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Vol. 24

Issue 35

Friday 28 Nov to 05 Dec 2025

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www.thesouthasianinsider.com

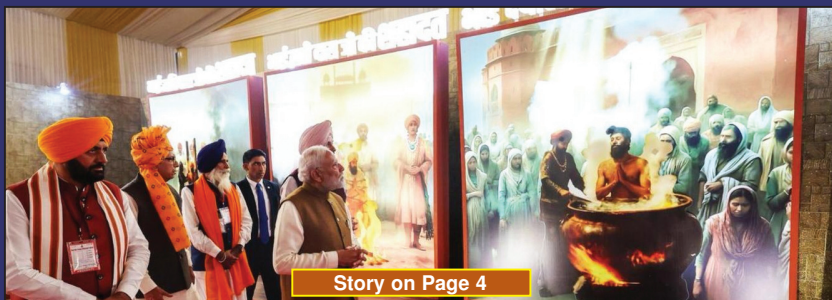


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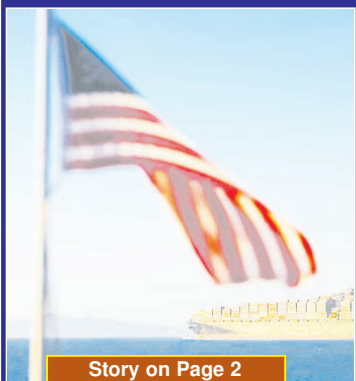
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H-1B visa programme**



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Fake degrees, political pressure: US diplomat exposes fraud in H-1B visa programme

Indian-American diplomat Mahvash Siddiqui has alleged rampant fraud in the H-1B visa system, claiming 80–90% of applications from India were fake. She says that during her tenure at the US Consulate in Chennai (2005–2007), officials repeatedly flagged the issue to Washington, but political pressure prevented any action.



immigrant visas, including 220,000 H-1Bs and 140,000 H-4 visas for their family members in 2024 alone. She said she was speaking in her personal capacity, not as a diplomat. She challenged the notion that the US faces a shortage of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) talent and requires recruitment from India. Siddiqui alleged that 80–90% of visas issued to Indians, most of which are H-1B visas, are fraudulent, either based on fake degrees, forged documents, or applicants who are not genuinely highly skilled enough to qualify. She further claimed that during her time in Chennai as a consular officer, they detected the fraud and informed the Secretary of State, but due to "political pressure", no action was taken. "We quickly learnt about the fraud. We wrote a

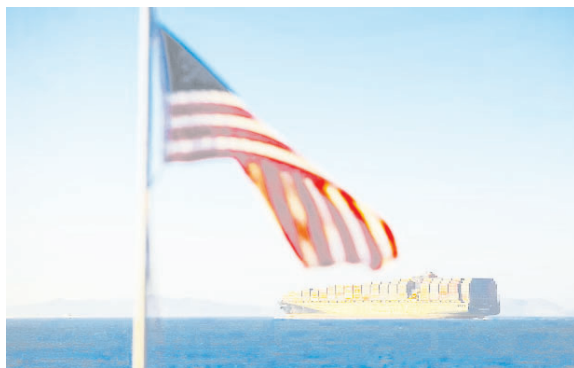
dissent cable to the Secretary of State, detailing the systematic fraud we were uncovering. But due to political pressure from the top, our adjudication was overturned," she said during the 39-minute podcast. Siddiqui further said that their anti-fraud drive was called a "rogue operation". She also alleged that numerous politicians were involved in the fraud and that there was significant pressure on them not to carry out their investigation against the alleged fraud. Siddiqui further claimed that it was done to appease Indian politicians. **PROXY APPLICANTS TO BRIBERY: BIG FRAUD IN H-1B?** She said she was posted at the Chennai consulate for two years and adjudicated over 51,000 non-immigrant visas, the majority of which were H-1B visas. The Chennai consulate processed

applications from four regions: Hyderabad, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, she said, adding that Hyderabad was the most concerning. "As an Indian-American, I hate to say this but fraud and bribery are normalised in India," she said during the 39-minute podcast. Siddiqui added that there were instances where candidates skipped their job interviews entirely if the interviewer was American. She also claimed that proxy candidates appeared for the interview and that Indian managers gave jobs to Indians in lieu of money. H-1B visa is used by US firms to hire foreign workers. Indians are the largest beneficiaries of H-1B visas; 70% of recipients in 2024 were Indian nationals. Both F-1 student visas and H-1B visas have been prime targets of MAGA voices.

(By Our Staff Reporter) : Indian-American diplomat Mahvash Siddiqui has alleged widespread, systematic fraud in the H-1B visa programme, claiming that most of the working visas issued to Indians were obtained fraudulently. H-1B visa is used by American companies to hire foreign talent. Indians, especially, are the biggest beneficiaries of the H-1B temporary work visa programme. Siddiqui, who served at the Chennai consulate between 2005 and 2007, made the claims while appearing on a podcast. She shared her firsthand experiences from her time as a consular officer in Chennai (Madras), one of the world's largest H-1B visa-processing posts, where US officials adjudicated thousands of non-

India isn't rushing into US trade deal. What's behind the confidence?

(By Our Staff Reporter) : There is a buzz that the trade talks between India and the US are near completion, and the markets seem to be cheering that. Bilateral trade agreements are generally long-drawn and need compromises on both sides. India has drawn a red line against a much bigger economy that is one of its main export markets. But what is behind this confidence? It's no mere posturing. Recent facts and figures from India and in the US have given New Delhi the confidence to play the game of nerves and patience. A resilient domestic economy, a lower-than-expected hit to exports, and the Trump government caving in on tariffs on certain products must have given India the courage to wait with optimism. "They [the US] see India as a trusted partner. We are both equally committed to working to expand trade and commerce between the two countries... When the deal becomes fair, equitable, and balanced, you will hear good news," said Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce



and Industry. That "good news" is on the horizon was spelt out, but for that the deal needs to be "fair, equitable and balanced". While India will definitely make some concessions, it is unlikely it will budge on key aspects of the farm and dairy sectors. "For now, we've avoided the worst impact of the 50% US tariffs. If needed, we are ready to wait," a senior Indian government official aware of the trade talks told Reuters. However, the wait for the India-US trade deal has been impacting investor sentiments despite India's economic fundamentals remaining resilient. The rupee

hit a lifetime low of 89.49 against the US dollar on November 22, with experts suggesting the uncertainty over the trade deal as one of the factors. The rupee surpassed its earlier all-time low of 88.80 against the dollar amid foreign investors withdrawing \$16.5 billion from Indian equities so far this year, according to a Reuters report.

INDIA-US TRADE DEAL BEFORE END OF YEAR?

According to another official, quoted by ANI a week ago, the India-US trade deal is likely to be sealed before the end of the year. The official said there had been "lot of progress recently" and discussions could

deliver results "before the end of the year". The official told ANI that the US was working on two parallel issues with India—a reciprocal trade agreement and ongoing concerns over India's imports of Russian oil. The administration of US President Donald Trump in August hit India with overall 50% duties, with 25% as punitive tariffs over trade with Russia. India's purchase of crude oil from Russia has gone down considerably. While state-run refiners have cut imports from Russia by 45%, sourcing of crude from Moscow by private operators reached its highest point in September. Reliance Industries (RIL) on Friday announced that it has stopped importing Russian crude for its Jamnagar refinery since November 20. This came even as New Delhi announced on November 17 that it had signed a one-year agreement to source 2.2 million tonnes of LPG from the US. With this, India would be sourcing around 10% of its annual imports from the US in 2026.

INDIA'S ECONOMY RESILIENT DESPITE TRUMP TARIFFS

Even as negotiations and adjustments continued, India's economy showed resilience amid US tariffs. "Till now, India's GDP growth has remained largely unaffected by President Trump's tariffs," Forbes said in a report in the last week of October. Before the tariffs were announced in August, the International Monetary Fund had projected the Indian economy to grow at 6.4% for this fiscal year. Despite the high tariffs, the growth was revised to 6.6% by the IMF in October. Coinciding with the tariffs, the Indian government in September slashed Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates to spur domestic consumption, a big driver of the economy. Then there is the lesser-than-expected impact on Trump's tariffs on Indian exports to the US. According to Reuters, Indian exports to the US fell 8.6% year-on-year to \$6.3 billion in October. The decline in the second month of the tariffs was lesser than the 12% drop in September, it said.

AIA-NY Strengthens Educational Ties with Queensborough Community College through Scholarships and Cultural Exchange

10 QCC students honored with scholarships at Deepavali celebration last month



(By Our Staff Reporter) : Queens, NY: The Association of Indians in America, New York chapter (AIA-NY), has reaffirmed its commitment to education and cultural collaboration through an ongoing partnership with the City University of New York's Queensborough Community College (QCC).

The collaboration, initiated under the leadership of Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta, then President of AIA-NY, began in January 2025 with the establishment of the "Student Success Scholarship Fund." The fund launched with an initial \$10,000 donation, providing 10 scholarships of \$1,000 each to students from low-income families enrolled in certificate or associate degree programs at QCC.

QCC, recognized among the top-ranked community colleges in the CUNY system, serves students from 111 countries who speak over 60 languages, reflecting the vibrant diversity of Queens. This made it a natural partner for AIA-NY, whose mission centers on fostering education, community service, and intercultural exchange.

Since the partnership's inception, AIA-NY and QCC have celebrated a series of cultural milestones together, including the Holi Festival of Colors in March 2025 and the Deepavali – Festival of Lights celebration held last month in the Student Union Building. The Deepavali event brought together students, faculty, families, and community leaders in a joyful display of



music, dance, arts, and traditional hospitality.

During the Deepavali celebration, 10 scholarship recipients were recognized and congratulated by AIA-NY Immediate Past President Dr. Jagdish K. Gupta, QCC President Dr. Christine Mangino, Professor Dr. Nidhi Gadura, and AIA-NY leaders including current President Mrs. Beena Kothari, National President Mr. Gobind Munjal, and as well as Mrs. Smiti Khanna and Mr. Harsh Vyas. "Education is the foundation of empowerment, and cultural collaboration brings communities together," said Dr. Gupta. "Through this partnership with Queensborough Community College, we hope to inspire students to pursue excellence while celebrating the diversity that defines New York."

The scholarships, administered by the Scholarships and Awards Committee of the Academic Senate at QCC, have been credited directly to recipients' accounts, helping them pursue their academic and professional goals.

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A 350-Year Dharmic Arc: PM Modi Leads India In Honouring Guru Tegh Bahadur's Martyrdom

(News Agency) On a bitter winter day in 1675, Mughal tyrant Aurangzeb ordered the execution of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur in Delhi's Chandni Chowk for his refusal to forsake his faith and to defend the right of religious freedom for all. Today, 350 years later, lakhs have gathered at the heart of Delhi not to mourn, but to revive Guru Tegh Bahadur's heroism with a grand kirtan-samagam and a continuous langar that feeds people from all walks of life. More than just with music and community, this remembrance signals the culmination of a profound transformation in the way India honours its Sikh heritage and the Gurus' legacy within the national consciousness. On a bitter winter day in 1675, Mughal tyrant Aurangzeb ordered the execution of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur in Delhi's Chandni Chowk for his refusal to forsake his faith and to defend the right of religious freedom for all. Today, 350 years later, lakhs have gathered at the heart of Delhi not to mourn, but to revive Guru Tegh Bahadur's heroism with a grand kirtan-samagam and a continuous langar that feeds people from all walks of life. More than just with music and community, this remembrance signals the culmination of a profound transformation in the way India honours its Sikh heritage and the Gurus' legacy within the national consciousness. The Centre's efforts have taken Sikh history out of the realm of occasional festivals and placed it at the centre of Indian national identity. Official events around Sikh centennials have become showcases of unity and collective pride. All commemorations today are supported by state power, resources, and honours at the highest level. A New Model for Remembrance The 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur stands as a pinnacle of this approach. Across India, from Amritsar and Anandpur Sahib to Delhi's Red Fort, a series of mega events have been held to honour his sacrifice. Devotional processions, 24-hour langars, spiritual kirtan, and mass participation show that the narrative is unapologetically national—a public holiday in Delhi and large-scale government support drive the point home.



Senior officials, including the prime minister and home minister, have personally attended, affirming that Guru Tegh Bahadur's legacy are now central to the story of Indian civilisation. In fact, PM Modi flew straight to Kurukshetra after the Ram Mandir Dhvajrohan ceremony to take part in an event commemorating Guru Tegh Bahadur's ultimate sacrifice. A lesser-noted but important dimension of this shift is India's active Sikh outreach on the global stage. Government efforts to bring back the Guru Granth Sahib from Afghanistan with state honour, its facilitation and global celebrations, and easing visa and citizenship rules for

persecuted Sikh communities in Afghanistan and Pakistan reflect a new form of civilisational diplomacy: India, through the legacy of the Sikh Gurus, projects itself as a protector of spiritual minorities and a beacon for the Sikh diaspora worldwide. Major Initiatives: Commemoration and Restoration Since 2014, the government has systematically celebrated landmark anniversaries: Guru Nanak's 550th Parkash Purab, Guru Gobind Singh's 350th, and, most recently, Guru Tegh Bahadur's 350th martyrdom. These mega events have attracted lakhs, involved world leaders, and reintroduced the nation to the

Gurus' teachings. Heritage projects have reinforced this narrative shift: The restoration of Sikh shrines and support for a permanent Guru Nanak Chair at a UK university. The exemption of GST on langar (community kitchens) and enabling foreign contributions for gurudwaras. Add to that the FCRA waiver provided to Sri Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar, allowing devotees from around the world to make donations. The opening of the long-awaited Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, granting Indian Sikhs unimpeded pilgrimage to one of their holiest sites after decades. By transforming Sultanpur Lodhi into a 'heritage city' and restoring the

Jallianwala Bagh memorial, the government has connected Sikh struggle and sacrifice to the broader freedom narrative of modern India. Sikh Philosophy: A Modern Template for India What this transformation ultimately signals is a re-stitching of the Sikh Gurus into India's living civilisational fabric. For centuries, their stories were a potent but often compartmentalised source of inspiration. Today, the virtues of Sikh philosophy—moral courage, egalitarianism, spiritual fearlessness, and the readiness to fight injustice—are being held up as a template for the Republic itself. The celebration of traditions like langar as a metaphor for social equality, the commemoration of sacrifice as a pillar of tolerance and justice, and the mass retelling of these histories promise to shape the national character for generations to come. Today, schools across India are celebrating Guru Tegh Bahadur's legacy and learning how the Gurus stood up to Islamic zealots of their time. Initiatives like "Veer Bal Diwas" to commemorate the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's young sons and wide dissemination of the Guru's principles in school textbooks and national events embody what may come to be seen as the 'integration era' of

Walk-Out Controversy To Crowning Glory: Meet Miss Universe 2025 Winner Fatima Bosch Who Was Called A 'Dumbhead'

(News Agency) The Miss Universe 2025 has finally concluded with Fatima Bosch of Mexico emerging as the winner, followed by Thailand's Praveenar Singh, Venezuela's Stephany Abasali, Philippines' Ma. Ahtisa Manalo, and Cote d'Ivoire's Olivia Yace, who finished as the first, second, third, and fourth runner-ups, respectively. "Congratulations to our new Miss Universe. Tonight, a star was born. Her grace, strength, and radiant spirit captured the hearts of the world, and we couldn't be more thrilled to welcome her as our new queen. The universe shines a little brighter with her leading the way," read the caption on the official Instagram handle of Miss Universe.

Miss Universe 2025 Controversy

Bosch's victory comes after her controversial walk-out from the pageant. Hence, her victory is memorable. Miss

Universe Thailand National Director Nawat Itsaragrisil called her a "dumbhead" after she disagreed to promote Thailand (host country) via her social media profiles. She tried to explain her stance, but later walked out when the situation escalated. Other contestants also followed her steps. Seeing this, Itsaragrisil said, "If anyone wants to continue the contest, sit down." He later apologised, and the rest is history.



Who Is Fatima Bosch?

Fatma Bosch is a 25-year-old fashion designer who has studied in the US and Italy. At a young age, she was diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD, but she never let this become a barrier in her strive to make her dreams come true. Not only is she a fashion designer, but she also works and promotes sustainable style. She is also the first Miss

Mexico from Tabasco to dedicate her life to working for children battling cancer. She even hosts an annual toy drive during the holiday season at the Oncology Hospital of Tobasco, according to Business Insider.

