDIGARH:

Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA:

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

JAIPUR :

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovliien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

DISCLAIMER

THE INDIAN PANORAMA ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLAIMS MADE IN ADVERTISEMENTS. WE ONLY SELL SPACE. VIEWS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE NEWSPAPER. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED.

REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE INDIAN PANORAMA IS PROHIBITED.

COMMENT

Celebrating Democracy Amid Challenges: On India's 76th Republic Day

By Indrajit Saluja



India's 76th Republic Day celebrations are a poignant reminder of the country's remarkable achievement in sustaining its democracy, despite numerous challenges. As the world's largest democracy, India stands tall in a global landscape where many neighboring nations and others around the world grapple with political instability, oligarchic governance, and even authoritarian regimes. India's ability to maintain a democratic republic, despite the external and internal pressures it faces, is an achievement that deserves celebration. However, this celebration must be tempered by an honest reflection of the struggles that continue to threaten its democratic fabric.

India's 76th Republic Day comes at a time when the country's constitutional rights-long cherished and fought for-are once again under threat. These threats, although not new, have intensified in recent years, particularly with regard to freedom of expression, the suppression of dissent, and the increasing influence of the government over the media. Despite these challenges, India remains a beacon of hope and a symbol of democracy on the global stage. However, the ongoing threats, both to its democratic principles and the well-being of its citizens, require urgent attention.

The Indian Republic, founded on the ideals enshrined in its Constitution, has shown remarkable resilience, weathering numerous challenges over the years. The Constitution, which came into effect on January 26, 1950, was designed to ensure a just, inclusive, and secular republic. India adopted a parliamentary system of government and instituted fundamental rights for its citizens, promising justice, equality, and freedom for all. Despite facing challenges such as economic disparities, social unrest, and regional conflicts, India has managed to uphold its democratic ideals.

However, there have been periods when the rights of citizens have been compromised. Notably, the Emergency period of 1975-1977, when fundamental rights were suspended, remains a dark chapter in India's democratic history. In the decades since, constitutional rights have occasionally been under threat, and the current situation, in which the freedom of expression is endangered, suggests that the country still faces significant challenges in fully realizing its democratic potential. In recent years, this fundamental right has come under growing pressure. The government has been accused of using various means to suppress dissent, silence critics, and control the media narrative.

The increasing control over the media has become a significant concern. Once considered a fearless institution that held power to account, the Indian media has gradually fallen under the influence of the ruling powers. Many media

outlets have been accused of being compromised, whether through political pressures, economic incentives, or direct influence from the government. The result is a shrinking space for independent journalism and critical voices, which are essential to a functioning democracy.

Furthermore, journalists and activists who speak out against the government have faced intimidation, legal harassment, and even violence. The decline in press freedom has been noted by international watchdogs, with organizations like Reporters Without Borders and Freedom House highlighting India's deteriorating media environment.

While it is important to acknowledge that not all is lost, and many independent journalists and media outlets continue to operate with integrity, the reality is that the threat to freedom of expression in India is very real and growing. If this trend continues, it could have long-term consequences for the health of the Indian democracy.

Another major challenge India faces today is the growing inequality in wealth and opportunity. Although India is often celebrated for its impressive economic growth, with projections of becoming a \$5 trillion economy in the near future, this growth has not been evenly distributed. The wealth divide is staggering: less than 10% of India's population controls more than 70% of the country's wealth, leaving the vast majority of the population struggling to access even basic resources.

The rise of extreme inequality is a major concern, as it undermines the democratic principle of equal opportunity. While a small percentage of the population has prospered, the rest of the nation remains mired in poverty. Over 20% of Indians still live below the poverty line, and more than 50% of the population faces deprivation in terms of education, healthcare, and other essential services. This economic disparity is particularly visible in rural areas, where a large portion of India's population resides.

The gap between the rich and the poor is not just economic but also social. Education, healthcare, and employment opportunities are often distributed unevenly, based on factors such as caste, religion, and region. Despite the government's efforts to implement welfare schemes and poverty alleviation programs, the scale of the problem is so vast that progress has been slow.

India's rise as a global economic power is undeniable, but the persistence of extreme poverty and inequality is an issue that cannot be ignored. Economic

growth should benefit all sections of society, and it is crucial that the government address these disparities to ensure that the fruits of growth are shared more equitably.

India's aspirations to become a developed nation by 2047-the centenary of its independence-are ambitious. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has frequently spoken about transforming India into a global economic powerhouse, with the aim of making it the third-largest economy in the world, after the United States and China. While this is a laudable goal, it raises an important question: Can India truly be considered a developed nation when more than half of its population lives in poverty?

India's development trajectory must prioritize inclusive growth, which means ensuring that economic development benefits the most marginalized sections of society. It is difficult to imagine India becoming a fully developed nation while such a large portion of the population remains impoverished. Sustainable development must focus on eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and improving access to basic services for all citizens, irrespective of their economic, social, or religious background.

Despite these significant challenges, India has made tremendous progress in various fields. Indian scientists, engineers, and professionals have contributed to advancements in space exploration, technology, healthcare, and more. The nation has earned respect on the global stage for its achievements in these areas.

However, true progress cannot be measured by economic or technological achievements alone. A nation's greatness is also determined by the well-being of its people and the strength of its social fabric. India's future greatness will depend on the ability of its leaders to create a society where all citizens, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to prosper.

Furthermore, ensuring peaceful and harmonious relations among the diverse religious and social groups in the country is crucial. India's pluralistic society is one of its greatest strengths, but it must be protected from divisive forces that seek to undermine this unity. It is the duty of the rulers to provide conditions for peace, justice, and equality. If the government fails to do so, the very democratic structure that India holds dear will be at risk of crumbling.

Let this Republic Day be a reminder of the need for India's rulers to pledge themselves to the democratic ideals enshrined in the Constitution-not for the propagation of any one ideology or faith, but for the advancement of the nation as a whole. Only then can India truly fulfill its promise as a vibrant, democratic republic.



State Bank of India
New York

WISHES YOU A

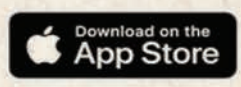
HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

26 JANUARY

It's our pleasure to continue serving you since 1971.

Senior Citizen Certificate of Deposit* (CD)	Certificate of Deposit* (CD)
1 Year to less than 2 years CD 4.47% APY#	1 Year to less than 2 years CD 4.37% APY#

The APY (Annual Percentage Yield) is effective from December 31st, 2024 and subject to change without prior notice.
*Senior Citizen- Applicant with minimum age of 60 years or more.
Terms and condition apply



- Avail competitive exchange rate.
- Send money to India to your loved ones by downloading our "YONO US New York" mobile app.
- Open CDs online.

Member FDIC

Indian-origin South African filmmaker appointed to WEF's Global Arts, Culture Council



Anant Singh has been appointed to the Global Arts and Culture Council (GACC)

JANUARY 24, 2025

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): Indian-origin South African filmmaker Anant Singh has been appointed to the Global Arts and Culture Council (GACC), which was inaugurated at the latest session of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos.

Known for using his films to speak out against apartheid, HIV/AIDS, and gender-based violence, Singh's movies have earned him multiple international accolades. One such film is 'Long Walk to Freedom', a biopic of Nelson Mandela.

He was conferred on the WEF's Crystal Award in 2001.

The council was inaugurated on Wednesday in Davos.

Established by WEF co-founders Hilde Schwab and Professor Klaus Schwab, the council aims to harness the power of creativity to shape a more unified and prosperous future in an increasingly interconnected society.

"Artists and the creative community worldwide are the voice of the people, and the custodians of humanity's storytelling. The GACC is vitally important in a fractious world where the voice and expressions of artists need to be heard to contribute to the dialogues of the journeys of millions of people," Singh said.

He was appointed to the council along with other renowned arts and culture luminaries from around the globe, including Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy (Academy award-winning film director), George Osbourne (Chair of the British Museum), Renee Fleming (World-renowned soprano) and Hany Ulrich Obrist (artistic director of the Serpentine Gallery).

Andrea Bocelli (World-renowned tenor), Deborah Rutter (president of the John F Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in the US), Nile Rodgers (musician, producer and founder of the We Are Family Foundation, Jin Xing (dancer - actress and transgender activist), Yana Peel (global head of Arts & Culture - Chanel) and Misty Copeland (dancer, author, producer) are other notable members of the council.

The founders said that the GACC was established in the context of the shifting world from an industrial era to a more intelligent and interconnected society, where the arts and culture sector is uniquely positioned to lead the way toward a unified and prosperous future with a distinguished group of visionary cultural leaders committed to harnessing creativity to shape the new age.

India American Baiju Bhatt founder of Robinhood sells \$9.23 million in stock

JANUARY 22, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): The new year began differently for Baiju Bhatt than most, by earning close to \$10 million. Bhatt reportedly sold 228,645 shares of Robinhood's Class A stock for \$9.23 million under a pre-arranged Rule 10b5-1 trading plan, according to Investing.com.

The shares sold on Jan. 3 at an average price of \$40.37 with a 226% surge in stock value over the past year. Bhatt's Living Trust, which executed the sale, now holds no Class A shares but retains significant Class B holdings.

Robinhood Markets, founded in 2013 by Bhatt and Vladimir Tenev, is a financial services company that has simplified online trading with its commission-free platform. The company's user-friendly interface, cryptocurrency trading, and innovative features like fractional shares have made investing accessible to millions. However, recent developments have brought its co-founder Bhatt and the company into the spotlight.

This transaction coincides with Robinhood's impressive financial milestones. In Q3 2024, the company reported a 36% revenue increase, totaling \$637 million. Analysts have



Baiju Bhatt

noted Robinhood's growth prospects, with upgrades from major firms like JPMorgan and Barclays citing strong earnings and expansion into cryptocurrency and derivatives markets.

Amid this success, Robinhood faces regulatory challenges. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) recently fined the firm \$45 million for recordkeeping and reporting violations. The SEC found that Robinhood failed to retain trading data and address cybersecurity risks. General Counsel Lucas Moskowitz expressed

satisfaction in resolving the matter, emphasizing the company's commitment to innovation and compliance.

"We are well-positioned to continue leading the industry in developing the innovative products and services our customers want and need," said Moskowitz, according to Reuters. "We look forward to working with the SEC under a new administration."

After earning his B.A. in physics, Bhatt stayed at Stanford to earn his master's in mathematics as well. It was then he and Tenev became classmates and roommates.

Bhatt and Tenev started two companies in New York together before they launched Robinhood, an idea that was inspired by the Occupy Wall Street movement in New York. The two friends decided to make their app free, letting people trade stocks without any fees.

Bhatt stepped down from his position as the company's CEO in November 2020, leaving Tenev as the single CEO of the company. The change in leadership was a move made so that Bhatt could direct his attention more to product development, according to Forbes.

Relief to Indian-origins rushing to get C-section in US as judge stays Trump's order to end citizenship



A US District Judge John Coughenour granted a temporary restraining order halting enforcement of Trump's Executive Order on birthright citizenship

JANUARY 24, 2025

SEATTLE (TIP): A federal judge in Seattle has temporarily blocked an executive order by President Donald Trump that sought to curtail birthright citizenship in the United States.

The ruling came as a relief to Indian families living in the US, especially those on temporary H1B or L1 visas, which do not grant permanent residency.

US District Judge John Coughenour granted a temporary restraining order halting enforcement of the policy for 14

days while the court considered a preliminary injunction.

The order, signed by Trump on his Day One in office directed federal agencies to deny citizenship to children born in the US if neither parent is a citizen or legal permanent resident. The ruling marks the first major legal setback for Trump's renewed effort to redefine American citizenship laws. The order, signed by Trump, is slated to take effect on February 19. It could impact hundreds of thousands of people born in the country, according to one of the lawsuits.

The US is among about 30 countries where birthright citizenship - the principle of jus soli or "right of the soil" - is applied.

Doctors and gynecologists in the US had reported a sudden increase in the number of pregnant Indian women, on such visas, asking for a caesarean, to ensure pre-term delivery of their children, i.e., before February 20, which is when Trump's new mandate goes into effect.

The rush was because children born before that date would be granted citizenship, while those born after would not be. They would only become citizens if at least one parent is already a citizen or a Green Card holder. If not, then out they go, when they turn 21.

LAW RATIFIED IN 1868 : Ratified in 1868 in the aftermath of the Civil War, the amendment says: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin student shot dead by robbers in Washington DC

JANUARY 20, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): In a tragic incident, Koyyada Ravi Teja, a 26-year-old from Hyderabad, India, was fatally shot in New Haven, Connecticut on January 20, 2025.

Teja, who had recently completed his master's degree in the United States and was actively seeking employment, was delivering a food order when he was shot outside a building.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the young man may

have been the victim of a carjacking. Teja was tragically shot and killed outside a building in Washington DC while delivering a food order as part of his part-time job. According to his family members in Hyderabad, the robbers confronted Teja outside the building during their escape. They shot him at close range before fleeing the scene. Teja sustained two gunshot wounds and died immediately, according to the media report.

Police are currently investigating the case and have urged witnesses to come forward with any information that could assist in identifying the perpetrator.

Teja's parents, who are back in Hyderabad, have made an emotional plea to the authorities to expedite the repatriation of his mortal remains. The Indian consulate in New York has expressed condolences to the family and is coordinating efforts to facilitate this process.



Koyyada Ravi Teja, a 26-year-old from Hyderabad, India, was fatally shot in New Haven, Connecticut on January 20, 2025.

Hundreds gather at Senator John Liu's Lunar New Year Celebration to kick off the Year of the Snake

YEAR OF THE SNAKE MARKS THE FIRST TIME STUDENTS HAVE LUNAR NEW YEAR OFF FROM SCHOOL

JANUARY 27, 2025

FLUSHING, NY (TIP): The Year of the Snake kicked off with hundreds of celebrants at the historic Flushing High School Sunday during State Senator John Liu's Lunar New Year celebration. The Lunar New Year kick off featured free food from local restaurants, live music, dances, cultural performances, and giveaways.

This year marks the first time students in New York State have off from school, following its designation in the state legislature as an official school holiday two years ago. The school holiday was recognized after legislation, (S7573/A7768), sponsored by Senator Liu was signed into law in 2023. Last year, the holiday fell on a Saturday, making this Wednesday the first time the bill will take effect since it was signed into law.

State Senator John Liu stated, "This Lunar New Year is particularly meaningful as it is the first time students across New York State have the day off from school to celebrate with their family and friends. This milestone demonstrates the importance of honoring our heritage and sharing it with our neighbors through music, dance, food, and community. The Year of the Snake, also known as the Baby Dragon, is an auspicious time in the



Seen in the center is John Liu. Senator Schumer is seen on the right.

Lunar New Year calendar, symbolizing wisdom, enlightenment, and longevity. Many thanks to all the community organizations, businesses, restaurants, artists, performers, and neighbors who came together today to kick off a happy,

healthy, and prosperous Lunar New Year!"

The event was co-sponsored by the REACH Coalition (Representing and Empowering Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander), which formed in 2023 with more than 60

community-based organizations to fight for inclusive AANHPI education and in support of Senator Liu's legislation, S3334, to require public schools in New York to provide instruction in Asian American history and civic impact. Additional co-sponsors included NYC Public Schools Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, Congress Member Grace Meng, State Assembly Member Grace Lee, State Assembly Member Ron Kim, City Council Member Sandra Ung. Also in attendance were U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, and NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams.

Performers included the PS 203Q Lion Dance Troupe, Korean Fever, Inc., Ashley Dance Center, the Tarumi Violinists, Korean American Youth Choir of NY, and Sol Sharp Music Education, who performed their song "Belong," a hip-hop song celebrating AANHPI history and culture.

Cuisine was provided by Bell Garden, Brooklyn Food & Beverage, Coco Bubble Tea, Crispy Burger, I Shanghai Restaurant, Kyuramen/Tbaar, Main Street Imperial Taiwanese Gourmet, Ok Ryan Taiwanese Restaurant, San Soo Kap San 1, Shanghai You Garden, and Water Lillies Food, LLC.

Suozzi Introduces Resolution Celebrating the American-Korean Alliance

Suozzi also Presented Honorary 7th Degree Taekwondo Black Belt For Long Time Support of the Korean American Community



JANUARY 23, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-NY), on January 23, introduced a resolution celebrating the alliance between the United States and South Korea. Suozzi was also presented with an honorary seventh-degree Taekwondo black belt by Grandmaster Dr. Lee Dong-sup, President of Kukkiwon, the governing body of Taekwondo, due to his long-standing support for the Korean American community. This year marks the 80th anniversary of South Korea's liberation from colonial rule.

"Over the past 122 years, Korean Americans have made invaluable contributions to our communities and the culture we share," said Suozzi. "I

cherish the friendships I've developed within this vibrant community and encourage everyone to recognize and celebrate the rich heritage and achievements of Korean Americans."

"I am very pleased and honored to participate in the resolution introduced by Representative Tom Suozzi in US Congress today, the 23rd of January 2025, to proclaim Korean Culture Day in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Korea, to reaffirm the strength of the ROK-U.S. alliance, and to express gratitude for the dedication of Korean Americans who have contributed to the development of the United States with their diligence, perseverance, and tenacity over the past 122 years," said Minsun Kim, President of the Museum of Korean American Heritage.

This resolution affirms the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea based on principles of democracy and human rights.

"Although I have not trained in Taekwondo, I am interested in learning, and I am deeply humbled to receive this honorary black belt," said Suozzi.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

In 2025, Nassau Must Address Aging Infrastructure

Shortly after the dawn of this New Year, the residents of Bellmore were swiftly greeted by one of the persistent, age-old crises - the consequences stemming from the steady deterioration of Nassau County's aging infrastructure.

On January 6, Bellmore Avenue was closed in both directions between Sunrise Highway and Clarendon Avenue due to a water main break, creating a hazardous situation for motorists and a massive traffic headache on some of our County's most heavily traveled roads. In Nassau County's south shore communities, we have been here before, and with alarming frequency. Just last year, the community of Baldwin was impacted by two major water main breaks - one on Sept. 30 which occurred underneath Winona Road and interrupted water service for 115 Baldwin homes and caused severe flooding in properties throughout the impacted area. In June of 2024, another water main break forced residents to navigate days without clean water, cost businesses thousands of dollars in revenues, and resulted in a boil-water order from the Nassau County Department of Health for thousands in Baldwin, Island Park, Oceanside, Roosevelt, and South Hempstead residents and businesses. (Both of these incidents involved pipes owned by the for-profit Liberty Water, which further

By Debra Mulé



underscores the importance of completing the transition to municipal water under the newly formed South Nassau Water Authority).

Then there was the spring and summer of 2023, during which Nassau County's south shore was thrown into disarray by three sinkhole incidents during a two-month span.

It started on May 31 when Lido Boulevard in Lido Beach was badly damaged and rendered impassable by a sinkhole. It followed with the June 27 failure of a 42-inch sewer main under Baldwin's Grand Avenue, which made the road impassable until mid-July and spilled untreated sewage into nearby Brookside Creek and the backyards of neighboring residents, causing environmental damage to local ecosystems. Finally, on July 30, Foxhurst Road in Oceanside forced the road's closure; the cause - the eruption of an underground water main pipe, which caused the road above to buckle.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

India's 76th Republic Day Celebrated enthusiastically at the Indian Consulate, New York



Consul General of India Binaya Srikanta Pradhan reading out the President of India's Address to the Nation



A section of the gathering singing the Indian National Anthem



The tastefully decorated entrance to India House

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

congratulated the gathered members of the Indian

Diaspora on the historic occasion, which included, among others, Hon. Kris Singh, Administrative Judge of New York, and Hon. Rena Malik, Judge of the City Civil

Court, New York. For the first time, the event witnessed a large presence of young students who were seen singing enthusiastically the National Anthem of India.

Queens Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar Enters Race for Public Advocate

" Civil Rights Attorney to Challenge Democratic Socialist Jumaane Williams;
" Will Make History as NYC's 1st Indian-American Citywide Elected Official



JENIFER RAJKUMAR
for PUBLIC ADVOCATE

JANUARY 27, 2025

QUEENS, NY (TIP: Queens Assemblymember and Civil Rights Attorney Jenifer Rajkumar (D-38) is officially entering the race for New York City Public Advocate. After meeting with thousands of residents across all five boroughs, one thing is abundantly clear: New Yorkers are sick and tired of their elected leaders behaving like extreme activists and ignoring the kitchen table issues we all care about. As such, Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar is prepared to bring her record of accomplishment and decades of fighting for her neighbors to the office of Public Advocate. From cracking down on dangerous and illegal smoke shops to her work combating hate and discrimination, Assemblymember Rajkumar will be the advocate our city deserves and needs.

"I am stepping up to be the Public Advocate for the City I love" said Rajkumar. "Our City is facing a crisis of governance and can no longer afford the out-of-touch agenda of extremists like Jumaane Williams. Instead, we need proven fighters who will focus on the issues that all New Yorkers care about.

From attacking the cost-of-living crisis to restoring public safety on our streets and on our subways, I'm excited to bring bold, results-driven leadership to our City."

With just under 150 days until the Democratic Primary, Assemblymember Rajkumar enters the race in an extremely strong position. With over 4 times as much cash-on-hand as the incumbent Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Assemblymember Rajkumar is already expected to qualify for over \$1,000,000 in public matching funds.

A Stanford Law graduate and civil rights attorney, Rajkumar has built an impressive legislative record, from passing the SMOKEOUT Act that closed thousands of illegal smoke shops across the state to her nationally recognized legislative win granting domestic workers human rights, to her recently introduced comprehension 20 page bill to solve New York's mental health crisis, The Empire State of Mind Act. Assemblymember Rajkumar is bringing unprecedented resources, accomplishment, and vision to the Democratic Primary for New York City Public Advocate.

North American Punjabi Association (NAPA) Expresses Concern Over DHS Raids on Gurdwaras in New York and New Jersey

JANUARY 27, 2025

MILPITAS, CA (TIP): The North American Punjabi Association (NAPA), under the leadership of Executive Director Satnam Singh Chahal, has expressed strong concerns over recent actions by U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), who have reportedly conducted visits to Gurdwaras in New York and New Jersey to search for undocumented immigrants.

"These actions are deeply troubling and have hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikh community," said Satnam Singh Chahal. "Gurdwaras are sacred places of worship dedicated to God and community service, not places to hide illegal immigrants. Raids in these spaces undermine their sanctity and create an atmosphere of fear and distrust."

The Sikh community has strongly condemned this approach, viewing it as a threat to the sanctity of their faith. Gurdwaras are not only places of prayer but also centers for community support, offering free meals (langar) and assistance to all individuals, regardless of their background.

NAPA is calling on the Trump administration and the Department of Homeland Security to refrain from conducting such enforcement actions at Gurdwaras in the future. "The Sikh community is an integral part of American society, contributing significantly to the nation's economic, cultural, and social development," Chahal emphasized. "Actions like these risk alienating a community that has always been dedicated to upholding the values of inclusivity, hard work, and unity."

NAPA urges DHS to adopt an alternative approach that respects



religious freedom and fosters trust within communities. Instead of targeting places of worship, the organization recommends engaging in dialogue with Sikh community leaders to ensure mutual understanding and collaboration.

"As Americans, we must uphold the principles of religious freedom and respect for all faiths. We hope the administration will reconsider its approach to immigration enforcement and avoid actions that harm the sentiments of any religious group," Chahal concluded.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

North American Punjabi Association (NAPA) / Satnam Chahal 5732: 408-221-5732



State Bank of India
New York



AMIT VERMA
COUNTRY HEAD, US OPERATIONS
STATE BANK OF INDIA
460 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK

Message

As we celebrate India's 76th Republic Day, I extend my warmest greetings to the readers of Indian Panorama. The day marks a significant milestone in our history, when India declared itself a Sovereign, Democratic, Republic State with the adoption of the Constitution on January 26, 1950. It serves as a reminder of the values of justice, liberty, equality and brotherhood enshrined in our Constitution.

As we hoist our tricolor and play the national anthem, let us renew our commitment to uphold the principles of our great Constitution. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the rights and freedoms guaranteed to us are preserved for future generations also. Let us reiterate the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect and further strengthen the foundations.

Happy Republic Day! Jai Hind!



State Bank of India
New York



PRASANTA KUMAR TRIPATHY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
STATE BANK OF INDIA
460 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK

Message

As we celebrate the 76th Republic Day of India, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all the citizens. This occasion marks a significant milestone in our journey as a democratic nation, reminding us of sacrifices made by our forefathers in the quest for freedom and justice.

On this momentous day, we must look to the future with renewed determination. The path ahead is filled with challenges, but together, we can overcome them by embracing innovation and inclusivity. As we march forward, let us work hand in hand to build an India that thrives on sustainable development and social harmony. May the ideals of our Republic inspire each one of us to contribute actively to nation-building, ensuring that the dreams of our ancestors continue to guide us towards a prosperous and equitable society for generations to come.

Wishing you a happy Republic Day. Jai Hind!

Get to the Point



The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

Widest Coverage

Your Trusted Partner in Business

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458
Phone: 646-247-9458 Fax: 347-632-0001 email: editor@theindianpanorama.com

www.theindianpanorama.news

Trump rewrites US ties with Russia & China

Using India as a balance to keep China in its place suits President Trump, just now. India, in turn, still needs US cooperation.



---> By G Parthasarathy

"The US-China relationship has, however, been heading for hard times, arising from the substantial mutual distrust and dislike between the leaders of the two powers. The restoration of trust and cooperation would take time, especially as the tone of the Trump rhetoric would have shocked people in the 'Middle Kingdom'. But Trump can always use the good offices of Elon Musk to address differences with China, given the vast relationship and vested interests that Musk shares with the 'Middle Kingdom'. Already, there is speculation that China is considering a plan for Elon Musk to acquire TikTok's US business. Indians who find occasion to deal with Musk must bear this in mind."

At his end-of-the-year news conference in December 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared: "I must say that the situation is changing dramatically." He added: "There is movement along the entire frontline every day."

Putin is given to choosing his words very carefully. It is now clear that it is only a matter of time before Russia achieves its territorial objectives of forcing Ukraine out of residual Russian territory, that Moscow now wants to soon regain and control. This is the territory that Moscow had historically controlled, along its southern shores. It now appears likely that Ukraine will be forced out of the territory it took control of prior to the conflict. Russia is, even now, recovering territory that it lost, since the conflict began.

Also, there is no doubt that this has been a case of the young and inexperienced Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, being encouraged by the Biden administration and its NATO allies to enhance control of its south-eastern shores.

It is now evident that unlike the Biden administration, the Trump administration will not back the Ukrainians in their military operations to take on Putin's soldiers. In the process, the US seems to have forgotten that one of the main aims of the Russians has historically been to retain control of and unfettered access to the "warm waters" across their shores. Joe Biden did not evidently take note of the importance that Russia attached to the

territories it controlled in its east, which provide it with access to the sea, especially across Ukraine.

The most important change being seen with the advent of Trump is that a serious effort is underway for resolving these issues, to ensure that Moscow's access to the sea is fully secured. Moreover, there are signs that in eastern Ukraine, the Russians are carefully seizing control of territory across the Donbas region.

President Trump, however, appears to be deliberately oblivious of European concerns on Russia's territorial claims. He has described Putin's territorial claims as: "This is genius. Putin declares a big portion of Ukraine as independent. That is wonderful." This is astonishing as one could not have expected Washington to support Moscow's territorial claims!

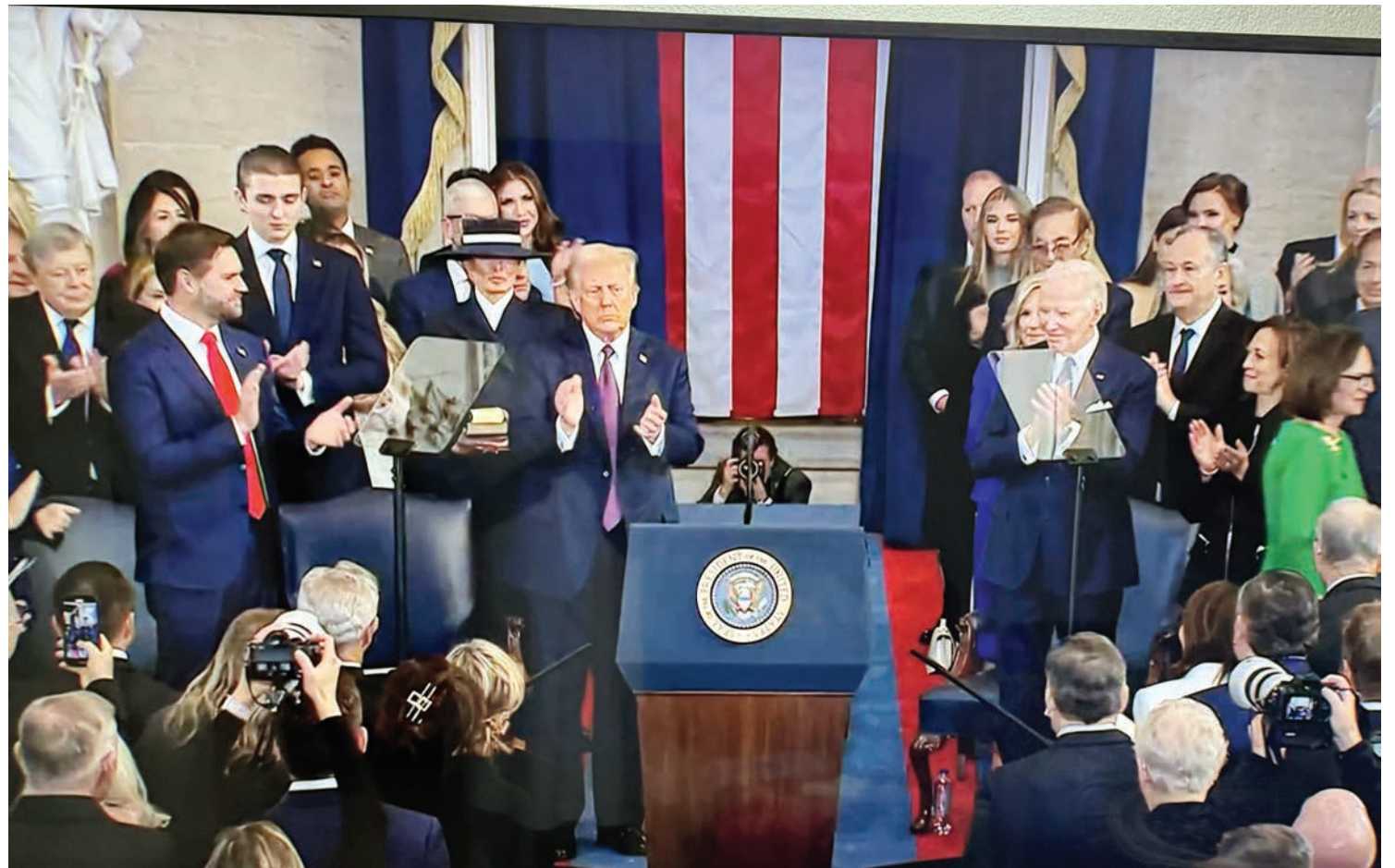
keeping Beijing uncertain about his intentions.

Despite the rhetoric, Trump is quite obviously keeping his options open with China. Using India as a balance to keep China in its place suits President Trump, just now. India, in turn, still needs US cooperation in areas ranging from high-tech, defense production and space to other spheres of security exchanges and economic cooperation. This is occurring amidst a growing, highly educated Indian population in the US, which is currently estimated at 5.1 million.

The US-China relationship has, however, been heading for hard times, arising from the substantial mutual distrust and dislike between the leaders of the two powers. The restoration of trust and cooperation would take time, especially as the tone of the

led by Joe Biden. Sadly, Biden's successor Donald Trump is in no mood to back Zelenskyy.

A negotiating tool that Trump has at his disposal is the battery of punitive sanctions imposed on Russia, led by the US. One of the final acts of the outgoing Biden administration has been the levy of a comprehensive sanctions package targeting Russia's energy sector, effective January 10, 2025. Trump has frequently expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of sanctions as a standalone tool and signaled a willingness to use their reduction or removal as leverage in negotiations with Moscow. This approach may include offering a relief in sanctions in exchange for Russian concessions on Ukraine, such as agreeing to a ceasefire or territorial compromises in contested 'independent'



Donald Trump at his Inauguration on January 20, 2025. Emerging dynamics: It is evident that Trump will not back Ukraine in its war against Russia.

Screen Shot

Regarding US-China relations under President Trump, while India is making efforts to end tensions on its borders with China, there appears to be little possibility of any serious breakthrough happening in Trump's relations with China. Trump has not hesitated to allude to his differences with China's policies. This has been reinforced by his appointment of Senator Marco Rubio as his Secretary of State and of Representative Mike Waltz as National Security Adviser.

Rubio and Waltz are both characterized as "staunch China hawks" in Washington. Rubio has been banned twice in 2020 from entering China. One wonders if the bans are still in place. Both these Trump appointees would not exactly be welcome in China.

Yet, another Trump ally, multi-billionaire Elon Musk, has a huge commercial interests in China, running into scores of billions of dollars. Trump is evidently

Trump rhetoric would have shocked people in the 'Middle Kingdom'. But Trump can always use the good offices of Elon Musk to address differences with China, given the vast relationship and vested interests that Musk shares with the 'Middle Kingdom'. Already, there is speculation that China is considering a plan for Elon Musk to acquire TikTok's US business. Indians who find occasion to deal with Musk must bear this in mind.

