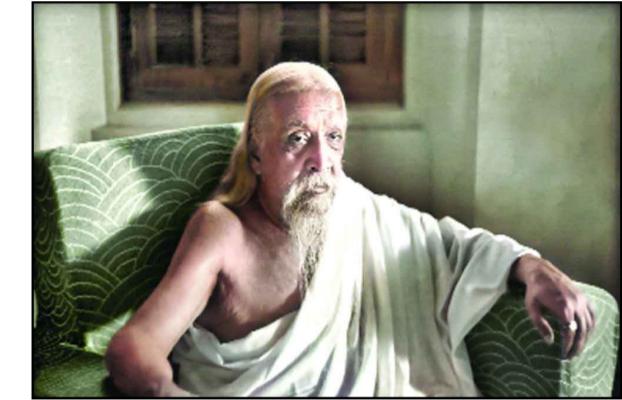


Sri Aurobindo's ideals in the age of Artificial Intelligence

The machines have learned to dream. They can paint in Monet's hues before breakfast, sing like Kishore Kumar, and draft legal briefs by nightfall. Artificial Intelligence dazzles with feats that would have been science fiction a decade ago. Yet the brighter their intelligence burns, the dimmer the human flame of meaning seems to grow. This is the paradox of our era: technological power accelerating at unprecedented speed, while our sense of purpose falters. Ray Kurzweil, herald of the Singularity, charts humanity's arc from stone tools to a future where, by 2045, non-biological intelligence eclipses all human minds. His timeline predicts artificial general intelligence by 2029, brain-cloud fusion in the 2030s, and lifespans approaching a millennium. Kurzweil speaks in quasi-spiritual tones of the Universe "waking up," yet his path is entirely material: faster chips, denser data, sharper scans, until mind and machine converge. In his vision, transcendence is engineered, immortality uploaded, creativity distilled into code — a dream intoxicating for engineers, because here, existence itself can be debugged. A century before Kurzweil, Sri Aurobindo drew a different map. A revolutionary turned yogi with a Cambridge mind and poet's voice, he recognised the mind's vast potential but did not equate intelligence with evolution's end. For him, the next leap was the supramental consciousness: a luminous awareness that knows without division, loves without calculation, and creates

without exhaustion. While Kurzweil measures ascent in computational throughput, Aurobindo measures it in depth and breadth of consciousness. One seeks transcendence through augmentation; the other through awakening. The distinction is not incremental but fundamental. Modern neuroscience reinforces this gap. Anil Seth emphasises that consciousness is a biological property shaped over millions of years, not a guaranteed byproduct of computation. AI can be brilliant yet never conscious, just as a simple organism may experience subjectivity without high intelligence. Intelligence is a faculty of doing; consciousness is a state of being. The "hard problem" of consciousness cannot be solved with faster processors or larger datasets. For Aurobindo, evolution is unfinished. The next stage is spiritual, not mechanical or genetic. "The end of evolution," he asserts, "is not the perfection of matter or mind, but the emergence of the supramental consciousness." This mode of being integrates knowledge, will, and creativity, harmonising inner and outer life. Humanity could wield technologies without being enslaved by them. His warning resonates today: intelligence without consciousness is a half-built bridge over a bottomless abyss. AI is now spilling into arts once considered uniquely human — music, literature, painting. Yet these feats are pattern recognition, not self-aware creation. As Aurobindo argued, the mind analyses; consciousness integrates and liberates. Beyond ethics, these applications

expose legal gaps in ownership, liability, and consent. Western capitals respond with lawsuits; the EU flexes regulation; Beijing exercises preemptive control. All are material solutions — technical fixes — but they miss the evolution Aurobindo insisted upon. Without consciousness, every corrective measure merely redistributes symptoms. India stands at a crossroads. With its moon rover, vibrant startups, and national AI mission, the country can compete technologically. But Aurobindo's vision suggests a higher calling: moral and spiritual guidance when machines outrun conscience. Leadership in AI need not mean dominating chip foundries; it can mean setting ethical, philosophical, and legal boundaries that shape human destiny. Thinkers such as Iain McGilchrist highlight that understanding — embedded in the human body and mortality — is distinct from information processing. AI can simulate knowledge and ethics, but cannot experience loss, mortality, or love. Rajiv Malhotra warns against confusing simulation with reality: a silicon mind is a copy, not consciousness itself. Yuval Harari's "Dataism" reduces life to algorithms, erasing individuality; Aurobindo counters that data is raw marble, consciousness the sculptor. The struggle between consciousness and code will define civilisations. Economically, AI concentrates power; politically, it frames global thought; personally, it risks eroding judgment and agency. India's path is not to out-build the West or out-surveil the East, but to out-