Mexico's Fatima Bosch Will Take Home Rs 2.2 Crore

Winning Miss Universe is not just about the crown; the pageant has other perks, too. Reports suggest that Mexico's Fatima Bosch will take home \$250,000 (roughly Rs 2.2 crore): the same amount that Miss Universe 2024 got, according to reports. But it does not end here. Miss Universe will also receive a salary of \$50,000 (approximately Rs 44 lakh), which will be spent on her travels and initiatives taken under her brand. She will also get a home in New York City, and we don't have to tell you how expensive it would be. Fatima Bosch will also retain the crown for a year until Miss Universe 2026 is announced. The crown alone is valued at over \$5 million (around Rs 44 crore).

Indian man, 51, harasses high school girls on Canada visit; to be deported

Jagjit Singh arrived in Canada on a temporary visa to see his grandchild in July.

(NewsAgency) A 51-year-old Indian man named Jagjit Singh will be deported from Canada after being convicted in a case of sexual harassment. Singh, who arrived in the country in July on a temporary visa to see his newborn grandchild, forcefully tried to communicate with teenage girls and to take photos in the smoking area of a high school in Sarnia between September 8 and September 11. Despite constant refusals, the man did not listen to the girls

and insisted on taking pictures. He forcefully sat between the two girls, gesturing for another photo. After another photo was taken, he put his hand around the body of the girl, who felt uncomfortable with the gesture, and pushed him away, as reported by the Canadian publication, Toronto Sun. He received bail after a couple of days. However, he was arrested on September 16



and was charged with sexual interference and sexual assault. Same day. Although he received bail once again, he had to spend one more night in custody, as he did not know English, and no interpreter was available at that time. Singh finally pleaded not guilty to sexual interference, but guilty to the lesser included offence of criminal harassment in a Sarnia courtroom. Following that, Justice Krista Lynn Leszczynski delivered her judgment, stating that incidents like what Singh did in the smoking area won't be tolerated. In addition to this, she further noted that Singh has no business on the school property. Singh has a return ticket on December 30. However, as the Toronto Sun reported, he might have considered leaving the country before, due to legal complications. He has also been banned from visiting the country again.

Dhurandhar's viral qawaali: SRK loves the song that has a Hrithik link

Ranveer Singh's 'Dhurandhar' has created massive buzz, especially for its trailer's qawwali-inspired ending that reimagines the iconic "Na Toh Karwaan Ki Talaash Hai." The song's deep-rooted musical history, spanning classical qawaali to 'Barsaat Ki Raat', has fans eagerly awaiting its official release.

(NewsAgency) Did you know this song has an Shah Rukh Khan and Hrithik connection? While fans are eagerly waiting for Ranveer Singh's 'Dhurandhar' to hit theatres on December 5, what has truly taken everyone by surprise is the qawaali-inspired ending of the trailer. The powerful line "Na toh karwaan ki talaash hai" has gone viral, and the surprising part is - this tune traces back to a legendary qawaali from the 1960s, composed by Hrithik Roshan's grandfather Roshan, and is also Shah Rukh Khan's all-time favourite qawaali. That qawwali-style ending - the line "Na toh karwaan ki talaash hai" - has electrified viewers. Many people loved the energy but didn't know that the tune is actually rooted in Indian music history from the 1960s. And that's what makes the moment even more special. Director Aditya Dhar has done it again. As Ranveer Singh unleashes his intensity in the final moments of the trailer, the revamped qawwali plays in the background, creating the perfect cinematic impact. Fans instantly wanted to know where this line came from, and soon the internet rediscovered one of Indian cinema's most iconic musical pieces. A qawaali with a rich legacy The line featured in the trailer is a modern



reinterpretation of the legendary qawaali "Na To Karavan Ki Talaash Hai, Yeh Ishq Ishq Hai," from the 1960 classic 'Barsaat Ki Raat'. The original was composed by Roshan Lal Nagrath (Hrithik Roshan's grandfather) and written by the celebrated poet Sahir Ludhianvi.

It featured an incredible lineup of singers - Manna Dey, Asha Bhosle, Sudha Malhotra, S.D. Batish, and Mohammed Rafi. The song became one of Bollywood's greatest qawaalis, remembered even today for its soulful energy and grand musical arrangement.

Interestingly, this is also Shah Rukh Khan's favourite qawaali. On Netflix's 'The Roshans', SRK shared, "My favourite song is actually a qawaali by him. I think I nearly know the whole qawaali if it is playing."

Where it all began?

Before entering films, the melody existed as a traditional qawaali titled "Na Toh Butkade Ki Talab Mujhe," performed by Ustad Mubarak Ali Khan and Ustad Fateh Ali Khan (Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's father). Their version carried deep Sufi emotion and powerful vocal artistry. Producer R. Chandra originally approached composer Khayyam to adapt this classical piece, but when he declined, Roshan stepped

in and the rest is history. This is how the soulful 'Yeh Ishq On Netflix's 'The Roshans', 'Ishq Hai' we know today was born. The new song, titled "Ishq Jalakar (Karavaan)" or "Karwaan Ki Talaash," continues the musical journey of this timeless composition. It blends the essence of the original with modern beats, making it appealing to today's audience while still respecting its roots.

For younger listeners, this may be their first introduction to a musical masterpiece with decades of history. For older music lovers, the new version feels like revisiting a classic that never truly faded away.

Vivek Ramaswamy's wealth doubles to \$1.8bn in 9 months amid Ohio gubernatorial bid

(NewsAgency) Indian-origin politician and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy's net worth has surged to \$1.8 billion, an 80% increase in just nine months, according to a Forbes report. This comes amid his bid for Ohio governor, which he announced in February. Earlier, Ramaswamy ran for the presidency in the 2024 US elections but dropped out and supported Donald Trump. In March, Forbes estimated his net worth at just about \$1 billion, barely making the World Billionaires List. One might assume that the bulk of his wealth and notoriety stem from his political career, but

the report attributed the jump to his old pharmaceutical company, Roivant Sciences. The 39-year-old launched the company in 2014, the year he made Forbes' 30 Under 30 list, aiming to acquire drugs abandoned by major pharmaceutical firms and revive their potential. A spokesperson from his team confirmed that the Forbes numbers as "broadly correct".

RAMASWAMY'S PATH TO WEALTH AND INFLUENCE

Ramaswamy founded Roivant Sciences in 2014 after leaving his job at

the hedge fund QVT, where he specialised in pharma investments. A year later, Roivant's spinoff Axovant went public with a \$3 billion valuation. Still, Axovant's stock price dropped after its drug trials failed in 2017. Although he kept some Axovant shares, he sold part of his stake in Roivant, which allowed him to report about \$37 million in capital gains on his 2015 tax return. The company sold five of its subsidiaries, plus 10% of the company at a \$9 billion valuation, to Japanese conglomerate Sumitomo for \$3 billion in 2019, Forbes reported.

India's Chabahar Bet Changes Everything As Afghanistan Slips Out Of Pakistan's Grip

Afghanistan is quietly pulling away from Pakistan and moving closer to India. And the bridge between them is turning out to be Chabahar. A new trade route is changing old equations fast and this is Pakistan's nightmare playing out in real time. Over the past three months, a series of high-level Taliban visits to India has signalled a dramatic shift in South Asia's geopolitical map. First came Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi. Then came Acting Commerce Minister Nooruddin Azizi. Both arrived with the same message: Afghanistan wants more trade with India—and less reliance on Pakistan. On November 22, Azizi landed in New Delhi for a five-day visit. And what he said across multiple meetings has been revealing. In a nutshell, Kabul's message was this: Pakistan's trade routes are unreliable, Kabul wants more trade and more investment from India, and it is willing to offer incentives and security to Indian investors to make that happen.

In an interview with News18, Azizi said: "We request the government of India to restore the political, trade and cultural relationship that once existed between our two countries."

His agenda was clear: expand trade with India, scale up the use of Iran's Chabahar Port, set up dry ports in Nimroz, activate cargo flights between Delhi, Amritsar and Kabul, and bring in Indian investments. Indian officials confirmed that air freight corridors are being activated and said cargo flights will begin "very soon".

Kabul's Offer To India

What Azizi brought to the table is especially significant. Afghanistan has offered Indian investors five-year tax breaks, free land allocations, and fast-tracked bureaucratic approvals across mining, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agriculture, energy and construction. Kabul is also prepared to lower import duties. It has already banned the import of Pakistani pharmaceutical products, calling them "low-quality", and is instead seeking medicines from India.

At the same time, Afghanistan wants to expand cargo movement through Chabahar Port, calling it the most stable and predictable route for trade with India. Both governments are appointing commercial attachés and reactivating working groups to scale up trade.

Meanwhile, trade is already rising. Bilateral trade was reported at roughly over \$1 billion in 2024-25, with an uptick in shipments routed through Chabahar and via air corridors. Afghan dry fruits, saffron, figs, raisins, carpets and herbs are arriving in India in higher quantities. India, on its part, is exporting medicines, wheat, sugar, machinery, electrical goods, textiles and medical equipment into Afghanistan—all bypassing Pakistan.

All of this is unfolding as the India-Iran-Afghanistan corridor via Chabahar expands rapidly. India now has a long-term agreement to operate terminals at Chabahar, currently under a US sanctions waiver. Cargo movement from Chabahar to Afghanistan has seen a steady rise year-on-year. India and Iran are developing new multimodal facilities, warehouses, cold-storage units and expanded berths. Strategically, Chabahar is paying off for India in a big way, and is already reconfiguring regional trade flows.

Pakistan's Eroding Leverage

For decades, Pakistan relied on geography to exercise outsized influence over Kabul. A landlocked Afghanistan had no choice but to use Pakistani routes for most of its trade, giving Islamabad the ability to throttle flows, levy tariffs and exert political pressure. Over time, that leverage hardened into a structural dependency. But bloody border clashes, repeated border closures, arbitrary trade restrictions and the mistreatment of Afghan traders and refugees have destroyed that privilege.

Tons of perishable cargo was left to rot at border checkpoints like Torkham and Chaman due to recurring tensions. The Taliban-led government in Kabul has now had enough. It wants solutions to its Pakistan problem, and India is the obvious alternative. Azizi tacitly confirmed in New Delhi that Pakistan has blocked border trade checkpoints, shut access to the Karachi port and stopped trade flows with India through the Wagah border.

Enter Chabahar. Built with Indian investment and sustained diplomatic effort, the Iranian port is a functioning gateway that bypasses Pakistan entirely. India invested in the Shahid Beheshti terminal, leads operations and logistics there, and secured sanctions waivers that allow Chabahar to operate as a humanitarian and commercial lifeline for Afghanistan. The result is a stable multimodal corridor: goods move from Indian factories to Chabahar by sea, cross into Afghanistan via the Zaranj-Delaram highway, and head to Kabul and beyond. This supply chain is insulated from Pakistani interference, and it connects Afghanistan to wider Eurasian networks, including the International North-South Transport Corridor.

Pakistan's leverage is shrinking, but risks remain. Islamabad still controls geography on some routes and can escalate friction. Reports of Pakistan exploring proxies, combined with persistent border incidents, mean the transition will not be smooth. Yet the combination of sea, land and air routes sharply reduces Islamabad's chokehold.

Why Thanksgiving Must Be Viewed as Our Foundational Holiday

Thanksgiving is really the holiday that made the other American holidays possible.

Were it not for the Pilgrims having courage, absolute faith in their cause and calling, and the willingness to sacrifice and risk everything, they never would have attempted to cross a vast ocean on the 94-foot Mayflower, a ship of questionable seaworthiness.

The Thanksgiving holiday, which commemorates one part of the Pilgrim story, remains the favorite holiday for many Americans.

It's about not only enjoying a feast, but our history of having successfully passed through troubled times.

It's worth reviewing the pilgrim's five significant achievements, which created the American story. A saga revealing remarkable insight into our character, and, how we need to overcome our challenges of today.

First, the Pilgrims were singularly motivated by a spiritual quest for religious freedom—one having its origin in the Protestant Reformation, a century before.

William Bradford, the long-serving governor of Plymouth Colony and author of "Of Plymouth Plantation" (c.1630–1651), repeatedly framed the pilgrims' voyage and settlement in explicitly biblical terms.

Bradford drew parallels to the Israelites' exodus from Egypt to the promised land. Thus, both American Christians and Jews find profound meaning in the pilgrims' Thanksgiving story. Atlantic passage on the Mayflower meant facing fear, hunger from spoiled and/or depleted provisions, and anxiety inevitably arising from moving to a new land.

The pilgrims' exit from the Virginia Company charter territory brought murmurs of mutiny. It was at this time, when the pilgrims made their second major achievement, one shaping the future of America.

The pilgrim leaders supporting William Bradford recognized that

Mayflower passengers, diverse as they were, needed to maintain unity to survive.

So, off the Cape Cod coast they drafted a governing agreement which would be acceptable to both their Christian brethren and the secular crew members and merchant adventurers—comprising approximately half the 102 people aboard the Mayflower.

Thus, the Mayflower Compact—provided for security, equality, and democratic decision-making for everyone in their anticipated settlement. With every man aboard signing the Mayflower Compact the pilgrims established the foundation for democratic self-government, one based on the people's will—for the first time. Thus, the laying cornerstone of the U.S. Constitution effectively occurred. Although the Pilgrims all survived the squalid and cramped ship quarters during their dangerous crossing, their fate changed once they found suitable land for settlement ("New Plymouth"), in December of 1620. Their first winter was frigid and devastating, with illness afflicting most and over half of the pilgrims dying.

The fate of the Pilgrim colonists would surely have been more difficult had they not settled in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, adjacent to friendly natives, the Pokanoket Indians.

They were part of the Wampanoag tribe and led by chief Massasoit. By God's grace, there were two Indians present (Squanto and Samose) who spoke English, thanks to prior interaction with the British. As a result, the pilgrims learned survival skills: hunting, fishing, crop planting (inclusive of crop types unknown to the English)—corn, squash, and bean varieties). It was Squanto who made possible the Pilgrims' third major achievement, the Pilgrim-Wampanoag Peace Treaty (April 1, 1621), by Massasoit and leaders of the Plymouth colony. That agreement lasted more than 50 years.


 The South Asian
Voice of South Asian Community

ISSN No. 1554 06X

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Targeting Drug Trafficking Cuts Maduro's Lifeline

The Right First Step Recently, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to María Corina Machado, a recognition well-deserved by a woman who succeeded in unifying the Venezuelan opposition and spearheading the most effective peaceful social movement against the regime of Nicolás Maduro.

Her award represents yet another global setback for Maduro's government.

It comes at a time when the Trump administration is intensifying its efforts to crack down on Caribbean drug-trafficking networks while holding the Nicolás Maduro regime accountable for its less than savory activities.

The Miraflores Palace is already in a state of panic.

In a bid to appease Washington, Maduro has offered U.S. companies access to Venezuela's oil and gold projects.

The Miami Herald recently reported that Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez offered the Trump administration a proposal for a new government led by herself — excluding Maduro — followed by the creation of a transitional administration.

This offer sought to preserve the existing structure of the Venezuelan state while assuming that Washington's problem was solely with Maduro and not with the entire regime.

That assumption is wrong.

Why? Because these proposals miss the fundamental reality of how Maduro's regime actually survives. While conventional wisdom focuses on oil revenues and economic sanctions, the regime's true lifeline flows through a far more sinister channel: drug trafficking. According to a report by Transparencia Venezuela, drug trafficking generated more than \$8 billion in revenue for the country, most of which directly benefits the regime and the security, military, and bureaucratic apparatus that sustains it.



To put this in perspective, during the year when the harshest sanctions were imposed on Venezuela, the illicit economy accounted for 21.7% of the country's GDP. This isn't peripheral criminal activity — it's central to regime survival.

The report estimates that roughly 24% of global cocaine production passes through Venezuela. The Venezuelan government actively collaborates with powerful transnational cartels, including the Cartel de los Soles (comprised of Venezuelan military officers and government officials), the Sinaloa Cartel, and the Gulf Cartel.

It further maintains cooperation with guerrilla and terrorist organizations such as FARC dissidents, the ELN (National Liberation Army), and criminal gangs like Tren de Aragua.

This is why traditional sanctions have failed to dislodge the regime.

Economic sanctions hurt the Venezuelan people while the regime's military and security elite continue enriching themselves through drug profits that flow outside formal economic channels.

Oil sanctions can be circumvented, but more importantly, they're no longer the

regime's primary revenue source.

Drug trafficking is the financial engine that keeps Maduro's apparatus loyal and operational. Any strategy that ignores this reality is destined to fail.

Therefore, a Venezuela without Maduro does not solve the problem as long as there is no complete regime change. The Trump administration should never accept compromise offers that preserve the regime's structure.

The drug crisis is a national security threat to the United States and to other nations where consumption is widespread.