Another important factor that one cannot ignore is that Trump has a good relationship with President Putin. And countries across the world understand this clearly.

The person to be hit the hardest by these developments is Ukraine's besieged President Zelenskyy. He has made the rather serious miscalculation of believing that he could take on Putin's Russia in a territorial dispute, with backing by the US,

regions, like Donbas.

For India, which has significantly increased its imports of discounted Russian crude despite the tightening noose of sanctions, any potential easing could be a significant relief, stabilizing global energy markets and recalibrating supply chains. In fact, two Indian companies have been included in the January 10 sanctions list, embargoed for their alleged involvement in managing LNG carriers that transported cargo from Russia's Arctic LNG 2 project.

Given these emerging dynamics, India will need to carefully recalibrate its geopolitical and geostrategic ties, ensuring its interests are safeguarded while adapting to the evolving contours of the US-Russia and US-China relations under President Trump.

(G Parthasarathy is an Indian journalist, educationist, and a former diplomat)

Why Trump 2.0 feels so different already



---> By Hayes Brown

DONALD TRUMP'S RETURN TO THE WHITE HOUSE HAS BEEN DECIDEDLY MORE OVERWHELMING THAN THE OPENING DAYS OF HIS FIRST ADMINISTRATION

"The first 100 days of an administration are about notching easy wins and deciding which tougher pushes to spend political capital on. But Trump is, as ever, burning through a pile of credit that far exceeds the collateral behind it. It's a gambit that requires convincing anyone with the ability to push back on him that it won't be worth checking his balance sheets. The sheer scope at which he is trying to act at once is a strategy designed for a sprint, not a marathon, in hopes of accomplishing as much as possible before anyone catches on that he's spending beyond his political means."

It has been one week since President Donald Trump was sworn in for the second time. The past seven days have been, at best, disorienting, as the new administration has jackknifed the country to the right so fast that the centrifugal force already feels crushing. In that time, Trump acted on his promise to unleash a wave of executive actions to begin transforming the federal government in his image.

After Trump's win over then-Vice President Kamala Harris, many of the people I know felt numb or checked out, unable to contemplate what was coming. I told anyone who would listen that that feeling would change once the theoretical became practical and all the hypotheticals under discussion emerged into our new daily reality. A great wave of Americans has now checked back in at once - and the net effect is straining our collective mental capacity.

Beyond the policy shifts, though, the overall feeling of Trump's ascension is different this time.

So far, Trump has pardoned or commuted the sentences of nearly every Jan. 6 rioter, including those who assaulted the Capitol Police. He has launched the first salvo in his quest to

end birthright citizenship as guaranteed under the 14th Amendment. He has rushed to cut off immigration options for people who have been - as Republicans so often put it - waiting in line for their turn, and he has moved to enact mass deportations of those already here legally. His administration has threatened federal workers who work to improve diversity, issued a freeze on the Justice Department's civil rights investigations, paused wide swaths of critical health research and commanded state and local officials to cooperate with his anti-immigrant sweeps or face prosecution.

Beyond the policy shifts, though, the overall feeling of Trump's ascension is different this time. When he won in 2016, it was a surprise for virtually the entire country, the newly elected president included. Eight years ago, the narrow Electoral College win by this garish figure was seen as a likely fluke; the country's economic anxiety had prompted a regretful mistake in selecting Trump (and let's not forget, there was clear evidence of foreign interference). With the proverbial adrenaline pumping on the left, the backlash from the millions who hadn't voted for him was immediate. The stumbles in his administration's early days made his time as a national force feel like a frightening, but ultimately temporary, stumbling block in the nation's progress.

This time it was impossible not to see what was coming in the event of a Trump win. The investigations and court cases surrounding his final days in office had laid bare his willingness to discard the Constitution in favor of retaining power. The Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 was there for anyone to read, no matter how many denials and disavowals the campaign issued. After years of seeing Trump in office and out, even as the haze of nostalgia settled over Americans' collective memory, there was no pretense about his being "a changed man." If anything, Trump leaned into being himself, to the delight of his supporters. If his first win felt like being sucker punched rounding a corner, the second feels like having seen the threat coming from a mile away and been powerless to avoid it.

As a result, the country has shifted to accommodate his depredations this time around. "Trump's cultural victory has lapped his political victory," The New York Times' Ezra Klein wrote recently, noting how the narrowness of the president's victory over Harris doesn't correlate to the deeper resentments it ostensibly tapped. "The election was close, but the vibes have been a rout. ... In 2016, Trump felt like an emissary of the past; in 2025, he's being greeted as a harbinger of the future." That's correct, but the "future" on offer is one of maximum regression to a darker past.

It is incumbent on his opponents not to let the present cacophony overwhelm their sense of purpose or focus.



Donald Trump speaking at his inauguration on January 20, 2025

Screen shot

The depth of the shift hit hardest for me in a quote from White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt about Trump's executive order on gender, which will affect trans and nonbinary Americans' passports. "They can still apply to renew their passport - they just have to use their God-given sex, which was decided at birth," Leavitt told NOTUS' Oriana González. It was Leavitt's use of "God-given sex" that threw me. Here was the chief spokesperson for the White House padding officially sanctioned bigotry with a religious justification. More concerning was the callousness with which she tossed it off, confident that it wouldn't drive headlines or prompt any consequences for her.

This last week's flurry of action has been an extended flex of the MAGA movement's newfound sense of dominance. Several people have compared the blitzkrieg underway to the "shock and awe" campaign launched against Iraq at the onset of the U.S. invasion in 2003. (We're unfortunately seeing today's elected Democrats showing a similar instinct to follow the tide, fearing further electoral losses instead of standing up for what is right.) What begins now, though, is the administration's long, hard slog to make these changes stick as part of its campaign of domestic nation-building. MAGA can only succeed by convincing enough of the populace that the changes Trump is making are inevitable and everlasting.

The first 100 days of an administration

are about notching easy wins and deciding which tougher pushes to spend political capital on. But Trump is, as ever, burning through a pile of credit that far exceeds the collateral behind it. It's a gambit that requires convincing anyone with the ability to push back on him that it won't be worth checking his balance sheets. The sheer scope at which he is trying to act at once is a strategy designed for a sprint, not a marathon, in hopes of accomplishing as much as possible before anyone catches on that he's spending beyond his political means.

It is incumbent on his opponents not to let the present cacophony overwhelm their sense of purpose or focus. It may take longer to overcome the inertia many are feeling with the crashing down of that wave we all saw coming, to marshal enough resistance to reach critical mass. In the meantime, there are legal challenges being filed to counter Trump's unlawfulness and mutual aid is being organized in communities across America. The fate of our country will not be decided in the span of a week. The biggest threat is mistaking the scale of this opening salvo for anything more than the opening of a much longer struggle.

(Hayes Brown is a writer and editor for MSNBC Daily, where he helps frame the news of the day for readers. He was previously at BuzzFeed News and holds a degree in international relations from Michigan State University)

As a U.S. Citizen, I'm Threatened When Criticizing India's Modi

India's transnational repression campaign has global tentacles



---> By Pieter Friedrich

The morning after Valentine's Day 2021, the Indian government sent me an unexpected and unwelcome gift.

I woke to find my phone blowing up with messages from dozens of friends asking: "Have you seen the news from India? You're all over it. Are you ok?"

As I slept, Delhi Police falsely accused me of fomenting anti-government protests in India by circulating a "toolkit" to spread awareness on social media. As evidence, they pointed to a 100-page dossier from a shadowy group, DisinfoLab, that even doxxed my mother.

Police claimed I'd been under surveillance by Indian security since 2006. They labeled me a "mastermind" and "kingpin" of "disinformation warfare" against India, allegedly with Pakistani intelligence links. I was named a "proponent of Khalistan," the Sikh movement for an independent homeland in northwestern India. Indian media seized on this story, speculating I was hiding in Malaysia.

In truth, I'm a hillbilly turned journalist from rural Northern California whose interest in India's human rights landscape began two decades ago after chance association with Indian-Americans in my state.

This eventually led me to investigate Indian interference in U.S. politics. I documented how politicians like Tulsi Gabbard (Hawaii), Raja Krishnamoorthi (Illinois), Sri Preston Kulkarni (Texas), and more entertain supporters of India's Hindu nationalist (Hindutva) movement. That angered India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and made me a target.

Then, after Tulsi Gabbard was appointed as the U.S. Director of National Intelligence (DNI), the targeting became a more pressing and personal concern.

In December 2023, The Washington Post revealed that DisinfoLab, which targets critics of India, is likely operated by India's external intelligence agency, the Research & Analysis Wing (RAW). I was its first guinea pig to test its later campaigns aimed at smearing critics of the BJP's Hindutva agenda.

OTHERS WERE ALSO IN THE CROSSHAIRS.

In April 2023, DisinfoLab targeted Hindus for Human Rights co-founder Sunita Viswanath. They featured her in a stylized "wanted" poster, doxxing her family and even her wedding photo. After Viswanath met opposition leader Rahul Gandhi, a BJP minister used DisinfoLab to accuse her of running an anti-India agenda.

THE BJP'S REACH EXTENDED FURTHER.

In 2021, U.S.-based activist Ajit Sahi discovered his phone was hacked with Pegasus spyware when he was living in India. Dr. Audrey Truschke, a Rutgers University professor, has endured death threats she attributes to BJP-linked campaigns. An online conference on "Dismantling Global Hindutva" (DGH) was flooded with trolling and backlash, including death and rape threats against participating academics.

INDIAN NEWS MEDIA FUELS HARASSMENT OF MODI CRITICS.

who've long documented India's international harassment tactics. For over two decades, we've alerted the U.S. Congress, Department of Justice, State Department, and National Security Council about India's proxy threats against U.S.-based critics.

INDIA OFTEN APPLIES HARSH MEASURES EVEN AGAINST VISITING FOREIGN NATIONALS.

Reverend Peter Cook of the New York State Council of Churches was deported in 2020. Pastor Bryan Nerren from Tennessee endured seven months of

activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia. Soon after, the U.S. Justice Department revealed a murder-for-hire plot targeting Sikh activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, allegedly organized by Indian intelligence. Both are major figures in North America's Khalistani movement.

Canada took an unusually bold stance. Trudeau explicitly accused India of "threatening and killing Canadian citizens on Canadian soil." Then he expelled Indian diplomats after accusing them of gathering intelligence on Canadian Sikh activists and sharing it with criminal proxies who used the information for extortion, arson, and murder.

Both the U.S. and Canada traced responsibility to the highest echelons of India's government. The Washington Post reported the U.S. suspects Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval approved the assassination plots - then the Department of Justice indicted a RAW official. Canada has openly implicated both Doval and Home Minister Amit Shah as authorizing the operations.

Thanks to several Congressional hearings on TNR since late 2023, the U.S. appears poised to address the issue decisively.

In December 2023, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held the first hearing. This was followed in 2024 by a House subcommittee session looking at TNR from a homeland security perspective, a Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission session, and a House hearing on human rights in India.

LEGISLATORS ARE EVEN MAKING MOVES.

In August 2024, then Representative Adam Schiff introduced H.R. 9707, a bill to establish a mechanism for tracking transnational repression activities by countries like India, tasking the Departments of State and Justice with investigative authority. It mentions India in the same breath as China, Iran, and Saudi Arabia. After Schiff's election to the Senate, he's likely to re-introduce the bill.

Through hearings, proposed legislation, and indictments tied to assassination plots, India's global misconduct is coming under scrutiny.

As a targeted journalist, I am heartened and yet unsettled by these developments. I still remember how Delhi Police once warned I am on their radar. I can only wonder: do they have my home address?

I also wonder, if Tulsi Gabbard is the new DNI, what will become of me and others who have criticized American politicians like her for aligning with the BJP?

(Pieter Friedrich is a freelance journalist)



Tulsi Gabbard meets India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi

Photo: PMINDIA

In 2018, Times Now aired a segment on Sikh-American activist Pawan Singh, sensationally framing his remarks at a Congressional briefing as "Anti-India Forces Storm Capitol Hill." Figures like Sahi, Rasheed Ahmed of the Indian American Muslim Council, Raju Rajagopal of Hindus for Human Rights, and former U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Chair Nadine Maenza have all been targeted by DisinfoLab and slandered on X (formerly Twitter), typically as Pakistan-aligned "anti-India" figures. Notoriously BJP-aligned outlets like OpIndia and The Sunday Guardian amplify this propaganda.

Then India added a more "hands-on" method to its toolkit for handling international critics. In June 2023, as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepared for an official state visit to Washington, DC, RAW allegedly plotted to kill "so many targets" on North American soil.

The disclosure of assassination plots by Indian operatives in the U.S. and Canada, targeting Sikh activists, shocked many in North America.

It was no surprise for those of us

detention in India before U.S. intervention secured his release, also in 2020. In 2024, UK-based Kashmiri professor Nitasha Kaul was detained for 24 hours in Bangalore without water or access to her phone before being deported.

Moreover, the Indian government has revoked "Overseas Citizen of India" status from critics such as New York Times journalist Aatish Taseer, former Vice journalist Angad Singh, and Swedish professor Ashok Swain. Now they cannot visit their home countries. Santa Clara University professor Rohit Chopra faces a prolonged defamation suit in India for exposing plagiarism in a book about V. D. Savarkar, the Hindu nationalist icon linked to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.

The objective is to make critics keep their heads down and to chill the speech of others who might voice out. Yet, for the U.S. and Canadian governments, the threat posed by India's transnational repression (TNR) may now be unavoidable.

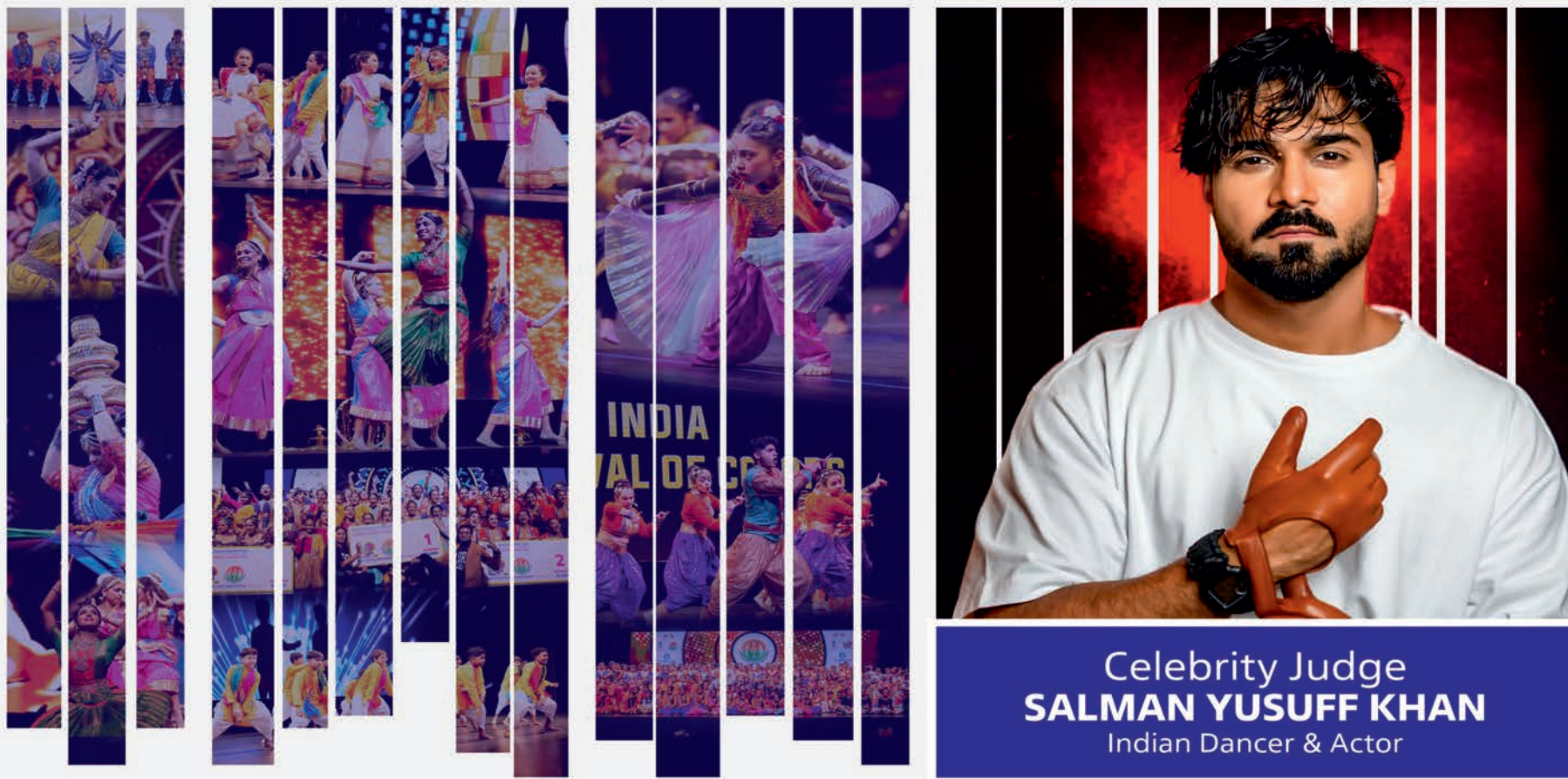
In September 2023, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused India of orchestrating the murder of Sikh

CELEBRATING INDIA'S 76th REPUBLIC DAY



THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS-NY-NJ-CT-NE

DANCE PE CHANCE 2025



Celebrity Judge
SALMAN YUSUFF KHAN
Indian Dancer & Actor

SAT. FEB. 1ST, 2025 | 4 PM ONWARDS

PATRIOTS THEATRE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL, 1 MEMORIAL DRIVE TRENTON, NJ 08608

CELEBRITY JUDGES

20,600+ PARTICIPATIONS IN 41 YEARS

PRIZE MONEY GIVEAWAYS



CERTIFICATE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS



POPULAR VOTES PRIZES



STATE OF THE ART AUDITORIUM



FREE PARKING

SUPPORTERS & MEDIA PARTNERS



For Sponsorship Contact: info@fianyjnct.org | www.dancepechance.org | www.fianyjnct.org

ITEC DAY 2024 CELEBRATIONS IN GUATEMALA, HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra meeting with ITEC alumni in Guatemala City

JANUARY 20, 2025

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): The Embassy of India in Guatemala City, concurrently accredited to Honduras and El Salvador, celebrated ITEC Day 2024 with its alumni across these countries. To ensure maximum participation, the Embassy organized three separate events: in Guatemala City on 28 November 2024, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 3 December 2024, and in San Salvador, El Salvador, on 10 January 2025. This initiative aimed to acknowledge the growing popularity of ITEC courses in the region and to promote their benefits to a wider audience, including alumni, government officials, and key dignitaries.

ITEC courses have garnered significant appreciation in Central America for their role in capacity building, technical expertise, and fostering development partnerships. Since introduction of ITEC courses in the region in 2015, a total of 393 trainees from Guatemala (183), Honduras (122), and El Salvador (88) have so far participated in these programs. These courses have equipped participants with practical skills and technical knowledge that contribute directly to the socio-economic progress of their countries.

Celebrating ITEC Day in these countries provided an invaluable platform for alumni to share their experiences, connect with peers, and explore potential collaborations. These events fostered a strong sense of community among ITEC alumni, showcasing the program's tangible benefits and encouraging greater participation from diverse sectors. Furthermore, the celebrations reinforced bilateral ties between India and the host countries by demonstrating India's commitment to capacity building and development cooperation. The events featured keynote speeches, alumni testimonials, presentations on ITEC

opportunities, and networking sessions, attended by prominent dignitaries and stakeholders. Cultural segments and exhibitions highlighting ITEC success stories further enriched the program. Through these initiatives, the Embassy aimed to enhance India's engagement with Central America, cultivate new partnerships, and position India as a trusted partner in skill development and education.

Ambassador Manoj Kumar Mohapatra engaged with the alumni in Guatemala City on 28 November 2024. He expressed his gratitude for their continued support in strengthening India-Guatemala relations and emphasized the transformative impact of the ITEC program. He underscored its role in empowering individuals and fostering stronger bilateral ties between India and Guatemala. During his address, the Ambassador encouraged the alumni to act as bridges of collaboration and friendship, further deepening the partnership between the two countries. The event featured keynote speeches, alumni testimonials, and discussions on ITEC opportunities, offering insights into how the program continues to shape careers and strengthen diplomatic relations. The celebration also included cultural presentations and exhibitions, showcasing the diverse experiences of Guatemalan professionals who have benefited from training in India. The event not only reinforced the impact of the ITEC initiative but also strengthened India's



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra interacting with ITEC alumni in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

commitment to capacity-building and development cooperation in the region.

During the event in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on 3

December 2024, Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra engaged with ITEC alumni from Honduras, highlighting India's leadership in global capacity-building initiatives and its commitment to fostering international partnerships. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Health Minister H.E. Carla Reyes of Ministry of Health of Honduras, who underscored the value of India's ITEC program in enhancing skills and expertise in vital sectors. The gathering included ITEC alumni from her Ministry, who shared their experiences and insights on how the training programs in India have positively impacted their professional growth and contributed to institutional development. This interaction not only celebrated the success stories of the alumni but also reinforced the strong bilateral ties between India and Honduras.

During the event in San Salvador, El Salvador on 10 January 2025, Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra had the opportunity to engage with ITEC alumni from El Salvador, fostering a spirit of camaraderie and mutual appreciation. Ambassador highlighted the transformative impact of ITEC programs, which have provided professionals from El Salvador and across the globe with advanced training in diverse fields such as information technology, management, healthcare, and renewable energy. He pointed out that these programs are not only enhancing the skills and expertise of participants but also fostering knowledge-sharing and cross-cultural exchanges, contributing to sustainable development in partner countries. The interaction served as a platform to showcase India's dedication to creating a more equitable and inclusive world through education, training, and technical collaboration, while reaffirming the importance of shared growth and cooperation in addressing global challenges.



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra interacting with ITEC alumni in El Salvador, El Salvador

ITEC program plays a crucial role in fostering capacity building and human resource development in partner countries. By offering specialized training across diverse fields such as information technology, management, healthcare, and engineering, ITEC equips professionals with essential skills that contribute to their national development. Through this initiative, India strengthens its global presence as a reliable partner in knowledge sharing and sustainable growth. The Embassy remains committed to expanding ITEC's outreach, ensuring that more professionals from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador can benefit from these opportunities. Moving forward, the Embassy aims to introduce ITEC to a wider audience by engaging with government institutions, academia, and the private sector, further deepening India's collaboration with the region.

(Based on a press release issued by Ramesh Khulbey)



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra interacting with ITEC alumni in Guatemala City

The Indian Diaspora is in a piquant situation

By Prabhjot Singh



JANUARY 27, 2025

TORONTO (TIP): Notwithstanding its political clout, the Indian diaspora is locked in a piquant situation. Starting last year, when an unprecedented and unpleasant diplomatic spat erupted between the country of its origin (India) and the country of its present domicile (Canada) over "foreign interference," the nearly two-million-strong community has landed in political and economic wilderness. Its problems have been aggravated further by the change of administration in the neighboring United States and a political upheaval in Canadian federal politics.

Thriving strongly for more than a century on people-to-people bondage without much political support from either of the countries, it now faces an uncertain future as special schemes and incentives, including express entry, free flow of student visas, and family reunification programs, have either been suspended or their provisions made tougher to remain attractive. Changes are bound to impact people-to-people bondage.

Its political clout too has been blunted as the only candidate of Indian descent in the Liberal party leadership run, Chandra Arya, has been declared

ineligible for the top political position in Canada. His exclusion, leaving six candidates in the contest, has sparked controversy and questions regarding the transparency and legitimacy of the Liberal Party's leadership election process. The only other candidate of Indian descent left in the contest is Ruby Dhalla, a former Liberal MP from Bampton-Springdale. The Liberal caucus has 16 members of the Indian descent.

Two of them - Anita Anand and Harjit Singh Sajjan - who have enjoyed the privilege of becoming the first politicians of South Asian descent to head the sensitive Ministry of Defense have made public their intent not to contest the 2025 federal elections. Most of the other members of the Liberal Party of South Asian origin, including Sukh Dhaliwal, Parm Bains, Randeep Serai, George Chahal, and Gary Anandasangaree - have thrown their weight behind former Governor of Bank of Canada, Mark Carney, in the Liberal party leadership race. Harjit Singh Sajjan has come out supporting Mark Carney, but Anita Anand has kept her cards close to her chest.

Another contender and Foreign Minister Melanie Joly not only pulled herself out of the leadership run but also decided to support Mark Carney, an acclaimed financial or economic wizard, who has been promising to pull Canada out of its present debt-torn fragile economy.

None of the South Asian MPs in the

Canadian House of Commons has supported other candidates in the leadership run, including former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, Leader of the House Karina Gould.

In the present House of Commons, Liberals have the largest number of MPs of South Asian descent followed by the official Opposition Party, the Conservatives, and the fourth largest party, New Democrats. Liberals have 16, Conservatives four and the NDP one in its leader Jagmeet Singh. The third largest party, Bloc Quebecois, is not represented by the community.

Among those representing the South Asian community in the present House of Commons include Anju Dhillon, Bardish Chagger, Ruby Sahota, Kamal Khara, Sonia Sidhu, Anita Anand, Chandra Arya, Parm Bains, Randeep Serai, Sukh Dhaliwal, George Chahal, Iqwinder Ghaheer, Arif Virani, Gary Anandasangaree Maninder Sidhu, (all from Liberals), Tim Uppal, Jasraj Singh Hallan, Arpan Khanna and Shuvaloy Majumdar (all Conservatives) and Jagmeet Singh (NDP).

With all three opposition parties clearly on the warpath to bring down the minority Liberal government at the first available opportunity and the threatened tariff war by the United States hanging looking imminent, the new Liberal Prime Minister will be daunted by an unspecified tenure in office that could extend from a few weeks to a couple of



Nepean MP, Chandra Arya, the first to declare his candidature for the Liberal Party leadership race, has been declared ineligible for the top political position in Canada.

Photo / Courtesy House of Commons

months as the federal elections are due in October. A no-confidence motion can bring the government to an abrupt end anytime it resumes its sitting on March 24.

How many of the sitting MPs of South Asian descent will find their place back in the next House of Commons depends largely on the choice of the new leader-cum-Prime Minister and the way the Government takes on the Donald Trump Administration-II. Challenges are mammoth.

Montreal Sikh businessman endorses Mark Carney

JANUARY 25, 2025

TORONTO (TIP): After the closing of nominations for the Liberal Party leadership, all aspirants for the top political post have stepped up their campaigns to reach out to the maximum number of party members.

The contestants will traverse through the length and breadth of the country in the coming weeks before a successor to incumbent Justin Trudeau is named in March, a fortnight before the prorogued House of Commons resumes its sitting on March 24.

Endorsements from members of the Cabinet, the Liberal caucus and party members who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents are some of the initial steps that can decipher the success of one of the seven contestants. The contestants of the Liberal leadership race are Chrystia Freeland, Mark Carney, Karina Gould, Chandra Arya, Ruby Dhalla, Jamie Battiste and Frank Bylis.

They have taken to their social media handles to enlarge their reach and to regularly update their accounts.

Hardcore supporters of the candidates, too, have been in the super active mode. Captains of industry, trade, businesses, financial institutions and others are working overtime to ensure the success of their respective candidates.

Diplomatic spats between India and Canada notwithstanding, the election of a successor to Justin Trudeau has been generating lot of interest back home in

India as two of the contestants - Chandra Arya and Ruby Dhalla - are of Indian descent.

Some of the members of the Liberal caucus, including Sukh Dhaliwal, Parm Bains, Randeep Serai, George Chahal, and Harjit Singh Sajjan, have endorsed Mark Carney. Justice Minister Arif Virani has thrown his weight behind Chrystia Freeland.

Though dominated by the second largest Opposition party, Bloc Quebecois, Quebec, which has produced or supported a substantial number of Prime Ministerial candidates in the past, has been witnessing a beehive of political activity for the ensuing Liberal Party leadership race.

One of the frontrunners for the top post, Mark Carney, launched his campaign from Edmonton, Alberta, and has garnered substantial support from the South Asian community.

In Montreal, a leading businessman, Baljit Singh Chadha hosted a reception for 100 businessmen at his residence for what he described as "the soon-to-be new Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney."

It was Mark Carney's first meeting in Quebec during his campaign.

Baljit Singh Chadha, who immigrated to Canada from Mumbai in the early 70s, shared details of the meeting he organized for the "future Prime Minister of Canada" with his friend back home and former Rajya Sabha member Tarlochan Singh.

Baljit Singh Chadha, a leading captain

of business in Montreal, has no political affiliations. As a philanthropist, he has established a Sikh Gallery in Montreal Museum.

He is President and founder of Balcorp Limited, an international trade and marketing firm and a leader of the Sikh community in Canada. Mr. Chadha immigrated to Canada in 1973 from India to study Business Administration.

His grandfather Sardar Sahib Sardar Mehar Singh Chadha, his father Sardar Jagjit Singh Chadha and his brother Sardar Dilmohan Singh Chadha of San Francisco, USA, have been devoted Sewadars of Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple), Amritsar.

Born in Bombay (Mumbai) in 1951, Mr. Chadha obtained his undergraduate science degree (B.Sc.) at the University of Bombay before immigrating to Canada. He obtained a Diploma in Business Administration (DBA) at the Richard Ivey School of Business at the University of Western Ontario and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Concordia University in Montreal. He also holds corporate director certification (ICD.D) from the Institute of Corporate Directors.

Beginning with just a rented desk and 100% borrowed capital, Mr. Chadha founded his own business, Balcorp Limited, in Montreal in 1976, later opening offices in Bombay and New Delhi.

Balcorp is now an international marketer of a broad range of products



Baljit Singh Chadha (sitting) with Mark Carney at his Montreal residence

Photo / Baljit Singh Chadha

and services. Mr Chadha is known for his depth of knowledge and expertise in international trade and strategic planning, both within his own company and across the breadth of his growing global business interests.

In 2003, the then Prime Minister Jean Chrétien named him to the Security Intelligence Review Committee, and also to the Queen's Privy Council of Canada.

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based award-winning independent journalist. He was celebrated by AIPS, the international body of sports journalists, for covering ten Olympics, at its centennial celebrations held at UNESCO Centre in Paris during the 2024 Olympic Games. Besides, he has written extensively about business and the financial markets, the health industry, the public and private sectors, and aviation. He has worked as a political reporter besides covering Sikh and Punjab politics. He is particularly interested in Indian Diaspora and Sikh Diaspora in particular. His work has also appeared in various international and national newspapers, magazines, and journals. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

2025 tax filing season starts as IRS begins accepting tax returns

TAXPAYERS HAVE MANY OPTIONS FOR HELP

JANUARY 27, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Internal Revenue Service opened the 2025 tax filing season today and is accepting and processing federal individual tax year 2024 returns.

During today's early morning opening, IRS systems have already received millions of tax returns from across the nation for processing.

The IRS expects more than 140 million individual tax returns for tax year 2024 to be filed ahead of the Tuesday, April 15 federal deadline. More than half of all tax returns are expected to be filed this year with the help of a tax professional, and the IRS urges people to use a trusted tax pro to avoid potential scams and schemes.

Taxpayers residing in a federally declared disaster area may have additional time to file and pay federal taxes.

GET FREE HELP PREPARING AND FILING TAXES ELECTRONICALLY

Taxpayers can visit IRS.gov to get answers to tax questions. IRS.gov is the quickest way for taxpayers to get help. The Interactive Tax Assistant (ITA) is a tool that provides answers to several tax law questions specific to individual circumstances. Based on input, it can determine a taxpayer's filing status, if a person should file a tax return, if someone can be claimed as a dependent, if a type of income is taxable, if a filer is eligible to claim a credit or if an expense can be deducted.

The IRS encourages people to file their tax returns electronically and choose direct deposit for more secure and faster refunds. According to Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service, paper refund checks are 16 times more likely to have an issue, like the check being lost, misdirected, stolen or uncashed. Filing electronically reduces tax return errors as the tax software does the calculations, flags common errors and prompts taxpayers for missing information.

FREE TAX FILING OPTIONS

The IRS offers free online and in-person tax preparation options for eligible taxpayers through IRS Free File, IRS Direct File and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs.

IRS Free File. Taxpayers with income of \$84,000 or less last year can use IRS Free File Guided Tax Software now through Oct. 15. IRS Free File Fillable forms, a part of this program, is available at no cost to any income level and provides electronic forms that people fill out and e-file themselves, also at no cost.

Direct File. Now open in 25 participating states, taxpayers can use Direct File to file online directly with the IRS for free. It is a free web-based service - available in English and Spanish - that works on mobile phones, laptops, tablets



or desktop computers. It guides taxpayers through a series of questions to prepare their federal tax return step-by-step. Direct File automatically guides taxpayers to state tools to complete their state taxes. Get help from IRS customer service representatives through a live chat feature in English and Spanish. Interested taxpayers can go to directfile.irs.gov, where they can determine if they are eligible.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA). The VITA program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$67,000 or less, persons with disabilities and taxpayers whose preferred language is not English. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals.

In addition to VITA, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 and older, specializing in questions about pensions and retirement-related issues unique to seniors.

MilTax. This is a Department of Defense program available to members of the military and some veterans with no income limit. MilTax generally offers free return preparation and electronic filing software for federal income tax returns and up to three state income tax returns.

Most refunds issued in less than 21 days: EITC refunds for many available by March 3

The easiest way to check a refund's status is by using "Where's My Refund?" on IRS.gov or the IRS2Go app.