guide both, rooted in Dharma, Nyaya, and Lokasangraha. Digital public goods, from UPI to the Open Network for Digital Commerce, hint at inclusive, principled governance, a foundation for AI ethics. Kurzweil's Singularity seeks mind-machine fusion. Aurobindo's seeks mind-self fusion. One is coded transcendence; the other, awakened. Consciousness is the operating system for intelligence; without it, even the most sophisticated algorithms are unstable. Policy, law, and design must amplify human creativity, not reduce it to algorithmic obedience. The choice is stark: let AI amplify our lowest instincts, or harness it for the highest possibilities. For India, the challenge is historic: to ensure that, even in a world of machine brilliance, humans remain conscious. The West delivers machines; the East, if mindful, can give the world meaning. In the age of AI, the question is not whether machines will awaken — but whether we will. Manoj Sinha is Principal, Aryabhatta College, University of Delhi & Ramanand Sharma is Assistant Professor, Aryabhatta College, University of Delhi

Trump and His Tariff Dance

Donald Trump holds the world to ransom with his tariff threats that he is using to browbeat nations to further his political and economic agenda. However, in the long run it would be a self goal as his core votaries may cheer now but they would be the worst sufferers. Evidently, Donald Trump, as President of the USA, is performing a rather comical dance of tariff for the benefit of his American audience. In the very initial days of his second presidency, he did display flashes of social memory from the days of his German origin. Some history is instructive here. Adolf Hitler, the Nazi dictator of Germany had taken over Czechoslovakia by calling its prime minister Emile Hacha to his chancellery in Berlin, and by threatening him and his country's security, drove him to collapse. The old man, to save his country from destruction, surrendered to Germany. But no sooner than the stricken prime minister returned to Prague, he jumped out of the fourth floor to end his life. The shame of surrendering to the Nazis had been too much to bear. Austria too was taken over without pulling a trigger. Its chancellor was most unhappy, but the majority of the people were rather pleased at this union called Anschluss. One also cannot forget the forcible incorporation of Sudetenland, the western part of Czechoslovakia. This happened with the blessings of the British and French governments, in a sellout that was advertised as "preserving peace in our time". Immediately upon assuming

office for the second time in January 2025, President Trump asked Denmark, a Western country and NATO ally, to simply hand over Greenland, which is Denmark's territory, without a murmur. What was even more audacious was to ask the Canadian government to make the country join the US as its 51st state (the Pacific Ocean island territory of Hawaii having been the 50th to do). The President's new style of different tariffs for different countries seems to depend upon the mood of the White House. Whatever the merits of this new style, it has certainly helped him keep the World Trade Organization (WTO) out of the American window. The "new style" has also gold plated itself with an aircraft, which has come as a dowry from Qatar to Washington DC. While the going was good during the initial years of World War II, virtually everyone in Deutschland, including many Feld Marshals, were dazzled by the magic wand of the Fuhrer, whose moves resulted in victory after victory on the battlefield. How an educated and advanced German population fell to the magic of a leader who rose from being a mere private to only a corporal during the four years of the First World War, was a mystery. One hopes that similarly, a lesson from World War Two is not being forgotten again, by the educated and affluent American nation. Though success is an intoxicating drug, the intoxication disappears with failure. It is difficult to predict what will eventually happen in the "new style" being played out in the USA, although the



American culture is more akin to the Anglo-Saxon temperament. Therefore, one can only wait, watch and see. As someone who was brought up by an American-educated father (he studied in Boston in the late 1920s), I would be much less hasty in judging the drama currently being played out in America, for three very conscious reasons. One, as a banker of the invaluable dollar, the USA must consider sobriety as the soul of responsibility. The current style of its current President and the acolytes around him appears not only unconventional, but also unsustainable for long. Two, in order to command faith, the world's most powerful country must be consistent, for decades if not centuries. Three, as the only power to have used the atom bomb, the USA must now ensure that it does not frighten the dominantly non-nuclear world. During the recently concluded conflict between Israel and Iran in West Asia, American bombers bombed Iranian nuclear facil-