Addiction not only kills users but also inflicts grief and hardship on families, undermines mental health, fuels crime and violence, and robs young people of opportunities and their future. In his address to the most recent UN General Assembly, President Trump vowed to eradicate the cartels, threatening to "blow them out of existence." Shortly after, two drug-laden vessels were destroyed by the U.S. military.

Democrats in the Senate unsuccessfully attempted to block military action against "any non-state organization

engaged in the promotion, trafficking, and distribution of illegal drugs" unless specifically authorized by Congress. Securing bipartisan support for such military operations is crucial for several reasons.

First, drug cartels and related organizations function as sophisticated criminal enterprises.

Their networks encompass the entire chain of operations: transporting merchandise, designing trafficking routes, negotiating deals, securing payments, and laundering illicit profits.

Second, transnational criminal groups thrive in environments of systemic corruption, which allows them to move freely and act with near-total impunity.

Guatemala provides a clear example.

There, Mexican cartels operate in cooperation with local gangs, deeply trenching themselves in drug trafficking networks.

Former President Otto Pérez Molina was imprisoned on charges of corruption and collusion with cartels, and vast portions of the country's territory have effectively fallen under the control of criminal organizations.

Honduras offers another telling example.

A recently released video shows that President Xiomara Castro's brother-in-law, Carlos Zelaya, was offered half a million dollars by drug traffickers to fund an unsuccessful presidential bid in 2013. Moreover, Honduras's former president Juan Orlando Hernández was convicted in a U.S. court on three counts of drug trafficking and weapons conspiracy and sentenced to 45 years in prison.

These revelations underscore the deep entanglement between political elites and the drug trade, which has devastated governance and the rule of law in the region.

Given these circumstances, treating transnational criminal networks as foreign enemies or terrorist actors is a legitimate policy response.

Ideally, the Trump administration should be able to secure congressional authorization to carry out limited military operations against drug-trafficking networks; narrow partisan calculations should not impede this urgent mission.

Operations should begin with a systematic campaign targeting the trafficking networks themselves, accompanied by a clear plan for how to address the Venezuelan regime.

In the short term, cutting off the regime's sources of revenue and capacity to facilitate illicit trade is the sensible and necessary first step.

Unlike sanctions that harm ordinary Venezuelans while leaving the regime's true power structure intact, targeting drug trafficking strikes at the heart of what keeps Maduro's cronies loyal and his security apparatus operational.

This is the financial lifeline that matters — and severing it is the path toward genuine regime change.

By Luis Fleischman

The Reel Is Over, But The Light Remains: Remembering Dharmendra

From the moment he strode onto the silver screen in the early 1960s, a whirlwind of raw, rustic charm, Dharmendra was an instant phenomenon. He embodied the soul of a transitioning India: tough yet tender, deeply flawed yet utterly lovable.



The curtains have closed on a golden era. Dharmendra Singh Deol, the quintessential 'He-Man' of Indian cinema and the screen's most compelling romantic rogue, passed away peacefully at the age of almost 90, leaving behind a legacy that is less a collection of films and more a collective memory of passion, pathos, and unparalleled charisma.

From the moment he strode onto the silver screen in the early 1960s, a whirlwind of raw, rustic charm, Dharmendra was an instant phenomenon. He embodied the soul of a transitioning India: tough yet tender, deeply flawed yet utterly lovable. He was the village boy who made it, retaining the innocent eyes and robust heart of his Punjabi roots even as he ascended to the dizzying heights of superstardom.

Dharmendra's career was a magnificent tapestry woven with diverse threads. He mastered the dualities that defined his appeal. First, the romantic ideal: In classics like *Anupama*, *Satyakam*, and *Chupke Chupke*, he was the gentle, sensitive lover, his vulnerability visible behind his towering physique. He

could deliver poetry with a bashful grin, making every glance an epic romance.

But then there was also the action dynamo: as the 'He-Man', he defined the genre in blockbusters like *Phool Aur Patthar* and *Sholay*, where his rugged strength and effortless swagger made him the ultimate anti-hero - a good man forced to tread a dangerous path. But can we afford to overlook the comic genius? Dharmendra's timing in light-hearted fare, especially alongside his legendary collaborator and later wife Hema Malini, demonstrated a natural comedic flair that was both understated and hilarious.

My Mother's Favourite

Yet, it is the character of Veeru from *Sholay* (1975) that remains etched in the global desi consciousness. It was a role that captured his magnificent spirit: the boisterous, loyal friend who could charm a village woman while perched atop a water tank. It was this perfect blend of machismo and mischief that made him a beloved figure across generations. He was my mother's favourite star in all of these incarnations.

For those who grew up watching his films, Dharmendra was more than an actor; he was a constant, a cinematic relative whose triumphs felt like personal victories. His death brings a quiet grief to millions, a silent recognition that a piece of their past has gone dark.

Two Birthdays, And A Greeting That Couldn't Be

The finality of his departure is especially poignant for those who held him dear. For one lifelong admirer, the news carries a specific, heartbreaking echo. Just weeks shy of her 90th birthday, my beloved mother's dream of a personal greeting from her favourite star - the man whose films had soundtracked her life - was about to be realised. Through the kind intervention of his son-in-law, Dharmendra had graciously promised to record a birthday message for her 90th birthday in a week's time, a simple, warm gesture of kindness that would have meant the world to my mother.

Now, that promise, suspended in the air between two forthcoming ninetieth birthdays, dissolves into elegiac sorrow. The birthday greeting will never be recorded. It is a

small, private loss mirrored in the larger public grief: an acknowledgment that the stories we love do not always get their perfect, happy ending.

The star who mastered on-screen pathos now leaves behind real-life heartache, a quiet reminder that even the most enduring on-screen idols are ultimately fragile, mortal men.

Dharmendra's final act is not a dramatic exit but a gentle fading, prefigured by a "fake news" announcement of his passing before the tragic reality hit us all. His legacy does not rest in the applause or the box-office numbers, but in the enduring glow of his presence: the warm, imperfect, deeply human light he shone onto the silver screen for over six decades.

He leaves behind a vast catalogue of work, countless memories, and an empty space that no future star can fill. The gentle giant, the He-Man with the golden heart, has taken his final bow. Rest in peace, Dharmendra. Thank you for the songs, the sorrow, and the sublime romance. The reel is over, but the light remains.

Red Fort To Kashmir: Why Turkey Keeps Coming Up In India's Terror Probes

In all the investigation surrounding the Delhi blasts, while the usual suspects have been mostly revealed, a new but not surprising entity has cropped up: Turkey. Over the past few years, Turkey has been surfacing with increasing frequency in matters inimical to India - whether in support for Pakistan against India, or fuelling Kashmiri separatist sentiment, or peddling narratives of Muslim victimhood in India through its media. Most recently it blocked the overflight of AN-124 carrying Indian army's Apache Helicopters - an overtly unfriendly act.

The Red Fort Blasts

As reports and investigations into the blast near Red Fort now suggest, the two main accused, Dr Umar Mohammed and Dr Muzammil, were being guided by a handler based in Ankara, Turkey, under the alias 'Ukasa'. Investigations have also revealed 68 suspicious mobile numbers active near the parking and the blast site, with calls traced to Pakistan and Turkey. The government has not made allegations against any country, focusing on the internal dimensions. On its part, Turkey has released an angry rebuttal at these findings. "The deliberate reports in certain Indian media outlets claiming that 'Türkiye is linked to terrorist acts in India and provides logistical, diplomatic, and financial support to terrorist groups' are part of a malicious disinformation campaign aimed at damaging bilateral relations between the two countries," said Türkiye's Center for Combating Disinformation on Turkish social media platform 'NSosyal'.

The Kashmir Issue

Interestingly, five years ago, around this time in 2020, a Greek journalist and defence analyst, Andreas Mountzouroulas, had said in a report that according to information received from local sources by Kurdish news agency ANF, Abu Emsa, who heads the Suleyman Shah Brigade, a notorious terrorist organisation part of the Syrian National Army, had told his gang members in the northern Syrian city of Afrin that Ankara wanted to strengthen and reinforce Kashmir. This may have been an exaggeration, but curiously, a few Hamas members - another militant organisation that

Turkey supports - were spotted in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir more recently. Even if we disregard this coincidence, there is no denying that Turkey has been on a belligerent course against India at least since 2019, when it engaged in the debate on the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir state. The first salvo came when after decades, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raised the Kashmir issue during his address at the UN General Assembly. He has continued to raise the matter periodically at international forums, most recently this year. In 2020, during his address at the joint session of Pakistan's Parliament, President Erdogan underlined the importance of the Kashmir issue for Turkey, reiterating the country's support to Pakistan on it. State-run Turkish media has kept up a steady tirade against India, peddling narratives of not just Kashmiri but of "Muslim victimhood" in general in India and on "Hindutva fascism". Turkey has allowed Kashmir-related conferences and events to take place on its soil, hosts Kashmiri dissidents, and has often financed paid trips for conferences and seminars for many journalists, scholars and activists from Kashmir. All of this has not just earned it praise from Pakistan but also endeared it to Kashmiris - secessionists and others alike.

LATEST

Why Are NRIs Hating Mamdani? Because He Threatens Their 'Ame US Man Quits AI Startup Founded By IIT Graduates On Day 1, C British Family's Vande Bharat Train Journey Experience Viral Railway Group D 2025 Exam: Admit Card, City Slip Out? Check They Took Their First Flight: India-Origin Techie Shares Emo The Rich Will Get 'Fit', And Poor Will Be Lectured - That's The Woman Who Gave Indian Children In Saudi Arabia A Classro Gambhir Asks BCCI To Decide His Future: "Indian Cricket Impo Pan Masala Baron's Daughter-In-Law Dies By Suicide At South Rusted Pole That Crushed Basketball Champ Was Not Fixed Desp Where Is Imran Khan? Sisters Ask To Meet Jailed Ex-Pak PM Am Bengaluru Couple, Kingpins Of Fake



Nandini Ghee Racket, Arre "Sonia, Rahul And I Will Fix It": M Kharge On Karnataka Cong "Stay Humble": Kumble, Pujara Shocked By SA Coach's 'Grove' Bavuma Brings Up 'Bauna' Row When Asked About Coach's 'Grove Kunal Kamra Sparks Row With T-Shirt Mocking RSS, BJP Warns O Kali Statue Dressed As Mother Mary In Mumbai Temple, Priest Smriti Mandhana's Father Returns Home, Silence On Wedding Tr "Chennai Got 220,000 H-1B Visas": US Economist's "Fraud" All Gautam Gambhir Deserves Blame As India's Home Test Fortress nderstanding Turkey's Path Yet, as events in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor revealed - Turkey has everything to gain from good relations with India. From tourists to investments to lucrative contracts, Turkey was the principal beneficiary in its bilateral relations with India. Yet, it has chosen a contrarian path. What explains this? Religion is the most cited cause. Certainly, Turkey's ruling AKP is an Islamist party, allied to the dreaded Muslim Brotherhood organisation. It has enabled the country to swerve from the secularist path chosen by Turkey's founding father Mustafa Kemal Atatürk to a more Islamist course, something - it must be underscored - not appreciated by large swathes of the Turkish population. Ideologically inclined to reclaim Turkey's "rightful place" in history as the inheritor state of the Ottoman Empire, which was also the leader of the Muslim world, the current Turkish dispensation has leaned heavily on the Muslim identity. As things got tough on its home turf, the government looked abroad to bolster its standing. With the European Union protecting its Christian exclusivity, Turkey looked to Muslim lands. Since most Arab countries look upon Turkey as a former colonial power, it had to look further east. Turkey's Asia Anew policy, aimed at developing

closer relations with Asian states, converged with its other policy of positioning itself as a leader of the Muslim world, especially since the demographic centre of the Muslim world has now moved to South and Southeast Asia.

Opportunity In Conflicts

Religion provided the ideological anchor to more practical considerations with a struggling economy. With its formidable military and standing as a NATO power, Turkey soon saw opportunity in conflicts, especially those in or connected with Muslim countries. First came the victory in Karabakh. Azerbaijan could win back parts of territory it had lost to Armenia more than two decades ago in large parts because of Turkish military assistance. It earned Turkey much-needed financial resources - Azerbaijan's defence procurement from Turkey in 2020 was \$123 million. Soon after, in Baku to celebrate the victory, Erdogan described Ankara's support for Azerbaijan as part of Turkey's quest for its "deserved place in the world order". Turkey's other successes are also rooted in conflict. In Libya, Turkish intervention helped the Government of National Accord retain control and force the opposing bloc into a ceasefire. It also won Turkey Libyan support for its claims on the resources of the Eastern Mediterranean, where it is pitted against countries such as Greece and Cyprus, as well as a major defence deal with Qatar, with which ties also burgeoned during the Arab Spring and the rift between the Gulf countries in 2017.

By Aditi Bhaduri

What Next In Congress's Fight For Survival After Bihar Election Drubbing



It has been just over a week since the Bihar election results, and Nitish Kumar has been sworn in as Chief Minister for the tenth time in his political career, along with his first set of cabinet ministers.

This outcome has left some sections of the media a bit disappointed, as they had speculated on the possibility of a fractured mandate or even a National Democratic Alliance (NDA) defeat, which could have led to various realignment possibilities at the centre.

Even the staunchest supporters of Rahul Gandhi have conceded that, although the scale of the NDA's victory exceeded all expectations, the defeat of the Mahagathbandhan was inevitable. Some journalists friendly to Congress have now revealed that the party's internal surveys had predicted a poor performance.

In a trademark about-turn, Yogendra Yadav, who had inveigled his way into Rahul Gandhi's inner circle and was considered a key architect of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the "Vote Chori" campaign, has realised that these were never significant election issues and failed to resonate with the electorate. With hopes dashed, attention has now shifted to

the future of the Congress party. Pontificating on how to revive the fortunes of the Grand Old Party, which is on a slope of terminal decline under the Gandhis, has become the periodic pastime of political commentators. They are all advising introspection over blame games.

However, even a novice media person would not expect any introspection from the high command. Filled with sycophants who believe "the boss is always right", the upper echelons of the party live in perpetual denial, adhering to the classic Transactional Analysis state of "I am OK, all others are not OK." In their view, the problem always lies with the rest of the world.

It is, therefore, no surprise that the official party line is that the mandate was stolen through a massive conspiracy orchestrated by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in collusion with the Election Commission. Rahul Gandhi and his loyalists have intensified their rhetoric, loudly accusing "vote chori", a claim that has been amplified by their social media supporters with templated posts.

Interestingly, the old guard has maintained a studied

silence. The few who have chosen to speak have been remarkably measured and balanced, likely because they know that any advice will be water off the proverbial duck's back — that being the young scion of the Gandhi family. Equally, he does not seem to be unduly bothered about what others have to say beyond his inner coterie.

Still, it would be naive to underestimate the political acumen and survival instincts of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, which has managed to stay in power for the better part of eighty years since India's independence, with only intermittent gaps. They have shown no disinterest in reclaiming power and exude a strong sense of entitlement. This is evident from Priyanka Gandhi stepping in to fill the space created by her mother's indifferent health and the quiet grooming of her son, Raihan. If the grapevine is to be believed, Raihan has been christened as Raihan Rajiv Vadra, preparing to claim the family mantle at an opportune time with a suitable twist in the last name. Thus, if they have been acting against conventional wisdom, it must be with good reason.

As posited in a previous article, the Gandhis

have realised that they cannot win elections through conventional contests. Rebuilding the party from the grassroots would require an organisational depth that the Congress has systematically destroyed over the years by disempowering mass leaders and jettisoning promising young Turks who could challenge Rahul Gandhi. Therefore, their strategy appears to be to conquer through disruptions and aerial strikes. This might explain the obsessive persistence with the Vote Chori theory and the open invocation of Gen Z to come out and protest, drawing overt parallels with Bangladesh and Nepal, which smacks of a western regime change template.

Yogendra Yadav's distancing from Rahul Gandhi immediately after the elections also appears a calculated strategic move. He has gone on an overdrive, starting a new crusade, as it were, for what he calls "Reclaiming the Republic". At a seminar in Kolkata, he declared, "We are not only losing elections — we are losing elections, we are losing our people."

A rather presumptuous claim some would say. He is hopping across TV studios, podcast Zoom screens, and

talk-fests — advocating a 'social coalition' based on "Rahul Gandhi's social justice and caste census" to form a formidable opposition alliance to beat the BJP in 2029.

One should not forget that he was the one who sold the idea of caste census to Rahul Gandhi, albeit with disastrous electoral consequences. So, could it be that he and Rahul Gandhi have decided to split forces to "divide and conquer"?