Many factors can affect refund timing after the IRS receives a tax return. Although the IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days, the IRS cautions taxpayers not to rely on receiving a refund by a certain date, especially when making major purchases or paying bills. Some returns may require additional review and may take longer.

Under the federal Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act, the IRS cannot issue Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) refunds before mid-February. "Where's My Refund?" should show an updated status by February 22 for most early EITC/ACTC filers. The IRS expects most EITC/ACTC related refunds to be available in taxpayer bank accounts or on debit cards by March 3 if they chose direct deposit and there are no other issues with their tax return.

REPORT TAXABLE INCOME; DON'T FILE BEFORE RECEIVING KEY DOCUMENTS

People should report all taxable income on their tax return and wait to

file until they receive all of their income and informational documents. Taxpayers may receive various income and information statements such as Forms 1099 from banks or other payers, unemployment compensation, dividends, pensions, annuities or retirement plan distributions. Taxpayers receiving Forms 1099-K, for payments on sale of goods and services through an online marketplace or payment app, can visit What to do with Form 1099-K to help them figure and report the correct amount of income on their tax return.

CHOOSE A TRUSTED TAX PROFESSIONAL

More than half of taxpayers turn to a tax professional for help filing a tax return. While most tax preparers deliver exceptional and professional service, selecting the wrong preparer can lead to financial harm.

Taxpayers should review the tips for choosing a tax preparer and learn how to avoid unethical "ghost" return preparers who don't sign or include a valid preparer tax identification number (PTIN) on every tax return they prepare. Taxpayers can also use the IRS Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications to find trusted professionals. The IRS also reminds taxpayers that choosing someone affiliated with a recognized national tax association is always a good option. Tax professionals accepted into the IRS electronic filing program are authorized IRS e-file providers, qualified to prepare, transmit and process electronically filed tax returns.

BE AWARE OF TAX SCAMS

Be aware of scammers, who can become more active during tax season. They will attempt to mislead people about tax refunds, credits and payments. They pressure people for personal, financial, employment information or money.

Watch out for:

A big payday. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Bad tax advice on social media may convince people to lie on tax forms or mislead them about credits they can claim.

Demands or threats. Impersonators want people to pay "now or else." They threaten arrest or deportation. They don't let people question or appeal the amount of tax they owe.

Odd or misspelled website links. Odd or misspelled web links can take people to harmful sites instead of IRS.gov.

Tax-related identity theft occurs when someone uses stolen personal information, including Social Security numbers, to file a tax return claiming a fraudulent refund. If a person suspects

they are a victim of identity theft, they should continue to pay their taxes and file their tax return, even if they must file a paper return. Visit Identity Theft Central to find out more.

KNOW THE SIGNS OF IDENTITY THEFT

Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scams. Scammers use regular mail, telephone and email to set up individuals, businesses, payroll and tax professionals. Check out the latest consumer alerts and read more about the most recent tax related scams identified by the IRS.

MORE HELP IS NOW AVAILABLE

The IRS also provides taxpayers help in-person at Taxpayer Assistance Centers nationwide.

Some improvements taxpayers will see during the 2025 filing season are:

IRS Individual Online Account. The IRS continues to add more functionality to this important tool. Individuals can create or access their IRS Online Account at [Online account](https://www.irs.gov/onlineaccount) for individuals. With an IRS Online Account, people can:

View key details from their most recent tax return, such as adjusted gross income.

Request an Identity Protection PIN.

Get account transcripts, to include wage and income records.

Sign tax forms like powers of attorney or tax information authorizations.

View and edit language preferences and alternative media.

Receive and view over 200 IRS electronic notices.

View, make and cancel payments.

Set up or change payment plans and check their balance.

New scam alert. To help protect taxpayers against emerging threats, there's a new banner on the Online Account homepage that alerts taxpayers of potential scams and schemes, along with a link to their Digital Notices and Letters page to view correspondence sent to them from the IRS. The feature helps to educate taxpayers on common scams and fraudulent efforts to steal taxpayer information and provide taxpayers with more ability to validate the legitimacy of IRS communications.

Redesigned notices. The IRS successfully redesigned 284 notices in 2024, exceeding the agency's 200 notice goal. It is important to note that 200 notices were redesigned and deployed in 2024 and an additional 84 redesigned notices are in line to be deployed in 2025. All notices will be added to Individual Online Account so taxpayers receiving a specific letter can see it.

Mobile-adaptive tax forms. Taxpayers can now access 67 forms on cell phones and tablets.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Embassy in Washington D.C. Hosts Republic Day Celebrations



Ambassador Kwatra relays the President of India's address to the Nation at India House on January 26, 2025



A view of the gathering at India House to celebrate India's 76th Republic Day on January 26, 2025

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

of India's Address to the Natin at India House on January 26. Members of the Indian Diaspora participated enthusiastically in the festivities.

Trump says he wants to send 'repeat offenders' in U.S. legally to foreign countries



President Donald Trump

JANUARY 27, 2025

DORAL, FLA (TIP): President Donald Trump said Monday, January 27, that he doesn't just want to deport undocumented immigrants with criminal convictions, but also hopes to remove violent, repeat offenders - in the United States legally - from the country.

President Donald Trump said his administration is "fighting hard" to restrict birthright citizenship, which he rebranded "automatic citizenship for the children of illegal aliens." He falsely said no other countries had birthright citizenship (it's common throughout North and South America) and mischaracterized the provision's history as part of the 14th Amendment, which guaranteed citizenship to all freed people.

"It was really meant for children of slaves," he said incorrectly. "It was not meant for everyone to come into our country by airplane or charging across the borders from all over the world and think they're going to become citizens."

US Congress will pass sanctions against countries who don't cooperate on deportation: House Speaker

JANUARY 27, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US Congress is ready to pass sanctions on countries which refuse to cooperate with the Trump administration's order on deportation of undocumented immigrants, House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson has warned.

Soon after taking over, the Trump administration started massive mass deportation. Raids are being reported from across the country.

Colombia and all nations should be on notice - Congress is fully prepared to pass sanctions and other measures against those that do not fully cooperate or follow through on requirements to accept their citizens who are illegally in the United States, Johnson said.

"President Trump is putting America first, just like he said he would. And Congress will implement policies that reinforce his agenda, he said.

Johnson came out in support of Trump's decision to impose tariffs on Colombia after its President Gustavo Petro turned away two US military aircraft full of detained Colombian migrants.

The White House later on Sunday night that Colombia has agreed to the unrestricted acceptance of immigrants who entered the US illegally from Colombia and that President Donald Trump will not levy a 25 per cent tariff on the country unless Colombia fails to honour this agreement.

In a joint statement, two influential Democratic Senators Dick Durbin, Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Tammy Duckworth said these mass deportations have the potential to sweep up Dreamers who came to the United States as children, veterans who have served our nation and essential workers who care for



US Speaker Mike Johnson has warned of Congress sanctions against countries not cooperating on deportation

American family members, build homes and ensure that they have food on the tables.

Instead, we should focus on deporting those who pose a danger to our country. And we should give the rest a chance to earn legal status. They would have to register with the government, pay their dues, and submit to background checks, the two Senators said.

Over the last few days, Chicago has seen a series of raids. The Trump Administration has approved the use of military aircraft to enforce his immigration policy.

Congressman John Garamendi described it as deeply alarming.

Last week, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that India would be cooperating with the US in taking back undocumented Indians.



Karnataka court accepts closure report in bribery case against CM Siddaramaiah

A special court to try criminal cases against elected representatives has accepted the closure report filed by the Karnataka Lokayukta police in a bribery case involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The case was based on allegations made by a BJP leader, who accused Siddaramaiah of receiving Rs 1.3 crore during his previous tenure as CM in exchange for appointing a steward at the Bengaluru Turf Club (BTC).

In its ruling on January 18, the court stated, "The closure report filed by the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Karnataka Lokayukta, Bengaluru, dated 12.9.2024, is hereby accepted." The court further observed that while records indicated that "Accused No.1 Mr Siddaramaiah had received a sum of Rs 1,30,00,000 from Accused No 2 L Vivekananda, the same cannot be held to be an act of quid pro quo towards his nomination as steward of BTC." Previously, the special court had instructed the Lokayukta police to reopen and investigate the case.

Google celebrates India's 76th R-Day with 'wildlife meets culture' doodle

A snow leopard in a Ladakhi dress, a 'tiger' wearing a dhoti-kurta holding a traditional instrument and a few other animals and birds representing different regions of India and its diversity feature in a special doodle by internet giant Google to mark the 76th Republic Day. The colourful artwork, which borrows an element of surrealism, depicts the six letters of 'GOOGLE' artistically woven into the theme, giving the appearance of a 'wildlife parade'.

India will showcase its military might and vibrant cultural heritage on the Kartavya Path here on Sunday as it completes 75 years as a Republic.

Sixteen tableaux from different states and Union Territories, and 15 from central ministries, departments and organisations will roll down the ceremonial boulevard as part of the celebrations. The Madhya Pradesh tableau will depict the Project Cheetah and the Kuno National Park.

AAP, BJP promise the moon: Delhi assembly elections prove freebies now a staple of electoral campaigns

NEW FELHI (TIP)

In 1985, when the Tamil Nadu chief minister MG Ramachandran met the then deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Manmohan Singh, to discuss expenditure for a three-year-old mid-day meal scheme for children in his state, it would have been difficult to foretell that four decades hence, such plans would become the mantra to win elections.

In 2025, political sops - disparagingly referred to as freebies - have morphed into the biggest tool for wooing the electorate. The high-stakes Lok Sabha and assembly elections in the country have seen the mainstreaming of freebies as political parties compete in making promises in their manifestos—from mass employment to free electricity and free bus travel for women to cash benefits and subsidised gas cylinders - you name it.

Women-centric schemes seem the favourite of politicians: assembly poll results in Chhattisgarh, MP, Haryana and in Odisha, prompted the BJP-led Mahayuti government in Maharashtra to do the same, gaining convincingly.

The ruling BJP, once opposed to distributing election freebies, has now outdone the others. After a 63-seat loss in the Lok Sabha in June last year, the party has had a change of heart.

With the 70-strong Delhi assembly elections due early February, it's raining sops in the national capital. A bird eye's view of India's welfarist state.

In Delhi, the AAP has a virtually unbeatable record. Now, in its quest for a third term, the party's list of welfarism includes raising Mahila Samman Yojana from Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,100 per month and a Sanjeevani scheme to provide free health care to those above 60. The party said 1.3 million people had registered for the first and 15,000 for the second.

For autorickshaw drivers, AAP has promised life and accident insurance for Rs 15 lakh, annual uniform allowance of Rs 2,500 and Rs 1 lakh for their daughters' weddings.

Other promises include a monthly allowance of Rs 18,000 for



pujaris and granthis. For Delhi's residents' welfare associations, the AAP has promised an unspecified amount as security financing. Waving off 'inflated' water bills is another pledge.

The Congress has its own assurances: Rs 8,500 for skill training of the unemployed, Rs 2,500 as pyaari didi yojana and Rs 25 lakh insurance under Jeevan Raksha Yojana for Delhi.

If official announcements were not enough, charges are flying fast and thick: AAP leaders allege that the BJP is 'buying' votes in Delhi. Allegations of cash-for-votes have already begun.

In the Haryana assembly elections, the BJP announced Rs 2,100 monthly allowance for women, scooters for girl students, free dialysis for patients and two lakh government jobs. For the Maharashtra assembly polls, as many as 146 freebies were given out by the BJP-led NDA. These included a monthly payment of Rs 2,100 to a woman per month costing Rs 46,000 crore to the exchequer, a monthly stipend for students, increased benefit for farmers and a new Akshay Anna Yojana for providing kitchen essentials every month to families.

In Jharkhand, the ruling JMM's attempt to target 12.8 million women voters in the 2024 November's assembly elections worked.

Source: Livemint

Every sacred tenet of Constitution being shredded into pieces: Kharge

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a scathing attack on the BJP-led Centre, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleged on Sunday that a hateful agenda, immersed in religious fundamentalism, has sought to divide the society over the last 10 years and every sacred tenet of the Constitution is being "shredded into pieces by an authoritarian regime".

He claimed that the ruling BJP practises pseudo-nationalism by making disadvantaged youngsters carry the flag of "nationalism" and "religious supremacy", but does nothing to get them employment.

In his message to the nation on the 76th Republic Day, Kharge said it is high time that people preserved and protected the ideas and ideals of the Constitution—justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.

"We uphold the values espoused by our founders. Be ready to make every sacrifice to protect the Constitution. This will be the true tribute to our ancestors," he said.



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Kharge added it is also time to reflect upon how the country is witnessing constant attacks on the Constitution.

The ruling party has unleashed a continuous degradation of India's institutions, built carefully over decades, the Congress chief alleged.

"Political interference in autonomous institutions has become a norm. Exercising control over their independence is being seen as a virtue of

power. Federalism is being trampled on a daily basis and the rights of Opposition-governed states are being curtailed," he further claimed.

"The functioning of Parliament has seen tremendous backsliding due to the tyrannical tendency of the ruling government," Kharge alleged.

The Congress leader also claimed that universities and self-governing institutions are witnessing constant intrusion.

A large part of the media has been converted as a propaganda tool for the ruling party, he said.

"Strangling dissent by witch-hunting Opposition leaders has become the only policy of those in power. In the past decade, a vicious, hateful agenda immersed in religious fundamentalism has sought to divide our society," Kharge alleged.

He further claimed that minorities are being targeted and those who are secular are being tarnished with the paint of "Goebbelsian propaganda".

India, Indonesia decide to boost defence and trade ties

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India and Indonesia on Saturday, January 25, decided to work jointly in defence manufacturing and supply chains, diversify two-way trade basket and boost maritime security ties with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing the Southeast Asian nation as an “important partner” of New Delhi in the Indo-Pacific.

Following wide-ranging talks between Modi and visiting Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, at least five pacts providing for cooperation in areas of health, maritime security, culture and digital space were signed.

In his media statement, Modi said both sides are committed to maintain peace, security and a rules-based order in the region and that freedom of navigation must be ensured in accordance with international laws.

The assertion came amid China’s growing military muscle-flexing in the South China Sea as well as in the Indo-Pacific.

The Prime Minister also said that both sides emphasised on cooperation in maritime security, cyber security, counter-terrorism and de-radicalisation.

Subianto, who arrived here on Thursday night primarily to grace the Republic Day celebrations as the chief guest, said Indonesia’s partnership with India is “very important” and that he has issued directions to his officials for accelerating the bilateral economic engagement.

In his remarks, Modi said both sides also decided to further strengthen mutual cooperation in areas such as FinTech, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things and digital public infrastructure.



PM Modi meets Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto at Hyderabad House in Delhi. ANI

Both sides also decided to work together in the areas of energy, critical minerals and science and technology.

“Indonesia is our important partner in the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and Indo-Pacific region,” Modi said.

“We both are committed to maintaining peace, security, prosperity and rules-based order in this entire region. We agree that freedom of navigation must be ensured in accordance with international laws,” he said. “In our Act East Policy, ASEAN unity and centrality have been emphasised,” he added.

The Prime Minister said the focus of the “extensive discussion” centred around various aspects of mutual cooperation.

“To increase cooperation in the defence sector, we have decided to work

together in defence manufacturing and supply chain. We have also emphasised on cooperation in maritime security, cyber security, counter-terrorism and de-radicalisation,” he said.

The Prime Minister said the agreement on maritime safety and security will further strengthen bilateral cooperation in crime prevention, search and rescue, and capacity building.

“In the last few years, our bilateral trade has grown rapidly, and last year it exceeded USD 30 billion. To further increase it, we have talked about market access and diversifying the trade basket,” he said.

“The private sector is also an equal partner in our efforts. We welcome today’s CEO Forum meeting and the agreements reached in the private sector,” he added.

Will facilitate return of Indian nationals overstaying in US or elsewhere: MEA

Amid the “massive deportation operation” announced by the US, India on Friday, January 25, reiterated its stance against illegal immigration, with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stating it will facilitate the return of Indian nationals “overstaying” or residing without proper documentation in the US or “anywhere in the world”.

During a weekly press briefing here, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, “We are against illegal immigration, especially because it is linked to several forms of organised crime.”

He said, “Indians, whether in the US or anywhere else in the world, if they are Indian nationals and are overstaying or residing in a country without proper documentation, we will take them back.” He further added that documents are shared with Indian authorities to verify their nationality and confirm that they are indeed Indian citizens.

Jaiswal’s comments came in response to the White House Press Secretary’s earlier announcement that “the largest massive deportation operation in history is well underway”.

Fugitive Pannun hiding abroad like a scared mouse: Punjab police

The Punjab Police on January 15 dubbed designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun a “fugitive hiding abroad like a scared mouse” after several Patiala schools received an email allegedly from the banned Sikhs for Justice group, asking them to refrain from the Republic Day celebrations.

In a revised strategy to counter repeated threats issued by Pannun and gangsters or terrorists operating from abroad, the police in a video message also asked him to stop misguiding the youth by promising money and foreign settlement.

After several schools across Patiala received the email asking them to suspend participation in the Republic Day celebrations, police officials termed such threats as “hollow” and “a mere ploy by such groups to raise funds” for his motive to disturb the state’s law and order.

The police response came following a meeting of DGP Gaurav Yadav with senior state officers. It was decided to combat the threats issued by Pannun and his banned group through social media during the discussions.

BJP sweeps urban local body polls in Uttarakhand; wins 10 of 11 mayoral seats

DEHRADUN (TIP)

The BJP on Sunday, January 26 swept the urban local body elections in Uttarakhand, winning 10 out of 11 mayoral seats to emerge as the dominant party in the municipal councils and nagar panchayats.

While the BJP won 10 mayoral seats, an Independent candidate bagged the remaining seat, State Election Commissioner Sushil Kumar told PTI.

Polling to 11 municipal corporations, 43 municipal councils, and 46 nagar panchayats was held by ballot on Thursday with 65.4 per cent of voters exercising their franchise.

A total of 5,405 candidates, including 72 running for 11 mayoral posts, 445 for municipal council chairperson and 4,888

for municipal councillors and members, were in the fray.

The mayoral seats won by the BJP included Dehradun (Saurabh Thapliyal), Rishikesh (Shambhu Paswan), Kashipur (Dipak Bali), Haridwar (Kiran Jaisdal), Roorkee (Anita Devi), Kotdwar (Shailendra Rawat), Rudrapur (Vikas Sharma), Almora (Ajay Verma), Pithoragarh (Kalpana Devlal), and Haldwani (Gajraj Bisht).

Arti Bhandari, an Independent nominee, won the Srinagar mayoral seat in Pauri district, Kumar said.

Congress, which won two mayoral seats in the last urban local body polls held in 2018, drew a blank this time.

In municipal councils too, it finished third behind the BJP and independents.

In the run-up to the urban local body polls, the BJP had sought votes in the name

of a triple-engine government to keep the pace of development “uninterrupted” in the state. As the results showed a BJP sweep, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama congratulated the winning party candidates and asked them to speed up development works in their respective areas.

“Heartiest congratulations to all the winning candidates of BJP. People have elected capable public representatives. Now it is the job of all the elected representatives to speed up development in their respective areas and strengthen the system. “Our aim is to implement the concept of clean and green city on the ground through municipal bodies so that tourists coming to the state from across the country and abroad return with positive and inspiring experiences,” Dhama said.

India in history this Week

JANUARY 24 TO JANUARY 30

24 JANUARY

1950 On this day, the Constituent Assembly elected the first President of the country. Apart from this, the National Anthem was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 24 January 1950.



1966 Air India's Boeing 707 crashes near the summit of Monblan in the hills of the Alps. 117 people died in it.

1950 Jana Gana Mana was accepted as the national anthem.

1857 University of Calcutta was established.



1950 Dr. Rajendra Prasad became the first President of independent India.

1951 Prem Mathur became India's first female commercial pilot in 1951.

1952 The first International Film Festival was held in Bombay in 1952.

2002 The Indian satellite INSAT-3C successfully orbited in 2002.

25 JANUARY

1971 Himachal Pradesh came into existence as a state.

1980 The Indian Brahma Samaj was started in 1880 by the famous social reformer Keshav Chandra Sen.

1980 After a gap of three years, in 1980, Padma Vibhushan, Bharat Ratna, etc. civil honors started being awarded again.

1980 The famous philanthropist Mother Teresa was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1980.

2002 In 2002, Arjan Singh became the first Air



Marshal of the Indian Air Force.

26 JANUARY

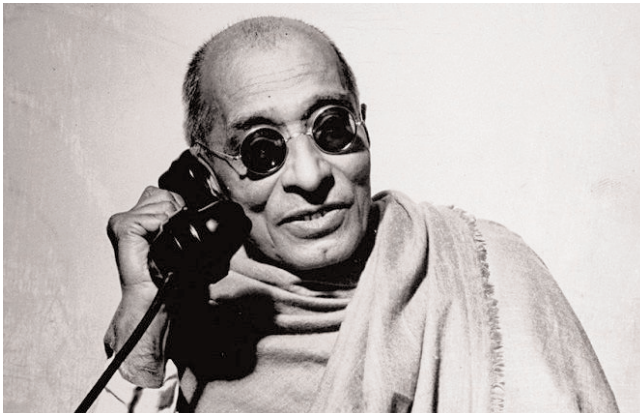
1956 In the year 1956, Humayun, son of Mughal emperor Babur, died.

1930 Swaraj Day was celebrated for the first time in India under British rule.

1931 Mahatma Gandhi was released for talks with the British government during the 'Civil Disobedience Movement'.

1949 The Constitution of India was prepared on this day.

1950 India is declared a sovereign democratic republic and the Constitution of India comes into force.



1950 Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, the first and last Governor General of independent India, resigned from his post and Dr. Rajendra Prasad became the first President of the country.

1950 Ashoka Pillar was adopted as the national emblem.



1963 The Government of India declared it a national bird on 26 January due to the peacock's amazing beauty.

1972 The National Memorial Amar Jawan Jyoti was established at India Gate in Delhi.



1981 Keeping in mind the ease of air traffic in Northeast India, Air service Vayudoot started.

1950 The Constitution of India was implemented at 10.18 minutes on 26 January 1950.

1955 The first parade of Republic Day took place on 1955 at Rajpath in Delhi.

1930 The Indian Constitution was implemented on 26 January keeping in mind the full Swaraj Day (26 January 1930).

27 JANUARY

2008 Bird flu spread in 13 districts of West Bengal.

1974 President VV Giri dedicated the Nehru Memorial Museum at Teen Murti in New Delhi to the nation.

1988 In 1988, the helicopter postal service was inaugurated for the first time.

1992 Famous Indian actor Bharat Bhushan passed away in 1992.

2009 The eighth President of India, R. Venkataraman (Ramaswamy Venkataraman) died in 2009.

28 JANUARY

2009 Calcutta Medical College started in West Bengal.

1928 King Ramanna, the leading physicist of the country, was born.

1930 The classical singer Pandit Jasraj, who belonged to Mewati Gharana, was born.

1999 Lamb was born from a protected embryo for the first time in India.

2007 Famous musician OP Nayyar died.

1961 The first factory of HMT watches was started in 1961 in Bangalore.

1988 The accused in the 'Rajiv Gandhi murder case' were given the death penalty.

29 JANUARY



1597 Maharana Pratap was born.

1780 India's first English newspaper Bengal Gazette was first published.

1780 Publication of the country's first newspaper Hikki Gazette or Bengal Gazette or Calcutta General Advertiser from Calcutta (now Kolkata) began.

1994 Government of India repealed the Air Corporation Act 1953.

30 JANUARY

1948 Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation, was assassinated.

1530 Rana Sangram Singh of Mewar passed away.



Indian American Forum

14th

Women's Achievements Awards Gala

Sun, March 2nd @ 5PM \$125 PP

AKBAR Restaurant ~ 2 South St, Garden City, NY

OUR ESTEEMED HONOREES

Dr Jagmohan Kalra ~ Oncologist

Dr Leena N Doshi ~ Radiologist

Dr Nita Mehta ~ Ophthalmologist

Sarina Jain ~ Founder, Masala Bhangra

Falguni Shah ~ Grammy Award Winner

Presented By: Indian American Forum Inc.

Bobby K. Kalotee – Founder, Friends For Good Health

Chairperson Indu Jaiswal (516) 248-7241

Gala Chair Shammi Singh (917) 862-1313

Advertise In Our Souvenir Journal

Full Page \$ 500.00

Back / Front Inside Cover Page \$1000.00

All Donations Are Tax Deductible



Chanbir Kaur (516) 476-1003
 Jyoti Gupta (516) 984-5220
 Vijay Goswamy (516) 731-5250
 Dr. Urmilesh Arya (516) 606-2014
 Roopam Maini (516) 302-5185

Beena Kothari (631) 988-1280
 Anu Gulati (516) 795-1588
 Dr. Meena Jaiswal (516) 859-5392
 Inesha Joneja (917) 744-6665
 Vandana Govil (516) 314-5927
 Mohinder Taneja (516) 840-7968

Flora Parekh (631) 875-4612
 Nirmala Rametra (631) 269-1144
 Pinky Rangi (516) 984-5859
 Bina Sabapathy (516) 965-2931
 Anju Sharma (516) 582-5888

'GODMOTHER OF SOUL' LABELLE CELEBRATES HER 80/65 TOUR AT NJPAC

By Mabel Pais

The iconic PATTI LABELLE brings her 80/65 Tour to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC). The legendary singer, author, and actress, who has won multiple Grammy Awards, is celebrating 65 years in show business at 80 years young on February 8, 2025. Patti Labelle, also known as the 'godmother of soul,' will grace the NJPAC stage, performing all her chart-topping hits.

Her illustrious career began as the lead singer of the renowned group Patti LaBelle and the Bluebelles, later known as Labelle, and she achieved worldwide fame with the release of the disco classic 'Lady Marmalade.'

LaBelle spent 16 years as lead singer of Patti LaBelle and the Bluebelles, who changed their name to Labelle in the early 1970s and released the iconic disco song, 'Lady Marmalade.' LaBelle's solo



Patti LaBelle

Credit: njpac.org

career she delivered unforgettable hits such as 'On My Own,' 'If You Asked Me To,' 'Stir It Up,' and 'New Attitude' and R&B ballads such as 'You Are My Friend,' 'If Only You Knew' and 'Love, Need and Want You.'

With over 50 million records sold

globally, Patti Labelle's remarkable contributions have earned her a place in the Grammy Hall of Fame, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and the Apollo Hall of Fame. Notably, Rolling Stone magazine recognized her as one of the '100 Greatest Singers.'

TICKETS

Tickets to see Patti Labelle are available by visiting NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office or calling 888.G.O.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

ACTOR-COMEDIAN-HUMANITARIAN CHRIS TUCKER RETURNS TO NJPAC FOR HIS VALENTINE'S SPECIAL

By Mabel Pais

Following past multiple sold-out performances at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), internationally recognized, award-winning actor, producer and comedian CHRIS TUCKER will return for his latest headlining engagement on Valentine's Evening. Get ready to share laughs with your loved one on Friday, February 14, 2025, at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

He is best known for his iconic roles of Detective James Carter in the blockbuster 'Rush Hour' action-comedy film series, starring opposite Jackie Chan under the direction of Brett Ratner and for his appearances on HBO's 'Def Comedy Jam.'

When Chris Tucker takes the stage, anything can happen. You know him from beloved films such as 'Friday,' 'Jackie Brown,' 'Silver Linings Playbook,' 'AIR,' 'The Fifth Element,' 'Money Talks,' and from 'Def Comedy Jam.'

Most recently, Chris was seen on the big screen starring opposite Ben Affleck, Matt Damon and Viola Davis in the Amazon Studio hit 'AIR.' He currently appears in the Oscar nominated film 'Silver Lining Playbook' with Robert DeNiro, Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper.

PRODUCER/COMEDY

He has also made a name for himself as a producer with projects like the hit movie 'Money Talks' and the 2015 Netflix-exclusive stand-up film 'Chris Tucker Live,' marking the first project he starred in and produced through his own company, Chris Tucker Entertainment.



Chris Tucker

Credit: njpac.org

He currently tours around the world performing live comedy shows, which have received rave reviews globally.

EARLY CAREER

Tucker's career began in the early 1990s when he became a favorite on Russell Simmons' HBO Def Comedy Jam. He then rose to prominence with his first starring role, in the 1995 cult classic Friday, alongside Ice Cube. In 1997, Tucker executive produced and co-starred with Charlie Sheen in the hit movie 'Money Talks,' directed by Ratner, and also appeared in Luc Besson's globally successful sci-fi adventure 'The Fifth Element.' His other film credits include the Hughes brothers' 'Dead Presidents,' Quentin Tarantino's 'Jackie Brown,' David O'Russell's award-winning hit 'Silver Linings Playbook,' and Ang Lee's 'Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk.'

HUMANITARIAN

Beyond his professional achievements on stage and screen, Tucker is a dedicated humanitarian, spending much of his spare time traveling the world,

doing charitable work through The Chris Tucker Foundation. By making a difference, he truly believes we are blessed to be a blessing.

TICKETS

Get ready to laugh your head off with your loved one at Chris Tucker's Valentine Day's Special, by visiting NJPAC.org or the box office, or calling 888.GO.NJPAC.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC located in downtown Newark, N.J., is America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, which have reached almost 2 million children,

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

FOLLOW NJPAC ONLINE:

Website: njpac.org
Twitter: NJPAC
Instagram: NJPAC
Hashtag: NJPAC
Facebook: facebook.com/NJPAC
YouTube: NJPACTv

FOLLOW NJPAC'S STANDING IN SOLIDARITY SERIES ONLINE:

Website: 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)

NAI NI CHEN WELCOMES LUNAR NEW YEAR OF THE SNAKE IN NJ

By Mabel Pais

"An outburst of pure joy...nothing less than spectacular." - NJArts.net



Women dancers

Credit : nainichen.org

A Newark tradition for over two decades, the Fort Lee-based company Nai-Ni Chen Dance returns to NJPAC to welcome the coming of the Spring of 2025, the Year of the Snake. The NAI-NI CHEN DANCE Company will celebrate the 2025 Lunar New Year of the Snake on Saturday & Sunday, February 1-2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m., at the Victoria Theater of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, 1 Center Street, Newark NJ, 07102.

Join Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company for spellbinding family matinee performances as it embraces the spirit of the Year of the Snake through the power and beauty of dance. A highlight of the winter season at NJPAC, this annual celebration weaves together graceful movements and vibrant costumes to bring ancient traditions to life. Audiences experience majestic dragons, dancing lions, elegant peacocks, stunning acrobats, twirling ribbons, and much more! In what has become an annual tradition, Nai-Ni Chen helps usher in an auspicious Lunar New Year, surrounded by the warmth of the Newark community, the joy of cultural celebration, and the spirit of renewal. The run time of the show will be 90 minutes including intermission.

Music with authentic Chinese musical instruments will be played in the program, performed by the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York (CMENY). The Company will premiere a new dance for the Year of the Snake with a collaboration using the music, 'Dances of the Golden Snake.' The new dance will be created by Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company's Director of Traditional Dance and Preservation, Ying Shi. This unique live music/dance using Chinese instruments provides an experience that can only be seen in this program in the United States.

'LION IN THE CITY' is based on the traditional Chinese Lion Dance, which is the most popular dance performed in the Chinese New Year Celebration. The Lion Dance is a prayer for peace on earth as a child is able to play with a ferocious beast in harmony. There are many styles of the Lion Dance in China. Last year, the Company was celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop and memorializing the pioneering spirit of Nai-Ni Chen, who began working with Rokafella and Kwikstep in 2017, developing a dialogue between her contemporary/Chinese movement style and hip-hop. This dance was originally commissioned by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in 2023. It is being repeated by popular demand.

SNAKE DUET (working title) is a new dance based on



Dragon dance

Credit : nainichen.org

one of the most important legends about the snake in the Chinese tradition, the Legend of the White Snake. It is a love story about a powerful magical White Snake and her best friend the Green Snake coming to seek eternal love on earth but their journey suffered oppression and rejection for their identity. Long believed to be a story that advocates for women's status in the traditionally male-dominated, ancient Chinese society, this dance shows the solidarity between the two snake women and their bond of sisterhood.

TIGER AND WATER LILIES was originally commissioned by Ballet Met in Cleveland. Nai-Ni Chen created Tiger and Water Lilies for ballet dancers, with movements that are within the range of contemporary ballet and yet emphasize some of the key aspects of Asian dance movements. The male and female dancers represent contrasting ideas of motion vs. stillness, animal vs. plant and strength vs. beauty.



Solo dancer

Credit: nainichen.org

UNFOLDING is a dance based on the common heritage of the Chinese and Korean people. On the Korean flag is the symbol from I-Ching, the Book of Changes, which describes the laws of the changing universe in ancient China. I-Ching says, "The Tao is ever changing, alternating, moving without rest." As nature unfolds at a vibrant pace, so does our life's journey. This dance was originally commissioned by Dancing in the Streets in New York and premiered in the gardens of Wave Hill in the Bronx.

DRAGON FESTIVAL is based on the traditional Chinese Dragon Dance. The Dragon Dance is the most spectacular folk dance performed in the Chinese New Year Celebration. The Dragon carries auspicious powers and nature's grace. The Chinese Dragon is a spiritual and cultural symbol that represents prosperity and good luck, as well as a water deity that nurtures harmony. It controls rainfall, rivers, and ocean. For those fortunate to see this dance in the Chinese New Year, their coming year will be filled with peace, harmony, and good fortune.