ties. Many Iranians were for their part, really apprehensive: what would the Pentagon do in case an Iranian weapon fired in retaliation hurt the USA somewhere? All in all, binding faith in a country's ethnics and good-will should behove a leader of a nation, and especially a nation like the USA. What Pakistan or North Korea can get away with is something the USA can ill-afford. In this context, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's conduct during the years of his presidency, particularly during the Second World War, is shining enough for his successors to follow. The imposition of punishment and penalties may satisfy one's immediate constituency, but what would be the effect on the world audience is a question. By US volumes of trade, imports and exports from India would be comparably smaller; so, would be the gain and losses. Why risk and throw away all the praises showered on Prime Minister Narendra Modi all these years by trying to earn a comparatively small sum of dollars? Moreover, Indians are one-fifth of the world's people. The Indian economy today is not what it was during the times of Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. We are now the world's fourth largest economy and are contributing close to 18 per cent to global economic growth annually, while the USA's contribution at 11 per cent, is actually lower than India's! Surely, this reality should be sobering enough for this tariff-happy President to pause and think.

Frank Caprio, Netizens Favourite Court Room Judge, Dies At 88

Frank Caprio never fit the mold of a stern courtroom judge. Instead of a gavel that silenced, he carried a voice that comforted. Known to millions around the world as "America's nicest judge," Caprio passed away at 88 after a long fight with pancreatic cancer. For decades, Caprio presided over the Providence Municipal Court, where parking tickets and minor violations became lessons in empathy. He listened to single parents struggling with bills, immigrants trying to make ends meet, and children nervous about standing

before a judge. More often than not, he sent them home with encouragement instead of punishment. His courtroom became the stage for Caught in Providence, a modest local show that unexpectedly exploded into a viral hit. Clips of Caprio joking with kids, forgiving grieving mothers, and handing down gentle wisdom raced across TikTok, YouTube, and Facebook, amassing more than a billion views. People didn't just see a judge—they saw a man who understood. Born in 1936 in Providence to an Italian-American fam-



ily, Caprio never forgot his roots. He often said his humble upbringing shaped the way he viewed justice—not as a hammer, but as a hand extended to help. In one of his final messages, recorded from his hospital bed, Caprio asked for prayers. Even then, his words carried the same humility that made him beloved both in and out of the courtroom. His passing leaves a quiet but profound reminder: fairness doesn't have to be cold, and the law, when touched with

humanity, can bring people closer instead of pushing them away.

Amid Trump Tariffs, Jaishankar Urges Stronger India-Russia Trade

Amid the Trump administration imposing a 50% tariff on India for buying Russian oil, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has urged Moscow to deepen its trade relations with India. Jaishankar has cited India's economic growth and initiatives like 'Make in India' as opportunities for Russian businesses to engage more actively with Indian counterparts. He emphasised the need for reliable resources due to India's expanding economy, which has a GDP exceeding USD 4 trillion and is growing at 7%. He pointed out that assured supplies of essential products such as fertilisers, chemicals, and machinery are crucial. Additionally, India's burgeoning infrastructure presents business prospects for enterprises with proven track records. "An India with a GDP of USD 4 trillion plus growing at 7% for the foreseeable future has an obvious need for large resources from dependable sources. In some cases, it could be assured supplies of essential products, fertiliser, chemicals, and machinery, being good examples. Its rapidly growing infrastructure offers business openings to enterprises with an established track record in their own country," ANI quoted Jaishankar as saying. Ramaphosa Dares to Bet Trump - 'No Genocide': Shocking LIVE Evidence Leave Him Silent in Front of All

"The 'Make in India' and other such initiatives have opened up new windows for foreign businesses. The modernisation and the urbanisation of India generate their own demands, flowing from shifts in consumption and lifestyle. Each of these dimensions represent an invitation for Russian companies to engage more intensively with their Indian counterparts. Our endeavour is to encourage them to rise to that challenge," he added. Strengthening Economic Ties

The minister noted that while India and Russia have maintained one of the steadiest relationships among major nations, this hasn't automatically led to significant economic cooperation. He stressed the importance of diversifying and balancing trade between the two countries to sustain existing levels and achieve higher trade targets. Jaishankar called for more "strenuous efforts" to diversify trade between India and Russia. Despite recent growth in trade volume, the trade basket remains limited, and the deficit has increased. He believes that enhancing economic cooperation is essential for reaching higher trade goals.