Meanwhile, the BJP is not expected to sit idle. The 2024 elections served as a wake-up call, and subsequent state assembly elections have shown that the BJP has learned valuable lessons, including the importance of the RSS's influence. The Bihar election results serve as a case study in social re-engineering. The reality check of the Lok Sabha Polls has prompted the BJP to adopt a more tempered approach in dealing with coalition partners. Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar exemplify a new, flexible coalition management strategy, following a "horses for courses" model. The way the government tackled some recent references to the Supreme Court — shows it has got its act together in tackling judicial challenges to administrative decisions — besides being unapologetic about the use of administrative levers available to it — for example, in the case of SIR (Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls) by the Election Commission.

These developments are certainly not going unnoticed by the Opposition, particularly the Congress. Despite a series of setbacks, the Congress appears determined to reclaim power. However, the question remains — Will shortcuts suffice against the gargantuan electoral machinery of the BJP, managed by some of the sharpest political minds? The upcoming elections in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Bengal may provide a sneak preview into what lies ahead.

By : Sandip Ghose

US needs to break China's supply chain chokehold to win the tech race

American leadership in artificial intelligence, quantum computing and biotechnology at risk (By Gina M. Raimondo, Justin Muzinich, James D. Taiclet Fox News) Beijing has repeatedly shown the world that it is willing to weaponize its dominance of supply chains, and President Donald Trump had to de-escalate the latest rare-earth dispute during his recent trip to Asia. But rare earths are only a small window into the power that China could have over the U.S. economy as we start adopting tomorrow's technologies. Three technologies stand out as especially critical to America's national security as we look out over the next decade: artificial intelligence, quantum computing and biotechnology. Much like China can exert leverage over U.S. manufacturing through rare earths today, we are at risk of significant and growing Chinese leverage in these foundational technologies. In fact, American dependence on Chinese supply chains is already becoming evident. American leadership in AI hinges on U.S. data centers maintaining access to specialized chemicals, printed circuit boards and networking equipment from China. China controls critical inputs for quantum computing, including cooling equipment, precision lasers and several essential minerals.

CHINA WEAPONIZED SCIENCE AGAINST THE U.S. WE'VE FIGURED OUT A KEY ELEMENT THEY MISSED

Perhaps most concerning, China is the sole supplier of at least one critical ingredient for more than a third of nearly 2,000 U.S.-approved medicines, including amoxicillin, one of the most widely prescribed antibiotics, according to a recent study. The United States still holds powerful cards to play. The U.S. private sector leads the world in spending on research and development, and U.S. capital markets are the deepest and most liquid in the world, capable of financing ambitious projects. The talented American workforce, from machinists to STEM researchers, is well-positioned to build and benefit from the return of critical supply chains.

But creative incentives are needed to unleash these advantages. Our new report details how to do it. The United States must

act now and bear the costs to de-risk critical supply chains, or it may pay a much higher price later if tensions escalate. Building on the Trump administration's progress in rare earths, the U.S. government should incentivize domestic production of several dozen critical inputs for semiconductors and data centers, including various chemicals and hardware components, as well as essential materials for quantum computing and biotechnology, like cooling equipment and drug inputs.

Government action is also needed to mobilize private investment toward quantum computing and biotechnology. The Department of Defense

should use its procurement power, along with contracting milestones, to create demand and competition for the delivery of a viable quantum computer that is powerful and reliable enough to solve real-world problems faster than today's best supercomputers. Incentivizing private investment into biomanufacturing hubs nationwide would help smaller firms bring new technologies to market by co-funding shared manufacturing infrastructure and easing regulations for expansion.

While economic security begins at home, America is not alone in this race. The European Union, Japan and South Korea

have pledged investments that could help strengthen U.S. manufacturing and critical supply chains. When the U.S. government stockpiles essential drug ingredients or critical minerals, it should look to trusted markets. Several allies have capabilities that could help accelerate and expand new sources of critical minerals, as illustrated by the recent framework struck by the United States and Australia.

We know from firsthand experience that the U.S. government can utilize its full toolkit for today's era of economic warfare and position itself to compete in the technologies that

have yet to arrive. U.S. agencies and departments are often too siloed to have a full view of today's vulnerabilities or those risks just beginning to emerge. Establishing an Economic Security Center would strengthen government coordination, upgrade technical expertise and deepen partnerships with the private sector.

There is strong bipartisan support for strengthening critical supply chains and significant progress upon which to build.

We must sustain that momentum to ensure the American economy is able to compete—and win—in this new era of technology.

Why Does the US Stand Alone in Opposing Children's Rights?

Universal Children's Day on November 20 commemorates how 35 years ago, the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) entered into force, after the United Nations General Assembly adopted and opened it for signatures. This legally binding document contains 54 articles outlining the fundamental rights of every child. With 196 countries as signatories by July 2022, it is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. All U.N. member states but one have ratified the Convention. That country is the United States of America. On the 35th anniversary of the UNCRC entering into force, the U.S. should finally join 196 countries and ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. Being an expert on childhood and children's literature, I know about global leaders in children's rights. South Korea last year celebrated the 125th anniversary of the birth of Bang Jeong-hwan, Korean children's writer and early proponent of children's rights who declared the liberation of the child and established Children's Day in Korea in 1923, one year before the League of Nations adopted the Geneva Declaration on the Rights of the Child in 1924.

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children? The United States has no children's writer who has helped to change minds, advocate for children and envision another future, materially improving children's lives. Instead, the U.S. today leads the world in school shootings and firearm-related injuries as a leading cause of death in the U.S. for ages one to 17 since 2020. Why are children's rights, already ratified by 196 countries and all other U.N. member nations, a contentious subject in the United States, despite so much talk about protecting children on the airwaves? One might wonder why the U.S. hasn't ratified the Convention? In fact, the U.S. played an active role in drafting the Convention and signed it on February 16, 1995, but has failed for 30 years now to ratify it and make it law. Some opponents argue that ratification would undermine U.S. sovereignty by giving the U.N. authority to determine U.S. children's best interests. However, is the freedom to harm children really a sovereignty worth protecting at all costs? For whose sake do we forsake the protection of our children? What does this refusal say to U.S. children, or our own children? One wonders how U.S. elected officials can face their own children, grandchildren, nieces, or nephews while opposing the ratification of the U.N. Convention

on the Rights of the Child. To be sure, the U.S. has legislative complexities and internal issues that may impact its ability to address this issue or ratify this international treaty. But is this really a sufficient excuse to be the one outlier country among U.N. member countries, and lag behind countries facing their own internal challenges like Venezuela (1990), Afghanistan (1994), or Somalia (2015)? Perhaps the Convention could helpfully guide U.S. government policy and prevent harmful mistakes and missteps that will go down in history. Many countries who have ratified the Convention use its principles to inform children about their rights, guide policies and enrich education to secure better well-being for children. What sort of sovereignty is the U.S. really protecting in its refusal to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child? The sovereignty to deny rights to its children? Shouldn't children's basic human rights be something the U.S. agrees on, however riven by partisanship? Or, if not, what does this say about the U.S.? In honor of Universal Children's Day on November 20, 2025, I call on U.S. leaders and government representatives to finally ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child—the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history.

Why Trump And Mamdani May Not Be That Different, After All



immigrant policies of Trump's politics is performance and a promise. Zohran Mamdani is no up in the 1980s' pre-liberalisation socialist India, it is also hard to comprehend Mamdani's economics. India's own failed experiment with socialist democracy enabled its oligarchs to gain unchecked power, whose influence even today - whether in politics or business, and irrespective of party in power - is impossible to shirk off.

This political conundrum is both a moral choice for individuals, but also a generational choice testing family loyalties. During the mayoral voting at the American Museum of Natural History, a woman in her 60s told me she had voted for Trump for President but her Ivy League-educated Gen Z sons were voting for Mamdani. She said she voted from her mind, and they voted from their hearts. That is the dichotomy of most Americans right now. Will you choose the anti-immigrant, MAGA right or the anti-rich Democratic socialists? Ultimately,

face this challenging conundrum. Both the leaders have ascended for the same reason, promising Americans a return to abundance beyond the Thanksgiving table. But till one of them provides a real solution, Americans will continue to

This Thanksgiving, many Americans might be willing to endure an irate Uncle at the dinner table, just the way Zohran Mamdani expected President Donald Trump to be when they met at the White House. The unexpected cordiality instead has had opinions reeling. The premise is more astute. I am reminded of George Soros telling me, over piping hot masala chai on the icy Davos slopes, that "life is a series of imperfect but necessary choices". Both Trump and Mamdani seem to be following this advice. They both offer an emotional appeal that targets the same problem: an unaffordable America that has alienated its large majority.

There is, however, one key difference. Trump's MAGA blames immigrants, while Mamdani's Democratic socialists blame the rich. Both are practising identity politics - one based on your race or place of birth and the other based on your financial success.

But while both indulge in the blame game, neither offers a real, long-term solution. Because there is no easy one. The smartest people in the world are scratching their heads to offer an alternative to the millions whose jobs were displaced in the post-globalisation era, let alone those obliterated by the furiously unfurling AI tsunami. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell recently admitted the inability of the world's

largest monetary authority to meet this challenge, saying AI has left job creation close to zero.

The money is firmly in the hands of the super rich. The top 1% of the American population owns nearly a half of the US stock market, while the bottom 50% of Americans altogether hold only 1%. This is the biggest conundrum of our time.

Yes, stock markets and corporate profits are near all time highs, but the vast majority of America is feeling left out in this second coming of the Gilded Age. The beneficiaries of wealth creation in our current times are the rich and Wall Street, not the working class and Main Street.

This disparity has led to a political earthquake in America, and arguably in every country around the world, where the super-rich, through funding political frontrunners or controlling resources, are dictating policies to the vast majority. To win an election in America, you need billionaire support, and they need you to pick up the phone line when they call. Quid pro quo.

This billionaire boys' club is now dominating America's public square. Both Trump and Mamdani are rebuttals by the people. And much like life, their politics are imperfect but necessary choices.

As an immigrant myself, it is hard to get my head around the anti-

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Hasina's party launches nationwide stir against Yunus, 'illegal' death verdict

Demanding the resignation of Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and rejecting the International Crimes Tribunal verdict sentencing ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to death, her party, the Bangladesh Awami League, on Tuesday called for protests, demonstrations, and resistance marches across all districts until November 30. Calling the verdict "illegal," the Bangladesh Awami League, while announcing the nationwide stir, went on to label Yunus a "usurper" and a "killer-fascist." In an official statement on X, the party wrote, "Demanding the Resignation of Illegal Usurper, Killer-Fascist Yunus and Rejecting the Verdict of the Illegal ICT Tribunal." The announcement comes days after Hasina and former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal were sentenced to death by the ICT following a trial in absentia, both currently believed to be in India. Party leaders expressed

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support of the people, the Awami League has announced protest, demonstration and resistance marches across all districts and upazilas until 30 November, rejecting the illegal verdict of the illegal ICT tribunal and demanding the resignation of the illegal usurper, killer-fascist Yunus." In its statement, the party alleged that Yunus was "conspiring" to keep both Hasina and her party out of the upcoming elections. "As part of that conspiracy, they staged this mockery of a trial in their own manufactured court. The Awami League is not only rejecting the illegal ICT verdict, but is also working at the grassroots, holding discussions with political leaders, stakeholders and people from all walks of life to break the web of plots woven by this occupying force. It is now clear to everyone that the Yunus clique is engaged in anti-state conspiracies.

gratitude to their supporters, saying, "Dear fellow citizens, You have all witnessed how the so-called court established by the illegal usurper, killer-fascist Yunus and his clique has delivered a verdict against the

Honourable Prime Minister and Awami League President, the daughter of Bangabandhu, Sheikh Hasina. You have rejected this farcical judgment with contempt, and you have protested against it wherever possible. On behalf of the Bangladesh Awami League, we thank you and express our deep gratitude." Citing the strong backing from the public, the Awami League reiterated, "With the courageous voice and

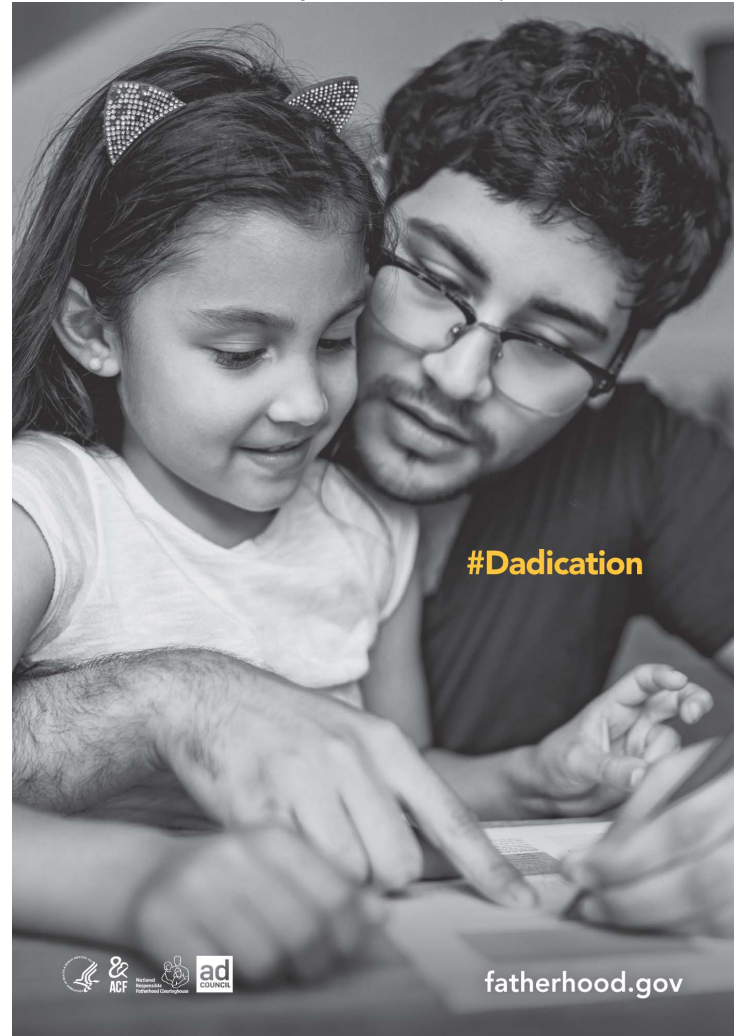


AMERICA'S DEADLIEST SHOOTINGS ARE ONES WE DON'T TALK ABOUT

On any given day in America, too many of our mothers, brothers, partners, and friends are taken from us by gun suicide. But tomorrow's deaths could be prevented. Take the next step to store all your guns more securely: locked, unloaded, and away from ammo.



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Ukraine backs peace framework, says Zelenskyy- Trump talks essential for Russia deal

A hastily arranged summit between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska in August raised worries in Kyiv and European capitals that the Trump administration might accept many Russian demands, though the meeting ultimately resulted in more US pressure on Russia. The 28-point plan that emerged last week caught many in the US government, Kyiv and Europe alike off-guard and prompted fresh concerns that the Trump administration might be willing to push Ukraine to sign a peace deal heavily tilted toward Moscow. The plan would require Kyiv to cede territory beyond the almost 20% of Ukraine that Russia has captured since its February 2022 full-scale invasion, as well as accept curbs on its military and bar it from ever joining NATO - conditions Kyiv has long rejected as tantamount to surrender. The sudden push has raised the pressure on Ukraine and Zelenskyy, who is now at his most vulnerable since the start of the war after a corruption scandal saw two of his ministers dismissed, and as Russia makes battlefield gains. Zelenskyy could struggle to get Ukrainians to swallow a deal viewed as selling out their interests. He said on Monday the latest peace plan incorporated "correct" points after talks in Geneva. "The sensitive issues, the most delicate points, I will discuss with President Trump," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address. Zelenskyy said the process of producing a final document would be difficult. Russia's unrelenting attacks on Ukraine have left many sceptical about how peace can be achieved soon. There was a very loud explosion, our windows were falling apart, we got dressed and ran out," said Nadiia Horodko, a 39-year-old accountant, after a residential building was struck in Kyiv overnight. "There was horror, everything was already burning here, and a woman

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MACRON WARNS AGAINST EUROPEAN CAPITULATION

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said an amended peace plan must reflect the "spirit and letter" of an understanding reached between Putin and Trump at their Alaska summit. "If the spirit and letter of Anchorage is erased in terms of the key understandings we have established then, of course, it will be a fundamentally

different situation (for Russia)," Lavrov warned. A group of countries supporting Ukraine, which is known as the coalition of the willing and includes Britain and France, was also set to hold a virtual meeting on Tuesday. "It's an initiative that goes in the right direction: peace. However, there are aspects of that plan that deserve to be discussed, negotiated, improved," French President Emmanuel Macron told RTL radio regarding the US-proposed plan. "We want peace, but we don't want a peace that would be a

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US drops cases against ex-FBI director James Comey, New York AG Letitia James

A federal judge on Monday dismissed criminal charges against two perceived adversaries of President Donald Trump, FBI Director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James, ruling the US attorney he hand picked to prosecute them was unlawfully appointed. The ruling throws out two cases Trump had publicly called for as he pressured Justice Department leaders to move against high-profile figures who had criticized him and led investigations into his conduct. Lindsey Halligan, a former personal lawyer to Trump, was named interim US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia in September to take over both investigations despite having no previous prosecutorial experience. The findings by US District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie came after both Comey and James accused the Trump Justice

Department of violating the US Constitution's Appointments Clause and federal law by appointing Halligan in September.