TICKETS

Tickets to celebrate the Year of the Snake Lunar can be purchased by calling 888. G.O.NJPAC (888.466.5722) or visiting the box office or njpac.org/event/nai-ni-chen-dance-company-year-of-the-snake.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC, located in downtown Newark, N.J., is America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey - where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, which have reached almost 2 million children, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted more than 10 million visitors since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents.

FOLLOW NJPAC ONLINE:

Website: njpac.org
Twitter: NJPAC
Instagram: NJPAC
Hashtag: NJPAC
Facebook: [facebook.com/NJPAC](https://www.facebook.com/NJPAC)
YouTube: NJPACTv

FOLLOW NJPAC'S STANDING IN SOLIDARITY SERIES ONLINE:

Website: njpac.org/takeastand
Hashtag: NJPACTakeAStand
Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist.

NAI-NI CHEN DANCE COMPANY

The celebration of the Lunar New Year is a spectacular experience for all ages, combining traditional Chinese celebrations with modern flair. The Company dancers, acrobats and musicians evoke the spirit of the Snake with festive costumes in red, gold, blue, and purple colors symbolizing their prayer for a peaceful and harmonious New Year with plenty of prosperity and good fortune. Learn more at nainichen.org.

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

WITNESS AN EXHILARATING COMPANY OF DANCER-ILLUSIONISTS INSPIRED BY ALICE.....

By Mabel Pais

"An exhilarating showcase of marvels for the men and women of Momix, who cavort for their eagerly applauding audiences like so many skilled acrobats in their element...[they] gleam like gold." - The Wall Street Journal

Get Ready to witness a night of spectacular dance and illusion with MOMIX-ALICE, a magical performance created by the dance company MOMIX on Sunday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m.



Momix performers

Credit:njpac.org



Momix performers

Credit:njpac.org

Inspired by Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, dancers transform into Caterpillars, White Rabbits, Mad Hatters, the Queen of Hearts, and other characters from the classic tale. With mind-bending acrobatics, mysterious illusions, and whimsical surprises, anything can happen on this adventure!

Under Moses Pendleton's direction, MOMIX has wowed international audiences with work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty for 40 years.

The company returns to NJPAC for the first time since its presentation of 'Best of MOMIX' in 2019.

"I continue to be interested in using the human body to investigate non-human worlds," says Moses Pendleton.

MOMIX, a company of dancer-illusionists under the direction of Moses Pendleton, works to create visually stunning and theatrical performances combining elaborate dances with spectacular props and costumes such as silks, skis, and visuals. The company has been featured on TV, film, and commercially and broadcast to 55 countries worldwide. Each performance pushes the body's boundaries and reaches a point where dance and multimedia presentations have not yet gone before. As Pendleton explains, MOMIX endeavors to create pieces "using the human body to investigate non-human worlds..."

Travel down the rabbit hole MOMIX-style with Moses Pendleton's newest creation, Alice, inspired by 'Alice in Wonderland.' As Alice's body grows and shrinks and grows again, Pendleton's dancers extend themselves using props, ropes, and other dancers. In an endless search for another gravity, Pendleton combines athletic dance, riveting music, outrageous costumes, inventive props, and pure talent to create an entertaining multimedia experience that will surprise, enchant, and astonish. As Alice falls down the rabbit hole and experiences every kind of transformation, so will the audience.

A mix of breathtaking athleticism and stunning artistic beauty, MOMIX once again delivers a performance experience derived from the incredible Alice in Wonderland story that is sure to both amaze and delight audiences. Learn more at momix.com

TICKETS

Escape into a world of MOMIX make-believe by purchasing tickets at njpac.org or by visiting the NJPAC Box Office located at 1 Center Street, Newark, New Jersey or calling 888. GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

MOMIX

MOMIX, a company of dancer-illusionists founded and directed by Moses Pendleton, has been presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty for more than 40 years. From its base in Washington, Connecticut, the company has developed a devoted worldwide following. In addition to stage performances, MOMIX has also worked in film and television, as well as corporate advertising, with national commercials for Hanes and Target, and presentations for Mercedes-Benz, Fiat, and Pirelli. With performances on PBS's 'Dance in America' series, France's Antenne II, and Italian RAI television, the company's repertory has been beamed to 55 countries. The Rhombus Media film of Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition' with MOMIX and the Montreal Symphony was the winner of an International Emmy for Best Performing Arts Special. MOMIX was also featured in 'IMAGINE,' one of the first 3-D IMAX films released in IMAX theaters worldwide. MOMIX dancers Cynthia Quinn and Karl Baumann, under Moses Pendleton's direction, played the role of 'Bluey' in the feature film 'F/X2,' and 'White Widow,' co-choreographed by Pendleton and Quinn, was featured in Robert Altman's movie 'The Company.' With nothing more than light, shadow, fabric, props, and the human body, MOMIX continues to astonish and delight audiences on five continents. Learn more at momix.com.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Follow NJPAC Online:

Website: njpac.org

Instagram: NJPAC

YouTube: NJPACTv

Hashtag: NJPAC

Twitter: NJPAC

Facebook: facebook.com/NJPAC

FOLLOW NJPAC'S STANDING IN SOLIDARITY SERIES ONLINE:

Website: 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)

MAKE YOUR BRAND ROAR IN THIS FEROCIOUS MARKET



Advertise for as little as \$10.00.
Call 646-247-9458



The Indian Panorama FOR FREE AT
www.theindianpanorama.news

DJ
KUCHA

Event  Master


THE METROPOLITAN

THE METROPOLITAN PRESENTS

VALENTINE'S

Love In
Style

DAY



FRI • FEB 14TH, 2024

DOORS OPEN AT 7PM

THE METROPOLITAN

3 PRATT BLVD., GLEN COVE, NY 11542

\$175
COUPLE

FREE VALET PARKING

LOVE PASSION DRINK

360 PHOTO BOOTH



COUPLE FUN GAMES

BOLLYWOOD DJ

DRESS CODE:

RED

BLACK

TICKETS AT:  Sulekha.com |  Eventbrite

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

RAJEEV MAINI
917-335-7133

ONKAR SINGH
212-300-6511

KUCHA
917-859-6000

EVENTMASTER/      | WWW.EVENTMASTER.NYC

DESIGNED BY HV PRODUCTION



Shahid Kapoor doesn't want his kids to enter showbiz

Actor Shahid Kapoor has followed his father and actor Pankaj Kapur's footsteps into Bollywood but doesn't want his kids to do the same. In a recent interview, he revealed that he wants his kids to stay away from the industry.

Shahid spoke about kids and why he doesn't want them to enter Bollywood in Raj Shamani's podcast Figuring Out. Shahid is married to Mira Rajput, with whom he shares a daughter Misha and a son Zain.

"Kaafi saari cheezein hain (There are many things), that I do not want them to take from me. I want them to be more confident inherently, which I think they both are. I wasn't inherently that confident. Ideally, I wouldn't want them to do my job, picture mein mat aana yaar. Kuch aur karo, Bahut up and down hota hai yaar, bahut rough hai. (Don't get into acting. Do something else. There are many ups and downs, it's very rough) If they want to, it's their choice, but I would be like choose something simple, this is too complex," Shahid said.

In the same interview, he also spoke about what he wants to teach his kids. He said, "Always do the right thing, I always try and do the right thing, whether I am liking it, whether someone else is not liking it, whether it is damaging to me, doesn't matter, I will do the right thing."

Sara Ali Khan's rumored boyfriend breaks silence on relationship

Actor and model Arjun Pratap Bajwa came to the spotlight last year when he was romantically linked to actor Sara Ali Khan. The two were spotted together on a pilgrimage to Kedarnath in several pictures that went viral on the internet. Now, Arjun has addressed the dating rumours in a new interview.

In October 2024, Arjun and Sara were spotted together in several pictures of the actor's trip to Kedarnath. In other photos posted later, they posed separately in the same spots in Rajasthan. This led to speculation that the two were dating and vacationing together.

In a new interview with Team Varinder Chawla, Arjun addressed the rumours and said, "So, whatever people have to write, they will write. That's their job. They're doing their job. I just focus on myself and what I have to do, and it doesn't really bother me." Meanwhile, Sara has maintained silence on the matter, neither confirming nor denying the rumours.

Son of politician Fateh Singh Bajwa, Arjun is an actor, model, and fitness enthusiast. He is best known for his work in the film, Band of Maharajas, and was also an assistant on Singh is Bliing. Arjun is also a trained MMA fighter. Arjun's father Fateh Singh Bajwa is a senior member of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Punjab.

Sara is currently starring in Sky Force, an aerial war drama, opposite her ex-boyfriend Veer Pahariya, who is making his debut with the film. The film stars Akshay Kumar and features Nimrat Kaur in a cameo appearance as well. It hit the screens today (January 24) ahead of Republic Day.



Vicky Kaushal on transformation for Chhaava: Went from 80 to 105 kilos



After his role in the action film Uri: The Surgical Strike, Vicky Kaushal is elated to be a part of Chhaava. The period drama features Vicky playing the role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. During his recent media interaction at Chhaava trailer launch, the actor shared his preparation behind playing the iconic character.

Vicky Kaushal confessed that he wanted to do an action film for a very long time. He shared how he had gained 25 kgs for his role in the upcoming drama. While talking about the same, he said, "The last action film I did was Uri: The Surgical Strike. Since then, I have been yearning for an opportunity to do action again. I didn't know they'd put me on a horse and have me wield a sword. But everything was new. I didn't know horse riding, so I trained

for it, along with sword fighting and spear combat—everything involved proper training for 6-7 months. Then there was the weight gain—I went from 80 kilos to 105 kilos."

Adding, he said how he trained hard for his role. "Other than this, I had to do a lot of action training, practicing action sequences for months. Action choreographer Parvez Sir and his team supported us immensely. The entire action sequence you saw in the teaser was shot under the scorching sun with a crowd of 2,000 people, including around 500 stuntmen. It was during the month of Ramadan, and many stuntmen were fasting, performing stunts without eating or drinking, all to showcase the glory of Shambhaji Maharaj."

Chhaava is set to release in theatres on February 14.

Angelina Jolie surely 'devastated' over Maria's Oscars snub as 'Hollywood is team Brad Pitt'

Angelina Jolie is reportedly devastated over being snubbed by the Oscars for her portrayal of Maria Callas in the biopic *Maria*, according to industry insiders. Despite dedicating months to mastering the opera singer's role, including learning to sing, Jolie's performance garnered a Golden Globe nomination but was passed over by both the SAG Awards and the Academy.

Angelina Jolie portrays the renowned opera singer Maria Callas in the biopic *"Maria,"* which focuses on the final seven days of Callas' life in Paris in 1977. The film explores her reflections on her illustrious career, her struggles with vocal decline, and her complex relationships.

"Angelina will be devastated ... look at all the press she did for the film — she wanted to get nominated," a source close to the annual event told PageSix. "She did Jimmy Fallon, her first late-night show in over a decade. She even went to the Gotham Awards. She did all these magazine covers."

"*Maria*" grapples with themes of identity, legacy, and the enduring power of art. It shows how Callas, despite her fame and talent, grappled with personal demons and the pressures of her public image.

After taking a break from acting, Jolie made her comeback in the biopic, but the Oscars didn't roll out the red carpet. According to a Hollywood awards expert, the snub "wasn't great for Angelina — or Netflix." And while some



speculate that it's all tied to her very public split from Brad Pitt, a movie insider claims Hollywood's still got a soft spot for Brad.

"This just shows that Hollywood is Team Brad," the insider said. "The Globes showed that the foreign press loves her, but that's not Hollywood. Nobody was going to go against Brad and give Angelina a vote ... people just love Brad."

After eight years of legal battles,

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt finally put their divorce to rest in December. Although, Jolie's performance was generally praised in the new film, according to an insider, the Oscars snub may have more to do with Hollywood politics than just the performance itself. As the industry welcomes new faces with first-time nominees, there's a sense that Jolie's journey could be weighed down by past headlines.

Source: HT



Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal tease iconic *When Harry Met Sally* reunion on Instagram

Hollywood stars Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal recently shared an intriguing update with their fans. The beloved duo posted a photo on Instagram that appears to be a playful homage to their 1989 classic *When Harry Met Sally*. Crystal, 76, wore a sweater strikingly similar to Harry's iconic one from the film, while the setting evokes the interviews in the rom-com. Ryan, 63, sported an outfit that closely mirrored Sally's signature style from the movie.

In the caption, Ryan teased their upcoming reunion, writing, "It's finally happening, we're reuniting for something iconic. Can't wait to show you all soon." Crystal also shared the same photo and caption on his Instagram — marking his very first post on the platform. Fans were quick to express their excitement in the comments, with many eagerly speculating about what the duo might be preparing.

Their reunion has certainly sparked nostalgia among fans of *When Harry Met Sally*, a film that has continued to capture hearts since its release.



Witherspoon and Ferrell spar in wedding comedy 'You're Cordially Invited'

Hollywood star Reese Witherspoon says teaming up with actor Will Ferrell for the romantic comedy *"You're Cordially Invited"* was a long time coming.

The actors, who in 2001 worked together on a "Saturday Night Live" episode, make their first joint feature film appearance in the movie, which they also produced.

"Every day I was on set, I was like, Will, this is on my bucket list," Witherspoon said at the film's premiere at London's Palladium theatre on Thursday.

"You're Cordially Invited" sees two wedding parties arriving at a small island hotel to discover their nuptials have accidentally been booked for the same day. Widower Jim, whose daughter is getting married, and Margot, an LA-based reality TV executive in charge of her sister's wedding, agree to share the venue but quickly come to regret their decision. Chaos and comedy ensue as the two clash and seek to outdo each other.

Ferrell, 57, a father of three sons and Witherspoon, 48, who also has three children, said the film's family dynamics resonated with them.

"Will's daughter is getting married and he's worried he's going to have nothing for himself because she's really his lifeline. And I'm worried my sister is going to leave my life," said Witherspoon. "Underneath all of the sparring and fighting there's this deep fear and I think that's how we connect in the end."

The film is written and directed by "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and "Bros" filmmaker Nicholas Stoller.

"I'm a father of three daughters, so I certainly poured a lot of my experiences into his character. And then Reese's sister is getting married and she has a kind of complex relationship with their family, and we all have complex relationships with our family. So, it was a bit autobiographical," Stoller said. Source: Reuters

The History of India's Republic Day



India's Republic Day, celebrated annually on January 26, holds profound historical and cultural significance. This day marks the moment in 1950 when the Constitution of India came into effect, replacing the colonial Government of India Act (1935) and establishing India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic. It is a day of national pride and a tribute to the relentless struggles and sacrifices of the Indian people for self-governance and justice.

The Road to Republic Day: Independence and Beyond

India achieved independence from British rule on August 15, 1947. However, the newly independent nation did not have a constitution of its own and continued to be governed under the colonial Government of India Act of 1935. The need for a comprehensive legal framework that would reflect the values, aspirations, and cultural heritage of independent India became evident. To achieve this, the Constituent Assembly of India was formed in 1946, consisting of eminent leaders, thinkers, and visionaries.

The Assembly's task of drafting the Constitution was both monumental and meticulous. Chaired by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Assembly included stalwarts like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, and others. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, as the chairman of the Drafting Committee, played a pivotal role in shaping the Constitution, earning him the title of the "Architect of the Indian Constitution."

After nearly three years of deliberations, debates, and revisions, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution on November 26, 1949. This date is celebrated annually as Constitution Day. However, the Assembly chose January 26, 1950, as the date for the Constitution to come into effect to honor a historic milestone in India's freedom struggle.

The Historical Significance of January 26



India's First Republic Day Celebrations, Jan 26, 1950.

The choice of January 26 as Republic Day was deeply symbolic. On this day in 1930, the Indian National Congress, under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, declared Purna Swaraj (complete independence) from British rule during its Lahore Session. This declaration was a turning point in

India's struggle for independence, inspiring millions to join the movement for self-rule. By making January 26 the date for the Constitution's implementation, India's leaders established a link between the freedom movement and the birth of the republic.

The First Republic Day: A Historic Celebration

India's first Republic Day on January 26, 1950, was a moment of immense pride and joy. Dr. Rajendra Prasad took the oath as the first President of India, marking the transition of the nation to a fully sovereign republic. The ceremony was held in the Durbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, and the event was celebrated with grandeur and enthusiasm across the country.

The first Republic Day Parade was held at Irwin Amphitheatre (now Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium) in New Delhi. It was a modest affair compared to today's grand spectacle, but it set the precedent for showcasing India's cultural diversity and military prowess.

The Republic Day Parade: A Symbol of Unity and Pride

The Republic Day Parade at Rajpath in New Delhi has become the centerpiece of the celebrations. It is a vibrant display of India's cultural heritage, military strength, and technological advancements. The parade includes:

- **Military Display:** The parade features regiments of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, as well as paramilitary forces. Tanks, missiles, and other defense equipment highlight India's defense capabilities.
- **Cultural Tableaux:** Each state and union territory presents a tableau depicting its unique cultural traditions, historical landmarks, and achievements.
- **Awards and Honors:** The President of India confers prestigious awards such as the Padma Awards, Bharat Ratna, and gallantry awards to individuals and organizations for their exceptional contributions.
- **School Performances:** Schoolchildren perform colorful dances and drills, symbolizing the country's unity and vibrancy.
- **Flypast:** The Indian Air Force concludes the parade with a breathtaking flypast, including formations and maneuvers by fighter jets.

Republic Day Beyond Delhi: Nationwide Celebrations

While the main event takes place in the capital, Republic Day is celebrated with equal fervor across the country. Schools, colleges, and public institutions organize flag-hoisting ceremonies, cultural programs, and patriotic events. The day begins with the President's address to the nation, followed by flag-hoisting ceremonies and parades in various states. Local communities and organizations also engage in social and cultural activities, emphasizing national unity and pride.

International Participation and Diplomatic Significance

Another unique feature of Republic Day is the presence of a foreign dignitary as the Chief Guest. This tradition began in 1950, with President Sukarno of Indonesia as the first guest of honor. The presence of an international leader highlights India's diplomatic ties and its growing stature on the global stage. Over the years, leaders from various countries, including the United States, France, Japan, and South Africa, have graced the occasion.

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will be the chief guest for Republic Day 2025, marking a significant milestone in the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Indonesia.

Reflection and Renewal

Republic Day is more than a celebration; it is a reminder of the responsibilities that come with freedom. The Constitution of India enshrines the principles of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, and it is the duty of every citizen to uphold these values. The day also serves as an opportunity to reflect on the progress made by the nation and the challenges that lie ahead.

As India continues to progress as the world's largest democracy, Republic Day serves as a beacon of hope and resilience. It is a day to reflect on the sacrifices made by



the nation's forebears and renew the commitment to building a more equitable, inclusive, and prosperous society.

India's Republic Day is a celebration of the nation's achievements and a tribute to its rich history and diverse culture. It is a testament to the strength and unity of the Indian people, reminding them of their shared heritage and the collective responsibility to uphold the ideals of the Constitution. With its blend of tradition and modernity, Republic Day continues to inspire generations, fostering a sense of pride and belonging among all Indians.

Beating the Retreat Ceremony: A Symphony of Tradition and Patriotism

The Beating the Retreat Ceremony is an iconic event that marks the culmination of the Republic Day celebrations in India. Held annually on January 29, this majestic ceremony takes place against the awe-inspiring backdrop of the historic Vijay Chowk in New Delhi. With its grandeur and solemnity, it serves as a fitting finale to the week-long festivities that honor India's rich heritage and democratic spirit.

Origins of the Beating the Retreat Ceremony

The tradition of Beating the Retreat has its roots in the 16th-century military practice of signaling the end of the day's battle. Drummers and buglers would sound the retreat, signaling troops to disengage, return to their camps, and lower their flags. The ceremony was later adapted by the British, and India retained this tradition post-independence, imbuing it with its own

cultural and patriotic essence.

The Splendor of the Event

The ceremony begins with the President of India, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, arriving at Vijay Chowk. The area, illuminated by floodlights, is transformed into a visual spectacle. The main attraction is the synchronized performance by the bands of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. These bands perform an array of martial tunes, patriotic songs, and classical Indian music, creating a harmonious blend that resonates with the audience.

Key highlights include the soulful rendition of classics like "Abide With Me," a favorite of Mahatma Gandhi, and the stirring strains of 'Sare Jahan Se Achha.' The event concludes with the lowering of the National Flag, accompanied by the playing of the National Anthem. As the flag is lowered, the illuminated Rashtrapati Bhavan, North Block, and South Block provide a mesmerizing backdrop, leaving spectators in awe.

Cultural and Patriotic Significance

The Beating the Retreat Ceremony is more than just a military tradition; it is a celebration of India's unity in diversity. The music played during the event often includes compositions that reflect the nation's varied cultural heritage. The ceremony serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the armed forces and instills a sense of pride and patriotism among citizens.

The Constitution of India

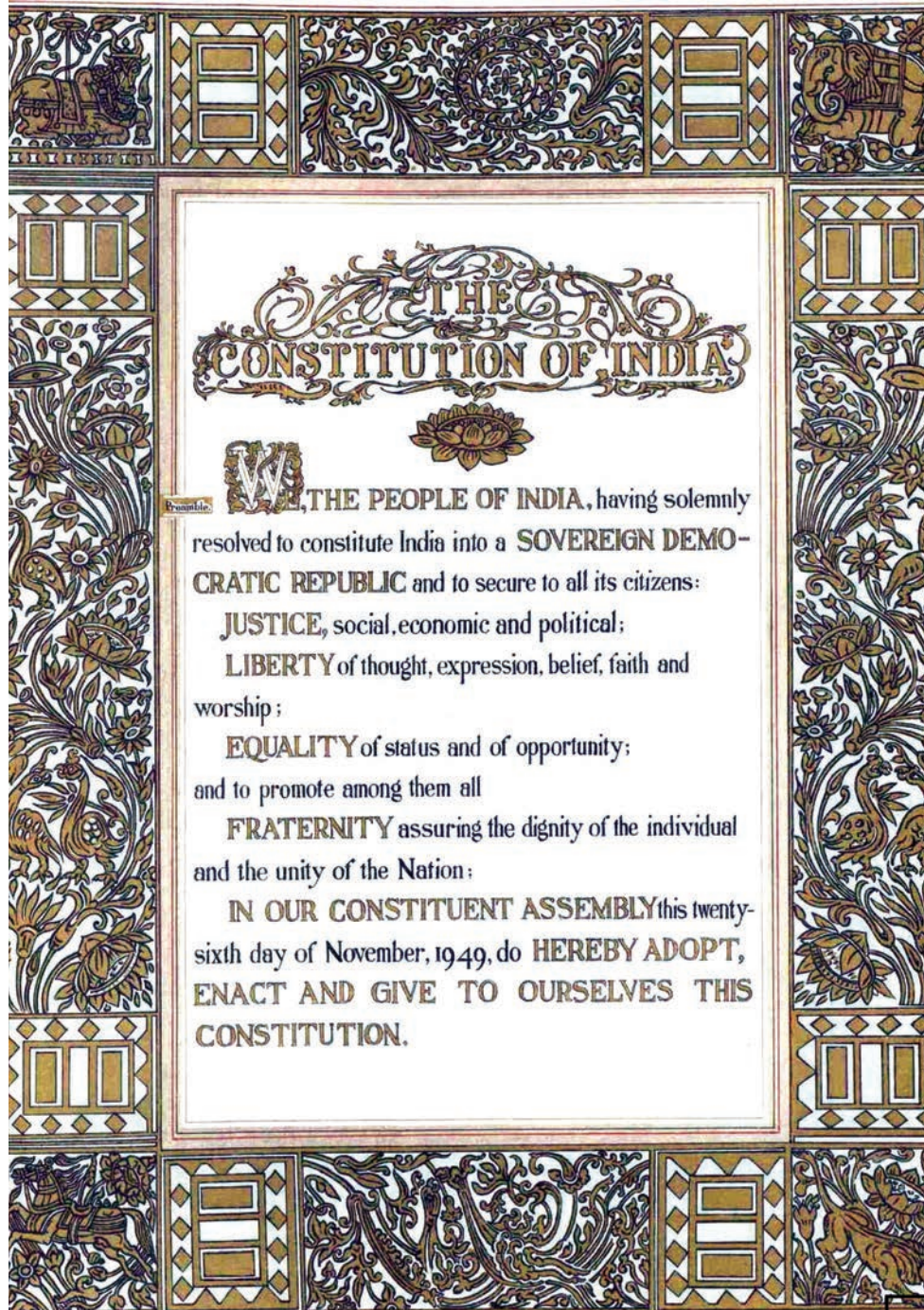
The Constitution of India is the supreme law of the land, serving as the framework for governance and the legal foundation of the world's largest democracy. Enacted on January 26, 1950, it establishes the principles, structures, and powers of the government and delineates the fundamental rights and duties of its citizens. This article provides an in-depth exploration of the Constitution—its origins, structure, features, and significance.

Historical Context and Drafting

The journey of the Indian Constitution began with the demand for self-rule during the Indian independence movement. The idea of a constituent assembly was first proposed in 1934 by M.N. Roy, and the process gained momentum after the 1940 August Offer and the Cripps Mission in 1942. Post-independence, the Constituent Assembly was formed in December 1946 to draft a constitution.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, often referred to as the "Architect of the Indian Constitution," chaired the Drafting Committee. The assembly included prominent leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, and Rajendra Prasad. After almost three years of debates and deliberations, the Constitution was adopted on November 26, 1949, and came into effect on January 26, 1950.

On the 14 August 1947 meeting of the Assembly, a proposal for forming various committees was presented. Such committees included a Committee on Fundamental Rights, the Union Powers Committee and Union Constitution Committee. On 29 August 1947, the Drafting Committee was appointed, with Dr B. R. Ambedkar as the Chairman along with six other members assisted by a constitutional advisor. These members were Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi (K M Munshi, Ex-Home Minister, Bombay), Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer (Ex- Advocate General, Madras State), N Gopalaswami Ayengar (Ex-Prime Minister, J&K and later member of Nehru Cabinet), B L Mitter (Ex-Advocate General, India), Md. Saadullah (Ex- Chief Minister of Assam, Muslim League member) and D P Khaitan (Scion of Khaitan Business family and a renowned lawyer). The constitutional advisor was Sir Benegal Narsing Rau (who became First Indian Judge in International Court of Justice, 1950-54). Later B L Mitter resigned and was replaced by Madhav Rao (Legal Advisor of Maharaja of Vadodara). On D P Khaitan's death, T T Krishnamachari was included in the drafting committee. A draft Constitution was prepared by the committee and submitted to the Assembly on 4 November 1947, which was debated and over 2000 amendments were moved over a period of two years.



Finally on 26 November 1949, the process was completed and the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution. 284 members signed the document and the process of constitution making was complete. This day is celebrated as National Law Day or Constitution Day.

The assembly met in sessions open to the public, for 166 days, spread over a period of 2 years, 11 months and 18 days before adopting the Constitution, the 308 members of the assembly signed two copies of the document (one each in Hindi and English) on 24 January 1950. The original Constitution of India is hand-written with beautiful calligraphy, each page beautified and decorated by artists from Shantiniketan including Beohar Rammanohar Sinha and Nandalal Bose. The illustrations on the cover and pages represent styles from the different civilisations of the subcontinent, ranging from the prehistoric Mohenjodaro civilisation, in the Indus Valley, to the present. The calligraphy in the book was done by Prem Behari Narain Raizda. It was published in Dehra Dun, and photolithographed at the offices of

Survey of India. The entire exercise to produce the original took nearly five years. Two days later, on 26 January 1950, the Constitution of India became the law of all the States and territories of India. Rs.1,00,00,000 was official estimate of expenditure on constituent assembly. It has undergone many amendments since its enactment.

The original 1950 Constitution of India is preserved in helium cases in the Parliament house, New Delhi. There are two original versions of this - one in Hindi and the other in English.

Structure of the Constitution

The Constitution of India is one of the longest written constitutions in the world, originally consisting of a preamble, 395 articles, 22 parts, and 8 schedules. Over the years, it has been amended multiple times, and as of now, it comprises a preamble, 470 articles, 25 parts, and 12 schedules.

- Preamble: The preamble declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic. It emphasizes the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.
- Parts and Articles: The

Constitution is divided into various parts, each addressing specific aspects of governance and law. These include fundamental rights (Part III), directive principles of state policy (Part IV), the structure of the government (Parts V-VIII), and more.

- Schedules: The schedules detail additional provisions like allocation of powers, lists of states and union territories, and other administrative aspects.

Salient Features of the Indian Constitution

- Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, and Democratic Republic: India is independent in its decision-making, upholds social and economic equality, maintains secular governance, and operates as a democracy.
- Federal Structure with Unitary Bias: While the Constitution establishes a federal framework with powers divided between the central and state governments, it also equips the center with overriding powers during emergencies.
- Fundamental Rights and Duties: Part III guarantees fundamental rights to citizens, including the right to equality, freedom, and protection against exploitation. Part IVA outlines the duties of citizens, fostering a sense of responsibility.
- Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP): These principles aim to guide the state in establishing a just society, addressing areas like health, education, and social welfare.
- Independent Judiciary: The judiciary acts as the guardian of the Constitution and ensures the rule of law. The Supreme Court is the apex court, followed by High Courts and subordinate courts.
- Parliamentary System of Governance: India follows a parliamentary system where the President is the constitutional head, and the Prime Minister, along with the Council of Ministers, exercises executive powers.
- Amendment Process: The Constitution provides for flexibility through amendments. Article 368 outlines the procedure, allowing changes to adapt to evolving socio-political needs.

Significance and Legacy

The Constitution of India is a living document that has withstood the test of time, adapting to changes while preserving its core values. It has played a vital role in maintaining India's unity in diversity, safeguarding individual freedoms, and fostering inclusive development. Its principles have inspired other nations and remain a testament to the vision of its framers.

Amendments in the Indian Constitution

The Constitution of India, adopted on January 26, 1950, is the longest written constitution in the world. It provides the fundamental legal framework for the governance of the country, outlining the structure of government, the distribution of powers, and the fundamental rights of citizens. However, like any living document, the Constitution has been subject to changes over time through amendments. Since its adoption, the Indian Constitution has undergone numerous amendments to address emerging issues, evolving political and social landscapes, and changing legal requirements.

The Amendment Process: Article 368

The Constitution of India provides a comprehensive mechanism for its own amendment under Article 368. This article allows Parliament to amend the Constitution, subject to certain procedures. Amendments can be initiated in either house of Parliament and must be approved by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. Some amendments require ratification by at least half of the State Legislatures, especially those affecting federal provisions or the distribution of powers between the Union and the States.

Over the years, the Constitution of India has been amended over 100 times, reflecting the dynamic nature of Indian democracy and the need for the Constitution to adapt to the changing needs of society.

Key Amendments in the Indian Constitution

The First Amendment (1951)

The First Amendment was introduced in response to several issues arising in the early years of the Republic. The amendment aimed to limit the scope of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 by imposing restrictions on certain grounds such as public order, decency, and morality. It also provided for the reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in local bodies and expanded the grounds for restricting freedom of speech.

The 42nd Amendment (1976)

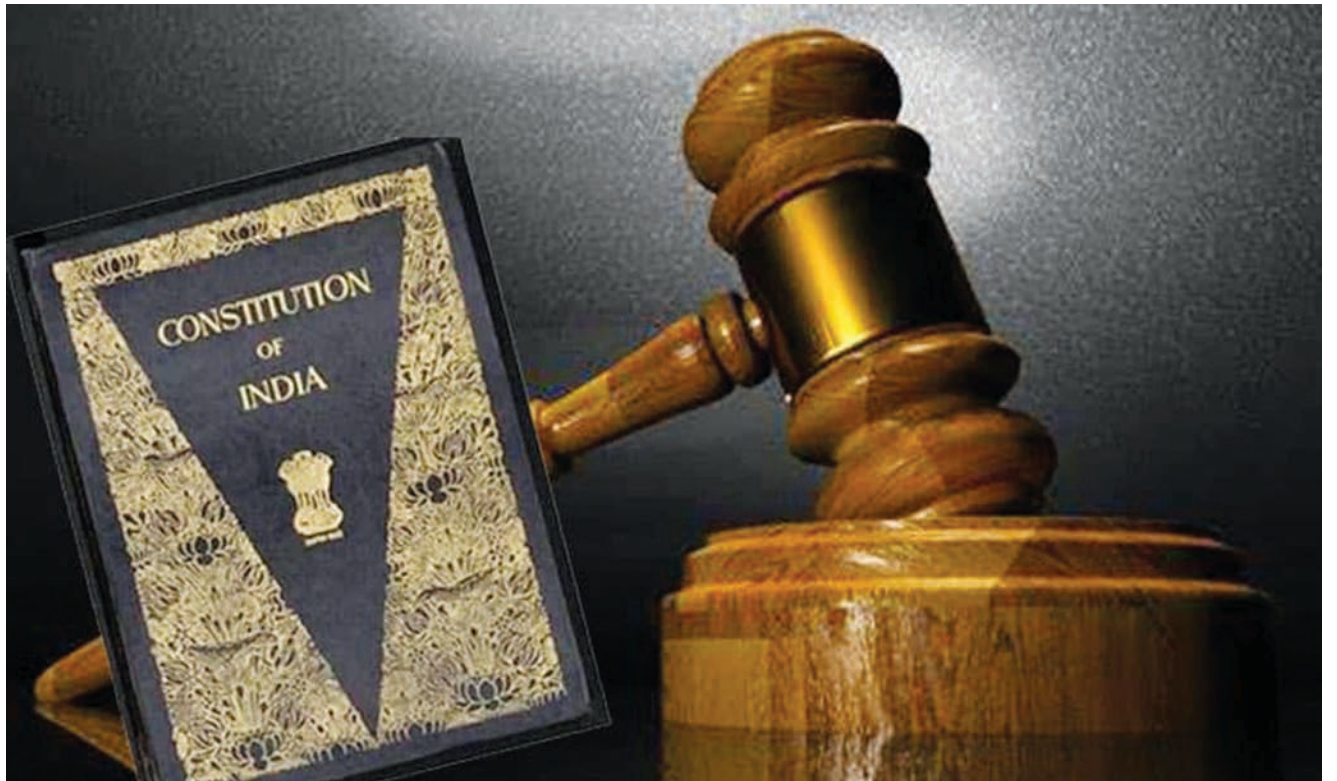
Often referred to as the "mini-Constitution," the 42nd Amendment was one of the most significant overhauls of the Indian Constitution. It was passed during the Emergency period (1975-1977) under the leadership of then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The amendment made sweeping changes, including:

- Curtailment of the power of judicial review: It attempted to limit the judiciary's power to review laws passed by Parliament.
- Introduction of the term 'Socialist' and 'Secular': The preamble was amended to include the words "Socialist" and "Secular," reflecting the evolving political ideology.
- Strengthening the executive: The powers of the President were expanded, while the powers of the judiciary and legislature were diminished.
- Promoting Fundamental Duties: The amendment introduced Fundamental Duties under Article 51A, emphasizing the moral obligations of citizens towards the nation.