Encouraging Investments and Collaborations
The minister expressed India's readiness to explore investments, joint ventures, and other forms of collaboration with Russia. He stated that both nations can significantly contribute to each other's growth and development. The aim is to create conditions conducive to economic activities through government guidance. "It is reasonably evident that there is much that India and Russia can do for each other in promoting growth and accelerating development," Jaishankar said. He added that a strong economic component is vital for an enduring strategic partnership between the two countries.

Free Trade Agreement Developments
India has signed Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union. Jaishankar believes this will make a significant difference once concluded. Discussions also included motivating joint ventures in key areas where demand exists and initiatives involving substantial investments. He mentioned ongoing efforts in skilling and mobility endeavours, which are gaining momentum. The desire to improve connectivity through multiple options was also expressed during discussions. The minister concluded by stating that businesses need to step forward confidently while ensuring close collaboration between government discussions and business planning. This approach aims to foster stronger economic ties between India and Russia amidst changing global trade dynamics.

Rajesh Khimji, Who Attacked Delhi CM Rekha Gupta, Sent To 5 Days Custody



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Rajesh Khimji, accused of attacking Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has been placed in police custody for five days. The incident occurred during a public hearing event. On August 20, 2025, the Delhi police confirmed the remand and registered a case under section 109(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which pertains to attempted murder, carrying a potential sentence of ten years imprisonment and a fine. The accused was taken to Civil

Lines Police Station on the same day. The Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Special Cell team conducted an interrogation with Khimji. According to police reports, Rajesh Khimji arrived in Delhi from Rajkot by train on August 19, 2025. He stayed at Gujarati Bhavan in Civil Lines upon his arrival. CCTV footage from Chief Minister Gupta's residence in Shalimar Bagh revealed that Khimji allegedly conducted reconnaissance before the attack. The video shows him making a video of the location and planning the attack meticulously. This footage has been handed over to the police for further investigation. The Delhi Chief Minister's Office stated, "It is seen in the footage that the attacker did a recce of the Chief Minister's residence, made a video of the place and attempted to attack in a planned manner. This video has been handed over to the police, and

an intensive investigation is going on in this regard. Following the attack, CM Gupta expressed her shock but assured everyone that she is feeling better now. She described the assault as a cowardly attempt against her efforts for Delhi's welfare. In a post shared on X, she wrote in Hindi about how this attack was not just against her but also against their commitment to serve Delhi. "The attack on me during this morning's public hearing was not just an attack on me, but a cowardly attempt on our resolve to serve Delhi and work for the welfare of the people," she stated. She also requested her well-wishers not to worry or visit her unnecessarily. The Chief Minister expressed deep gratitude towards those who sent their love and blessings after the incident. Her post included words of thanks: "I express my heartfelt gratitude for your immense love, blessings, and good wishes." The investigation into this matter continues as authorities seek more information.

INDIA Bloc VP Candidate B Sudershan Reddy Files Nomination; Sonia Gandhi Proposes His Documents



Justice (Retd) B Sudershan Reddy, the Opposition's Vice-Presidential candidate, is set to submit his nomination papers at 11:30 AM. The Vice President of India election is scheduled for September 9. Reddy, a former Supreme Court judge, was recently announced as the joint Opposition candidate. He will compete against NDA's CP Radhakrishnan in this election. Senior leaders from various Opposition parties are expected to accompany Reddy during the nomination process in Parliament. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge announced Reddy's candidacy for the INDIA bloc, highlighting that he embodies the values that were pivotal during India's Freedom Movement and are foundational to the country's Constitution and Democracy. The choice of B. Sudershan Reddy as the Vice Presidential candidate by the INDIA alliance has been well-received by

Opposition leaders. They view it as an ideological contest against the BJP's RSS-backed nominee. DMK's Kanimozhi remarked that merely fielding a Tamil Nadu candidate does not demonstrate BJP's commitment to the state or its values. Congress MP K Suresh praised Reddy's impressive track record and deemed him suitable for the Vice Presidential role.

Samajwadi Party's Dharmendra Yadav described this election as a battle to "save the Constitution." DMK's T Siva mentioned that this decision was made collectively after careful deliberation. Balkrishna Sudershan Reddy has served as a Supreme Court judge and was Goa's first Lokayukta. CPI leader P Sandosh referred to him as an "eminent jurist," noting that his judgments resonate with democratic principles. His

selection reflects a strategic move by the Opposition to challenge BJP ideologically. The announcement of Reddy's candidacy was made on Tuesday by Kharge, who emphasized Reddy's dedication to social, economic, and political justice. Kharge described him as a "consistent and courageous champion" of these causes.