'NO LEGAL AUTHORITY'

Currie found that Halligan "had no legal authority" to bring indictments against either Comey or James. But Currie dismissed the cases "without prejudice," giving the Justice Department an opportunity to seek new indictments with a different prosecutor at the helm. "All actions flowing from Ms. Halligan's defective appointment," Currie wrote, were "unlawful exercises of executive power and are hereby set aside." After the decision, Attorney General Pam Bondi told reporters the Justice Department would "be taking all available legal action, including an immediate appeal to hold Letitia James and James Comey accountable for their unlawful conduct." Bondi said that because Halligan was made a special US

attorney, she can continue to prosecute cases. "She can fight in court just like she was and we believe we will be successful on appeal," Bondi said. James and Comey separately said they were grateful for the ruling. James' attorney, Abbe Lowell, said she would "continue to challenge any further politically motivated charges through every lawful means available." In an Instagram video, Comey said the case against him "was a prosecution based on malevolence and incompetence and a reflection of what the Department of Justice has become under Donald Trump." It is unclear if prosecutors could seek to bring a new case against Comey over the same conduct. The five-year statute of limitations on the charges expired on September 30, and Comey's lawyers have already indicated in court filings that they do not believe prosecutors have more time to refile the charges.

Sharanjit Thind (R) Announces Run for Congress in New York's 18th District

Democrat-held CD18 in the Hudson Valley is flippable, insists the Indian American, who is using his extensive business and government experience to build a campaign to win the 2026 election.

By Parveen Chopra

Sharanjit Singh Thind filed his candidacy in September 2025 for the US House of Representatives from New York's District 18 in the Hudson Valley. A lifelong Republican and Sikh born in Punjab, India, he believes this Democrat-held seat is ready to flip. His campaign focuses on promoting business, making jobs AI-proof, defending family values, and prioritizing community safety. With extensive experience in both the private and public sectors, he is the best candidate to represent this district north of Manhattan.

Thind says he has the blessing of the party's establishment. Before filing his nomination papers in September, he met with New York Republican State Committee Chairman Ed Cox—son-in-law of President Nixon—to discuss the party's support. At the time, Thind was told that there were no other Republican candidates in the fray and that the 18th Congressional District (CD-18) would be a strong place for him to run. "But, even with the best intentions and backing of the party leadership,



Sharanjit Thind at the National Press Club in Washington D.C.



Sharanjit Thind with his wife Navjot Thind

primaries are unavoidable and even healthy," he says.

Thind describes himself as fully familiar with CD-18 and notes that he is in close contact with local party leadership, thanks to Chairman Cox. "I am getting a very enthusiastic response when I interact with constituents of all stripes and backgrounds," he added.

While agreeing that the incumbent, Patrick Ryan, defeated Alison Esposito (R) by 14 points in 2024, Thind points to a changed environment that would help him emerge victorious on November 3, the election day in

2026. "People were fed up seeing hotels and motels teeming with visitors and create jobs," says Thind while pointing to a recent Netflix series, 'Four Seasons', Biden and Mayor Adams. Under which was shot there and stars President Trump, that threat to Steve Carell and Tina Fey. With law and order has been cleared."

The recent election of self-declared socialist and freebies-promising Zohran Mamdani as Mayor of New York City is worrying all, Thind claims. In that highlights his multifarious sharp contrast are Trump's career. Armed with an MBA and America First, pro-business a journalism degree, Thind arrived policies, which he supports as do in America at the cusp of this most upstate New York voters. In century. Over the years, he the context, Thind talks worked for many reputed companies, founded his own ad agency in Manhattan, and has economy and a magnet for the world's best. The answer is: by South Asian Insider' for almost putting business first. To do that, two decades. Recently, he you have to know about business, became an author with "The which he does, having run media Beginning - Mad Men of Nu Way Advertising," highlighting his and real estate businesses. experience at the helm of the

Appealing Policy Platform

The policy platform Thind is once-thriving ad agency on building is solely to serve his Madison Avenue.

Experience in Government and Politics

From 2012, he has worked that many, many jobs will with the government in one evaporate under the AI heat. I am capacity or another. He served as not against AI or automation, but a Commissioner on the Nassau I will make the AI behemoth County Human Rights companies accountable, to make Commission until 2018. He also them funnel back some of their worked with the Receiver of Taxes profits to retrain the retrenched office in the Town of Hempstead, workers." Similarly, banks should the largest township in America. be held accountable for the In electoral politics, Thind has financial scams happening under gained valuable experience their nose that upend so many helping others run for office. "From seniors' lives. local councilman, mayoral to Promoting tourism in the state senate and assembly to DA picturesque Hudson Valley is a to Congress races, I have been no-brainer. "I will give tourism full very closely involved, spending

long hours strategizing policy. I have helped raise and also personally contributed to the campaigns of quite a few races," he says. Twice, he has received the Congressional Excellence award. Running for Congress, Thind insists, he also draws on the perspective he gained as an editor on how government is run and what needs to be done to fix what is broken.

To kick-start his campaign, Thind will put his own money into it and seek support from small donors (the maximum individual contribution is \$3,535). He clarifies that no government matching funds are available for Congressional races. Because CD18 is flippable and can help the GOP retain control of the House after 2026, Thind expects America-loving, like-minded individuals to help lift his campaign to victory.

Thind owns a property in the Catskills and is in the process of signing a lease for a house in Saugerties, in Ulster County. He lives with his wife and two sons on Long Island.

Thind's appeal is straightforward: Elect a representative who will bring more jobs and protect those jobs from AI; bring more tourism to the Hudson Valley; expand healthcare benefits; protect family values; and pass laws to save senior citizens from scams.

To support and elect Sharanjit, go to ThindForCongress.com

Parveen Chopra is the founder of ALotusInTheMud.com web magazine.



Sharanjit Thind covering an event for South Asian Insider

Netra Mantena and Vamsi Gadiraju's wedding was a style spectacle

Indians truly know how to do weddings in style, blending grandeur, vibe, and fashion effortlessly, and the recent wedding of billionaire heiress Netra Mantena and tech entrepreneur Vamsi Gadiraju in Udaipur, Rajasthan, over the weekend is the perfect example. From Ranveer Singh and Kriti Sanon performing during the festivities to Jennifer Lopez leaving everyone spellbound with her performance at the reception, this celebration is set to be talked about for a long time. But beyond the star-studded performances, fashion lovers were thoroughly delighted. Whether it was Mantena's regal red bridal lehenga or JLo's intricate cut-work saree, the wedding offered countless style moments that are sure to inspire trends this wedding season. Here are the standout looks that are nothing short of mesmerising. Let's start with the bride Netra Mantena's wedding looks were nothing short of flawless, with every outfit perfectly complemented by her jewellery and makeup across all celebrations. However, the two standout looks that we're taking notes from are her wedding ceremony and reception ensembles. Red never goes out of style, and Mantena proved just that. She walked down the aisle in a Sabyasachi red lehenga adorned with intricate zari embroidery and delicate hanging motifs along the hem. Her full-sleeved choli was paired with statement jewellery, creating a regal and timeless bridal look. For the reception, she switched to a stunning pink strapless gown with feather detailing, elevated by sparkling diamonds that added just the right amount of glamour. Both looks were picture-perfect, showcasing her effortless style and eye for detail.

Jennifer Lopez

For the wedding, JLo turned heads in a bespoke Manish Malhotra couture saree, a revived archival cut-work design from the designer's collection. The soft pink drape shimmered with

Netra Mantena and Vamsi Gadiraju's Udaipur wedding was a fashion extravaganza. From the bride's regal Sabyasachi lehenga to Jennifer Lopez's stunning cut-work saree, here are the looks you can't miss.



Swarovski crystals and was styled with a richly embroidered strapless blouse and statement jewellery.

Bettina Anderson

Donald Trump Jr's girlfriend, Bettina Anderson,

embraced full desi vibes for the lavish wedding, but it was her look for the mehendi ceremony that truly stole the spotlight. The mustard-and-white corset paired with flared pants and a matching dupatta

is sure to inspire brides and bridesmaids this season. And that long braid with a traditional twist? Simply flawless. A solid 10/10.

Ram Charan

A sleek all-black ensemble

never goes out of style, and Ram Charan showcased it effortlessly. Gentlemen, take note: this perfectly tailored suit, paired with a crisp black shirt, is cocktail-night perfection. His glasses, with a striking gold frame, added just the right touch of sophistication to complete the look.

Karan Johar

Picking the perfect kurta for a wedding can be tricky, and we've all seen those overly matchy sequin kurta reels on social media. But Karan Johar knows how to elevate a traditional look effortlessly. Hosting the mehendi ceremony, the filmmaker-producer opted for a crisp white kurta-pyjama layered with a shimmery open sherwani, a combination that never fails to impress.

Netra Mantena and Vamsi Gadiraju's wedding was full of style and glamour. Which look stood out to you?

You can be a gold digger or a beauty digger, and that's your choice

Something felt off there, didn't it? Many were shocked that the woman in the video openly implied she is a gold digger. But here is what people also noticed: the man in the video is a beauty digger too, being with a good-looking partner who elevates how the world sees him. At the end of the day, it is their choice. And this conversation is not about judging anyone. We all have our own stories, traumas, insecurities, and dreams. Some people genuinely want financial stability. Others genuinely prioritise physical attraction. Some are drawn to comfort, power, or beauty. As long as the choice is intentional, honest, and not hurting anyone, you are allowed to want what you want. Right? Some people believe 'gold digging' makes sense because, to them, money brings security, status, and even beauty by extension - wealth can shape the lifestyle they desire. Others lean toward 'beauty digging,' convinced that being with someone irresistibly attractive is its own kind of value, a reward that money can't replicate. "I would marry for money. If someone could give me the bank account to buy expensive products or get beauty treatments, of course, I can look good all the time. You call it gold digging, but in reality, you are just asking for the lifestyle you dream of. So I do not judge

anyone who makes that choice," says a 22-year-old college student from Pune. We know that a gold digger is someone who dates for financial gain, whereas a beauty digger dates more for physical attractiveness. But while on the surface



they may seem very different, if you look at them from a psychological level, they can have some similar roots. "These could include external validation, wanting to build your self-worth, or using a partner as a shortcut for maybe safety, identity, and status," Mumbai-based relationship expert and author Shahzeen Shivasani tells India Today. Dr Nisha Khanna, a Delhi-based relationship and marriage counsellor, agrees and adds that whether someone is a gold digger or a beauty digger, the underlying psychology is usually about seeking something they believe will bring security or happiness. A gold digger may

be looking for economic security and a luxurious lifestyle without having to work for it. They feel that marrying someone wealthy will automatically give them comfort and stability. The core motivation is the desire for monetary benefits and the belief that happiness is connected to that. "I remember a client once told me, 'It's better to cry in a BMW than in an i20.' That mindset explains a lot. Many people who choose partners for money often feel insecure, crave a higher social status, or associate wealth with respect and value," shares Dr Khanna. On the other hand, beauty diggers, as per Dr Khanna, seek external gratification through appearance. "Earlier, this was mostly seen in men, but now many women also prioritise looks. They want someone tall, attractive, fit, and well-dressed. Again, the motivation is external, not emotional. People with low self-esteem often feel more validated, confident, and desirable when they have an attractive partner. A beautiful partner becomes a 'trophy,' boosting pride, attention, and social standing." In both cases, whether it is money or beauty, the desire is driven by how the outside world sees you. And sometimes, scarcity or insecurity, emotional or financial, plays a major role in these choices.



Parental advice can help reduce youth dating violence

Rachel Garthe, lead researcher of the study. Garthe and her co-authors surveyed a random sample of more than 1,000 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students about their parents' views on handling conflict. The assessment included questions such as whether the child's parents condoned fighting as long as another person started it, or if their parents urged them to stay calm or walk away if another person said something disrespectful to them.

The majority of the students - ranging from 82%-88% across all the waves of data collection

- reported receiving a mixture of parental messages that endorsed peaceful as well as aggressive means of handling disputes. Students also were surveyed about their perpetration of dating violence during each three-month period prior to their completing a survey. The students were asked if they had engaged in six forms of physical violence, such as shoving their romantic partner, and four types of psychological aggression, such as intentionally provoking jealousy in their boyfriend or girlfriend. Students rated each act of

dating violence on a 0-3 scale, with a "0" meaning they had never engaged in that behavior and a "3" meaning they had done it 10 times or more. Garthe said the prevalence of dating violence among the students surveyed was high across all years of the study. As many as 35%-45% of the students indicated that they'd committed at least one act of physical or psychological aggression against their boyfriend or girlfriend. These associations between parental messages and youths' likelihood of perpetrating dating violence were consistent for males and females, Garthe said.

(Insider Bureau) : It turns out, if parents talk to their children about all the non-violent ways that can be used to resolve conflict, it can reduce youth dating violence.

According to a recent study, parents who talk to their children about non-violent ways of resolving conflict may reduce children's likelihood of physically or psychologically abusing their dating partners later.

However, when parents give

contradictory messages, it implies that violence is acceptable in certain circumstances.

"Show the value of parents advocating non-violent responses to conflict. Youths may be getting a mixture of both violent and non-violent solutions from their parents, but in our study, it was those non-violent messages that really protected kids from perpetrating violence in their romantic relationships,"

Feeling stressed? Millennials, use these tips to make life less stressful

India, with a population of over a billion people, will have the world's youngest population by 2020. While this sounds promising in terms of the composition of the workforce, the millennial generation is also proven to have higher stress levels in comparison to those of an older generation. Millennials in such major Indian business hubs as Mumbai, Bangalore and New Delhi likely can relate to a recent survey conducted by Cigna TTK Health Insurance Co. that states 95% of Indian millennials admit to being stressed — more millennials than any other nation in the world. It's an alarming statistic, especially for a nation that thrives

on relaxation techniques like mindfulness, meditation and yoga. The global average for millennials, who now range in age from 18 and 34 years old, by comparison is 86 percent, according to the study.

Several studies suggest that there has been a marked increase in stress levels among millennials owing to various factors involving increased competition at the work place, unstable relationships and sedentary/unhealthy lifestyle, among others. The unmanaged stress further leads to depression. Dr Shruthi M Hegde, ayurveda expert at The Himalaya Drug Company, shares a few tips for millennials who lead stressful lives.

Plan your schedule

One minute of planning translates into at least 10 minutes saved. Planning is a great tool to enhance efficiency and also brings down stress. When tasks pile up, it is natural to get overwhelmed. This can be prevented by keeping a simple checklist or to-do list. Once you've been doing it for a few weeks, it becomes second nature. Ensure you have a plan for the day with a clear objective; this allows you to focus on your goals and keeps you motivated. Listen to instrumental music to relax.

From time immemorial, music has been known to play a positive effect in soothing a person's



senses. The tempo, lyrics and volume of the music you listen to have an enormous effect on your mood. Slow-tempo, quiet music will help you relax - and soothe your frayed nerves. While you are working, you can listen to calm instrumental music. This clears the mind and helps you unwind. If you're feeling low, play upbeat music. This will lighten up your mood and elate your senses.

Sometimes, vocals and lyrics can inspire you and lift your spirits.

Get enough sleep and rest. Staying up late in the night is common amongst millennials but can have dangerous effects on mental health. Some people have trouble sleeping early, while others find entertainment or social media preventing them from having an early night.

How Many Times You Have to Have Sex to Make a Baby

Making a baby is serious business. While some couples seem to get pregnant on the first attempt, others can spend what feels like forever trying. But there's an actual number of times it takes a couple to get pregnant, according to a new survey.

On average, couples have sex 78 times from the time they decide to start trying to the time they get a positive sign on a pregnancy test. Those 78 times are spread over 158 days, or about 6 months.

ChannelMum.com, a parenting

site, surveyed 1,194 parents, and found that most couples have sex 13 times per month when trying to conceive. Although this may sound like 13 times the fun, there are certain anxieties that come with trying to become parents. Eighteen percent of men and women said that sex while trying to conceive sometimes felt like a chore. Another 43 percent felt pressure to conceive and a fear that they wouldn't be able to.