The 44th Amendment (1978)

The 44th Amendment was a direct response to the controversial 42nd Amendment. It sought to undo many of the changes made by the earlier amendment, particularly those that limited the powers of the judiciary. Key provisions included:

- Restoration of the right to property: The amendment reversed the 42nd Amendment's provisions that had effectively removed the right to property as a fundamental right.
- Strengthening the judiciary: It ensured the



independence of the judiciary and reaffirmed the principle of judicial review.

The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1992)

The 73rd Amendment (for rural areas) and the 74th Amendment (for urban areas) introduced significant changes to the Indian system of local governance. These amendments provided for the establishment of Panchayats (rural local bodies) and Municipalities (urban local bodies) at the grassroots level. They included provisions for the direct election of representatives, reservation of seats for women, scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes, and the devolution of powers to local bodies. These amendments sought to promote democratic decentralization and empower local governance institutions.

The 86th Amendment (2002)

The 86th Amendment introduced major changes related to education. It made education a fundamental right for children between the ages of 6 and 14 by amending Article 21-A. This amendment provided a legal basis for the Right to Education Act (2009), which aimed to ensure free and compulsory education for all

children in this age group.

The 97th Amendment (2011)

The 97th Amendment focused on cooperative societies and their functioning. It inserted Article 43-B, which emphasizes the promotion of cooperative societies as a means of economic development. The amendment also provided for the regulation of cooperative societies through legislation at the national level.

The 101st Amendment (2016)

The 101st Amendment marked a significant reform in India's tax system with the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The amendment laid the foundation for the implementation of GST, which replaced various indirect taxes levied by the Union and the States, providing a unified tax structure across the country. This reform aimed to simplify the tax system, increase tax compliance, and boost economic growth.

The 103rd Amendment (2019)

The 103rd Amendment introduced a provision for economically weaker sections (EWS) of society, allowing them to access 10% reservation in educational institutions and government jobs. This amendment was seen as an effort to provide greater opportunities for disadvantaged groups, particularly those who did not fall under the existing reservation categories based on caste.

The 104th Amendment (2020)

The 104th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2020 extends SCs/STs seat reservations in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies until 2030 while abolishing the Anglo-Indian reserved seats. It also amends Article 334 to reflect these changes.

The 105th Amendment (2021)

The 105th Amendment of India, also known as the Constitution (One Hundred and Fifth Amendment) Act, 2021, restored the power of state governments to identify socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs). The amendment came into effect on August 18, 2021.

The 106th Amendment (2023)

The 106th Amendment Act of 2023 was the most recent amendment to the Constitution of India. It reserved one-third of all seats in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Legislative Assembly of Delhi for women.

People who steered India's Constitution

India's Constitution, the cornerstone of its democratic framework, is among the lengthiest and most comprehensive in the world. Drafted in the aftermath of independence, it embodies the aspirations of a diverse and vibrant nation. The making of the Constitution was a monumental task that involved the contributions of many visionary leaders. Below is a detailed exploration of some of the luminaries who played pivotal roles in shaping India's Constitution.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: The Chief Architect

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, often referred to as the "Father of the Indian Constitution," was the chairman of the Drafting Committee. A scholar of unparalleled brilliance, Ambedkar had a deep understanding of law, economics, and social justice. His leadership ensured that the Constitution addressed the systemic inequalities that plagued Indian society. Ambedkar's efforts to enshrine the principles of equality, liberty, and fraternity were particularly aimed at dismantling caste discrimination and empowering marginalized communities. The inclusion of Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy are among his lasting contributions.

Jawaharlal Nehru: The Visionary Leader

As the first Prime Minister of independent India and an influential member of the Constituent Assembly, Jawaharlal Nehru's vision shaped the foundational principles of the Constitution. Nehru was a staunch advocate of democracy, secularism, and a scientific temper. His contributions to the Preamble, which encapsulates the ideals of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, were significant. Nehru's speeches and leadership during the drafting process inspired the Assembly to aim for a progressive and inclusive Constitution.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Integrator

Sardar Patel, known as the "Iron Man of India," was instrumental in unifying the princely states and integrating them into the Indian Union. As a member of the Constituent Assembly, Patel emphasized the importance of a strong federal structure with adequate autonomy for states. His pragmatic approach influenced the administrative framework of the Constitution, ensuring a balance between central authority and state powers. Patel's efforts ensured the smooth functioning of India's democracy in its formative years.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad: The Guiding Hand

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, who later became the first President of India, served as the President of the Constituent Assembly. Renowned for his patience, wisdom, and impartiality, Prasad played a critical role in guiding the debates and discussions within the Assembly. His leadership ensured that diverse viewpoints were respected and incorporated into the Constitution. Prasad's calm demeanor helped maintain a sense of unity and purpose among the members.

Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer: The Legal Luminary

Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, a distinguished lawyer and a member of the Drafting Committee, brought unparalleled legal expertise to the Constitution-making process. His contributions were particularly significant in framing the legal and judicial provisions of the Constitution. Iyer was a strong advocate for a unified judiciary and the rule of law, principles that remain central to India's governance.

K.M. Munshi: The Cultural Custodian

Kanhaiyalal Maneklal Munshi, a lawyer, freedom fighter, and writer, played a key role in ensuring that India's Constitution reflected its rich cultural heritage.



Dr BR Ambedkar and other members of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution on Aug. 29, 1947.



Jawaharlal Nehru signs the Constitution at the final session of the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950.

Munshi was instrumental in drafting the Directive Principles of State Policy, which outline the aspirational goals for governance. He also championed the cause of linguistic reorganization and cultural preservation, ensuring that the Constitution acknowledged India's diversity.

B.N. Rau: The Constitutional Adviser

Benegal Narsing Rau, the constitutional adviser to the Constituent Assembly, was a pivotal figure in the initial stages of drafting the Constitution. Rau prepared the first draft of the Constitution and conducted extensive research on global constitutional frameworks. His comparative analysis of constitutions from around the world provided a solid foundation for the Drafting Committee's work.

Hansa Mehta, Sarojini Naidu, and Other Women Leaders

Women leaders like Hansa Mehta, Sarojini Naidu, Durgabai Deshmukh, and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur made

significant contributions to the Constitution's framing. Hansa Mehta was a strong advocate for gender equality and played a role in ensuring that the Constitution upheld women's rights. Sarojini Naidu, known as the "Nightingale of India," brought her eloquence and commitment to the Assembly's discussions, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and social justice.

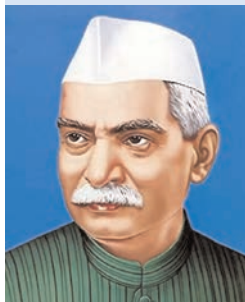
The Collective Effort

The drafting of the Indian Constitution was a collaborative endeavor involving 299 members of the Constituent Assembly. Over 11 sessions spanning nearly three years, these members debated and deliberated on various aspects of governance, rights, and responsibilities. The Assembly drew inspiration from global constitutions while ensuring the document reflected India's unique socio-political context. The final document, adopted on November 26, 1949, represents the collective wisdom, dedication, and vision of these leaders.

Presidents of Republic of India

The president of India is the head of state of the Republic of India. The president is the nominal head of the executive, the first citizen of the country, as well as the supreme commander of the Indian Armed Forces. Droupadi Murmu is the 15th and current president, having taken office from 25 July 2022.

1. Dr. Rajendra Prasad (1950–1962)



Birth: December 3, 1884
Tenure: The first President of India, serving two terms.

Background: A leader of the Indian freedom movement and a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi.

Notable Achievement: Played a vital role in drafting the Indian Constitution.

2. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (1962–1967)

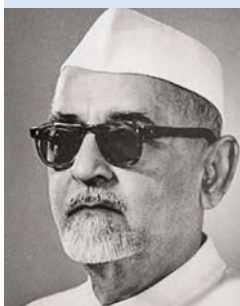


Birth: September 5, 1888
Tenure: Second President; previously served as Vice President.

Background: Philosopher and educator; advocated for education and India's cultural heritage.

Notable Achievement: His birthday is celebrated as Teachers' Day in India.

3. Dr. Zakir Husain (1967–1969)



Birth: February 8, 1897
Tenure: Third President and first Muslim President of India.

Background: An educationist, former Vice Chancellor of

Aligarh Muslim University

Notable Event: Passed away during his tenure.

4. Varahagiri Venkata Giri (1969–1974)



Birth: August 10, 1894

Tenure: Fourth President; served briefly as Acting President before being elected.

Background: Advocate of labor rights; former Governor of Uttar Pradesh and Kerala.

Achievement: First recipient of the Bharat Ratna as a President.

5. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed (1974–1977)



Birth: May 13, 1905
Tenure: Fifth President.

Background: A lawyer and Congress leader.
Notable Event: Passed away during his tenure, making

him the second President to die in office.

6. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy (1977–1982)



Birth: May 19, 1913
Tenure: Sixth President, elected unopposed.

Background: A senior Congress leader and former Lok Sabha Speaker.

Notable Achievement: Known for his humility and simplicity.

7. Giani Zail Singh (1982–1987)



Birth: May 5, 1916
Tenure: Seventh President.

Background: Former Chief Minister of Punjab and Union Home Minister.

Notable Events: His tenure saw the assassination of Indira Gandhi and Operation Blue Star.

8. R. Venkataraman (1987–1992)



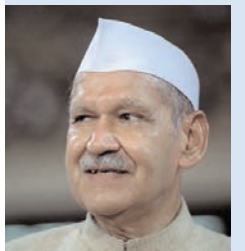
Birth: December 4, 1910
Tenure: Eighth President.

Background: A lawyer and freedom fighter; also served as Finance and

Defence Minister.

Notable Contribution: Played a key role in defense modernization as a minister.

9. Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma (1992–1997)



Birth: August 19, 1918
Tenure: 9th President.

Background: A scholar and Congress leader; served as Vice President before

his presidency.

Notable Contribution: Known for his dedication to constitutional values.

10. K. R. Narayanan (1997–2002)



Birth: October 27, 1920
Tenure: Tenth President and the first Dalit to hold the office.

Background: Diplomat and academic; served as Vice President.

Notable Events: Known for his strong stance on secularism and social justice.

11. Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam (2002–2007)



Birth: October 15, 1931
Tenure: Eleventh President.

Background: Scientist and engineer; played a key role in

India's missile and nuclear programs.

Notable Title: Popularly known as the "Missile Man of India" and the "People's President."

12. Pratibha Patil (2007–2012)



Birth: December 19, 1934

Tenure: 12th President and the first woman to hold the office.

Background: A lawyer and

Congress leader from Maharashtra.

Notable Contribution: Advocated for women's empowerment and social welfare.

13. Pranab Mukherjee (2012–2017)



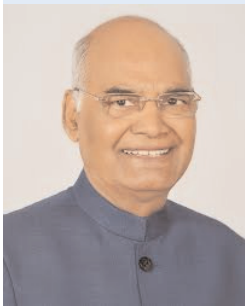
Birth: December 11, 1935
Tenure: Thirteenth President.

Background: A veteran politician with extensive experience in

governance.

Notable Contribution: Known for his balanced approach and non-partisan leadership.

14. Ram Nath Kovind (2017–2022)



Birth: October 1, 1945
Tenure: Fourteenth President and second Dalit President.

Background: Lawyer and BJP leader; focused on issues of

social justice.

Notable Contribution: Advocated for inclusive growth and equality.

15. Droupadi Murmu (2022–Present)



Birth: June 20, 1958
Tenure: Fifteenth President and the first tribal woman President.

Background: Former

Governor of Jharkhand; served in various capacities in Odisha.

Notable Achievement: A symbol of representation for tribal communities and gender equality.



First Sikh CJI, Suzuki among 7 picked for Padma Vibhushan, the country's top civilian honor

THE LIST COMPRISES 7 PADMA VIBHUSHAN, 19 PADMA BHUSHAN AND 113 PADMA SHRI AWARDS



Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar (retd)



Duvvur Nageshwar Reddy



Late Maruti Suzuki CEO Osamu Suzuki



Kathak dancer Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia



Lakshminarayana Subramaniam



MT Vasudevan Nair



Late folk singer from Bihar Sharda Sinha.

The first Sikh Chief Justice of India, Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar (retd), was on Saturday named one of the seven recipients of Padma Vibhushan, the country's top civilian honor.

Others on the list are leading gastroenterologist from Karnataka Duvvur Nageshwar Reddy, late Maruti Suzuki CEO Osamu Suzuki, Kathak dancer Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia, violinist and composer from Karnataka Lakshminarayana Subramaniam, doyen of Malayalam literature and cinema MT Vasudevan Nair and late folk singer from Bihar Sharda Sinha.

Former CJI Khehar was chosen in the public affairs segment and Suzuki in trade and industry for igniting the growth of the Indian automobile sector.

Suzuki took the risk of joining hands with India to form a joint venture, Maruti Udyog, in 1981, when India was still a closed economy.

This year, the Padma list comprises seven Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 113 Padma Shri awards. Twenty-three awardees are women. The list includes 10 persons from the category of foreigners, NRI, PIO and OCI and 13 posthumous awardees. The awards are conferred by the President at ceremonial functions at Rashtrapati Bhawan in March/April every year. For 2025, the President approved conferment of 139 Padma awards, including one duo case where the award is counted as one.

Among Padma Bhushan awardees are legendary Indian hockey goalkeeper PR

Sreejesh, who helped the Indian men's hockey team win two Olympic bronze medals at Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024; A Surya Prakash, former chairperson, Prasar Bharati; late Bibek Debroy, who served as the chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the PM; Jose Chacko Periappuram, a cardiac surgeon from Kerala; Kailash Nath Dikshit, an archaeologist specialising in prehistoric civilisation of the Indus Valley; Manohar Joshi, former Maharashtra CM and former Lok Sabha Speaker; late ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas; leading filmmaker Shekhar Kapur; late BJP leader Sushil Modi; and spiritual leader Sadhvi Ritambhara.

Padma Shri awardees include singers Arijit Singh and Jaspinder Narula,

AIIMS-Delhi head of gynaecology department Neerja Bhatla and music composer and environmentalist and three-time Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej. From the North region, the following feature among Padma Shri awardees: Farooq Ahmad Mir (J&K) for art; Hariman Sharma (Himachal Pradesh) for inventing an apple variety that can grow at low altitudes; leading Gurbani singer Harjinder Singh Srinagar Wale (Punjab) for art; star para archer Harvinder Singh (Kaithal); Lalit Kumar Mangotra (J&K) for literature; Lama Lobzang for spiritualism; and Onkar Singh Pahwa (Punjab) for trade and industry. Harjinder Singh recently performed at the antim ardas of late PM Manmohan Singh. *Source: TNS*

HERE'S THE FULL LIST OF PADMA AWARDEES

Padma Vibhushan

- Duvvur Nageshwar Reddy
- Justice (Retd.) Shri Jagdish Singh Khehar
- Kumudini Rajnikant Lakhia
- Lakshminarayana Subramaniam
- MT Vasudevan Nair (Posthumous)
- Osamu Suzuki (Posthumous)
- Sharda Sinha (Posthumous)

Padma Bhushan

- A Surya Prakash
- Anant Nag
- Bibek Debroy (Posthumous)
- Jatin Goswami
- Jose Chacko Periappuram
- Kailash Nath Dikshit
- Manohar Joshi (Posthumous)
- Nalli Kuppaswami Chetti
- Nandamuri Balakrishna
- P R Sreejesh
- Pankaj Patel
- Pankaj Udhas (Posthumous)
- Rambahadur Rai
- Sadhvi Ritambhara
- S Ajith Kumar
- Shekhar Kapur
- Shobana Chandrakumar
- Sushil Kumar Modi (Posthumous)
- Vinod Dham

Padma Shri

- Adwaita Charan Gadanayak
- Achyut Ramchandra Palav
- Ajay V Bhatt
- Anil Kumar Boro
- Arijit Singh

- Arundhati Bhattacharya
- Arunoday Saha
- Arvind Sharma
- Ashok Kumar Mahapatra
- Ashok Laxman Saraf
- Ashutosh Sharma
- Ashwini Bhide Deshpande
- Baijnath Maharaj
- Barry Godfray John
- Begam Batool
- Bharat Gupt
- Bheru Singh Chouhan
- Bhim Singh Bhavesh
- Bhimavva D Shillekyathara
- Budhendra Kumar Jain
- C S Vaidyanathan
- Chaitram Deochand Pawar
- Chandrakant Sheth (Posthumous)
- Chandrakant Sompura
- Chetan E Chitnis
- David R Syiemlieh
- Durga Charan Ranbir
- Farooq Ahmad Mir
- Ganeshwar Shastri Dravid
- Gita Upadhyay
- Gokul Chandra Das
- Guruvayur Dorai
- Harchandan Singh Bhatta
- Hariman Sharma
- Harjinder Singh Srinagar Wale
- Harvinder Singh
- Hassan Raghu
- Hemant Kumar
- Hriday Narayan Dixit
- Hugh and Colleen Gantzer (Posthumous) (Duo)
- Inivalappil Mani Vijayan

- Jagdish Joshila
- Jaspinder Narula
- Jonas Masetti
- Joynacharan Bathari
- Jumde Yomgam Gamlin
- K Damodaran
- K L Krishna
- K Omanakutty Amma
- Kishore Kunal (Posthumous)
- L Hangthing
- Lakshmipathy Ramasubbaiyer
- Lalit Kumar Mangotra
- Lama Lobzang (Posthumous)
- Libia Lobo Sardesai
- M D Srinivas
- Madugula Nagaphani Sarma
- Mahabir Nayak
- Mamata Shankar
- Manda Krishna Madiga
- Maruti Bhujangrao Chitampalli
- Miriyala Apparao (Posthumous)
- Nagendra Nath Roy
- Narayan (Bhulai Bhai) (Posthumous)
- Naren Gurung
- Neerja Bhatla
- Nirmala Devi
- Nitin Nohria
- Onkar Singh Pahwa
- P Datchanamoorthy
- Pandi Ram Mandavi
- Parmar Lavjibhai Nagjibhai
- Pawan Goenka
- Prashanth Prakash
- Pratibha Satpathy
- Purisai Kannappa
- R Ashwin Sports

- R G Chandramogan
- Radha Bahin Bhatt
- Radhakrishnan Devasenapathy
- Ramdarash Mishra
- Ranendra Bhanu Majumdar
- Ratan Kumar Parimoo
- Reba Kanta Mahanta
- Renthlei Lalrawna
- Ricky Gyan Kej
- Sajjan Bhajanka
- Sally Holkar
- Sant Ram Deswal
- Satyapal Singh
- Seeni Viswanathan
- Sethuraman Panchanathan
- Sheikh Shaikha Ali Al-Jaber Al-Saba
- Sheen Kaaf Nizam (Shiv Kishan Bissa)
- Shyam Bihari Agrawal
- Soniya Nityanand
- Stephen Knapp
- Subhash Khetulal Sharma
- Suresh Harilal Soni
- Surinder Kumar Vasal
- Swami Pradiptananda (Kartik Maharaj)
- Syed Ainul Hasan
- Tejendra Narayan Majumdar
- Thiyam Suryamukhi Devi
- Tushar Durgeshbhai Shukla
- Vadiraj R Pancharukhi
- Vasudeo Kamath
- Velu Aasaan
- Venkappa Ambaji Sugatekar
- Vijay Nityanand Maharaj
- Vijayalakshmi Deshamane

Two Kirti Chakras, 14 Shaurya Chakras among 93 Gallantry Awards to Armed Forces, CAPF personnel

MAJOR MANJIT KUMAR OF THE PUNJAB REGIMENT AND WITH 22 RASHTRIYA RIFLES (RR), AND NAIK DILWAR KHAN FROM THE ARTILLERY REGIMENT AND WITH 28 RR (POSTHUMOUSLY) WERE AWARDED THE KIRTI CHAKRA FOR COUNTER-TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

The President of India and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Droupadi Murmu has approved two Kirti Chakras, one of them posthumous, and 14 Shaurya Chakras, three of them posthumous, in a total of 93 Gallantry Awards to personnel of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), 11 of which are posthumous, on the eve of 76th Republic Day.

The 93 Gallantry Awards also include 67 Sena Medals, with seven of them awarded posthumously; two Nao Sena Medals, and eight Vayu Sena Medals.

Major Manjit Kumar of the Punjab Regiment and with 22 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), and Naik Dilwar Khan from the Artillery Regiment and with 28 RR (posthumously) were awarded the Kirti Chakra for counter-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

The President has also approved 305 defence decorations to the Armed Forces and other personnel. These include 30 Param Vishisht Seva Medals; five Uttam Yudh Seva Medals; 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals; 10 Yudh Seva Medals; 44 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); eight Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); 15 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty); and 136 Vishisht Seva Medals.

President Murmu also approved 58 Mentioned-in-Despatches to Armed Forces personnel, including four awarded posthumously. These include 55 from the Indian Army — 14 for Operation Rakshak, including four posthumous awards; eight for Operation Snow Leopard; six for Operation Hifazat; two for Operation Sahayta; one for Operation Rhino; one for Operation Meghdoot; two for Operation



Gurihajan; one for Operation Mulkhyama; one for Operation Reconnaissance; one for Operation Zokhawthar; one for Operation Falcon; four for Operation CAS Evacuation; one for IS Duty; and 12 for miscellaneous operations. The 58 Mentioned-in-Despatches include three to Indian Air Force personnel for Operation Sankalp.

In addition, the President also approved the President's Tatrakshak Medal and

Tatrakshak Medal to eight Coast Guard personnel.

The citation of Major Manjit details that on April 25, 2024, he assiduously trailed the movement of two foreign terrorists in a village in Sopore district through responsive human intelligence as received from a credible source. On localising the probable target complex, the officer established the initial cordon, during which terrorists retaliated and made

several attempts to break the cordon throughout the intervening night. On April 26, 2024 at 5.30 a.m., one of the terrorists entered the adjoining orchard favouring natural cover. The officer pinned down the terrorist, and evacuated a trapped civilian and two children. Major Manjit started crawling towards the terrorist and on noticing the movement of the terrorist who was trying to lob a grenade at the scout, the Major engaged him in a fierce firefight and eliminated him, the citation states, adding, "For displaying conspicuous gallantry and exhibiting outstanding leadership Major Manjit is recommended for the award of Kirti Chakra."

The other citation of Kirti Chakra, for Naik Dilwar Khan, states that he was part of an ambush in the dense jungles of Lolab Valley, Kupwara district on July 23, 2024. At 11.50 p.m., his party observed two terrorists, one at a very close distance. "Sensing grave threat from the closing-in terrorist to his team, showing complete disregard to personal safety, Naik Dilwar Khan, though under a heavy volume of fire, lunged and grasped the terrorist, engaging him in hand-to-hand combat, while the other terrorist continued to fire indiscriminately from distance," the citation states. During this action, Naik Khan was grievously injured but did not let go of the terrorist and killed him, firing at point-blank range before succumbing to his wounds. For displaying indomitable courage, utter disregard for personal safety and gallantry of the highest order, Naik Dilwar Khan is recommended for award of Kirti Chakra (Posthumous), the citation said.

Source: The Hindu



'One Nation One Election' can prevent policy paralysis: President Draupadi Murmu in Republic Day address

President Draupadi Murmu on Saturday advocated for the "One Nation One Election" initiative, asserting it has the potential to redefine "good governance" in the country by promoting consistency in governance, preventing policy paralysis, mitigating resource diversion, and alleviating financial burdens on the state.

In her address to the nation ahead of the 76th Republic Day, she emphasised the government's ongoing efforts to "eliminate remnants of a colonial mindset that have lingered in the country for decades" and cited the replacement of the British-era criminal laws with three new modern laws.

"We have been witnessing concerted efforts to change that mindset... Reforms of such magnitude require an audacity of vision," she said.

Highlighting the significance of the proposed bill aimed at synchronising election schedules across the country, Murmu noted, "The 'One Nation One Election' plan can offer numerous benefits, including enhanced governance and reduced financial strain."

In discussing legal reforms, she pointed out the need to replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act with new laws reflective of Indian traditions.

She mentioned the introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya



Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, which prioritise the delivery of justice over mere punishment and place a strong emphasis on addressing crimes against women and children.

Reflecting on the significance of the Constitution, the President highlighted the progress achieved over the past 75 years. "At the time of Independence, many parts of the country faced extreme poverty and hunger. However, we maintained a belief in ourselves and created conditions for growth," she said.

Noting the contributions of farmers and labourers, she said India's economy now plays a pivotal role in global economic trends, asserting that this transformation is rooted in the framework established by the Constitution.

The President also pointed to the

persistently high economic growth rate in recent years, which has generated job opportunities, increased income for farmers and labourers, and lifted many out of poverty.

She underscored the importance of inclusive growth and the government's commitment to welfare, making basic necessities such as housing and access to clean drinking water entitlements for citizens.

Efforts to support marginalised communities, particularly those belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC), were also highlighted. Murmu mentioned various initiatives, including pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, national fellowships, and dedicated schemes aimed at the socio-economic development of these

communities, such as the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan.

The President's address underscored the government's commitment to fostering inclusive growth and redefining governance standards in the country, creating a vision for a more equitable and prosperous future for all citizens.

She emphasised that this occasion is a collective celebration of joy and pride for all citizens and remarked that while 75 years may seem like a brief moment in the life of a nation, it has been a significant period for India, marked by the revival of its long-dormant spirit and its journey to reclaim its rightful status among the world's civilisations.

Reflecting on India's historical journey, she urged citizens to remember the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for the nation's freedom, highlighting the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, whose contributions to the freedom movement are now receiving due recognition.

The President praised the early 20th-century freedom fighters for uniting the nation in a well-organised independence movement and credited iconic figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, and Babasaheb Ambedkar for helping India rediscover its democratic values.

Source: PTI

Republic Day Parade: Sports stars feature in the Services tableau

By Prabhjot Singh

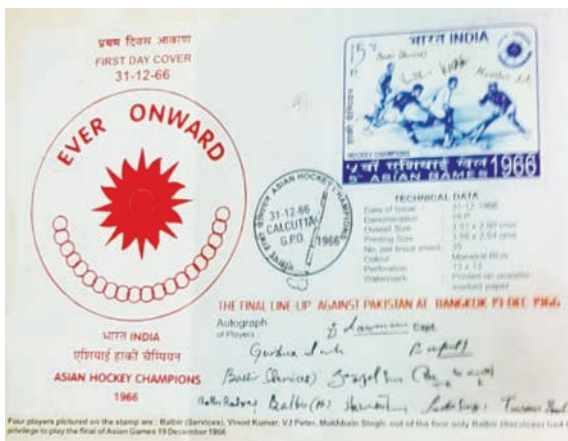
Olympians Balbir Singh Kular, Tajinder Pal Singh Toor, Jitu Rai, and Paralympian Muralikant Patkar are among 10 defence officers, both serving and retired, feature in the Services tableau during the ceremonial Republic Day parade on Sunday, January 26.

The Parade assumes special significance this year as it marks the 75th anniversary of the Indian Republic. The President of Indonesia will be the guest of honor at the parade where the President of India, Draupadi Murmu, will unfurl the national flag.

It is one of the rare occasions when eminent sports heroes of the country participated in the ceremonial parade.

Several States, Union Territories, government departments and non-government organisations are represented at the parade through specially designed tableaux. The tableaux are approved by a screening committee of the Union Ministries.

After missing the last two parades, Punjab had its tableau dedicated to Sufi poet Sheikh Farid. Selected slokas of Sheikh Farid, acknowledged as the first Sufi poet of Punjab, were recited during



The first day cover of the commemorative stamp issued after India won the Asian Games hockey gold for the first time in 1966; and (right) The Asian Games gold medallist Indian hockey team. Pictures by Col Balbir Singh



the parade. The tableau also featured a pair of oxen to symbolise its agro economy besides displaying traditional musical instruments, associated with poetic recitation to the State's rich cultural heritage.

Another tableau that highlighted the achievements of sportspersons of Punjab will be that of Services. Of 10 defence personnel chosen to be abroad, the tableau were hockey Olympian Col Balbir Singh Kular of Sansarpur, the nursery of hockey. Colonel Balbir Singh, who was chosen to

represent India in the 1968 Olympic games, was one of the youngest Olympians to get decorated with both Padma Shri and Arjuna awards.

It was the second time that he represented in the Republic Day Parade. He first appeared in this prestigious parade after the 1966 Asian Games when India won the gold for the first time. A postage stamp issued to commemorate the Bangkok Asiad success carried an action picture of the final against Pakistan featuring four players, including that of

Balbir Singh Kular.

Other officers, both serving and retired, chosen for the 2025 Republic Day Parade, include shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor; also Asian Games gold medallist; handballer Wing Commander Gurmeet Singh Sandhu; shooter Jitu Rai; Veer Nari Lieut-Col Ravinderjeet Randhawa; Paralympian swimmer Muralikant Patkar; Yachter Homi D. Motiwala; kabaddi star Ram Mehar Singh; besides Flt Lieut Ruchi Saha and Naval Lieut-Cdr Mani Aggarwal.

Glimpses of 76th Republic Day Parade







SHREE SIDDHIVINAYAK TEMPLE OF TOMS RIVER

IS PROUDLY HOSTING

DHUN MUSICAL GROUP, USA

FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER CONCERT



Shaam-E-DHUN "at Toms River, NJ"

WHEN

**SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025
AT 5:00 PM EST**



**DINNER INCLUDED
REGISTRATION RECOMMENDED**

PLEASE DONATE!

**DONATIONS WILL GO
TOWARDS NEW TEMPLE
COMMUNITY HALL
CONSTRUCTION & TEMPLE
EXPENSES**

VENUE

**SHREE SIDDHIVINAYAK
TEMPLE, USA
1916 LAKEWOOD ROAD
TOMS RIVER, NJ 08755**

GUESTS OF HONOR



**ANKUR VAIDYA
CHAIRMAN FIA**

SPECIAL GUESTS



**DR SUDHIR PARIKH
PHYSICIAN, CHAIRMAN, & PUBLISHER-
PARIKH WORLDWIDE MEDIA,
ITV GOLD & LIFE GLOBAL**



**SREEKANTH AKKAPALLI
CEO, TV9 NORTH AMERICA GLOBAL**

TEAM DHUN (WWW.DHUNUSA.COM)



CHIEF GUEST



**MR. BINAYA SRIKANTA
PRADHAN
CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
IN NEW YORK.**

SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS

SILVER	\$100
GOLD	\$250
PLATINUM	\$500
DIAMOND	\$1000

WELCOMING HOST



**RAJEEV SINGH
FOUNDER, DHUN
MUSICAL GROUP,
USA**



**DR. AVINASH GUPTA
CHAIRMAN SIDDHIVINAYAK
TEMPLE, USA & PAST
PRESIDENT FIA**

**DINNER SPONSORED
BY AARZU**



SUPPORTERS



MEDIA PARTNER



CONTACT FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS, SSVTUSA1916@GMAIL.COM

FOUR SOUTH AFRICAN SOLDIERS KILLED IN DR CONGO, TAKING TOLL TO 13

JOHANNESBURG (TIP): Four more South African soldiers have been killed in fighting against the M23 armed group in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the defence force said January 28, after nine were killed last week.

Three soldiers were killed in fighting near Goma airport on Monday and another died after being wounded in an earlier battle, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) said in a statement.

"The M23 rebels launched... a mortar bomb in the direction of Goma Airport, which landed in the SANDF base, and this resulted in the SANDF losing three members.

"Furthermore, the SANDF is also saddened to announce that one of our members who was injured during the battle with M23 rebels over the past three days later succumbed to injuries."

The SANDF announced on Saturday that nine South African soldiers, including two from the UN peacekeeping force MONUSCO, were killed in clashes with M23 forces on Friday.

South Africa has also deployed troops to a regional force sent by the Southern African Development Community.

Fighting has raged in Goma despite calls from the international community for the Rwandan-backed M23 to halt its advance on the city which is in a mineral-rich part of the vast DRC and is home to more than a million people. There were conflicting accounts over how much of Goma remained under Congolese control after the M23 group and Rwandan soldiers entered the city centre on Sunday night. "The SANDF remains fully committed to its peacekeeping responsibilities under the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) and SADC Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (SAMIDRC)," its statement said. (AFP)

Putin hails Soviet army for ending 'total evil' of Auschwitz

MOSCOW (TIP): Russian President Vladimir Putin on January 27 praised Soviet soldiers for ending the "total evil" of Auschwitz on the 80th anniversary of the Red Army's liberation of the Nazi death camp.

Auschwitz was the largest of the extermination camps and has become a symbol of Nazi Germany's genocide of six million European Jews, one million of whom died at the site between 1940 and 1945, along with more than 100,000 non-Jews.

Soviet troops found 7,000 survivors when they arrived on January 27, 1945. "We will always remember that it was the Soviet soldier who crushed this terrible, total evil and won the victory, the greatness of which will forever remain in world history," Putin said, according to the Kremlin. (AFP)

'My soul and life have returned': Palestinians return to north Gaza, shocked by war's destruction

**28 JAN 2025
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**

(TIP): Thousands of displaced Palestinians were returning to the north of war-ravaged Gaza after Israel and Hamas reached a deal for the release of another six hostages.

The Israeli government said on January 27 that eight of the hostages held in Gaza who were due for release in the truce's first phase are dead.

The fragile ceasefire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas is intended to bring an end to more than 15 months of war that began with Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.

Israel had prevented Palestinians from returning to northern Gaza, accusing Hamas of violating the terms of the truce, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said late Sunday they would be allowed to pass after a new agreement was reached.

Hamas had said blocking the returns amounted to a truce violation.

Large crowds of people moved through the now-open Netzarim Corridor into the north, watched over by Israeli tanks. Some pulled carts weighed down with mattresses and other essentials. Others carried what belongings they could.

Late Monday, the Hamas government in Gaza said "more than 300,000 displaced" had returned during the day "to the governorates of the north", an area of Gaza severely battered by the war.

After reaching the area, men embraced



each other.

"Welcome to Gaza," read a newly erected banner hanging above a dirt road in front of a collapsed building in Gaza City.

"This is the happiest day of my life," said Lamees al-Iwady, a 22-year-old who returned to Gaza City after being displaced several times.

"I feel as though my soul and life have returned to me," she said. "We will rebuild our homes, even if it's with mud and sand."

With the joy of return came shock at the extent of destruction wrought by more than a year of war.

According to the Hamas-run government's media office, 135,000 tents and caravans are needed in Gaza City

and the north to shelter returning families.

Still, Hamas called the return "a victory" for Palestinians that "signals the failure and defeat of the plans for occupation and displacement".

The comments came after US President Donald Trump floated an idea to "clean out" Gaza and resettle Palestinians in Jordan and Egypt, drawing condemnation from regional leaders.

President Mahmud Abbas, whose Palestinian Authority is based in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, issued a "strong rejection and condemnation of any projects" aimed at displacing Palestinians from Gaza, his office said. (AFP)

'Extremely unlikely' Covid pandemic came from lab leak: China

**27 JAN 2025,
BEIJING (TIP):** China said on January 27 it was "extremely unlikely" Covid-19 came from a laboratory, after the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) said it believed the virus had more likely come from a lab rather than natural transmission.

"The conclusion that a laboratory leak is extremely unlikely was reached by the China-WHO joint expert team based on field visits to relevant laboratories in Wuhan," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said.

"This has been widely recognised by the international community and the scientific community," she added.

The CIA said Saturday the virus was "more likely" leaked from a Chinese lab than transmitted by animals.

The new assessment came after John Ratcliffe was confirmed last week as the CIA director under the second White House administration of Donald Trump.

"CIA assesses with low confidence that a research-related origin of the Covid-19 pandemic is more likely than a natural



origin based on the available body of reporting," a CIA spokesperson said in a statement Saturday.

The agency had not previously made any determination on whether Covid had been unleashed by a laboratory mishap or spilled over from animals.

Beijing on Monday urged the United

States to "stop politicising and instrumentalising the issue of origin-tracing".

Mao said Washington should "stop smearing and shifting the blame to other countries (and) should respond to the legitimate concerns of the international community as soon as possible". (AFP)

22 killed in Lebanon before agreement to extend deadline for Israeli forces to withdraw

27 JAN 2025

LEBANON (TIP): On January 26, Israeli forces opened fire on protesters in southern Lebanon demanding their withdrawal in accordance with a ceasefire agreement, killing at least 22 people and injuring 124, according to Lebanese health officials.

Later that day, the White House announced an extension of the deadline for Israeli troops to withdraw from southern Lebanon to February 18, 2025.

This decision followed Israel's request for more time beyond the original 60-day deadline established in a ceasefire agreement ending the Israel-Hezbollah war in late November.

Israel stated that it needed the extension because the Lebanese army had not fully deployed in southern Lebanon to prevent Hezbollah's resurgence. However, the Lebanese army claimed it could not deploy until Israeli forces had withdrawn.

U.S. AND LEBANESE REACTIONS

The White House stated that "the arrangement between Lebanon and Israel, monitored by the United States, will continue to be in effect until February 18, 2025," and announced plans



The U.N. peacekeeping force, UNIFIL, expressed concern over the escalating violence, warning it could destabilize the fragile ceasefire.

ONGOING DISPLACEMENT AND DAMAGE

In the border village of Aita al-Shaab, displaced families searched the rubble of their homes. Hussein Bajouk, a returning resident, vowed resilience, saying, "These are our houses. However much they destroy, we will rebuild."

On the Israeli side, residents of the kibbutz of Manara reflected on the conflict's toll. Orna Weinberg, a local, lamented, "Unfortunately, we have no way of defending our own children without harming their children. It's a tragedy for all sides."

HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS

Approximately 112,000 Lebanese remain displaced out of the over 1 million who fled during the war.

The U.N. has called for Israel's complete withdrawal, the removal of unauthorized weapons in southern Lebanon, and the safe return of displaced civilians on both sides of the Blue Line. (AP)

for negotiations on the return of Lebanese prisoners captured after October 7, 2023. Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati confirmed the extension.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun assured the people of southern Lebanon that the country's sovereignty was "non-negotiable" and urged restraint, while Speaker Nabih Berri called for international pressure on Israel to complete its withdrawal.

CLASHES ON THE GROUND

Protests erupted in multiple villages as demonstrators, some carrying Hezbollah flags, confronted Israeli forces. The clashes resulted in the deaths of six women and a Lebanese soldier. Protesters were wounded in nearly 20 villages, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

The Israeli army accused Hezbollah of instigating the protests, claiming it fired warning shots to "remove threats" from individuals approaching its positions.

South Korean prosecutors indict impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol over his martial law: Reports

26 JAN 2025

SEOUL (TIP): South Korean prosecutors on January 26 indicted impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol on rebellion in connection with his short-lived imposition of martial law, news reports said, a criminal charges that could put him to death or jail for life if convicted.



This is the latest blow to Yoon, who was impeached and arrested over his Dec. 3 martial law decree that plunged the country into huge political turmoil. Separate from criminal judicial proceedings, the Constitutional Court is now deliberating whether to formally dismiss Yoon as president or reinstate him.

South Korean media outlets, including Yonhap news agency, reported that the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office indicted Yoon over rebellion. Calls to the prosecutors' office and Yoon's lawyers went unanswered.

Yoon, a conservative, has steadfastly denied any wrongdoing, calling his martial law a legitimate act of governance meant to raise public awareness of the danger of the liberal-controlled National Assembly which obstructed his agenda and impeached top officials.

During his announcement of martial law, Yoon called the assembly "a den of

criminals" and vowed to eliminate "shameless North Korea followers and anti-state forces."

After declaring martial law on Dec. 3, Yoon sent troops and police officers to the assembly, but enough lawmakers still managed to enter an assembly chamber to vote down Yoon's decree unanimously, forcing his Cabinet to lift it.

The martial law imposition, the first of its kind in South Korea in more than 40 years, lasted only six hours. However, it evoked painful memories of past dictatorial rules in the 1960s-80s when military-backed rulers used martial laws and emergency decrees to suppress opponents.

South Korea's constitution gives the president the power to declare martial law to keep order in wartime and other comparable emergency states, but many experts say the country wasn't under such conditions when Yoon declared martial law.

Yoon insists he had no intentions of disrupting assembly work including its floor vote on his decree and that the dispatch of troops and police forces was meant to maintain order. But commanders of military units sent to the assembly have told assembly hearings or investigators that Yoon ordered them to drag out lawmakers. (AP)

Belarus strongman Lukashenko set to win seventh term in election opposition calls 'senseless farce'

26 JAN 2025

BELARUS (TIP): The smiling face of President Alexander Lukashenko gazed out from campaign posters across Belarus on January 26 as the country held an orchestrated election virtually guaranteed to give the 70-year-old autocrat yet another term on top of his three decades in power.

"Needed!" the posters proclaim beneath a photo of Lukashenko, his hands clasped together. The phrase is what groups of voters responded in campaign videos after supposedly being asked if they wanted him to serve again.

But his opponents, many of whom are imprisoned or exiled abroad by his unrelenting crackdown on dissent and free speech, would disagree. They call the election a sham—much like the last one in 2020 that triggered months of protests that were unprecedented in the history of the country of 9 million people.

The crackdown saw more than 65,000 arrests, with thousands beaten, bringing condemnation and sanctions from the West. His iron-fisted rule since 1994—Lukashenko took office two years after the demise of the Soviet Union—earned him the nickname of "Europe's Last Dictator," relying on subsidies and political support from close ally Russia.

He let Moscow use his territory to invade Ukraine in 2022 and even hosts some of Russia's tactical nuclear weapons, but he still campaigned with

the slogan, "Peace and security," arguing he has saved Belarus from being drawn into war.

"It's better to have a dictatorship like in Belarus than a democracy like Ukraine," Lukashenko said in his characteristic bluntness.

His reliance on support from Russian President Vladimir Putin—himself in office for a quarter-century—helped him survive the 2020 protests.

Observers believe Lukashenko feared a repeat of those mass demonstrations amid economic troubles and the fighting in Ukraine, and so scheduled the vote in January, when few would want to fill the streets again, rather than in August. He faces only token opposition.

"The trauma of the 2020 protests was so deep that Lukashenko this time decided not to take risks and opted for the most reliable option when balloting looks more like a special operation to retain power than an election," Belarusian political analyst Valery Karbalevich said.

Lukashenko repeatedly declared that he wasn't clinging to power and would "quietly and calmly hand it over to the new generation."

His 20-year-old son, Nikolai, traveled the country, giving interviews, signing autographs and playing piano at campaign events. His father hasn't mentioned his health, even though he was seen having difficulty walking and occasionally spoke in a hoarse voice. (AP)

Pakistan outlaws disinformation with three-year jail term

28 JAN 2025

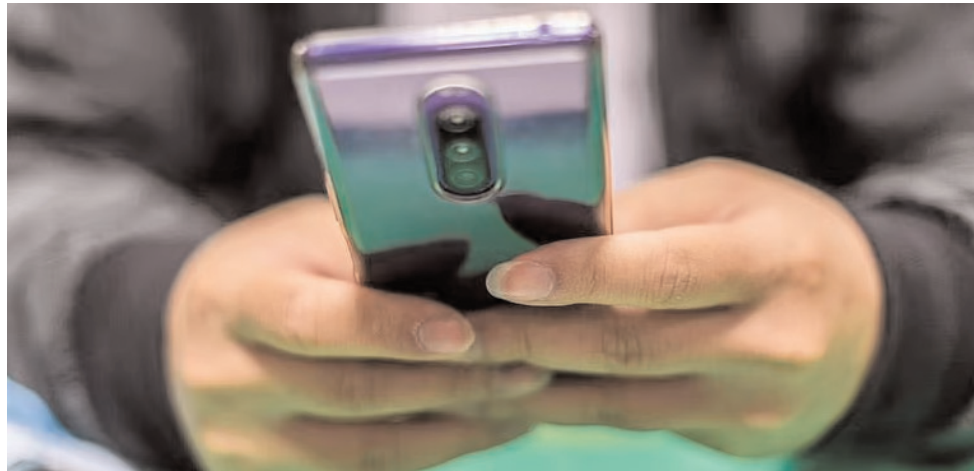
ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan criminalised online disinformation on January 28, passing legislation that enshrines punishments of up to three years in prison, a decision journalists say is designed to crack down on dissent.

The law targets anyone who "intentionally disseminates" information online that they have "reason to believe to be false or fake and likely to cause or create a sense of fear, panic or disorder or unrest."

The law was rushed through the National Assembly with little warning last week before being approved by the Senate on Tuesday as journalists walked out of the gallery in protest.

Senior journalist Asif Bashir Chaudhry, a member of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists, told AFP the government had assured reporters they would be consulted but said they were "betrayed and backstabbed".

"We genuinely wanted a law against misinformation, but if it's not being done through open discussion but rather



through fear and coercion, we will challenge it on every available platform," Chaudhry said.

"Even under dictatorships, legislation was not forcefully rammed through parliament the way this government is doing now."

The bill will now be passed to the president to be rubber-stamped.

Analysts say the government is struggling with legitimacy after an

election plagued with rigging allegations and with Pakistan's most popular politician, former prime minister Imran Khan, in jail on a slew of corruption charges his party says are politically motivated.

Khan's supporters and senior leaders have also faced a severe crackdown, with thousands rounded up.

Social media site X has been shut down in the wake of elections last February, as

posts alleging vote tampering spread on the platform.

Khan's name is censored from television and editors have reported increasing monitoring of their programming.

Senator Syed Shibli Faraz, a member of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, called the new law "highly undemocratic" and said it would "fuel the political victimisation" of their activists.

However, government minister Tanveer Hussain said that the bill would focus on policing social media.

"I am sure that in the future, the anarchy caused in society through social media will be controlled," he said.

There has been a proliferation of "disinformation" laws, including criminal legislation, worldwide in the past decade enabling governments to control speech online and police "fake news", according to human rights organisation Article 19.

Such laws can impede journalism, according to the group, which promotes freedom of expression and information globally. (AFP)

Bangladesh risks repeating Hasina regime's mistakes: HRW

DHAKA (TIP): Reprisals against journalists and indiscriminate arrests risk undermining Bangladesh's once-in-a-generation opportunity to end the legal abuses seen under ousted premier Sheikh Hasina, Human Rights Watch warned on January 28.

Hasina fled into exile last August after a student-led revolution ended her 15 years of autocratic rule, capping an uprising that claimed hundreds of lives.

An interim government led by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus took charge days later, pledging to institute far-reaching democratic reforms and stage fresh elections.

In a report released Tuesday, HRW said Yunus' administration had begun the process of reforming degraded institutions used as tools to persecute opponents of Hasina's Awami League party.

But the watchdog's Asia director Elaine Pearson warned "this hard-won progress could all be lost if the interim government does not implement swift and structural reforms".

The report said that police had "returned to the abusive practices that characterized the previous government" to target Hasina's supporters, filing charges against tens of thousands of people in the two months after Hasina's ouster.

It said family members of those killed by security forces in the protests that toppled her government had been pressured into signing case documents without knowing who was being accused in their murder.

The report also said the interim government had taken drastic action against journalists it perceived to support Hasina's government.

Murder charges were filed against at least 140 journalists by November for their alleged support of the Hasina government's crackdown on protesters last summer, the report said.

Yunus' government has yet to comment on the report.

The 84-year-old has said he inherited a "completely broken down" system of public administration and justice that needs a comprehensive overhaul to prevent a future return to autocracy. (AFP)

LPG tanker explodes in Pakistan, killing six people

LAHORE (TIP): A tanker filled with liquified petroleum gas exploded in an industrial area in Pakistan's Punjab province, killing at least six persons, including a minor girl, and injuring 31, authorities said on January 27.

The incident took place at the Industrial Estate in Multan's Hamid Pur Kanora area, according to rescue authorities.

The explosion in the LPG tanker that occurred on Monday triggered a massive fire, with debris from the shattered vehicle landing on nearby residential areas, causing significant destruction, Geo News reported.

Rescue officials said that the fire was extinguished after hours of effort, involving over ten firefighting vehicles and foam-based fire suppression.

A total of five people were initially reported to have lost their lives in the deadly blast.

However, the death toll rose to six after rescue officials recovered another body from a house damaged by the explosion.

The deceased include a minor girl and two women, the report added.

The police reported that at least 20 houses surrounding the explosion site were completely reduced to rubble, while 70 were partially damaged.

Multan's City Police Officer (CPO) Sadiq Ali told Geo News that several houses were destroyed, and livestock perished in the blaze.

He said that gas had been leaking from one of the valves of the tanker truck parked in the Industrial Estate. Some of the people present in the area had already evacuated after smelling the gas before the tanker exploded, he added.

Ali further stated that gas leakage from the tanker persists, prompting authorities to evacuate the area. Among the injured, 13 are reported to be in critical condition. The District Emergency Officer confirmed that an emergency has been declared at Nishtar Hospital, where the injured are receiving treatment.

Search operations are ongoing in the adjacent localities to ensure safety. Electricity and gas supply in the area has been suspended as a precautionary measure, though Multan-Muzaffargarh Road has now been reopened for traffic. (PTI)

India lodges strong protest involving firing by Sri Lankan Navy during apprehension of fishermen, MEA calls Acting High Commissioner

NEW DELHI (TIP) India has lodged strong protest involving firing by the Sri Lankan Navy during apprehension of 13 Indian fishermen in the close proximity of Delft Island on January 28. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) called Sri Lankan Acting High Commissioner in Delhi to lodge protest over the incident.

In a statement, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated, "The Sri Lankan Acting High Commissioner in New Delhi was called in today morning to the Ministry of External Affairs and a strong protest was lodged over the incident. Our High Commission in Colombo has also raised the matter with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sri Lankan government."

According to the statement released by MEA, out of the 13 fishermen who were on board the fishing vessel, two suffered serious injuries and were undergoing treatment at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital while three other fishermen who received minor injuries also received treatment. In a statement, MEA stated, "An incident of firing by the Sri Lankan Navy during the apprehension of 13 Indian fishermen in the proximity of Delft Island was reported in the early hours of this morning. Out of the 13 fishermen who were on board the fishing vessel, two have sustained serious injuries and are currently receiving treatment at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital."

"Three other fishermen received minor injuries and have been treated for the same. Indian Consulate Officials in Jaffna have visited the injured fishermen at the hospital to seek their welfare and are extending all possible assistance to the fishermen and their families," it added. According to the statement, the Indian government has always emphasised the need to treat issues related to fishermen in a humane and humanitarian manner, keeping in mind livelihood concerns. In a statement, MEA stated, "The use of force is not acceptable under any circumstances whatsoever. Existing understandings between the two Governments in this regard must be strictly observed." (ANI)



State Bank of India
New York

STATE BANK OF INDIA
460 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

HIRING

STATE BANK OF INDIA, NEW YORK BRANCH IS LOOKING TO HIRE SUITABLE CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF ENTRY-LEVEL ASSOCIATES

Associate (General Banking), the candidate should possess minimum educational qualification of a High School Diploma and be capable of working in a computerized environment.

Must be flexible and work well with a diverse workforce. The role requires to work in office work set up.

The positions have an annual base salary of \$35,620 plus group life insurance, health, and dental insurance (fully paid for by the bank) and 401k benefits.

Interested candidates, please submit your resume to:

pna.nyb@statebank.com
vppna.nyb@statebank.com

on or before January 31, 2025

The details are also available on our website <https://sbinewyork.statebank/careers>

STATE BANK OF INDIA IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT EMPLOYER

ALL CANDIDATES MUST HAVE VALID AUTHORIZATION TO WORK IN THE US

KATHA SAMAGAM



SINGH SAHIB GIANI RANJEET SINGH
Head Granthi Gurdwara Bangla Sahib
Mobile : +917-957-1313 Whatsapp : +91 9313751313

30 JANUARY TO 03 FEBRUARY 2025

7 PM to 8 PM

GURDWARA NANAKSAR SAHIB
3060 S Cherry Ave, Fresno, CA 39706

02 FEBRUARY 2025

11.30 AM to 12.30 PM

GURDWARA DASMESH DARBAR
3123 E Armstrong Road Lodi, CA 95240

1.00 PM to 1.30 PM

SACRAMENTO SIKH SOCIETY
7676 Bradshaw Rd. Sacramento, CA 95828



BHAI SAHIB SATPAL SINGH KHALSA
Ambassador of Sikh Dharm

Get to the Point



The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL
A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

Widest Coverage

Your Trusted Partner in Business

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458
Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012

www.theindianpanorama.news

ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP. DISPOSAL SITE

OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM
Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.30 PM

For
construction
Debris,
Demolition
& Cleanouts



Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208
Just 5 minutes from JFK



Roll Off Container Service
10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates ** All major credit cards accepted

Call @ 718-345-6451

Herbal pastes, oil massages to color your grey hair

Tired of applying chemical dyes to color your grey hair? Here are a few homemade pastes and mixes that you can use to naturally colour your hair.

HOMEMADE OIL

Take 50ml coconut oil, 50ml gingelly oil and 50ml olive oil. Mix all these and heat on low flame. In kadai, spurt 10gm mustard, 20gm curry leaves, 20gm dry amla and 20 henna leaves. Saute till they are almost dry. Now, add the oil and heat this mixture for another 10 minutes. Store it in an airtight bottle and keep it in direct sunlight for four days. Let the ingredients settle at the base. Now, use this oil and massage your scalp and hair every day. This oil helps darken your greying hair.

HENNA PASTE

Make a paste out of henna and apply over the hair for two hours and rinse. After a few hours, mix 100g of indigo (auri) powder with warm water and make a paste. Apply this paste all over the hair. Leave it on for 45 minutes and rinse. You will be surprised to see that your grey hair has turned black to an extent. Apply this paste once a week.

HAIR PACK

Make your own hair darkening pack by mixing the following together: henna leaves 50gm, aloe vera gel 20ml, haritaki or kadukkai skin 5gm, fresh seedless amla 20gm. Grind all the above to a smooth paste, add the juice of half a lemon to this mixture and apply on the hair. Apply 10ml olive oil on hair prior to applying this pack. Leave on for 20 minutes and rinse to get a reddish-brown tint to your hair.

OLIVE OIL MASSAGE

Olive oil is an excellent hair darkener. Slightly warm 20ml of olive oil and apply it on the scalp and give a gentle massage for eight minutes. Leave it on for one hour. Wash with homemade shikakai. Apply this twice a week to get back your beautiful dark hair.

HENNA-AMLA-KADUKAI PASTE

Take henna powder 200gm, amla powder 25gm,



kadukai powder 10gm, tulsi powder 10gm, tea decoction 100ml, eucalyptus oil 2ml, curd 100ml, lemon juice 10 drops, and olive oil 2tsp. Mix all the ingredients in an iron vessel and soak overnight. Next morning, apply this mixture on the scalp and hair. Leave it on for two hours, and rinse. Do not apply shampoo while washing the hair. This paste gives a beautiful maroon tint to your hair. It also prevents further greying.

TO GET NATURAL BURGUNDY TINT

Henna leaves 100gm, beetroot one (small), aloe vera 100gm and multani mitti 2tsp. Make a hair pack by blending henna leaves, beet root and aloe vera. Mix some multani mitti to the mixture. Apply this on your hair and leave it on for one hour. This paste gives a burgundy tint to hair.

PREVENT PREMATURE GREYING

Take a handful of curry leaves, hibiscus leaves, karisalai leaves, coriander leaves and grind them together into a smooth paste. Add five drops of lemon juice to this paste. Apply on the scalp and the hair. Leave it on for an hour and then wash. Apply this paste once a week. Regular application of this pack can darken existing grey hair and it also prevents premature greying.

Bread Biryani

Ingredients

- Basmati rice - 1 cup, Coconut milk - 1 1/2 cup
- Green peas - 1/4 cup, Radish - 1/4 cup, grated
- Carrot - 1/4 cup, grated, Coconut - 1/4 cup, grated, Onions - 2, chopped, Bread slices - 4, crusts removed, sliced in small pieces
- Cashews - 5, Almonds - 5, soaked, peeled
- Black pepper powder - 1/2 tsp, Cumin powder - 1/2 tsp, Gasa gasa - 1 tsp
- Cardamom - 1 Cloves - 1, Cinnamon - 1, Ginger garlic paste - 1 tblsp, Ghee - 3 tblsp, Curry leaves - few, Coriander leaves - few, Salt as per taste

Method

- Dry roast and grind the cardamom, cloves and cinnamon to a fine powder.
- Heat little ghee in a pan. Fry the basmati rice for 30 to 45 seconds. Remove and keep aside.
- Add a little ghee to the pan and fry the bread pieces till crisp. Keep aside.
- Grind the almonds, cashewnuts, coconut and gasa gasa to a smooth paste.
- Heat a little ghee in a pressure cooker.
- Add the cinnamon powder, ginger garlic paste, onions, salt and curry leaves. Saute well for a minute or two.
- Add the radish, carrot, green peas and ground coconut paste.
- Stir well and add the coconut milk. Bring to a boil.
- Add the rice and pressure cook till 2 whistles.
- Add the cumin powder, pepper powder, bread slices, coriander leaves and mix well. Serve.



Living apart together: Why are couples opting for new trend?

The 'Living Apart Together' (LAT) trend is increasingly prevalent among young people today, for a variety of compelling reasons. Let's explore the factors driving this shift in relationship dynamics and examine why it appeals to a growing number of young couples.

'Living Apart Together' describes committed romantic partners who choose to maintain separate residences while being in a long-term relationship. This arrangement differs from traditional cohabitation or marriage where partners share a home, and from long-distance relationships which are often temporary.

Couples decided to continue living in separate houses when they decided to get married, they also. While not an easy decision, this method proved useful for their relationship, giving it a new direction and allowing them to move forward equally in life. This type of



relationship is called 'Living Apart Together' (LAT), and it is becoming increasingly popular.

'Living Apart Together' describes a relationship model where two individuals are romantically involved but maintain separate residences. Despite

not sharing a home, they meet frequently and actively nurture their bond. This arrangement fosters a sense of independence and equilibrium within the relationship. It allows both partners to concentrate on their careers, enjoy personal space, and preserve a sense of

romance.

Maintaining personal space has become increasingly important for young people. They value their established routines, and living apart together (LAT) allows them to preserve this aspect of their lives. While marriage offers a sense of relationship security, some find that living separately fosters personal growth. This arrangement can provide couples with the time and space needed to focus on individual careers and aspirations.

'Living Apart Together' (LAT) offers couples the opportunity to maintain their independence while strengthening their relationship. Couples in LAT arrangements often find that living separately, while remaining committed, fosters a deeper bond. The freedom to manage their time independently reduces daily stress and potential conflicts, contributing to a more harmonious partnership.

Source: News18

Scientists find sepsis molecule, to boost treatments for critically ill patients

A team of US scientists has uncovered how a molecule found on certain bacteria may drive blood clotting in sepsis -- a life-threatening condition that causes about eight million deaths per year.

The team at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) focused on the role of specific blood clotting mechanisms in sepsis.

The findings may pave the way for enhancing treatments for critically ill patients. They found that lipopolysaccharide, or LPS -- a molecule found on the surface of certain bacteria like E. coli -- can directly activate proteins in the blood that trigger clotting.

This process can both block blood flow and damage vital organs in a chain reaction where proteins in the blood work together to form clots. The researchers found a specific type of LPS, called O26:B6, that is particularly good at setting off this reaction, making it more likely to cause clotting problems.

The research, published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, is based on a study conducted in nonhuman primates. The team found that when bacteria containing LPS entered the bloodstream, it quickly activated the clotting system.

This included coagulating proteins like factor XII, which seems to initiate the clotting process, causing a chain reaction. "People who are born without factor XII are healthy and don't bleed abnormally," said Joseph Shatzel, a physician-scientist at OHSU.

"That makes it a great target for therapies -- blocking



it might help stop dangerous clots without causing bleeding."

Andre L. Lira, Postdoctoral scholar and lead author of the study, said his research focuses on how the physical properties of bacterial surfaces trigger the clotting system. Sepsis can arise from bacterial, viral, or fungal infections.

"Even when we know the bacteria causing the infection, different strains can behave differently," he said. "By understanding this, we hope to develop precision therapies." The team is working on experimental treatments targeting factor XII, including antibodies designed to block its activity. *Source: IANS*



Cortisol already rising as we wake up - it's how body gets ready for day, study finds

Cortisol levels may not be rising just on waking up as previously thought, rather they are already on the rise as the body gets ready for the day ahead, according to a new research.

Researchers, led by those at the University of Bristol in the UK, found that cortisol levels increase in the hours prior to awakening as part of the body's preparation for the day ahead, so waking up may not be as "stressful" as previously thought, they said.

Known as the 'stress hormone', cortisol's levels vary through the day in sync with one's 24-hour cycle, increasing in response to stress to help the body manage it.

Waking up after a night's sleep is considered to trigger cortisol production and is termed the 'cortisol awakening response'—something that has been previously studied in varied contexts, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, obesity and depression.

However, this study, published in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, suggests that if cortisol has any relationship with waking up, it is with the factors contributing to the initiation of awakening rather than being a response to it, the authors said.

They added that previous studies analysing the cortisol response have typically assessed saliva samples obtained after waking up, not in the period prior to this.

Consequently, the studies are not able to prove a change in the rate of cortisol secretion over the awakening period, the researchers said.

In this study, the team measured cortisol levels both before and after waking up in over 200 healthy men and women, aged 18-68 years, using an automated system.

"We found no evidence for a change in the rate of cortisol increase in the hour after waking when compared with the hour prior to waking," the authors wrote.

Break into sweat: Study shows aerobic exercise reduces Alzheimer's risk

Alzheimer's disease has limited treatments for its symptoms, but the progression is almost always inevitable. As a result, the scientific community regularly explores lifestyle changes, such as diets or exercise, that can be incorporated earlier to reduce Alzheimer's risk. A study from the Federal University of São Paulo, published in the Brain Research journal, adds to this ongoing list as the findings revealed the benefits of aerobic exercise for brain health.

The study found that exercise helps in targeting Alzheimer's disease right from its very biological roots. The study explained the biological basis of the neurodegenerative disease. Alzheimer's disease is characterized by the buildup of harmful proteins in the brain, specifically amyloid plaques and tau tangles, along with increased brain inflammation and neuron damage.

The study examined aged rats and made them go through an eight-week aerobic exercise program to understand the effect of exercise on brain health.

The findings were significant. After the exercise program, there was a 76 percent reduction in amyloid plaques and a 63 percent reduction in tau tangles—both harmful proteins—compared to sedentary rats.

Similarly, Alzheimer's disease is also marked by damage to neurons. However aerobic exercise increased the number of healthy and functioning neurons by 2.5 times.

Even brain inflammation in rats went down by 55-68 percent.

The study further shed light on the benefits of exercise for better brain health. It further talked about



how aerobic exercise targets the harmful protein accumulation in the brain and optimizes brain cell interactions.

Furthermore, the study emphasised the role of microglia, the brain's immune cells, in reducing inflammation and maintaining a healthy environment. It removes 'cellular debris' and lowers inflammation. Exercise helps to tap into these cell's functions. Exercise also regulates iron metabolism in the brain, protecting neurons from iron-related damage.

PAGE SPONSORED BY

DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

GITANJLI ANAND
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com

Scientists discover new superconductor material for wider use

Researchers from Tokyo Metropolitan University have discovered a new superconducting material which can be more widely deployed in society.

They combined iron, nickel, and zirconium, to create a new transition metal zirconide with different ratios of iron to nickel.

While both iron zirconide and nickel zirconide are not superconducting, the newly prepared mixtures are, exhibiting a “dome-shaped” phase diagram typical of so-called “unconventional superconductors,” a promising avenue for developing high temperature superconducting materials, according to the study published in the *Journal of Alloys and Compounds*. Superconductors already play an active role in cutting-edge technologies, from superconducting magnets in medical devices and maglev systems to superconducting cables for power transmission.

However, they generally rely on cooling to temperatures of around four Kelvin, a key roadblock in wider deployment of the technology.

Scientists are on the lookout for materials which can show zero resistivity at higher temperatures, particularly the 77 Kelvin threshold at which liquid nitrogen can be used to cool the materials instead of liquid helium. Now, a team of researchers led by Associate Professor Yoshikazu Mizuguchi from Tokyo Metropolitan University have conceived a new superconducting material containing a magnetic element.

For the first time, they showed that a polycrystalline alloy of iron, nickel, and zirconium shows superconducting properties. Curiously, both iron zirconide and nickel zirconide are not superconducting in crystalline form.