"While trying to conceive can be fun, it is also hard work, stressful, and not every couple is lucky enough to get conceive,

so while you're focused on the baby, try to remember about each other too," Siobhan Freegard, founder of ChannelMum.com said.

Some people think conception depends on your position. ChannelMum.com found that the most popular position is missionary (used by three-quarters of couples) followed by doggy style (used by 36 percent of couples). Other couples think pregnancy happens based on a woman's cycle, with half of women trying to time sex to fertile



days, and 39 percent improving their diet and taking extra vitamins.

Once you make up your mind to start a family, waiting for

your body to catch up can be frustrating. Luckily, there's lots of advice out there — and some of it might even make trying more fun.

Under eye CO2 injections might just be the new dark circle fix

"Shadows of the dark world" – these words never meant good for anyone. Be it the fiction you see on screen, or the dark shadows camping under your eyes (yes, the dark circles), it's simply a universal struggle. Under-eye hollowness or dark circles are the first to arrive and give away that your body is deprived — maybe of sleep, nutrients, or simply healthy blood flow. And yes, those fancy under-eye patches, DIY hacks, tea bags, and a few home remedies, may or may not have helped either. Therefore, with under-eye concerns becoming one of the fastest-growing complaints, there's another path to redemption, and it's called carboxy therapy.

The carboxy mechanism

Carboxy is a minimally invasive beauty treatment where medical-grade CO2 gas is injected beneath the skin to boost a natural "oxygen deficit correction" response. "When the body detects excess CO2, it increases blood flow, oxygen delivery, and tissue repair in that area. This improves microcirculation, boosts collagen production, and enhances cell turnover. It's like resetting the skin's energy supply, making the under-eye area brighter and firmer," Dr Debraj Shome, co-founder and director, The Esthetic Clinics, tells India Today.



Additionally, it can help with fine lines, break down fat pockets, cellulite, and stretch marks. Carboxy therapy offers multiple benefits, but the one most people line up for is its impact on dark circles and under-eye puffiness. "This area is affected by poor circulation, thinning skin, lymphatic congestion, and minor fat herniation, issues that topical products rarely fix. Carboxy therapy directly improves these underlying causes. It also

reduces puffiness by improving lymphatic drainage," says Dr Shome. And guess what, it might play quite nicely with Indian skin, especially.

A plus for Indian skin

According to Dr Rupika Singh, dermatologist and founder of Akiya Aesthetics, Indian skin often walks a fine line owing to higher melanin levels, a natural tendency toward pigmentation, and, in many people, under-eyes are thin

enough to reveal every tiny vessel beneath. "That's where carboxy therapy fits in so well. By boosting microcirculation and gently thickening the dermis, it helps dial down the bluish or purplish shadows that are especially common in Indian under-eyes, making it a smart, targeted fix in a country where pigmentation issues are common." In India, the demand for carboxy therapy is climbing steadily each year, as per experts.

Peptides are important for your skin but stacking them isn't cool



Even if you never liked science in school, there's no living without it. Yes, that's common knowledge, but we are not talking about every day science-y things like gravity. But something more personal: wellness and beauty. This is the era of trends — the good, the bad and the ones that make you go, "whaaat?!" And whenever a new beauty or wellness trend pops up, everyone wants to know the science behind it. The kind of science

you should know before hopping on the bandwagon. Which brings us to TikTok's latest obsession: peptide stacking. Peptides are currently having a moment and not just in beauty but in overall health. Peptides are essentially small amino-acid chains with targeted functions in different parts of the body. There are peptides for skin, hormones, sleep, longevity, muscle recovery and more. And what are people up to? Stacking multiple peptides with

different functions and consuming them together like a wellness cocktail.

Lil' bit more on peptide stacks

Peptides are short chains of amino acids, the same building blocks that make up proteins. Basically, these are like mini versions of proteins, made up of just 2 to 50 amino acids. Despite their tiny size, they act as powerful messengers in the body, helping cells communicate, triggering repair and regulating several biological processes. Now, the idea of stacking is based on the belief that combining them can maximise health benefits. Peptide stacks now come as pills, serums and injectables — and people are increasingly willing to mix supplements that promise quick results. Therefore, a person could be popping a pill for collagen, getting an injection for muscle growth and also taking an injectable for hormones, all at once. The trend may have gained popularity on TikTok, but the curiosity in India is growing too. Experts reveal a rise in client queries in recent months. "There has been an increase in questions over the last 18–24 months, especially from young professionals, recreational lifters, runners, cross fitters and people already using wearables and tracking apps. Many come in asking specifically about certain 'recovery peptides' they've seen on social media. Some are already using them since oral peptides are, unfortunately,

quite accessible," Dr Vaishali Lokhande, senior consultant, general medicine, Apollo Hospitals, Navi Mumbai, tells India Today. Peptides' "biohacking" appeal is attracting everyone and certain claims are being made about whether it may help with longevity. Hence, the world is stacking them to build immunity, metabolism and more. But Dr Lokhande differs: "While collagen peptides may help improve skin hydration and elasticity, this is not 'age reversal'. GLP-1–based therapies can indirectly support 'healthy ageing' by reducing obesity-related complications and supporting metabolic health, but they are primarily disease-management drugs, not longevity elixirs. For faster recovery and tissue repair, many claims revolve around BPC-157, TB-500, GHK-Cu and similar peptides, but it is important to note that there are no proper clinical trials — just some animal studies, small uncontrolled human series and commercially linked reports, which cannot be relied on." Interestingly, while many therapeutic peptides require more clinical evidence, they are already well-accepted, and far better studied, in the beauty sector. Peptides are peppy for the beauty world. According to experts, there is growing clinical evidence supporting their use for collagen production, elastin support and improved skin texture.

Met Gala 2026 Theme Is 'Costume Art'. What Does It Mean?

If there's been one unifying theme of all the blockbuster fashion exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, it's the simple idea that fashion is art. "Costume Art," announced Monday as the next big show at the museum's Costume Institute — launched by the starry Met Gala in 2026 — aims to make that connection more literal than ever, pairing garments with objects from across the museum to show how fashion has long been intertwined with different art forms. Celebrate fashion as an art form this spring at The Met! Opening May 10, 2026, "Costume Art" is The Costume Institute's annual exhibition. Focusing primarily on Western art from prehistory to the present, the show will explore artistic representations of the dressed body,...



connections throughout. "It's a show that can really live in fascinating ways at the museum and can pull from all different areas of our collection — paintings, sculpture, drawings," Hollein said. "I hope we all agree that fashion is art," Hollein added. "But actually I think the exhibition ... will make it obvious how fashion is actually happening, so to say, all across the museum and in all different mediums already." The new show will examine the dressed body, and will be organised

thematically by different body types, according to the Costume Institute's curator in charge, Andrew Bolton. It will include the "Naked Body" and the "Classical Body," for example, but also less expected themes like the "Pregnant Body" and the "Aging Body". The connections that will be drawn between artworks and garments will range, curators said in a statement, "from the formal to the conceptual, the aesthetic to the political, the individual to the

universal, the illustrative to the symbolic, and the playful to the profound". One example: in the "Naked Body" section, a 1504 print from German artist Albrecht Dürer will be paired with spandex bodysuits by Belgian designer Walter Van Beirendonck from a 2009 collection that revisits the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. On hand for Monday's announcement was Misty Copeland, who recently retired from American Ballet Theatre after a trailblazing career that saw her become the company's first Black female principal dancer. In her remarks, she spoke of the interplay between fashion and dance and said the show makes a "powerful case for the body, in all its forms, as a work of art, worthy of being seen, elevated, and celebrated." "Of course, both fashion and dance have long held up an 'ideal' body, one that has historically meant thin, white, and female. That bias shaped my own experience," she said. "Early in my career, I was made to feel that my body didn't fit the mold. My skin was too dark, my muscles too defined."

Tamannaah Brings Futuristic Drama To The Ramp In An All-Black Falguni Shane Peacock Gown

Trust Tamannaah Bhatia to serve looks, and she will undoubtedly knock you off your feet. For her latest appearance at the Blenders Pride Fashion Tour, powered by FDCI (Fashion Design Council of India), the Odela 2 actor brought her A-game in a futuristic couture by Falguni Shane Peacock. he has been campaigning for the fashion brand's Futureverse of Fashion campaign. It was customary that she nailed the showstopper look. Tamannaah Bhatia In Falguni Shane Peacock For Blenders Pride Fashion Tour For the ramwalk, Tamannaah Bhatia styled an all-black slip dress featuring cutouts below the waist.



The asymmetric body-hugging dress was giving an avant-garde silhouette. The bottom was fitted around the waist and hip, while the cage-like trips extended to the ankles. With a fitted bodice and no sleeves, the abstract

ensemble boasted a plunging neckline. It had sculptural elements extending over the shoulders. The actor completed the look with chunky black platform shoes. Tamannaah Bhatia's Makeup For Blenders Pride Fashion

Tour Since the vision of the runway was futuristic, Tamannaah's makeup was done keeping the theme in mind. She sported sparkly blue eyeshadow that made her eyes pop on the ramp. She opted for a dark-hued lip

tint and pink blush. Her cheeks were highlighted to achieve impeccable shine, especially when the lights were dimmed or highly focused on the actor during the show. For the hairdo, the actor tied her locks in a clean

and sleek bun. She ditched the jewellery and sported nude long nails. While many social media users made fun of her makeup, it tied the whole look together for the ramp walk, where shiny bots were guarding the stage.

India's November Russian oil imports set to hit 5-month high amid US tariffs

India's oil imports from Russia in November are set to hit their highest level in five months, preliminary data from Kpler shows, as refiners rushed to secure barrels ahead of a US deadline to end transactions with sanctioned Russian oil producers. India, the world's third-largest oil importer, has been the biggest buyer of discounted seaborne Russian crude after Russia was shunned by Western countries following its 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Russian President Vladimir Putin is due to visit the South Asian country next month, according to the Kremlin. His last trip there was in December 2021, a few months before ordering troops into Ukraine. Britain, the European Union and the United States have tightened sanctions on Moscow over the war, with Washington's latest measures targeting the country's biggest producers Rosneft ROSN.MM and Lukoil LKOH.MM. Buyers of Russian oil had until November 21 to wind down dealings with the two companies.

RUSSIAN OIL IMPORTS TO RISE BEFORE FALLING IN DECEMBER

India's purchases of Russian oil are



expected to rise to 1.855 million bpd this month from 1.48 million bpd in October, according to provisional data from ship tracking agency Kpler, defying numerous predictions for a fall in the wake of the new sanctions against Rosneft and Lukoil. This would be the highest since July, when it imported 1.52 million bpd. "Russian supply is expected to be high in November as many refineries tried to fill the stocks prior to the U.S.

sanctions deadline and also due to the rule for oil products production for the EU market from non-Russian oil from 2026," a trade source said. However, the imports are seen falling to their lowest in at least three years in December, as refiners turn to alternatives to avoid breaching the Western sanctions, trade and refining sources said on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to the media. Separately, the

EU has set a January 21 deadline after which it will decline fuel from refineries that handled Russian crude within 60 days of the bill of lading. Bank scrutiny following the latest U.S. sanctions has made Indian state refiners "extremely cautious", one of the refining sources said, adding that India is likely to get 600,000 to 650,000 barrels per day of Russian oil in December. These include imports by Indian Oil Corp IOC.NS, Nayara Energy and delivery of some November-loading cargoes for Reliance Industries RELI.NS, the source added, citing preliminary lifting plans of Indian companies.

MOST INDIAN REFINERS HALT RUSSIAN BUYS

Most Indian refiners, such as Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd MRPL.NS, Hindustan Petroleum Corp HPCL.NS and HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd, have stopped buying Russian oil. Reliance Industries Ltd RELI.NS has said it loaded Russian oil cargoes "precommitted" as of October 22, and will process any arriving after November 20 at its refinery that produces fuel for the local market.

India-US trade deal looks quiet. The 'energy' shift tells another story

India and the US may look stalled on a formal trade deal, but shifting oil flows, a major LPG pact and calibrated tariff moves show the real progress is happening quietly behind the scenes.



For weeks, the India-US trade deal has looked somewhat stalled. There have been no major statements or timelines and little sign of fresh progress. But shifts in India's energy sourcing suggest the story is beginning to move. India's oil basket is where the first signs of change have appeared. Russian barrels, which had become the biggest point of friction for Washington, fell sharply in November. Tanker tracking shows arrivals around

9.48 lakh barrels a day, almost half of October's volume. Refiners say they have been adjusting procurement for export-linked units, especially after the latest US sanctions targeted major Russian suppliers and raised the risk of disruptions. Experts, speaking on condition of anonymity, say these shifts are clearing the path for the broader India-US trade agreement.

OIL PIVOT COSTLY, BUT

NECESSARY FOR DEAL

This pivot is also expensive. Kpler estimates that replacing Russian crude could increase India's annual oil import bill by \$3-5 billion dollars, and in a stressed scenario, the cost could climb to \$7-11 billion. The discount India enjoyed was already smaller than many believed. A report by CLSA calculates that India saved about \$2.5 billion a year from these cheaper barrels. Losing even that benefit is not ideal for a country that imports close to 88% of its crude. But with sanctions tightening and the risk of a supply shock rising, New Delhi appears willing to take the hit in return for more predictable flows. India has also signed a long-term contract to import 2.2 million tonnes of LPG from the US Gulf Coast for 2026. That accounts for nearly a tenth of India's annual LPG imports and marks the most structured American energy deal India has agreed to so far. Crude imports from the US have risen as well. October volumes touched about 5.4 lakh barrels a day, the highest in

almost three years. Each of these steps signals a slow, deliberate shift away from concentrated dependence on a single supplier. This has not gone unnoticed in Washington. The United States has spent much of the year raising tariffs on Indian exports and pushing duties on some items to 50%. But the same tariff notifications include more than 200 agricultural exemptions, a sign that the door was never fully closed. India, for its part, has shielded politically sensitive sectors while showing some flexibility in others. The exchanges look confrontational from a distance, but the pattern on both sides points to managed pressure rather than a breakdown.

GOOD NEWS ON TRADE DEAL SOON?

Through all this, the official line from New Delhi has stayed steady. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said the talks are going on very well and that some good news is likely once both sides reach a balanced arrangement.

Dharmendra Paradox: Star who ruled all genres paled before Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna

Dharmendra delivered hits over three decades, yet never became an epoch-defining superstar like Rajesh Khanna or Amitabh Bachchan, revealing how Bollywood's genre politics shapes stardom

The year was 1987. Amitabh Bachchan had retreated from movies, swallowed by the swirl of politics and the Bofors scandal. Rajesh Khanna's era was dead – its deathly dirge being Alag Alag, a mellifluous disaster. Hindi cinema was under attack from pirated video cassettes, available for rent at less than Rs 10. While a requiem for Bollywood was being penned, an ageing knight stepped forward – wearing a Fedora, wielding a machine gun. At 52, father of a star son, Dharmendra was an unlikely hero. But that year, he lifted Hindi cinema out of gloom and doom, delivering a monster hit, Hukumat, and six other films that were among the top grossers. The surprise wasn't the string of successful films, but the tragic realisation that Dharmendra's peak had come at the fag end of



his career, in a vacuum left by Amitabh Bachchan's break from cinema. So, why did it take Dharmendra so long? And, more importantly, why couldn't he become a superstar in the mould of Amitabh Bachchan and Rajesh Khanna? Lessons Ignored

Dharmendra's trajectory is a fascinating study of Bollywood, its star system and decade-defining genres. Till the beginning of the 1960s, the industry was ruled by the triumvirate of Dilip Kumar, Dev Anand and Raj Kapoor. Scripts were written for

them, the best music was composed with them as central figures. They got the best directors and producers, including their own banners. Dharmendra stepped into Bollywood at the peak of the triumvirate: Tragedy King Dilip Kumar, King of Romance Dev Anand, and the Lovable Tramp Raj Kapoor. But he failed to learn the most important lesson from their success – in Hindi cinema, you can be a superstar only if you own a genre. And this answers our question about Dharmendra's inability to own Bollywood like Amitabh Bachchan and Rajesh Khanna – he didn't create a niche for himself. In contrast, Rajesh Khanna ate the romance genre, and Amitabh Bachchan created an entirely new persona, becoming the face of cinema as well as the Angry

Young Man. Sabka Dharam, Nobody's Superstar In one of his appearances on The Kapil Sharma Show, Dharmendra narrated an incident that revealed his psyche. "Once a producer asked," Dharmendra said, "why had I signed so many films? I replied, 'kya karoon, I can't say no to anyone.'" As the audience laughed, Dharmendra delivered the punchline. "The producer replied with a sigh, 'thank god you are not a girl.'" Dharmendra may have put it lightly, but his diagnosis was spot on. In the '70s, Dharmendra signed too many films, leading to a high flop rate and dilution of his brand. By the time he realised his mistake, Bollywood had become a one-man industry, dominated by back-to-back blockbusters delivered by Amitabh Bachchan.