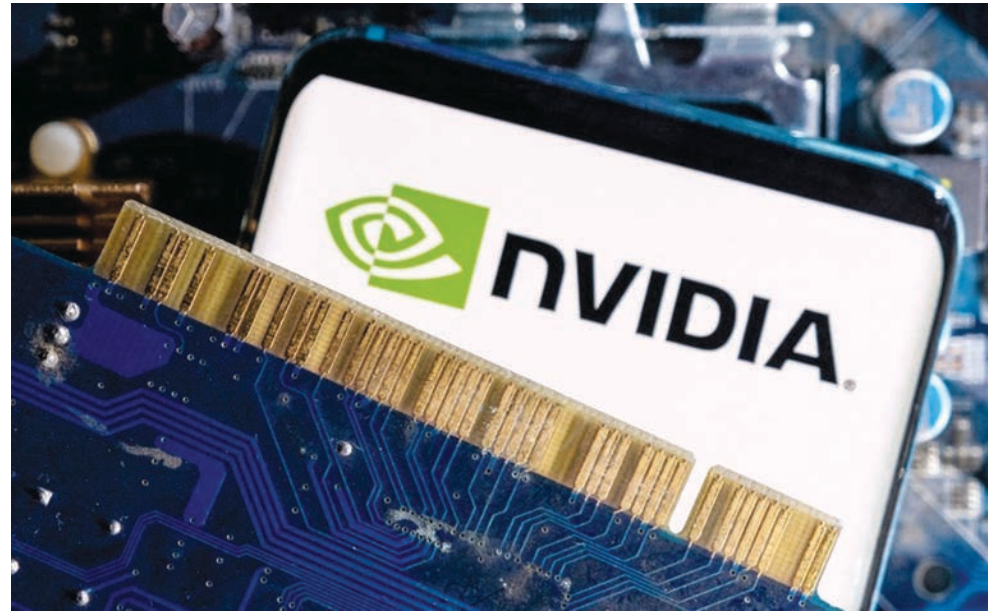
Mukesh Ambani buys Nvidia AI chips, plans to build largest data centre in India: Report

Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries, is planning to build what could become the world's largest data centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat, according to a report by Bloomberg. The facility, expected to boast a total capacity of three gigawatts, would be a huge move in India's tech landscape, easily outpacing current global benchmarks by a big margin. For comparison, the largest operational data centres today, mostly located in the United States, are under one gigawatt.

To support this ambitious move, Reliance is procuring advanced AI semiconductors from Nvidia Corporation. These high-performance chips are essential for the complex computations required by AI-driven tools, such as ChatGPT and other generative AI platforms.

The timing of Mukesh Ambani's move is no coincidence. Globally, tech giants like Microsoft, Amazon, and Google have been spending billions of dollars on expanding data centre capacities to keep up with the high demand for AI services. Earlier this week, a consortium including OpenAI, SoftBank, and Oracle announced plans to invest up to \$500 billion in AI infrastructure under a project called Stargate.

If this initiative goes ahead as planned, Ambani's Jamnagar facility will not only surpass existing data centre capacities but also give India a competitive edge in the growing AI market. As of now, India's total data centre capacity — just like the USA — is under one gigawatt. Tripling this



capacity in one project would be a major milestone for the country, potentially accelerating its AI development.

While the scale of the project is unprecedented, so is its estimated cost. Building such a massive facility could require an investment of \$20 to \$30 billion, according to industry estimates. Although Reliance Industries has about \$26 billion in cash reserves, funding such a project would still be a challenge. The company has not commented on the reports yet.

Ambani's strategy appears similar to his approach in the telecom sector, where Reliance Jio disrupted the market by offering services at affordable prices. This time, the aim is to lower the cost of AI inferencing — the computational process behind running AI models —

which can be prohibitively expensive for startups and established firms alike.

Jamnagar, already the site of Reliance's oil refining and petrochemical operations, will now play a central role in the company's push for renewable energy and AI. The data centre is expected to be powered largely by green energy, with Reliance building solar, wind, and green hydrogen projects nearby. However, experts point out that maintaining a continuous energy supply for such a massive facility may still require fossil fuels or large battery storage systems.

Ambani has made it clear that his ultimate goal is to make AI accessible to everyone in India. “We want to offer the lowest AI inferencing costs in the world, making AI affordable and available to all,” he said last year.

Don't rely on social media users for fact-checking

In the wake of Donald Trump's election victory, Meta chief executive Mark Zuckerberg fired the fact-checking team for his company's social media platforms. At the same time, he reversed Facebook's turn away from political content.

The decision is widely viewed as placating an incoming president with a known penchant for mangling the truth.

Meta will replace its fact-checkers with the “community notes” model used by X, the platform owned by avid Trump supporter Elon Musk. This model relies on users to add corrections to false or misleading posts.

Musk has described this model as “citizen journalism, where you hear from the people. It's by the people, for the people.”

For such an approach to work, both citizen journalists and their readers need to value good-faith deliberation,

accuracy and accountability. But our new research shows social media users may not be the best crowd to source in this regard.

Our research

Working with Essential Media, our team wanted to know what social media users think of common civic values.

People who relied on newspapers, online news aggregators, and non-commercial TV all scored significantly higher than those who relied on social media and commercial broadcasting.

The survey also found that as the number of different media sources people use daily increased, so too did their civic values score.

This research does not indicate whether platforms foster lower civic values or simply cater to them.

But it does raise concerns about social media becoming an increasingly

important source of political information in democratic societies like Australia.

Why measure values?

The point of the civic values scale we developed is to highlight the fact that the values people bring to news about the world are as important as the news content.

For example, most people in the United States have likely heard about the violence of the attack on the Capitol protesting Trump's loss in 2020.

That Trump and his supporters can recast this violent riot as “a day of love” is not the result of a lack of information.

It is, rather, a symptom of people's lack of trust in media and government institutions and their unwillingness to confront facts that challenge their views.

In other words, it is not enough to provide people with accurate

information. What counts is the mindset they bring to that information.

No place for debate

Critics have long been concerned that social media platforms do not serve democracy well, privileging sensationalism and virality over thoughtful and accurate posts. As the critical theorist Judith Butler put it: the quickness of social media allows for forms of vitriol that do not exactly support thoughtful debate.

Sociologist Zeynep Tufekci said social media is less about meaningful engagement than bonding with like-minded people and mocking perceived opponents. She notes, “belonging is stronger than facts”.

Her observation is likely familiar to anyone who has tried to engage in a politically charged discussion on social media.

Source: PTI

EV sector pushes for tech investments and smart mobility solutions

As the unveiling of Budget 2025 approaches, the country's electric vehicle (EV) sector is hopeful for measures and initiatives to make EVs more affordable and accessible to consumers.

Industry leaders and experts anticipate that this budget would introduce policies that would accelerate EV adoption across the country, and help India achieve its goal of reducing carbon emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030.

Akshit Bansal, Founder & CEO, Statiq urged the expansion of EVs for broader penetration across the Tier II cities. "To facilitate this transition, robust infrastructure is paramount, particularly in the form of widespread EV charging stations. Establishing a reliable charging network will instil trust amongst consumers and encourage greater adoption of electric vehicles," he said.

Bansal also suggested the need to convert heavy commercial vehicles to eco-friendly alternatives to address the issue of growing pollution in cities.

Ishaan Parwanda, Director, Trinity Touch suggested lowering GST rates on lithium-ion batteries to boost EV sales.

"Measures such as reducing the GST on EV batteries, upgrading the infrastructure status for charging stations, and implementing performance-linked incentives for manufacturing are essential. These steps would make the EV market more affordable and accessible to a broader audience," he mentioned.



"There is an urgent need to focus on the domestic production of key EV components, rather than relying on imports. Promoting Atmanirbhar Bharat by introducing special Production Linked Incentives (PLI) and incentives for manufacturing EV components will boost production, reduce the cost of EV vehicles, and make them more affordable for Indian consumers. Such measures will not only advance the EV sector but also position India as a leader in sustainable mobility," Parwanda said.

Furthermore, experts believe that technology development will play a key role in driving the growth of the EV ecosystem in India.

Raghav Arora, Co-Founder & CTO,

Statiq suggested leveraging the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT), to optimise charging networks and improve battery efficiency.

"Innovations in battery technology, charging infrastructure, and smart mobility solutions are essential to overcoming existing challenges and enhancing the overall EV experience," he said.

"We hope that the upcoming budget will prioritise investments in technology-driven initiatives that support startups and established players alike in their quest to innovate within the EV space. This focus on technological advancement is crucial for positioning India as a global leader in sustainable mobility," Arora added. *Source: India Today*

Forex reserves decline by \$1.88 bn to \$623.98 bn

India's forex reserves dropped by USD 1.88 billion to USD 623.983 billion in the week ended January 17, the RBI said on Friday, January 24.

Earlier, the overall kitty declined by USD 8.714 billion to USD 625.871 billion in the week ended January 10, the Reserve Bank of India said.

The reserves have been on a declining trend for the last few weeks, and the drop has been attributed to revaluation along with forex market interventions by RBI to help reduce volatilities in the rupee.

The forex reserves had increased to an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in end-September.

For the week ended January 17, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 2.878 billion to USD 533.133 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves increased by USD 1.063 million to USD 68.947 billion during the week, the RBI said.

The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were up by USD 01 million to USD 17.782 billion, the apex bank said. *Source: PTI*

Dollar dips as Trump eases stance on China tariffs

The dollar dropped to a one-month low after President Donald Trump appeared to soften his approach toward tariffs on China. Stock futures fluctuated after the S&P 500 scaled a fresh peak.

The president said in an interview with Fox News that he would "rather not" use tariffs against the world's second-largest economy. He has also, so far, held back from imposing tariffs on Europe, though he warned of levies against Canada and Mexico.

The dollar index dipped 0.4% on Friday and was on track for its biggest weekly decline in 14 months. Asian and European stocks rallied. Gold rose to near a record high, trading around \$2,781 an ounce.

"It is early days but nothing that President Donald Trump has said or done has caused a bad reaction in financial markets," said Chris Iggo, chief investment officer of core investments at AXA Investment Managers. "Quite the contrary. It is paying to stay invested."

Elsewhere, the yen strengthened against the greenback. The Bank of Japan raised interest rates for the first



time since July and Governor Kazuo Ueda left options open for the timing of the next hike.

Corporate Highlights

- Boeing shares fell in pre-market trading after announcing another quarter of charges and losses
- Texas Instruments slide 5% on a disappointing earnings forecast

- Burberry Group jumped after reporting better-than-expected sales
- Novo Nordisk rose after an experimental shot delivered as much as 22% weight loss in an early-stage trial, boosting investors' hopes for the drugmaker's pipeline
- Twilio Inc. surged after giving a forecast that revenue growth will top the average analyst estimate
- American Express Co. profits increased 12% as well-heeled consumers spent more than analysts expected over the holidays

Markets have broadly done well this week, helped by expectations that Trump's policies will boost US corporate profits. In terms of equity flows, US stock funds got \$7 billion of inflows in the week through Wednesday, according to a note from Bank of America Corp. strategists.

In Europe, the recent rally has been so strong that strategists see little room for more upside. The Stoxx Europe 600 Index — which gained 4.5% year-to-date — will end 2025 at 534 points, according to a Bloomberg survey of strategists. That's just 1% above Wednesday's close.

Source: Bloomberg

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JAN 27 TO FEB 2, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES

Ganesha says this week will bring many possibilities and opportunities for Aries.

Your energy and confidence will be at its peak at this time, due to which you will be ready to face all the challenges. Your hard work will start paying off in the workplace and you will also get the support of colleagues. There will be a pleasant atmosphere at home as well, this is the right time to spend time with family. Things will become even stronger in relationships, and you will share happiness with your loved ones. Be careful in financial matters, it will be important to avoid light expenses. You will also feel inclined towards spirituality, and it will be beneficial to participate in activities like meditation or yoga. This week will bring a period of creativity and new ideas for you, take advantage of it. Overall, this week will be an important time for your energy and positivity. Focus on your goals and welcome new opportunities.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week will be full of special opportunities for you for Taurus. During this time,

you will get to see new creativity in your work area. It is time to present your ideas impressively. Relationships with colleagues will improve and your hard work may be rewarded. There may be some exciting changes in your personal life as well. Love relationships will deepen, so take advantage of this time. If you have feelings for someone special, this is a good opportunity to express them clearly. In terms of health, pay attention to your diet and daily routine. Exercise regularly and stay away from stress. Taking care of mental health is also important, so practice meditation and yoga. Be a little careful in financial matters. Avoid unnecessary expenses and focus on your budget. This time is good for investments, but do not make any major decisions impulsively. Overall, this week is a time of positive changes and new possibilities for you. Stay focused on your goal and move forward with positivity.



GEMINI

Ganesha says this week, that communication and social interactions are

going to be very important for Gemini natives. You will feel inspired to spend time with your friends and family, which will improve your emotional and mental state. Your versatility and sociability will help you open doors to new opportunities. You can unleash your

creativity by taking on a new project. This week don't be afraid to share your ideas; your perspective may be inspiring to others. At work, your thinking ability and willingness to expand your horizons may bring you satisfying results. But remember, it is important to respect others' opinions too. This week, you are likely to meet someone special who may encourage your ideas. In terms of health, practice meditation, and yoga to maintain mental happiness. You may find a perfect way to reduce mental stress and refresh yourself. Social life will remain hustle-bustle, and this time will be very encouraging for you. Listen to your heart and welcome new experiences!



CANCER

Ganesha says this week your morale will be high and you will enjoy spending time with your family. Moments spent with family will give you new energy. This is the time to strengthen conversations and relationships with your loved ones. This week your financial condition is likely to improve. You may get new financial opportunities, which is the right time to take advantage of. This is a favorable time to invest or participate in a new project. Take care of your health. Stress and excessive workload can affect your mental health. Practicing yoga and meditation will be beneficial for you. You will also be active in business life and will move forward with the support of the team. Your ideas will be appreciated, and your efforts will be rewarded. In social life, spending time with friends will give peace to your soul. Meeting or talking to an old friend can make you happy. Remember, moving forward with positive thinking is the key to your success this week.



LEO

Ganesha says this week is going to be very important for you, Leo natives. Your strength and energy will be at its peak, which will enable you to execute your plans successfully. You will be full of confidence this week and people will be drawn towards you. Also pay attention to family issues, as this is the right time to resolve some old differences. Spending time with family at home will give you peace of mind. There may be challenges at the workplace, but with your dexterity and communication skills, you will overcome the difficulties. In terms of relationships, try to show some sensitivity and love to your loved ones. Pay attention to even the smallest things, this will strengthen your relationship. In the field of health, adopting yoga and meditation will be beneficial for your mental and physical health. Some positive changes are likely in financial matters. New investment opportunities may come up but be careful and make decisions wisely. This week will bring progress and positive energy for you, live it to the fullest and keep moving towards your dreams.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week's horoscope for Scorpio shows the need to strike a balance in your personal and professional life. It is time to be mindful of your thoughts and feelings. You may consider making some changes in your routine, which will prove beneficial for your mental and physical health. This week, increasing communication with friends and family is important. You will get a chance to spend more time with your close ones, which will strengthen your soulful relationships. In the professional field, you are likely to receive appreciation for your hard work and dedication. If you are working on a project, this is the right time to complete it. Keep in mind that it will be beneficial for you to hone and learn more about your skills. Financial conditions will also see improvement. Small investments may be beneficial. However, be careful while making major financial decisions. In terms of health, pay attention to your food and drink and include exercise in your routine. It will keep you mentally refreshed. Overall, this week is a time of growth and balance for you. Keep your thoughts clear and keep moving forward with a positive attitude.



LIBRA

Ganesha says many opportunities will come your way this week due to the influence of mixed energy. You will be successful in maintaining harmony in your relationships, which will make people close to you feel more connected with you. Spending time with friends and family will be of special importance. In the workplace, your hard work and dedication are now seen to be getting results. There will be an opportunity to start a new project with colleagues, which can give a new direction to your career. Express your thoughts clearly and move forward with the support of the team. In terms of health, practice regular activities and meditation. Keeping your mental state balanced will not only improve your mental health but will also have a positive effect on your physical health. This week your creativity will get a chance to be exposed. Try to experiment with something new in art, music, or writing. Your talent will not only get recognition, but it will also increase your confidence. Remember, this week you have to trust your inner voice. While facing challenges, maintain balance in every situation.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week marks the beginning of an important time for Scorpio natives. Your insight and depth will help you advance in many areas. You may want to refocus on your goals, and this time will bring new changes in your personality. In terms of relationships, you will try to go into emotional depth

with those close to you. Keep in mind that honesty and sensitivity are important in conversations. In terms of health, take time for some exercise and exercise. Your mental state will affect your physical health, so meditation and yoga may be beneficial for you. In work life, you will start seeing the fruits of your hard work and dedication. Opportunities for success will knock at your door, but make sure you consider them carefully. Finally, believe in yourself and listen to your intuition; this week can open new doors for you.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week is the beginning of great opportunities for Sagittarius natives. Your plans will gain momentum, and you will move strongly towards achieving your goals. This is the right time to bring a new turn in a job or business. With positive thinking and confidence, you will be able to realize your ideas. There will be an atmosphere of harmony in personal relationships. Your partner will understand your feelings and cooperate with you. This is also a good time for important conversations with family. There will be an atmosphere of joy at home, which will make you feel energized and inspired. In terms of health, pay attention to your food and routine. By doing a little hard work, you will feel good and get mental peace. Meditation and yoga practice will prove beneficial for you during this time. This week is the time to take some new initiatives towards self-development. Use your imagination and recognize the power within you. Your abilities will increase, and you will be ready for new possibilities. In summary, this week is one of progress, strengthening of relationships, and spiritual growth for Sagittarius. Keep a positive attitude and keep moving forward.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week you will get many important opportunities, that you can use to increase your success. Some new projects will start at work, which will increase your efficiency. Relationships with your colleagues will be strengthened, and working in a collaborative environment will allow you to move forward. In personal life, spending time with family and friends will make your mind happy. These moments will provide you comfort and lift your morale. If you are facing any problem, family support this week will give you the courage you need. In terms of health, there may be minor problems, but meditation and yoga will be beneficial for you. Care needs to be taken that you do not go over the edge mentally, so take care of the moments of relaxation. This weekend, it is time to plan short trips, which will make you enjoy new experiences. All in all, this week will prove to be a good time of inspiration and growth for you.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JAN 27 TO FEB 2 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

JANUARY 27

Ganesha says you are an extremely intelligent individual who is knowledgeable in every field. You will see you rise like a brilliant star. Because of your exceptional mental acuity, you can solve puzzles quickly. However, high-paying endeavors could be inconsistent for you despite your organized risk-taking skills. Because you have unmatched communication skills, which are crucial today, you are familiar with the pace of the competition.

JANUARY 28

Ganesha says although you may not have as many friends due to your shyness, you will be able to manage the direction of your life methodically because of your unstoppable thoughts and strong ability to conclude. Doing consistently excellent work would also improve your standards. Your close ones should be warned when you exhibit your introverted side since it needs to be changed to prevent misunderstandings. In terms of love, don't hold back from expressing your sentiments.

JANUARY 29

Ganesha says you will have many opportunities to demonstrate your abilities at work, and everyone will be impressed. You'll have to spend time with your family due to circumstances, and you'll steal the show with your electrifying gestures. Your life's stability may improve if you strike it rich. You are a sensible individual. The early games you played with obstacles shaped your tough nature and made it difficult to dominate. The public will like you for who you naturally are. They frequently adhere to you.

JANUARY 30

Ganesha says your creative spirit will produce win-win circumstances for you everywhere. Today is expected to be good for your devout soul, yet a small slip-up can chafe you. Your job will always be your first passion, and since you spend most of your time there, it will provide you incredible glory, honor, and surprises. You detest bigots and constantly work to cast a ray of optimism into the gloomy corners. As a result, you are a seasoned warrior.

JANUARY 31

Ganesha says despite their best efforts, your coworkers and associates are unable to adopt your working style. However, you must adhere to all policies and procedures at work so that no one can ever call your attention to any flaws. Thanks to your unshakable focus and ferocious resolve, you will surely become the center of attention professionally. It would also be simpler for you to advance and earn more money.

FEBRUARY 1

Ganesha says you are a fountain of intelligence, talent, and potential. No one will ever be able to defeat you at work since you are above all others and unbeatable. You only need a reliable source of money if you have sharp, refined acumen skills. You will simply overcome all of your obstacles. Your communication style will propel you to the top position in your field. Your genre includes serving humanity highly.

FEBRUARY 2

Ganesha says you come up with your

inventory. Having undiscovered artistic or musical talent might serve as a physical representation of your distinction in life. In this well-known sector, you're likely to start your own business. Not just the home market, but also the global one, will be populated with your ideas. Your life will be easy and peaceful as a result, both in terms of your financial situation and your physical well-being.

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at www.bejandaruwala.com | info@bejandaruwala.com | +91 81412 34275

CONTD FROM PAGE 46

AQUARIUS



Aquarius

Ganesha says this week will open doors to many new possibilities for you. Your creativity has reached its peak, and you will wonderfully express your ideas. On the work front, working together with the team will bring you success. Your unique thinking will help you solve problems. In social life, the opportunity to make new friends is running parallel. You will be able to attract others towards you, and your conversations will be filled with new energy and enthusiasm. Be a little patient in relationships; some issues will be resolved in a short time. In terms of health, it will be beneficial to focus on meditation and yoga. You can also improve your physical health by maintaining mental balance. Financial planning will be important this week. Focus on necessary expenses and take steps towards saving. Some positive changes in the last few days can be a reason for happiness for you. This week's summary says that you should move forward with your unique energies, as many positive changes are waiting for you.

PISCES



Ganesha says this week is important for you from both an emotional and mental point of view. Your thoughts will deepen, which will help you understand the situations around you better. Your sensitive nature can become a strength for you at this time. Promote communication in your relationships. This is the time to spend some special moments with family. Your creative mind will attract you to new ideas and projects. Spending time

in art and music will give you joy and peace. Your thoughts will be deeply heard in the workplace as well, so do not hesitate to share your thoughts. However, it is also advised that you try to keep your emotions balanced. Sometimes, excessive emotionality can give you trouble in making decisions. Give yourself time and meditate for your inner peace. It is also important to be health conscious. Take regular exercise and a nutritious diet, so that

you can maintain your energy. You may get the fruits of your good deeds this

week, so stay positive and show kindness to others.

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. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit www.BejanDaruwalla.com

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp +91 8141234275

Email: info@bejandaruwala.com



World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

Sikh History This Week

JANUARY 24 TO JANUARY 30

24th January

1849 Chatter Singh joined with Sher Singh against the British while the British forces spared from Multan battle joined their forces.

1923 Pragpur is raided to arrest Kishan Singh Garhgaj.

1928 Raghbir Singh RajaSasi formed the Central Sikh Association.



1943 Maharaja Ripudaman Singh of Nabha passed away at Kadia-Kunal.

Among the 12 Sikh misls, Nabha reign represented the major branch of Phullkiyan misl. The Nabha family began with Gurdit Singh, the eldest son of Chaudhary Tilok Singh, who in turn was the eldest son of Baba Phull. As a result, Nabha is also known as Chaudhary da Garh (house of Chaudhary).

1960 129 members of the SGPC and over 100,000 GurSikhs took a vow to lay lives for Punjabi Suba.



1993 Kesri Nishan hoisted at The Hague.

25th January

1921 Morcha of Taran Taran marked the beginning of Gurudwara Reform Movement. Hazara Singh became the first martyr of the movement.

1922 Karam Singh of Daulatpur arranged diwan at Nawanshehar.

1936 The Nankana Sahib Committee established the



Guru Nanak Prachar Trust.

26th January

1720 Nadir Shah attacked, ransacked, and looted Delhi.

Pandits and Brahmins suffered extensively under Aurangzeb, Bahadur Shah, Forkhshayer, Nadar Abdali, etc. and Guru's Sikhs rescued their daughters, sacrificed their own lives for saving their Dharam. Then these decepers used to honor the Sikhs as "saintly rulers."

1921 Sikhs assume control of Sri Darbar Sahib, Taran Taran.

1950 Republic day of India. But the Sikh Nation's aspirations remain unfulfilled.

1986 The Sarbat Khalsa, gathered together at Akal Takht Sahib, Amritsar resolved to establish a sovereign State, Khalistan and elected a Panthic Committee to coordinate the movement for national independence.

1986 Work was initiated to dismantle Akal Takht constructed under government's forcible "Kar Sewa" after Bluestar Operation. This work was carried out by Baba Santa Singh, who was excummunicated from the Panth for his cooperation.

27th January



1682 Janam Din Baba Deep Singh Ji. Known as Deepaa in his childhood, he was born on 14 Magh Sunmat 1737 to mother Mata Jeonee and father Bhai Bhagtoo at Paahowind, Amritsar. He is remembered as one of the most revered martyrs of Sikh history.

1846 Anglo-Sikh war was fought at village Aliwal, Tehsil Jagraon. The Sikhs suffered severe losses due to internal dissensions.

1921 Gurudwara Sudhar Dal was named Akali Dal and Sarmukh Singh Jhabal was elected its first President. This body was to serve as a central body controlling and directing various Akali Jathas that had mushroomed from mid-1920.

1923 The Kar-Sewa of Amritsar Sarowar was

initiated. All participant Sikh sangats gathered at Gurdwara Sri Putali Sahib to do their ardas before proceeding for kar-sewa at Sri Harmandie Sahib.

1983 Akali members of Parliament and Assembly resigned in support of Sikh's righteous demands.

28th January



1520: Guru Baba Nanak Dev in the course of his udasis (travels) arrived at Mecca, the Centre of Islam, accompanied with his GurSikh Bhai Mardana. Here he convinced the Hajies and other dignitories that God is omnipresent. His abode is not confined to Mecca alone. He preached the Message of Universal love and brotherhood.

1757: Baba Aalla Singh and Sardar Chadhat Singh together attacked the forces of Abdali and rescued the Hindu women that were being forcibly taken from their residence. The Sikh forces safely returned each women to her rightful home.

29th January

The Babbar Akali conspiracy case, Supplementary I, was brought before the committing magistrate.

1925 14th Shahidi Jatha of 500 valiant Akali Satyagrahies, led by Saradar Darshan Singh Pheruman courted arrest upon reaching Gangsar, Jaito.

1928 All Party Sikh Conference held at Amritsar.

1970 Indira Ghandhi announced the so-called award on Chandigarh. It was to be given to Punjab in exchange for 114 villages to Haryana. It was like buying a white elephant to save the life of Fateh Singh. Though Fateh Singh would not have died even otherwise; a coward, as he was.

1976 Articles of Organization for the Sikh Dharma Brotherhood were promilgated.

1986 The the Panthic Committee, appointed by Sarbat Khalsa on Jan. 26, 1986, announced the Declaration of Independence, from Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Amritsar.

1989 The US Congress condemns India for its prosecution of the Sikhs. The Congressmen expressed their sympathies for the Sikh national cause and condemned Indian Nazism.

30th January

1850: Bhai Maharaj Singh was deported to Calcutta from Jalandhar.

1855: Baba Dayal Singh Nirankari passed away.

1892 Lal Singh, a Bar Student charged with an offence, insisted to give his evidence on oath by saying: I am a Sikh. I have a religion. When he was examined on solemn affirmation and not oath, the matter went up in appeal. It was held by Justice Hawkins that it was wrong to let Lal Singh make a solemn affirmation instead of taking an oath. Wills, Charles, Lawrence, and Wright JJ all concurred.

Mauni Amavasya

Mauni Amavasya, also known as the "Silent New Moon," is a profound and spiritually significant day in the Hindu calendar. Falling on the no-moon day (Amavasya) in the month of Magha (January-February), it holds immense religious, cultural, and spiritual importance. In 2025, Mauni Amavasya will be observed on January 29. This day, deeply rooted in Vedic traditions, is marked by rituals, vows of silence, and the sacred act of bathing in holy rivers.

Historical and Mythological Significance

Mauni Amavasya derives its name from the word "Mauna," meaning silence. According to ancient scriptures, the day is linked to the creation of the universe. It is believed that on this day, Lord Brahma commenced the act of creation, and the sacred rivers were infused with divine energy. The alignment of the celestial bodies during this period is considered to enhance spiritual vibrations, making it an auspicious time for purification and penance.

In the Mahabharata, it is mentioned that taking a holy dip during Mauni Amavasya in the Magha month absolves one of sins, leading to liberation (Moksha). Furthermore, the day is associated with Sage Manu, the progenitor of humanity, who is said to have meditated in silence to seek divine knowledge. Hence, the observance of silence on this day symbolizes self-restraint and introspection.

Astrological Importance

Astrologically, Amavasya is a day when the Sun and Moon align in the same zodiac sign, creating a powerful gravitational pull. This alignment is believed to influence human emotions and energies. On Mauni Amavasya, this celestial event is particularly potent, offering a rare opportunity to align one's spiritual energies with cosmic forces. It is said that the blessings received on this day are amplified manifold, especially when combined with acts of charity, meditation, and self-discipline.

KEY RITUALS AND PRACTICES

1. Holy Bathing (Snan)

One of the most significant rituals of Mauni Amavasya is taking a holy dip in sacred rivers, especially the Ganges, Yamuna, and the confluence (Triveni Sangam) of Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati in Prayagraj (Allahabad). The act of bathing is believed to purify the body, mind, and soul, washing away past sins and karmic debts.

In 2025, the Kumbh Mela will not be held, but the annual Magh Mela in Prayagraj will witness millions of devotees gathering for the Mauni Amavasya Snan. The atmosphere at these pilgrim sites becomes charged with devotion as chants of mantras and hymns reverberate in the air.

2. Observance of Silence (Mauna Vrat)

The vow of silence is central to Mauni Amavasya. Devotees abstain from speaking throughout the day to cultivate inner peace and enhance spiritual focus. This practice is a form of penance that fosters mindfulness and self-awareness. Observing silence is also seen as a way to conserve energy and redirect it towards spiritual growth.

3. Meditation and Yoga

Mauni Amavasya is an ideal time for meditation and yoga. Devotees engage in deep meditation to connect with their inner self and seek divine guidance. Practicing yoga, especially pranayama (breathing exercises), helps to harmonize the mind, body, and soul, complementing the spiritual benefits of the day.

4. Charity and Annadanam

Acts of charity hold special significance on Mauni Amavasya. Donating food, clothes, and money to the needy is believed to bring immense blessings. Feeding the poor, known as Annadanam, is considered the highest form of charity on this day. Many devotees also



Important information

Mauni Amavasya 2025

Wednesday, 29 January 2025

Amavasya Tithi Begins - 28 January 2025 at 07:35 pm

Amavasya Tithi Ends - 29 January 2027 at 06:06 pm

distribute blankets and other essentials to the underprivileged, especially during the winter season.

5. Worship and Offerings

Devotees perform special prayers and offer fruits, flowers, and incense to their deities. Worshipping Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva is particularly auspicious on this day. Lighting a diya (oil lamp) and placing it near a Tulsi plant or in front of a sacred river is a common practice.

Spiritual and Psychological Benefits

The rituals and practices of Mauni Amavasya are designed to promote spiritual growth and psychological well-being. The act of silence helps individuals detach from worldly distractions and focus on self-reflection. Holy bathing and meditation cleanse not only the body but also the mind, fostering a sense of purity and inner peace. Additionally, acts of charity instill a sense of compassion and gratitude, reinforcing the interconnectedness of all beings.

Mauni Amavasya at the Triveni Sangam

The Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj holds unparalleled significance on Mauni Amavasya. This sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers is considered the holiest site for performing rituals on this day. Thousands of saints, sadhus, and pilgrims gather at the Sangam to take a dip and perform prayers. The spiritual energy at this site is palpable, attracting devotees from across the globe.

Modern Relevance of Mauni Amavasya

In today's fast-paced world, the principles of Mauni Amavasya hold timeless relevance. The practice of silence can serve as a powerful tool for stress management and mental clarity. By disconnecting from external noise and distractions, individuals can cultivate mindfulness and emotional resilience. Moreover, the emphasis on charity and selflessness resonates with the modern values of social responsibility and community welfare.

How to Observe Mauni Amavasya

For those unable to visit sacred rivers or participate in large gatherings, Mauni Amavasya can still be observed at home or in local temples. Here's a simple guide:

- **Begin the Day with Purity:** Take a bath early in the morning, preferably using water infused with Tulsi leaves or Ganga Jal (holy water).
- **Observe Silence:** Dedicate a portion of the day to silence. Use this time for introspection, reading scriptures, or meditating.
- **Perform Puja:** Offer prayers to Lord Vishnu, Lord Shiva, and other deities. Light a diya and chant mantras like the Gayatri Mantra or Om Namah Shivaya.
- **Meditate:** Spend time in meditation to connect with your inner self and seek spiritual guidance.
- **Engage in Charity:** Donate to the needy or support a charitable cause. Feeding animals, especially cows and birds, is also considered auspicious.

Global Observance of Mauni Amavasya

With the Indian diaspora spread across the globe, Mauni Amavasya has become a global observance. Temples and cultural organizations in countries like the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia organize special events and rituals to mark the occasion. Virtual platforms also host live streams of prayers and discourses, enabling devotees to participate from anywhere in the world.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

India celebrates 76th Republic Day with military prowess on full display

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, several other Union ministers, the country's top military brass, foreign diplomats and senior officials were among the spectators on both sides of Kartavya Path.

The first Army contingent leading the mounted column was 61 Cavalry, led by Lieutenant Ahaan Kumar.

Raised in 1953, 61 Cavalry is the only serving active horsed cavalry regiment in the world. It was followed by nine mechanized columns and nine marching contingents.

Tank T-90 Bhishma, NAG missile systems, the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, the Pinaka multi-launcher rocket system, the Agnibaan multi-barrel rocket launcher, the Akash weapon system, the integrated battlefield surveillance system and all-terrain vehicle Chetak were among the key displays by the mechanized columns.

Light specialist vehicle Bajrang, vehicle-mounted infantry mortar system Airawat, quick reaction force vehicles Nandighosh and Tripurantak and the short-span bridging system were also on display.

The Army's marching contingents included the Brigade of the Guards, the Jat Regiment, the Garhwal Rifles, the Mahar Regiment, the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Regiment and the Corps of Signals.

The Indian Navy's contingent consisted of 144 personnel led by Lieutenant Commander Sahil Ahluwalia as the contingent commander and Lt Commander Indresh Choudhary, Lt Commander Kajal Anil Bharani and Lt Devender as platoon commanders.