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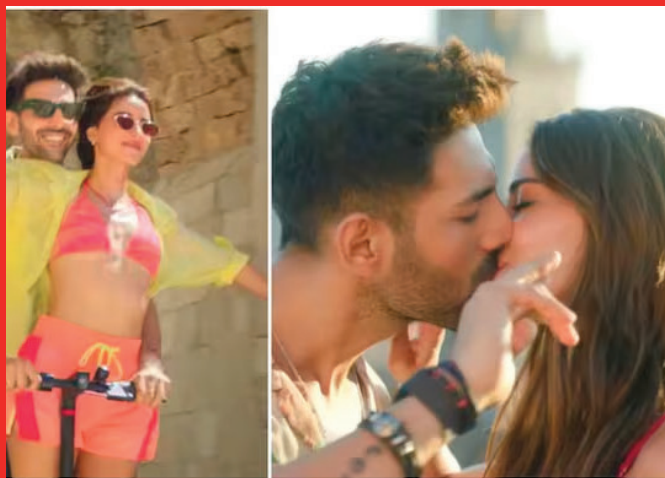
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Tu Meri Main Tera teaser: Kartik, Ananya promise sparks and Christmas mush



Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday reunite for a Christmas romance as the teaser of 'Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri' drops, giving fans a first look at their on-screen chemistry ahead of its theatrical release on December 25, 2025. The film brings back the pairing of Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday, sparking excitement among audiences who have already begun reacting to the teaser online.

The romance follows the story of Ray, played by Kartik, and Rumi, played by Ananya, set against a festive backdrop and layered with emotion, warmth and nostalgia. Directed by Sameer Vidwans, whose 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' resonated strongly with romance

lovers, the film is backed by Dharma Productions and Namah Pictures. The project is produced by Karan Johar, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta, Shareen Mantri Kedia, Kishor Arora and Bhumi Tewari. The teaser has been noted for its dreamy visual palette, intimate moments and holiday mood, with early fan reactions calling it "a potential Christmas favourite."

With drama, music and a classic seasonal love vibe, 'Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri' is positioning itself as one of the biggest festive releases of 2025. Romance fans and followers of the lead actors now wait to see how Ray and Rumi's story unfolds on the big screen.

Wicked 2 actors Ariana Grande, Cynthia Erivo bid farewell to Glinda and Elphaba

Following the weekend's premiere of their musical - 'Wicked: For Good' (2025), Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo shared their final farewells to the Land of Oz this past Friday. Their goodbyes to the movie musical's characters, Glinda and Elphaba, came in the form of emotional posts and candid behind-the-scenes moments on social media, concluding their journey with the Jon M Chu-directed film. In her tribute, Grande revealed several, behind-the-scenes moments, particularly focusing on the lavish Glinda wardrobe. The posts featured her arriving on set, undergoing the elaborate character transformation, and closely inspecting the stunning pink gowns she wore throughout the movie. She captioned her Instagram post as, "thank you, my sweet

Glinda, for everything. i will love you always ... Wicked For Good is out now...(heart emojis)...(sic)." In a detailed Instagram post, Erivo celebrated her character, Elphaba, by sharing a range of behind-the-scenes snapshots. Fans got a closer look at key scenes, including her on the broomstick and navigating the yellow brick road, mixed with warmer, personal photos taken with her co-stars and a quick peek outside her trailer. The 38-year-old wrote, "I could write you an essay, a poem, Shakespearean prose, to describe what this journey has meant to me, what lessons this time has taught me, bought me. I could try to give a metric to the love I have felt and experienced. I could give a number to the stories I have heard.



Celina Jaitley accuses husband of domestic, racist abuse, seeks compensation



Actor Celina Jaitley Haag has filed a case against her husband, Peter Haag, an Austrian national, under the Domestic Violence Act. The plea alleges that the 47-year-old mother of three boys "has been subjected to continuous acts of domestic violence at his hands". She has also sought monthly maintenance amounting to Rs 10 lakh and a compensation payment of Rs 50 crore from Peter, as reported by PTI. The plea further states that Peter Haag has "completely blocked her access to the children, who are currently in his custody in Austria." Consequently, she is seeking a custody order that directs Peter to provide her with "unhindered virtual and telephonic access to the children." Celina was represented by a legal team from

Karanjwala & Co. The plea was brought before S.C. Tadye, Judicial Magistrate First Class, Andheri. The magistrate reviewed and verified the complaint, subsequently issuing a notice to Peter Haag. The next scheduled date of hearing is December 12. The detailed application outlines the couple's marriage, which was registered on September 18, 2010, and resulted in three children. Celina Jaitley Haag claimed that her husband systematically dismantled both her professional career and her finances. "After marriage, the complainant worked intermittently till she had children, after which the respondent (husband) prohibited her from working on various pretexts and robbed her of her financial independence and dignity," the application states.

Mastiii 4 review: A tired franchise running on loud, lazy and dull jokes

If you are planning to watch Milap Zaveri's 'Mastii 4', it is advisable to carry a balm, because at any point, the jokes might not trigger laughter as much as a headache. The film brings back Vivek Oberoi, Riteish Deshmukh, and Aftab Shivdasani as Meet, Amar, and Prem, but this time they are a threesome you'd surely want to skip. Staying true to the spirit of the first two films of the franchise, 'Masti' and 'Grand Masti', this instalment also gives nods to the raunchy gags of 'Great Grand Masti' despite its poor reception and makes no attempt to hide its intent, catering unapologetically to fans of the franchise who enjoy such humour. Set in the United Kingdom, the story revolves around three friends living in the same neighbourhood. Riteish Deshmukh's Amar is a master, incidentally sporting the look from the actor's upcoming directorial



Raja Shivaji). He is married to Bindia (Elnaaz Norouzi), a woman who goes overboard with her generous acts of charity. Next are Meet (Vivek Oberoi) and his hyper-vigilant wife, Anchal (Shreya Sharma), who is so suspicious that she even monitors her husband's blood flow and health through a tracking app on his phone. The third friend, Prem

(Aftab Shivdasani), is a doctor married to Geeta (Ruhi Singh), who embraces all religions, faithfully performing their rituals and whipping up dishes to match each celebration. Stuck in their suffocating marriage and frustrated with their mundane lives, the trio, Amar, Prem, and Meet, craves their lost bachelor days. In doing so, they seek

advice from their friends Kamraj (Arshad Warsi) and Menka (Nargis Fakhri), and get fascinated by the concept of Love Visa. Their half-baked escape involves staged romance, covert getaways, and the promise of carefree fun away from their wives. What is expected to be 'no rules' sex outside marriage turns out to be an elaborate excuse for

double-meaning dialogues and slapstick confrontations. The most exciting twist in the franchise comes with the 'reverse masti', where the wives, too, seize the opportunity of the Love Visa and jet off on an exotic getaway, leaving behind their extra baggage, their husbands, for an entire week. The repeated jokes and below-the-belt comedy leave the narrative spineless and strangely mean-spirited. Now, if we talk of Masti, then it is completely incomplete without the extra madness that is believed to elevate the plot. The film introduces three interesting characters: Don Pablo Putinwa (Tusshar Kapoor), Prince of Good Times (Nishant Malkani), and Inspector Virat (Shaad Randhawa). All three, who manage to woo the ladies to teach their husbands a lesson, however, end up unapologetically disappointed.

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Scarlett Johansson set to lead new Exorcist film: Report

Scarlett Johansson will headline the next instalment in the 'Exorcist' franchise, to be directed by Mike Flanagan. Universal and Blumhouse-Atomic Monster are producing what is described as a "radical new take" on the iconic horror property.



of 'Believer'. Details about the plot and additional cast members remain undisclosed. Production is scheduled to take place in New York City, according to those involved with the project. Director Mike Flanagan expressed his enthusiasm for Johansson's involvement, stating, "Scarlett is a brilliant actress whose captivating performances always feel grounded and real, from genre films to summer blockbusters, and I couldn't be

happier to have her join this 'Exorcist' film,". Flanagan is known for his distinctive approach to the horror genre. Johansson has recently contributed to reviving other major franchises, including Universal's 'Jurassic World Rebirth', which achieved \$868 million in global ticket sales earlier this year. Her performance in that project was noted as a significant factor in its commercial success. In addition to her work as an

actress, Johansson made her directorial debut with 'Eleanor the Great', a dramedy starring June Squibb released earlier in the year. She is also recognised for her Academy Award-nominated performances in 'Marriage Story' and 'Jojo Rabbit'. Further announcements regarding the upcoming 'Exorcist' film, including release dates and casting news, are expected from Universal and Blumhouse as development progresses.

Robert Pattinson to play negative characters in Dune Part 3, The Odyssey

Actor Robert Pattinson has three upcoming releases in 2026. He will be seen in the romantic-comedy The Drama, with Zendaya. He will also be seen playing Antinous in Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey. The actor will also be portraying Scytale in Denis Villeneuve's Dune: Part Three, which he acknowledged as a villain role. While speaking to IndieWire about Villeneuve's Dune: Part Three, Pattinson said, "He further added, "It's actually really nice. When I was doing Dune, it was so hot in the desert that I just couldn't question anything, and it was so relaxing, like my brain actually wasn't operating; I did not have a single functioning brain cell. And I was just listening to Denis [Villeneuve]: 'Whatever you want!' On being asked about whether he would be playing a villain, the 39-year-old simply answered, "yes." Nolan's adaptation of Homer's epic The Odyssey is one of the most anticipated projects of 2026, also featuring Zendaya. While

many details remain under wraps, it has been confirmed that Pattinson will play Antinous, one of the suitors vying for the hand of Odysseus' wife, Penelope. Antinous is the de facto ringleader of the suitors and the most openly disrespectful of Odysseus's home. He is the closest thing to a primary villain in Homer's epic. His malice includes plotting to remove the hero's son, Telemachus, from the picture. In July 2025, The Odyssey set a new record with its tickets for IMAX 70mm



screenings sold out within an hour, a year before release, as reported by The Hollywood Reporter. This astounding demand highlights the film's epic scope and director Christopher Nolan's undeniable strength at the box office. In addition to Pattinson and Matt Damon, the epic-drama also features Tom Holland, Anne Hathaway, Jon Bernthal, Anne Hathaway, Zendaya, Lupita Nyong'o, Robert Pattinson, Charlize Theron and Mia Goth.

Actor Scarlett Johansson is set to star in the upcoming instalment of the 'Exorcist' film series, with Universal and Blumhouse-Atomic Monster producing the project. The announcement was made as Universal continues its efforts to revitalise the long-standing horror franchise. Mike Flanagan, recognised for his work on 'Doctor Sleep' and 'The Life of Chuck', has signed on to write, direct, and produce the film, which is being described as a significant reimagining of the series. The original 'Exorcist' film, directed by William Friedkin, premiered in 1973 and became a landmark of the horror genre. It followed the story of a mother, played by Ellen Burstyn, who seeks the help of two priests to

perform an exorcism on her possessed daughter, portrayed by Linda Blair. The film achieved both critical and commercial success, grossing \$441 million worldwide and receiving ten Academy Award nominations. Johansson's casting comes after Universal's previous attempt to launch a new trilogy, following its 2021 acquisition of the rights for \$400 million. The first film in the effort, 2023's 'The Exorcist: Believer', reunited Ellen Burstyn as Chris MacNeil and introduced new characters. Despite earning \$136 million globally, the film did not generate enough momentum to sustain a trilogy. The new film will be set within the same universe as the original 1973 release but is not a continuation

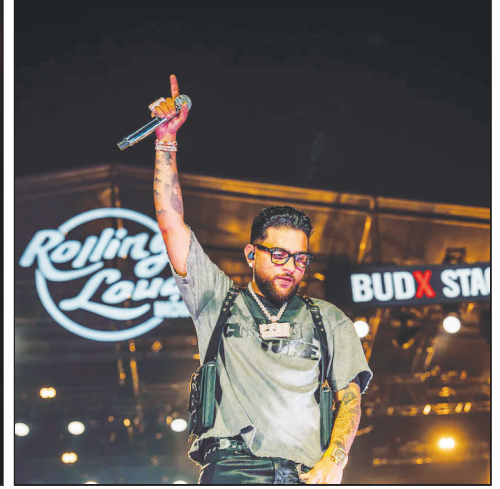
Randeep Hooda recalls how Battle of Saragarhi changed him, even without release

Randeep Hooda has finally opened up about his long-delayed project 'Battle of Saragarhi', and the emotional journey that stayed with him long after the film itself stalled. Speaking at Sahitya Aaj Tak in New Delhi on Sunday, during his session titled Ek Jaat Kaafi Hai, Hooda revealed how preparing for the film changed him personally and spiritually, even though the project never moved to production. "It wasn't just a role, it became a transformation," he said. Hooda recalled travelling to the Golden Temple as part of his research for the character. Before entering the shrine, he visited the museum located inside the premises, a moment he described as a turning point. "Reading those stories, seeing those sacrifices — I became emotional," he shared, adding, "The bravery of Sikh soldiers stayed with me." That experience led to a personal vow. Hooda promised he would not cut his hair until

the film was completed. For nearly three years, he lived with that commitment, turning down other work and immersing himself in Sikh history and culture. "When I finally had to cut my hair for 'Extraction', I didn't want to," he said. "I went to the gurudwara and apologised. I told myself I had tried everything, he added. Alongside the film prep, Hooda began working closely with Global Six, a volunteer-driven organisation he continues to support. He joined the group on the ground in disaster-hit and underserved regions across India, from Kerala and Maharashtra to Punjab, Kashmir and Haryana. "Today, people feel posting a story or tweet is enough," Hooda said, adding, "Helping means showing up, or contributing in whatever way you genuinely can." While 'Battle of Saragarhi' never materialised, Hooda said the process instilled in him the Sikh philosophy of seva. "I was just a medium.



From Central Cee to Karan Aujla: Rolling Loud India mega-debut was long overdue



'Rolling Loud' didn't just arrive in India, it crashed into Mumbai like a sonic tidal wave, and the city sent one right back. Over two charged November evenings on November 22-23, Loud Park in Navi Mumbai turned into a thumping hip-hop haven as 65,000 fans poured in, proving that India was more than ready for the world's biggest rap festival. The organisers clearly felt the momentum too. Before the final beat even faded, the announcement for 'Rolling Loud India 2026' was made officially.

Stellar Line-Up for RLI debut

This debut felt like it was designed to make history. Central Cee, Swae Lee, Don Toliver, NAV, Wiz Khalifa, artists who had never set foot on an Indian stage, suddenly found themselves surfing a delirious Mumbai crowd. Paired with the force of homegrown disruptors like DIVINE, Hanumankind, Karan Aujla, and Gurinder Gill, the festival became a reset moment for Indian hip-hop. It wasn't just a concert; it felt like the beginning of a new era. DAY 1 saw Swae Lee and Hanumankind spark the first surge.

Even before the sun dipped, both Swae Lee and Hanumankind tore into their sets with the confidence of someone opening the gates to a movement, sharp verses, heavy crowd control, zero warm-up required. And Mumbai responded with a unanimous, resounding "let's go." Wiz Khalifa's golden-hour nostalgia As night settled over Loud Park, Wiz Khalifa drifted in with the soft swagger of a man whose hits already belong to another lifetime. See You Again, Roll Up, Young, Wild & Free, each chorus channelised by the sheer energy in crowd. At moments, one could see Wiz grin wide realising just how loudly India knew him.

Central Cee takes Mumbai and runs with it

And then came the UK's chart-topping phenomenon. Central Cee's India debut felt like a victory parade set to bass. "Doja" prompted the first full-venue scream; Sprinter, Which One, Band4Band kept the adrenaline surging. It became more special after fans saw him don a Mahadev T-shirt, quite monumental for hip-

hop fans in India. It was the kind of set engineered to go viral, and very likely will. Of course, between Swae Lee, Wiz, Hanumankind and Central Cee, the artists made sure to interact with fans in a way that felt both monumental and personal. Day 2 saw more of homegrown heat combined with global star power. The second afternoon belonged unmistakably to DIVINE. His live debut of Walking on Water felt almost ceremonial. This was followed up by NAV who brought the crowd to peak volume, but he wasn't done. When Gurinder Gill stepped in, it was chaos of the best kind. Lemonade didn't just play; it detonated.

Don Toliver's smooth storm

Don Toliver bathed the festival grounds in haze and heartbreak, delivering a set that glided between hypnotic beats and arena-sized energy. The crowd was right there with him, swaying, shouting, surrendering. Until Karan Aujla took over.

Karan Aujla makes into the history books

Then came the moment Rolling Loud India will be remembered for, Karan Aujla becoming the first Indian artist to headline a Rolling Loud festival. His set was tight, swagger-heavy, and triumphant, and the surprise premiere of the Daytona remix with NAV triggered a crowd eruption that could genuinely be felt in the ground. For many, Rolling Loud India wasn't just about the stages, it was a shared experience of swaying, bumping and celebrating everything hip-hop. For those who couldn't secure tickets, the festival was livestreamed on JioHotstar. Rolling Loud India's debut didn't merely succeed; it redefined the scale of what a festival in India can be. A roaring crowd, major global debuts, a homegrown headliner making history, and a cultural playground built for two days of total surrender, the festival felt like a statement. If Rolling Loud came wondering whether India was ready, it left with a clearer answer than it expected: We weren't just ready, we were overdue. Rolling Loud India was brought to India by District.

Diljit Dosanjh's iEmmy look proves that menswear bling can be subtle, and stunning

And while the International Emmy Awards nomination is historic, Diljit Dosanjh's appearance on the red carpet sparked just as much interest.

Diljit Dosanjh isn't just having a global moment anymore; he's owning it. The Punjabi superstar walked the International Emmy Awards red carpet this year with a milestone of his own: his first-ever nomination for Best Performance by an Actor for his role in *Amar Singh Chamkila*, and of course, in style. And while the nomination is historic, Diljit's appearance on the red carpet sparked just as much interest. The actor-singer arrived at the International Emmys dressed in the most quintessential award-night look — a fitted blazer and tailored trousers — only his came with an extra tinge of bling (which we're not complaining about at all). His look had an old-school Hollywood charm, and of course, the Punjabi flair was unmistakable: a champagne sequin blazer with a soft, almost liquid shimmer. Complementing his sequined blazer was a cream shirt and black bow tie, and his trademark black turban with a hint of maroon. Now, about his film that has been nominated tonight, *Amar Singh Chamkila*, it is directed by Imtiaz Ali, who was also present at the ceremony. The film dives into the messy, thrilling and ultimately tragic world of the firebrand Punjabi singer whose bold lyrics made him a sensation and a target, leading to his



untimely death. Diljit's performance has been praised for its rawness, sincerity, and the way he slips into Chamkila's contradictions without glorifying them. The film itself has also landed a nomination in the Best TV Movie/Mini-Series category, giving Indian storytelling another moment on the global stage. Diljit's presence at the International Emmys this year marks a moment, a Punjabi pop icon representing a Punjabi legend on one of the biggest stages in the world, and the doing it with quiet grace and a little shimmer.

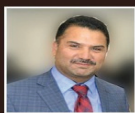
The Beginning

MAD MEN

OF

NU WAY ADVERTISING

About the Author



Sharanjit Thind Singh, for more than 29 years has spent his career immersed in the world of advertising, marketing, and media. His professional journey includes working with well known Media, FMCG and Telecom Companies in India and the US.

Hailing from a small postal stamp size city in Punjab, Thind's academic background reflects his drive for excellence. After completing a Bachelor of Commerce degree, he pursued an MBA. He further strengthened his expertise with a Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism and Mass Communication. This combination of business knowledge and media insight became the foundation of his career.

He founded and, is CEO of Nu Way Advertising in Manhattan now known as Nu Way Media Group Inc. He has served as a Commissioner of the Nassau County Human Rights Commission in New York.



The Beginning

MAD MEN OF NU WAY ADVERTISING

Sharanjit Thind Singh

The Beginning

A True Story of the iconic rise of an Indian American Advertising Agency in Manhattan, New York in early 2000

Sharanjit Thind Singh



MAD MEN

OF

NU WAY ADVERTISING

How To Eat Out On A Weight Loss Diet, Nutritionist Shares Tips

Dining out can be challenging for anyone trying to maintain a weight-loss diet. The temptation of eating our favourite junk foods can be overwhelming, making it difficult to make healthy choices. That said, with some planning and a bit of knowledge, it's entirely possible to enjoy eating out while staying on track with your weight-loss goals. Nutritionist Shares Tips To Eat Out Without Gaining Weight Nutritionist Mohita Mascarenhas has offered valuable guidance on how to navigate menus, make informed choices and balance your diet with your lifestyle. In a post shared on Instagram, she shared tips on how to eat out on a weight loss diet without sacrificing flavour or satisfaction. From choosing the right restaurants to decoding menus and making smart food swaps, she covered everything you need to know to dine out with confidence and stay on track with your weight loss journey. Tips For Eating Out And Staying On Track With Weight Loss

1. Choose the right restaurant

The restaurant you select sets the stage for the entire meal. Some establishments



make healthy eating easy and delicious, while others present significant challenges that require immense willpower to overcome. "Find a place that offers lighter, healthier dishes," Mohita said.

2. Prioritise protein and vegetables

Pick an option that is high in lean protein, like grilled chicken, fish, or beans and abundant in non-starchy vegetables. This combination helps you feel full and

satisfied without consuming excess calories. "A small portion of rice, bread or pasta is also completely fine. No need to avoid carbs," she added.

3. Choose healthy cooking methods

"Pick grilled, sauteed, baked dishes over anything deep fried or drenched in heavy sauces," the nutritionist shared. These lighter preparations significantly reduce the amount of added fat and calories.

Ask for sauces and salad dressings on the side. This allows you to control how much you use, avoiding hidden fats and sugars "Eating out and fat loss can go together; you just need to make mindful choices," Mohita concluded. While these tips might be helpful to you, there is no shortcut to losing weight. Consult your dietitian and fitness expert to understand what can help you achieve weight loss goals.

Why India's homegrown cloud kitchens are booming without delivery apps

Instead of automated chatbots, doesn't the food ordering experience feel better when you're talking to a real person, customising your order as per your preferences, and getting that personal touch? This human connection is one of the key reasons why cloud kitchens are becoming so popular.



While we may all scroll social media for different reasons, one thing unites us: food reels. Now imagine this: you're casually going through your feed when a reel of a fresh, homemade, wood-fired pizza pops up. The cheese is melting, the crust is perfectly charred, and suddenly you're craving a slice. Then you read the caption: "Fresh batch out. DM to order." Before you know it, you're in their DMs, ordering a margherita pizza with an olive

oil drizzle. That's the magic of ghost kitchens, also known as cloud kitchens. No food delivery apps, no third-party platforms, just you, the chef, and your food. You must be aware that cloud kitchens are on the rise across the country. From gourmet burgers and artisanal desserts to simple ghar ki khichdi, homegrown chefs are cooking everything and experimenting too. What's interesting is that many of these kitchens aren't even listed on delivery apps.

They run entirely through WhatsApp and Instagram, powered by comments, chats, and DMs. And while this trend started during the pandemic, when social distancing was the norm, its popularity clearly isn't fading anytime soon. In fact, it's only getting stronger. Celebrity chef and restaurateur Varun Inamdar feels that the pandemic didn't just change behaviour, it changed habits. "Once customers got used to quality food delivered to their doorstep without the fuss of reservations, parking, or dress codes, convenience became a permanent expectation." Further, talking about the popularity of cloud kitchens, he tells India Today that for operators, such setups mean lower rentals, leaner teams, and faster scale through multiple virtual brands. "When a model makes money without high overheads, it doesn't vanish after the crisis; it becomes the new baseline." To this, Shipra Khanna, celebrity MasterChef and award-winning author, adds that today, most customers want quick, affordable, and reliable delivery, and cloud kitchens do exactly that. And for business owners,

they're cheaper to run than a full restaurant, so it's easier to experiment, grow, and manage costs. Meanwhile, sharing his experience, Rohit Singh, digital creator and owner of Home Rasoi cloud kitchen, Delhi, says, "I didn't originally have a strong interest in cooking. I always wanted to open my own restaurant. Before making a big investment, I decided to start from home to see how the business works and whether people would actually like my food. Starting as a cloud kitchen helped me test everything on a small scale and understand the market better."

So, what's making the WhatsApp Instagram model work?

Khanna feels that the fact that the customers are already there makes this model work. "People scroll Instagram all day, and everyone checks WhatsApp constantly." She adds that selling food directly on these platforms helps in three ways: No big commissions like on delivery apps Customers build a community and trust.

Castegate: How a documentary dissects flawed advocacy and misdirected moral panic

"Castegate," the new documentary making waves across Indian American circles, forces a long-overdue reckoning. It asks a blunt question: What happens when an entire community is accused, judged, and nearly legislated against on the basis of faulty data, ideological activism, and a case that never should have existed? For years, Indian Americans — particularly Hindus — have watched the narrative around caste in the US drift further away from lived reality and deeper into a caricature crafted by activist groups with loud megaphones and little accountability. The documentary lays out, piece by piece, how a moral panic was engineered: a flawed lawsuit, misleading "research," and a legislative push that almost branded an entire minority as inherently discriminatory.

THE CISCO CASE: A HOUSE BUILT ON SAND

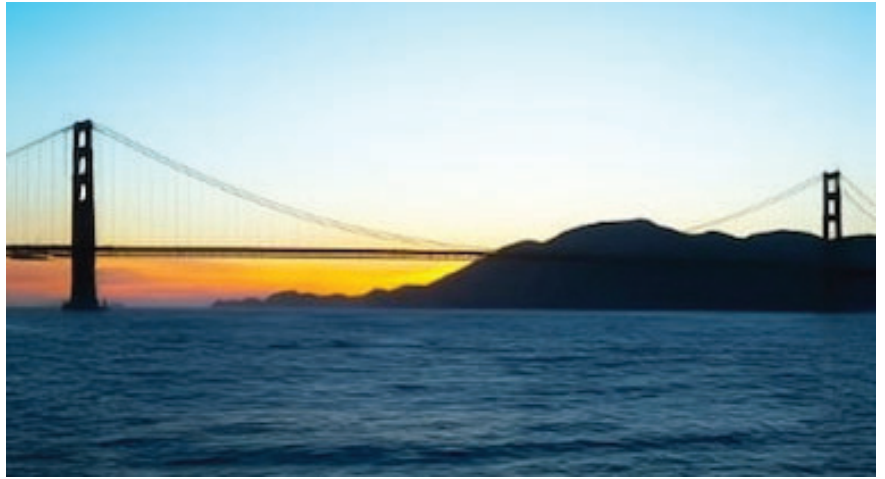
At the center of this storm were two Indian American engineers at

Cisco, accused of discrimination based on caste — a category not even recognised in US law. According to the film, the California Civil Rights Department (CRD) built its case not on solid evidence, but on uncorroborated claims and interpretations supplied by external activist groups. The documentary highlights how the allegations unravelled. What should have been a matter of sober investigation spiralled into an attempt to retroactively insert "caste" into a legal framework where it had never existed. In the end, the case collapsed — but not before inflicting reputational and emotional damage on those falsely accused, and on a community that suddenly found itself branded as guilty until proven innocent. Vikram Mishra is the director and Ravi Rajan is the Executive Producer for Castegate.

EQUALITY LABS AND THE ARCHITECTURE OF A FALSE NARRATIVE

One figure looms large: "Dalit

For years, Indian Americans — particularly Hindus — have watched the narrative around caste in the US drift further away from lived reality and deeper into a caricature crafted by activist groups with loud megaphones and little accountability. The documentary lays out, piece by piece, how a moral panic was engineered.



Diva," the head of Equality Labs — an activist who has made a career out of painting Hinduism, Hindu scripture, and even Hindu icons like Mahatma Gandhi in the worst possible light. The film presents

extensive examples of her anti-Hindu Labs' controversial "caste survey" rhetoric, raising a critical question: How did someone with such overtly hostile views toward an entire religion become the de facto authority on caste for policymakers? Equality review.

What is Trump's AI-powered Genesis Mission and why it matters

US President Donald Trump signed an executive order establishing the "Genesis Mission", a sweeping government-wide initiative aimed at harnessing artificial intelligence to accelerate scientific



discovery, he order tasks the Department of Energy (DOE) with building a unified AI platform that pools federal scientific datasets, supercomputers, national laboratories and private-sector partners. In a statement, the White House couched the project to be as historic in ambition as the Apollo space mission or the Manhattan Project. According to Michael Kratsios, who heads the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Genesis Mission aims to better coordinate research done by agencies across the government and more effectively integrate AI tools to achieve more scientific breakthroughs.

WHAT IS GENESIS MISSION ALL ABOUT?

The Genesis Mission aims to take the tech and business industries' progress in AI and apply it to scientific research in

health, energy, manufacturing and other fields. Key focus areas for the programme include biotechnology, critical materials, nuclear fission and fusion energy, space exploration, quantum information science, and semiconductors and microelectronics. Under the order: DOE will set up the "American Science and Security Platform," integrating high-performance computing, AI agents, large datasets (open, proprietary and classified) and automation for research workflows. Within 60 days the Secretary of Energy must submit a list of at least 20 major science and technology challenges the Mission will target. Within 240 days the DOE must review its national labs for readiness with robotic labs and automated workflows; within 270 days an initial operating capability must be demonstrated for at least one challenge. The Assistant to the President for Science and Technology will coordinate agency efforts through the National Science and Technology Council to align with national goals.

WHY IT MATTERS

According to the White House, the Genesis Mission is aimed at reclaiming US technological leadership and speeding scientific breakthroughs. Officials say the initiative could radically reduce the time it takes to make discoveries -- from years to weeks or even days-- by using AI to automate experiment design, run simulations and build predictive models.

DOGE quietly ceased to exist eight months ahead of schedule: Report



The Department of Government Efficiency — widely known as DOGE — has quietly ceased to function despite having eight months left on its mandate under an executive order signed by US President Donald Trump, according to news agency Reuters. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Director Scott Kapor confirmed the dissolution earlier this month. "That doesn't exist," he said, as per Reuters. Kapor added that the body is no longer a "centralized entity", signalling that its responsibilities have been absorbed into existing federal structures. Created in January, DOGE was initially positioned as an strike force to cut federal agencies' budgets and reorient government functions toward Trump's agenda. In the early months of Trump's second term, led by Trump's close ally Elon Musk DOGE, made bold moves across Washington. But Kapor said the OPM -- the federal government's HR office -- has

now taken over many of its functions. At least two senior DOGE employees have transitioned to the newly created National Design Studio, an entity formed through an August executive order. The studio, led by Airbnb co-founder Joe Gebbia, has been tasked with redesigning and "beautifying" government websites. Gebbia previously worked with Elon Musk as part of Doge, alongside Edward Coristine -- known online as "Big Balls" -- who publicly urged people on X to apply to join the new unit.

SIGNS OF DOGE'S SHUTDOWN APPEAR EARLY

The contrast between the intense early publicity and the near-silent shutdown has been striking. Musk, who initially led DOGE, often touted its mission online and even brandished a chainsaw at the Conservative Political Action Conference in February.

Fearless Voice of the Community

The South Asian Insider

23 Glorious Years, Always a Step Ahead

The South Asian INSIDER
Voice of South Asian Community Since March 2002

Venezuela's Maria Machado dedicates Nobel Prize to Trump
Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, who won the Nobel Peace Prize 2022 and created 'United Young' to demand of leaving the police, praised the US President for supporting the Venezuelans working to establish democracy and end President Nicolas Maduro's dictatorship.

British and Indian prime ministers promote trade deal during visit by Starmer

The American Dream turned nightmare, Gujaratis in Peril in US Motel Business?

The Road from Patna to Pennsylvania Avenue: How Bihar's Verdict Will Shape Modi's Hand in US Trade Talks

Big Crackdown Coming: India To Audit All Cough Syrup Makers

Brazilian influencer's death after 'fox eyes' surgery exposes beauty culture's dark side

As Afghan Taliban Minister Begins 1st India Visit, Delhi Has A Flag Dilemma

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Who Is Ashley Tellis, Indian-American Expert Charged Over Top Secret Files

Inside India's Scariest Scam, And How To Stop It
Digital scams are proliferating as India's elderly population embraces the internet. Scammers are highly effective, preying on the vulnerabilities of seniors, such as respect for authority, fear of legal trouble, and loneliness.

Starship Hits the Bullseye, Lands in Indian Ocean and Crashes Exactly Where Musk Predicted

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Social Media and Political Violence: A Complex Relationship Does Social Media fans political violence?

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Not just fake paneer, India has an egg problem as well

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US-India Diplomacy in Focus: Modi-Trump Meeting Eyed Ahead of Quad Summit

India's Enduring Fascination: From Delhi 'Baba' to Ram Rahim and Asaram, The Saga of Godmen

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