It was followed by the Naval tableau, depicting a strong "Aatmanirbhar" (self-reliant) Navy, capable of protecting India's maritime interests.

The tableau showcased the newly-commissioned indigenous frontline state-of-the-art combatants, including destroyer INS Surat, frigate INS Nilgiri and submarine INS Vaghsheer, highlighting India's rapid progress in indigenous warship design and construction.

The tableau showcased the Indian Navy's commitment to build a robust and self-sufficient defense ecosystem.

The Indian Air Force's (IAF) contingent comprised four officers and 144 personnel, led by Squadron Leader Mahender Singh Garati. It was followed by a fly-past by three MiG-29 aircraft in "Baaz formation".

Another highlight of the parade was the veterans' tableau on the theme "Viksit Bharat ki Ore Sadaiv Agrasar", a heartfelt tribute to the unwavering spirit of the ex-servicemen towards the nation.

Several veterans who brought glory to India in sports were also part of the parade.

Representing "Nari Shakti" (women power) at the parade were veteran women officers -- Lieutenant Colonel Ravinderjeet Randhawa, Lieutenant Commander Mani Agarwal and Flight Lieutenant Ruchi Saha.

In its tableau, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) displayed many home-grown critical systems and technologies developed by it.

The DRDO tableau, with the theme "Raksha Kavach - Multi-layer Protection against Multi-domain Threats" featured the quick reaction surface-to-air missile, the airborne early warning and control system, the 155 mm/52-calibre advanced towed artillery gun system and the drone detect, deter and destroy system.

It also showcased the satellite-based surveillance system, medium power radar Arudhra, advanced lightweight torpedo, electronic warfare system Dharashakti, the laser-based directed energy weapon, the very short range air defense system and the unmanned aerial system.

It was for the first time that the indigenously-developed Pralay missile system was showcased.

A 352-member marching and band contingent from Indonesia also participated in the Republic-Day parade. This was the first time that an Indonesian marching and band contingent participated in a national-day

parade abroad.

The contingents marching down Kartavya Path were a 148-member all-women marching contingent of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), led by Assistant Commandant Aishwarya Joy M.

The Assam Rifles contingent was led by Captain Karanveer Singh Kumbhavat of 29 Assam Rifles. It comprised soldiers recruited from all over the country.

The Camel contingent of the Border Security Force (BSF) was under the command of Deputy Commandant Manohar Singh Kheechee.

The all-girls marching contingent of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) was led by Senior Under Officer Ekta Kumari of the Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Directorate.

The all-boys marching contingent was led by Senior Under Officer Prasad Prakash Waikul of the Maharashtra Directorate.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) marching contingent of 148 volunteers was led by Deepak from Punjab.

The Corps of Signals motorcycle rider display team, famously known as "The Dare Devils", carried out breath-taking stunts during a motorcycle display.

The team showcased its bravery and determination through a number of formations, including Bullet Salute, Tank Top, Double Jimmy, Devils Down, Ladder Salute, Shatrujeet, Shradhanjali, Mercury Peak, Info Warriors, Lotus and Human Pyramid.

The celebrations ended with a jaw-dropping flypast by 40 aircraft and helicopters of the IAF.

The fleet included 22 fighter jets, 11 transport aircraft and seven helicopters.

These included Rafale, Su-30, Jaguar, C-130, C-295, C-17, AWACS, Dornier-228 and An-32 aircraft. The helicopters were Apache and Mi-17.

The platforms displayed a variety of formations, including Dhvaj, Ajay, Satluj, Rakshak, Arjan, Netra, Bheem, Amrit, Vajrang, Trishul and Vijay.

The concluding Vertical Charlie manoeuvre was performed by a Rafale fighter aircraft. (With inputs from agencies)

US agents visit gurdwaras in New York, New Jersey as Trump escalates immigration crackdown

illegal immigrants, drawing a sharp reaction from some Sikh organizations which see such actions as a threat to the sanctity of their faith.

Some of the gurdwaras in New York and New Jersey are believed to be used as a hub by Sikh separatists, along with illegal and undocumented immigrants.

Within hours of Donald Trump being sworn in as the 47th President of the United States, acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Benjamin Huffman in a directive rescinded the Biden administration's guidelines for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) enforcement actions that thwart law enforcement in or near so-called "sensitive" areas.

These "sensitive" areas included places of worship like gurdwaras and churches.

"This action empowers the brave men and women in CBP and ICE to enforce our immigration laws and catch criminal aliens-including murders and rapists-who have illegally come into our country," a spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security said.

"Criminals will no longer be able to hide in America's schools and churches to avoid arrest. The Trump administration will not tie the hands of our brave law enforcement, and instead trusts them to use common sense," the spokesperson said.

In a statement, the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF) expressed grave concern over the directive rescinding the guidelines that designated "sensitive areas", such as houses of worship, where immigration enforcement actions were previously restricted.

"This troubling shift in policy comes in tandem with community reports of DHS agents visiting gurdwaras in the New York and New Jersey areas just days after the directive was issued," SALDEF said.

"We are deeply alarmed by the Department of Homeland Security's decision to eliminate protections



for sensitive areas and then target places of worship like gurdwaras," said Kiran Kaur Gill, executive director of SALDEF.

Gill said gurdwaras are not just places of worship; they are vital community centers that provide support, nourishment and spiritual solace to Sikhs and the broader community.

"Targeting these spaces for enforcement actions threatens the sanctity of our faith and sends a chilling message to immigrant communities nationwide," Gill said.

Sikh Coalition said the Trump administration's decision to rescind the DHS policy on "protected areas" (which also included hospitals, schools, social service providers, and more) opens the door to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents conducting surveillance, investigations, arrests, and raids at gurdwaras.

"The idea that our gurdwaras could be subject to government surveillance and raids by armed law enforcement with or without warrants is unacceptable to the Sikh faith tradition. It will burden religious exercise by limiting the ability of Sikhs to gather and associate with one another in accordance with our faith," Sikh Coalition said.

"It also harkens to dark periods in our collective memory when governments interfered in the ability of Sikhs to practice our faith freely-with deadly consequences," it said.

"If Sikhs-whether documented or undocumented-are concerned with gurdwara raids and surveillance, gurdwaras may well be impacted by decreased attendance, and thus an inability to carry out essential religious practices in a meaningful manner," said Sikh Coalition. (Source: PTI)

Nestled along the eastern coastline of India, Puri in Odisha is a city that perfectly blends spirituality, history, and natural beauty. Known as the "Spiritual Capital of Odisha," Puri attracts millions of visitors annually, not only for its religious significance but also for its pristine beaches, rich cultural heritage, and vibrant festivals. Here's an in-depth look at what makes Puri a must-visit destination.

The Spiritual Heart: Jagannath Temple

The Jagannath Temple is undoubtedly the crown jewel of Puri. Dedicated to Lord Jagannath, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, this 12th-century temple is one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites in Hinduism. Its towering spire and intricate carvings are a testament to the architectural brilliance of the Kalinga style. The annual Rath Yatra (Chariot Festival) is a grand spectacle that draws devotees and tourists from across the globe.

Puri Beach: A Tranquil Retreat

Puri Beach is a haven for those seeking peace and serenity. Its golden sands, lapped by the waves of the Bay of Bengal, offer a perfect spot for leisurely walks and stunning sunrises. The beach is also a hub for cultural and artistic activities, including the famous Puri Beach Festival, which showcases sand art, traditional dance, and music.

Konark Sun Temple: A UNESCO World Heritage Site

Located just 35 kilometers from Puri, the Konark Sun Temple is a marvel of ancient Indian architecture. Designed in the form of a colossal chariot with intricately carved wheels, pillars, and walls, this 13th-century temple is dedicated to the Sun God. A visit to this UNESCO World Heritage Site is an enriching experience, offering a glimpse into Odisha's glorious past.

Chilika Lake: A Biodiversity Hotspot

Situated about 50 kilometers from Puri, Chilika Lake is the largest coastal lagoon in India and a paradise for nature lovers. This brackish water lagoon is home to a myriad of migratory birds, especially during the winter months. The picturesque Nalaban Bird Sanctuary within the lake is a must-visit for birdwatchers. Additionally, boat rides to explore the lake and its islands, such as Kalijai and Honeymoon Island, are highly recommended.

Raghurajpur: The Heritage Crafts Village

A short drive from Puri takes you to Raghurajpur, a village renowned for its Pattachitra art and other traditional crafts. Visitors can witness artisans meticulously creating these intricate paintings and even purchase souvenirs directly from the creators. The vibrant cultural heritage of this village is a testament to Odisha's artistic legacy.

Other Attractions

- **Gundicha Temple:** Known as the "Garden House of Jagannath," it plays a significant role during the



- **Rath Yatra.**
- **Sudarshan Crafts Museum:** A hub for traditional Odisha craftsmanship.
- **Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary:** A serene spot for eco-tourism with lush forests and rich biodiversity.

Festivals and Culture

Puri's cultural richness is best experienced during its festivals. Apart from the Rath Yatra, festivals like Chandan Yatra, Snana Yatra, and the Beach Festival showcase the city's vibrant traditions. The local cuisine, featuring dishes like Pakhala Bhata, Chhena Poda, and the famous Jagannath Temple Mahaprasad, is a treat for food enthusiasts.

How to Reach Puri

- **By Air:** The nearest airport is Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar, about 60 kilometers from Puri.
- **By Rail:** Puri is well-connected by rail to major cities in India.
- **By Road:** Regular bus services and private taxis make Puri easily accessible from neighboring cities.

Best Time to Visit

The ideal time to visit Puri is from October to March when the weather is pleasant and most festivals take place.

Puri is more than just a destination; it is an experience that touches the heart and soul. Whether you are a pilgrim, a history enthusiast, or a nature lover, Puri offers something for everyone. Plan your trip to this enchanting city and immerse yourself in its timeless charm.



History This Week JAN 24 - JAN 30

JANUARY 24



January 24, 1965 - Winston Churchill (1874-1965) died. He had been Britain's wartime prime minister whose courageous leadership and defiant rhetoric had fortified the British during their long struggle against Hitler's Germany. "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat," he stated upon becoming prime minister at the beginning of the war. He called Hitler's Reich a "monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime." Following the war, he coined the term "Iron Curtain" to describe the barrier between areas in Eastern Europe under Soviet Russia's control and the free West.

January 24, 1972 - Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi was discovered on Guam after he had spent 28 years hiding out in the jungle not knowing World War II had long since ended.

JANUARY 25



January 25, 1947 - Gangster Al Capone, who once controlled organized crime in Chicago, died in Miami at age 48 from syphilis.

January 25, 1959 - An American Airlines Boeing 707 made the first scheduled transcontinental U.S. flight, traveling from California to New York.

January 25, 1961 - President John F. Kennedy conducted the first live televised presidential news conference, five days after taking office.

January 25, 1971 - In Uganda, a military coup led by Idi Amin deposed President Milton Obote. Amin then ruled as president-dictator until 1979 when he was ousted by Tanzanian soldiers and Ugandan nationalists. During his reign, Amin expelled all Asians from Uganda, and ordered the execution of more than 300,000 tribal Ugandans.

Birthdays - Scientist Robert Boyle (1627-1691) was born in Lismore, Ireland. He formulated Boyle's Law concerning the volume and pressure of gases.

JANUARY 26

January 26, 1943 - Nazis began using Hitler Youths to operate anti-aircraft batteries in Germany following heavy Allied bombing of Berlin and other cities.

January 26, 1994 - Romania became the first former Cold War foe to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) following the collapse of the Soviet Union.



January 26, 1998 - President Bill Clinton made an emphatic denial of charges that he had a sexual affair with Monica Lewinsky and had advised her to lie about it. "...I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky..."

Birthdays - Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964) was born on a military base in Little Rock, Arkansas. He commanded Allied forces during World War II in the Pacific. In 1942, he uttered one of the most famous phrases of the war, "I shall return," when forced to leave the Philippines due to the unchecked Japanese advance. In 1950, after war broke out in Korea, he became commander of the United Nations forces. However, disagreements with President Harry Truman over war policy resulted in his dismissal by Truman in April 1951. MacArthur then appeared before Congress and announced his retirement, declaring, "Old soldiers never die - they just fade away."

JANUARY 27

January 27, 1943 - The U.S. 8th Air Force conducted the first all-American bombing raid on Germany as 55 bombers targeted Wilhelmshaven, losing three planes while claiming to have shot down 22 German fighters. The success of this first mission encouraged U.S. military planners to begin regular daylight bombing raids, which eventually resulted in high casualty rates for the American crewmen involved.



January 27, 1944 - Russian Army General G. I. G. Govorov announced the lifting of the Nazi blockade of Leningrad. During the 900-day siege, an estimated one million Russian civilians inside the city died of disease, starvation and relentless German shelling.

January 27, 1945 - The Russian Army liberated Auschwitz death camp near Krakow in Poland, where the Nazis had systematically murdered an estimated 2,000,000 persons, including 1,500,000 Jews.

January 27, 1967 - Three American astronauts were killed as a fire erupted inside Apollo 1 during a launch simulation test at Cape Kennedy, Florida.

January 27, 1973 - U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended as North

Vietnamese and American representatives signed an agreement in Paris. The U.S. agreed to remove all remaining troops within 60 days thus ending the longest war in American history. Over 58,000 Americans had been killed, 300,000 wounded and 2,500 declared missing. A total of 566 prisoners-of-war had been held by the North Vietnamese during the war, with 55 reported deaths.

Birthdays - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) was born in Salzburg, Austria. From the age of five, through his untimely death at age 35, this musical genius created over 600 compositions including 16 operas, 41 symphonies, 27 piano and five violin concerti, 25 string quartets, 19 masses, and many other works.

Birthdays - British novelist Lewis Carroll (1832-1898) was born in Daresbury, Cheshire, England (as Charles Lutwidge Dodgson). Best known for Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass. He also lectured in mathematics and was a pioneering photographer.

Birthdays - Labor leader Samuel Gompers (1850-1924) was born in London. He emigrated to America at age 13, worked in a cigar factory, eventually becoming head of the Cigar Workers' Union. He later brought together several national unions under the name American Federation of Labor and became its first president.

Birthdays - German Kaiser Wilhelm II (1859-1941) was born. He was a grandson of England's Queen Victoria and ruled Germany from 1888 through World War I. Although he had military training, he left conduct of the war mainly in the hands of Generals Paul von Hindenburg and Erich von Ludendorff. In 1918, amid the defeat of Germany, he abdicated and fled to the Netherlands where he lived in seclusion until his death. He was given a military funeral by Hitler.

JANUARY 28

January 28, 1915 - The U.S. Coast Guard was created by an Act of Congress, combining the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service.

January 28, 1935 - Iceland became the first country to legalize abortion.



January 28, 1963 - African American student Harvey Gantt entered Clemson College in South Carolina, the last state to hold out against integration.

January 28, 1986 - The U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 74 seconds into its flight, killing seven persons, including Christa McAuliffe, a teacher who was to be the first ordinary citizen in space.

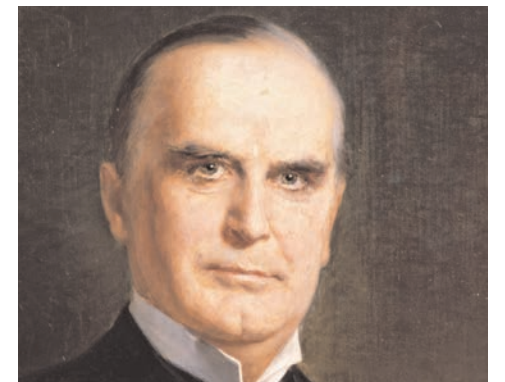
Birthdays - Explorer Henry Stanley (1841-1904) was born in Wales. As a newspaper correspondent for the New York Herald, he was given the challenging assignment of finding missionary-explorer David Livingston in Africa. Upon locating Livingston near Lake Tanganyika in 1871 after an

exhausting search, Stanley simply asked, "Dr. Livingston, I presume?"

JANUARY 29

January 29, 1919 - The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (Prohibition Amendment) was ratified. For nearly 14 years, until December 5, 1933, the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages were illegal in the United States. The Amendment had the unexpected result of causing enormous growth of organized crime which provided bootleg liquor to thirsty Americans.

Birthdays - Common Sense author Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was born in Thetford, England. His pamphlet, published in 1776, provided inspiration to undecided Americans that a new nation, independent from Britain, might eventually become "...an asylum for mankind!" He served in the Continental Army and observed the hardships of American troops fighting the world's most powerful army. He then published The Crisis series pamphlets which began by stating, "These are the times that try men's souls." He refused to accept the profits from his writings and wound up destitute after the Revolution.



Birthdays - William McKinley (1843-1901) the 25th U.S. President was born in Niles, Ohio. He was elected in 1896 and re-elected in 1900. Early in his second term, on September 6, 1901, he was shot and mortally wounded by an anarchist at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, and died eight days later.

Birthdays - Russian playwright Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) was born in Taganrog, Russia. His works included Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters and The Cherry Orchard.

JANUARY 30



January 30, 1933 - Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany by President Paul von Hindenburg. Hitler went on to become the sole leader of Nazi Germany. He then waged a war of expansion in Europe, precipitating the deaths of an estimated 50 million persons through military conflict and through the Holocaust in which the Nazis attempted to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe.

January 30, 1948 - Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in New Delhi, India, by a religious fanatic. Gandhi had ended British rule in India through nonviolent resistance.

CALL FOR ALL YOUR LIFE INSURANCE NEEDS!
"MAKING FRIENDS THROUGH SERVICE"



SHIV KUMAR SAHANI

Agent, New York Life Insurance Co.

646-644-0174

OUR TEAM OF AGENTS ARE READY TO HELP!

PRIYA SAHANI - (917) 723-6684

RAVI SURTI - (614) 578-7070

ARISH K. SAHANI - (718) 271-0453

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1972

Indian Visa Center

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER

349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

DEEPAK BANSAL

Email: deepakbansalny@gmail.com

Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009



BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Join our team and

Build Your Own Business

In Financial Services domain

- * No Investment
- * Part-time and full-time opportunity
- * Extensive Training & Support

Call Now

901.335.7521

FinFreeServicesLLC@gmail.com

Having Trouble Getting Pregnant?

#1 IN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY!

Manhattan Reproductive Medicine

We Help You Fulfill Your Dream of Being A Mother

TREATMENT FOR WOMEN AND MEN

- In Vitro Fertilization
- Egg Donation
- Infusions
- Pregnancy Loss
- Male Infertility
- We Help You Choose If You Want A Girl Or A Boy
- Treatment For Single Women
- Difficult Cases

Nowadays, infertility is a problem that has a solution, in the vast majority of cases if it is treated by a team of experienced professionals with the appropriate infrastructure and equipment.

THE BEST PRICES • PAYMENT PLAN

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm • Saturday: 9:00 am - 12:00 m

Hanna Jesionowska, MD • Belkis Adames

159 E. 74th St., Suite C, Manhattan, NY 10021/ 212-794-0080 • www.doctorhanna.com



CONSULTATION FREE
Valued at \$300



INDO US EXPRESS, INC.

Worldwide Couriers / Freight Forwarders
Domestic Rush Delivery / Import / Export
Custom Clearance / Trading Consultant

Gurinder Singh
CEO

SALES OFFICE

224 West 30th St., #604, New York, NY 10001

Mail: P.O. Box 7304, Hicksville, NY 11802

Office: 212.447.5720 Fax: 516.932.3750

Delhi: 98.1849.0552

Mumbai: 92.2453.1807

New York: 347.538.7041

Visit US Online: www.indousexpress.com

Email: indousexpress@gmail.com

Get
to the
Point



#1

**Indian
American
Weekly
Since 2006**

The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL
A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

Widest Coverage

Your Trusted Partner in Business

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458
Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012

www.theindianpanorama.news



Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

IS HIRING

Do you want to capitalize on your ability to produce?

COME CHECK IT OUT!

CALL MR. ROHAN HANDA **718-286-1132 | 516-435-6120**

Rohan Handa
Executive Partner
New York Life

Conveniently located at:
95-25 Queens Blvd., 4th Floor
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374



Edinburgh to Jaipur: Sanjoy K Roy's journey Through Culture, Festivals, and Stardom

By Murtaza Ali Khan



The 2025 Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF), taking place from January 30 to February 3 at Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur, is set to be a dynamic celebration of literature, art, and ideas. Among the highlights are engaging sessions like The Economics of Art: Policy, Innovation, and Inclusion, featuring renowned figures such as H.E. Noura bin Mohammed Al Kaabi and Scott McDonald, and The Ajanta Caves: Ancient Buddhist Painting, with art historian Benoy K. Behl and William Dalrymple. Pulitzer Prize winner Benjamin Moser will explore Dutch art and culture, while new works such as Devi and Her Avatars and The Third Eye of Indian Art will be unveiled.

The Ojas Art Award will recognize Gond artist Ram Singh Urveti and miniature artists Vinita Sharma and Ajay Sharma, alongside the unveiling of an impressive 8x12-foot commissioned painting. Art installations by Veer Munshi, delving into Kashmir's cultural legacy, and striking photography by Vicky Roy, celebrating human resilience, will enhance the festival's immersive atmosphere. Additionally, the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Trust's artworks will reinterpret Rajasthan's rich heritage.

Cultural festivals are a vibrant mix of creativity, connections, and organized chaos—a world Sanjoy K. Roy, Managing Director of Teamwork Arts and the driving force behind JLF, knows intimately. In an engaging conversation, Roy reflects on the transformative role of festivals, his personal journey, and the unforgettable memory of accompanying Indian superstar Shah Rukh Khan to Edinburgh.

When asked about the festivals that shaped his vision, Roy is quick to acknowledge the profound influence of the Edinburgh Festival. "The first time we went to Edinburgh, it was in 1999 or 2000. It was overwhelming. We watched everything—plays, music, circus, films, literature—from nine in the morning to

one at night," he recalls with palpable enthusiasm.

What struck him most was the city's complete transformation during the festival. "The entire city became the festival. People poured through the gates, and there was something for everyone," he says.

But the magic of Edinburgh was more than just the shows. It was the connections. "We used to host this annual dinner for 159 people—festival directors, artists, venue managers. It was homemade Indian food, and everyone wanted to be there. It became an unmissable event," Roy explains. This approach of blending food, heritage, and culture to foster relationships became a hallmark of his work, leading to lasting collaborations across the globe.

The Edinburgh Festival wasn't just an inspiration; it became a platform for Indian culture. Roy fondly recalls one of the most ambitious undertakings: bringing Shah Rukh Khan to the Edinburgh Film Festival.

"When we proposed the idea, the festival organizers were skeptical. For them, Shah Rukh was just another actor, someone not in the league of Sean Connery or Brad Pitt," Roy says. But Roy was confident in SRK's global appeal.

True to Roy's prediction, the event was a sellout. "Tickets were selling for £100 in black the next day! The festival organizers panicked and scrambled to move the screening to bigger venues—first a 500-seater, then an even larger theater outside the city. But it wasn't just about the venues; even the police and airport staff underestimated the frenzy Shah Rukh would create," he recounts with a chuckle.

The chaos reached its peak when fans flooded Edinburgh airport. "The airport staff thought they'd seen it all—royalty, the Queen, Hollywood stars. But they had no idea what Shah Rukh Khan meant to people," says Roy. The turning point came when an Indian-origin police officer intervened to explain the phenomenon.

Roy vividly describes the pandemonium outside the venue. "People were running, screaming, and pushing to get a glimpse of him. At the dinner, we

had to isolate Shah Rukh in a corner, surrounded by tables, security, and police. He simply sat there, gracious but overwhelmed."

What stood out to Roy was not just the madness, but the joy and connection Shah Rukh brought to people. "For many in that very white, Eurocentric space, it was their first exposure to the sheer power of Indian cinema and its stars. Shah Rukh wasn't just a person; he was a cultural phenomenon," he emphasizes.

Roy's experiences at Edinburgh laid the groundwork for the Jaipur Literature Festival, now a global phenomenon in its own right. "The spirit of inclusivity, the idea of creating a festival where there's something for everyone, came from Edinburgh. But we made it our own by infusing it with Indian sensibilities," he says.

JLF has become a melting pot of ideas, bringing together writers, thinkers, and audiences from around the world. Its success has inspired Teamwork Arts to create festivals in London, Boulder, and Adelaide, among other cities. "Each festival is a unique cultural dialogue. It's not just about exporting Indian culture but also about learning from others," Roy says.

Amid this context, Roy sheds light on the evolution of the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) case study, saying, "The study has been around for 12 or 14 years—quite a long time. It started when Tarun Khanna from Harvard Business School, along with his colleagues and a lawyer from Harvard Law School, approached us to explore how JLF and, by extension, Teamwork Arts became one of the most successful arts brands." The newly revised version, he explains, "continues to tell the same story but now looks much more specifically at the business of the arts and the complexities of running a festival of this scale in the Indian context." It also dives deeper into pressing modern issues such as cultural diplomacy, innovation, and sustainability, reflecting how JLF has evolved alongside the global landscape of the arts.

Undeniably, at the heart of Roy's vision is his belief in the power of connections. Whether it's hosting a dinner for festival



Sanjoy K Roy is synonymous with culture and literature

directors or bringing Shah Rukh Khan to Edinburgh, Roy's approach is deeply personal. "Festivals are not just about events; they're about relationships. Food, music, culture—all of these are tools to bring people together," he says.

As he looks back on his journey, Roy remains driven by the same passion that took him to Edinburgh more than two decades ago. "Cultural festivals have the power to transform not just individuals but entire communities. They create spaces where ideas flourish and where people come together to celebrate the best of humanity," he says.

For Roy, the journey is far from over. With Teamwork Arts expanding its footprint and JLF continuing to grow, he's always looking for the next big challenge. "The world is changing, and festivals must evolve too. But the core remains the same—bringing people together through the arts," he concludes.

In an era where cultural dialogue is more important than ever, Sanjoy K Roy's work serves as a reminder of the power of festivals to inspire, connect, and transform. And if his journey from Edinburgh to Jaipur is any indication, the best is yet to come.

(The author is an Indian critic and journalist who has been covering cinema, art and culture for the last decade and a half. He can be reached out at murtaza.jmi@gmail.com).

PERSONALITY

The Enterprising Rajni Bector

BY PROF. INDRAJIT S SALUJA

Recently I was in Hyderabad. My host brought me some biscuits with a cup of tea. The biscuits tasted very well, and I asked my host about the brand of the biscuits. She brought me a fresh pack. I immediately recognized the brand and recalled the person behind it.

I have known, from my Ludhiana days, Rajni Bector, the enterprising lady who in 1978, began making ice cream, bread, and biscuits in her kitchen in

Ludhiana, and then quickly gained popularity for their exceptional quality and taste.

Rajni Bector, also known as the "Ice Cream Lady of India," is an inspiring entrepreneur who turned a small investment of Rs 20,000 into a Rs 6,000 crore empire.

Rajni founded Mrs. Bector's Cremica, a brand that now offers a wide range of products, including biscuits, sauces, spreads, and breads, with a strong presence in both domestic and international markets. The company

supplies major fast-food chains like McDonald's, Burger King, and Domino's in India.

Rajni's perseverance and commitment to quality led her to success, and in 2021, she was honored with the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards, for her contribution to the food industry.

I am now waiting for Cremica in the US.

Rajni Bector of Ludhiana, Punjab, India turned a small investment of Rs 20,000 into a Rs 6,000 crore empire.



MEET THE WOMAN WHO STARTED WITH AN INVESTMENT OF ONLY RS 20,000 AND HAS EXPANDED HER BUSINESS TO A WORTH OF RS 6,000 CRORE.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Keys upsets 2-time champion Sabalenka in women's final for first Grand Slam title

MELBOURNE (TIP)

Madison Keys of the United States upset two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 in the Australian Open final on Saturday night to collect her first Grand Slam title at age 29.

By adding this win over the No. 1-ranked Sabalenka to an elimination of No. 2 Iga Swiatek in the semifinals on Thursday — saving a match point along the way — Keys is the first woman since Serena Williams in 2005 to defeat both of the WTA's top two players at Melbourne Park. Keys, ranked 14th and seeded 19th, was playing in her second major final after being the runner-up at the 2017 U.S. Open.

She prevented Sabalenka from earning what would have been her third women's trophy in a row at the Australian Open — something last accomplished by Martina Hingis from 1997-99 — and her fourth major title overall. When it ended, Keys covered her face with her hands, then raised her arms. Soon, she was hugging her husband, Bjorn Fratangelo — who has been her coach since 2023 — and other members of her team, before sitting on her sideline bench and laughing.

Sabalenka chucked her racket afterward, then covered her head with a white towel.

Keys is the oldest woman to become a first-time major champion since Flavia Pennetta was 33 at the 2015 U.S. Open. This was the 46th Slam appearance for Keys, which ranks as the third-most major tournaments before winning a trophy in the Open era, behind only Pennetta's 49 and Marion Bartoli's 47 when she won Wimbledon in 2013.

It was the more accomplished Sabalenka who was shakier at the outset. Keys broke three times in the first set,



Madison Keys of the US celebrates with the trophy after winning the final against Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka. Reuters

helped in part by Sabalenka's four double-faults and 13 total unforced errors.

Don't for a moment think this was merely an instance of Sabalenka being her own undoing. Keys certainly had a lot to do with the way things were going, too. She compiled an 11-4 edge in winners in that first set, managing to out-hit the big-hitting Sabalenka repeatedly from the baseline. For a stretch, it seemed as though every shot off the strings of Keys' racket — the one she switched to ahead of this season to protect her oft-injured right shoulder and to make it easier to control her considerable power — was landing precisely where she wanted.

Also important was the way Keys, whose left thigh was taped for the match, covered every part of the court, racing to get to balls and send them back over the net with intent. On one terrific defensive

sequence, she sprinted for a forehand that drew a forehand into the net from Sabalenka, capping a break for a 4-1 lead.

Never one to hide her emotions during a match, Sabalenka frequently displayed frustration while trailing on the scoreboard, kicking a ball after netting a volley, dropping her racket after missing an overhead, slapping her leg after an errant forehand.

Sabalenka took a trip to the locker room before the second set, and whether that helped clear her head or slowed Keys' momentum — or both — the final's complexion soon changed. Keys' first-serve percentage dipped from 86% in the first set to 59% in the second. Sabalenka raised her winner total to 13 in the second set and began accumulating, and converting, break points.

Source: AP



Jannik Sinner defends Australian Open crown to script history

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner defended his Australian Open title on Sunday, comfortably defeating Alexander Zverev 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3 in the men's final to secure his third career grand slam win. Just over a year ago, Sinner hadn't won a grand slam title; he was still a promising youngster, unproven but earmarked for great things. Now, the 23-year-old Italian has three grand slam titles — two at the Australian Open and one at the US Open — and has been the dominant player on the men's tour since he gained the mantle of world No. 1 last June.

Against Zverev, he was also dominant, becoming just the fourth male player in the last 35 years to win a grand slam final without even conceding a single break point, despite never really playing his best tennis.

But still, a cloud hangs over Sinner's win since it comes against the backdrop of ongoing controversy off the court.

He avoided suspension last year after testing positive for Clostebol, a banned anabolic steroid, in March 2024. The International Tennis Integrity Agency announced in August that he wasn't at fault for the incident, but the World Anti-Doping Agency has lodged an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The hearing is set to begin on April 16.

Rohit named skipper of ICC Men's T20I of year, Bumrah, Pandya also in squad

DUBAI, (TIP)

India captain Rohit Sharma, who led the team to their second ICC T20 World Cup title last June, has been named skipper of the ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year 2024.

The team dominated by Indians also features star pacer Jasprit Bumrah and left-arm seamer Arshdeep Singh, along with all-rounder Hardik Pandya.

Rohit had an unforgettable 2024, both as a leader and a batter.

The seasoned opener amassed 378 runs in 11 matches at an impressive average of 42.00 and a strike rate of over 160. Rohit played a pivotal role in India's triumphant T20 World Cup campaign,



with three half-centuries, including a sensational 92 against Australia in the Super Eight stage.

His astute leadership was instrumental in guiding a young Indian side through

high-pressure situations, cementing his legacy as one of India's greatest T20I captains.

Pandya reaffirmed his stature as one of the world's finest all-rounders, playing a crucial role in India's successful campaign.

In 17 matches, Pandya scored 352 runs and claimed 16 wickets, finishing as the top-ranked ICC Men's T20I all-rounder.

His standout performance came in the T20 World Cup final against South Africa, where he defended 16 runs in the last over, securing India's title victory. His best bowling figures of 3/20 in the final underlined his ability to deliver under pressure.

Bumrah made a remarkable return to T20I cricket in 2024, leading India's bowling attack with precision and consistency.

He claimed 15 wickets in eight matches at an astonishing average of 8.26, making him a nightmare for opposition batters.

His lethal yorkers and impeccable control at the death overs played a pivotal role in India's success, and his performances earned him a nomination for the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy as ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.

Young left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh emerged as India's most prolific wicket-taker in 2024, scalping 36 wickets in 18 matches at an average of 13.50. Source: PTI



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute building to be constructed 2024

3.5 + million served
325,000 + vision restoring surgeries
30,000 + surgeries on children

Services Include:

- Treating disease and vision problems
- performing free cataract surgeries
- distributing glasses and visual aids
- conducting community research
- providing education to physicians and the public

Join our Vision. Give the gift of sight today.

Visit eyefoundationofamerica.org

695 WESTVIEW AVENUE, MORGANTOWN, WV 26505
TAX ID # 55-062-1735



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.