



Brain Injury Awareness Day

Brain Injury Awareness Day is a significant event dedicated to increasing understanding and awareness about brain injuries. It highlights the challenges faced by individuals with brain injuries and promotes the need for improved care and support. The observance serves as a platform for survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals to share their stories and advocate for better resources and research funding. By bringing attention to brain injuries, this day aims to foster a more informed and compassionate society.



THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSO-UKRAINE WAR REDEFINES WORLD OPTIONS

Of course, Ukraine's preferred security guarantee is a rapid accession to NATO. In December 2024, Zelensky even told European leaders that "An invitation for Ukraine to join NATO is a necessary thing for our survival." But a bilateral US security guarantee for Ukraine would be unacceptable to Moscow and unworkable for the trans-Atlantic alliance, whether it takes the form of a more binding mutual defence agreement, like the US-Japanese treaty relationship, or something more flexible like the 1975 US Memorandum Of Agreement with Israel.



The War Today
It is difficult to find predictions that a long, high-intensity war in Europe was possible in the twenty-first century. But since February 2022, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has delivered exactly that. Thousands of Russians and Ukrainians have died. Many more

have been injured. Towns have been reduced to ruin or cut apart by obstacle systems, in a grim reminder of World War I. Both sides are locked in combat with little visible movement. Russia continues to take small parcels of territory along the Eastern front, but progress is slow. The two countries have achieved a degree of parity when it comes to their long-range strike capabilities. However, in the immediate future, with the frontlines remaining relatively stagnant, there is unlikely to be a major breakthrough.

The Focus is now Peace Negotiations
Casefire is relatively easy but resolving issues, where incompatible collisions of reality exist, is challenging. When peace talks begin, they will be difficult and complex. While questions about territory will most likely be settled based on the captured territories, with the US Secretary of Defence, Pete Hegseth, terming Ukraine's goals of recovering all its territory and NATO membership 'unrealistic'. But Ukraine's long-term security will be the sticking point.



Several alternatives were analysed earlier, including NATO membership with its Article 5 guarantee, a bi- or multi-lateral security guarantee from the US or a group of European states, or 'armed neutrality', which would leave Ukraine with no security guarantee but with substantial military assistance. While the Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelensky, harped on NATO membership being the only way to ensure a lasting peace, many current alliance members, including the US, were unwilling to take on the additional security burden.

who had promised to end the war, has already held a long telephone conversation with Russian President, Vladimir Putin, and the first negotiations have been held in Riyadh. Meanwhile, the widening rift between President Trump and President Zelensky is evident. Trump denounced Zelensky as 'a dictator without elections,' and Zelensky said that 'Trump was trapped in a Russian disinformation bubble, in response to the US President suggesting that Ukraine started the war. No analyst or AI could have visualized these developments three years ago. But more telling is that a new security architecture is taking shape in Europe and the Europeans are being forced to look at their image in the mirror by the US. Last week's Munich Security Conference marked that moment when the US told Europe emphatically that it could not rely on transatlantic support.

#WORLD VIEW

Security Guarantees

There are those who feel that an imposed peace deal, that leaves Ukraine with no support, might embolden Russia to launch a third invasion into Ukraine. This would once again put Moscow and NATO at risk of direct conflict, while Russian geographic gains would further erode Ukraine's sovereign territory and allow Russia to pose new threats to Ukraine's neighbours.

Security guarantees can address this problem by offering one or both sides an assurance that renewed aggression will be met with consequences, including external military support and retaliation. Ensuring peace could come in the form of a peace keeping mission.

British Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, has said that his country could send troops, but French President, Emmanuel Macron, who had previously pledged such deployments, has now backed off his original commitment. Poland, a vocal supporter of Ukraine, has flatly denied plans to send troops to Ukraine. A mere paper guarantee of a commitment to send troops in case of future attacks is much not credible on its own. So far, neither European states nor the US have sent troops to Ukraine. Policymakers, therefore, need



to consider alternatives to direct security guarantees, how to boost Ukraine's own deterrent capabilities while addressing the conflict's underlying causes. Ultimately, such steps are likely to be more credible and more effective than a peacekeeping force overly reliant on the US for crucial support, in areas such as surveillance and military logistics. Of course, Ukraine's preferred security guarantee is a rapid accession to NATO. In December 2024, Zelensky even told European leaders that "An invitation for Ukraine to join NATO is a necessary thing for our survival." But a bilateral US security guarantee for Ukraine would be unacceptable to Moscow and unworkable for the trans-

Atlantic alliance, whether it takes the form of a more binding mutual defence agreement, like the US-Japanese treaty relationship, or something more flexible like the 1975 US Memorandum Of Agreement with Israel.

The fact is that notwithstanding President Trump's recent stance, the US has long been clear that Ukraine's alignment is not a national security imperative. Speaking in 2016, President Barack Obama acknowledged the limited US stakes in Ukraine, arguing that "We have to be very clear about what our core interests are and what we are willing to go to war for." Or to quote former President Richard Nixon, "Our interests must shape our commitments, rather than the other way around."

European guarantees to Ukraine might seem more credible on the surface. After all, Europe has a common interest in balancing Russia with an independent Ukraine as a buffer. If Ukraine were to become a member of the European Union, for example, it would fall under the Lisbon Treaty's mutual defence provision. Although the provision is modelled on NATO's Article 5, it has not been sanctified in the same way and remains more ambiguous in nature. Still, a European security commitment would bring its own limitations and complications for NATO.



Armed Neutrality and Its Benefits

The final option, 'armed neutrality', has no foreign security guarantees, but it won't leave Ukraine defenceless. As a neutral state, Ukraine would still need significant military support from the US and Europe to build an arsenal capable of deterring Russia and defending its territory. Critics have deemed armed neutrality 'doomed to fail', but it seems to be Ukraine's best option. In this scenario, Kyiv would be responsible for its own security. But along with the burdens of independence, it would also receive the benefits of self-sufficiency. History offers frequent reminders that the only truly 'ironclad defence' is the one a country provides itself.

India and the War

India has been consistent in its stance regarding the war and the Prime Minister has reiterated time and again that this is not an era of war. The focus needs to be on dialogue, diplomacy and negotiations to end the war.

India has also held a balanced position and the Prime Minister has visited both Moscow and Kyiv, stating that we stand on the side of peace. But at the same time, the West has targeted India for its deep economic, defence and energy partnerships and strategic ties, friendship and dealings with Russia. There is no doubt that with the current changes in US policy, India's stand has been vindicated.

The many lessons, that emerged from the war, have resulted in militaries re-examining doctrines and accelerating the pace of their bat-

tlefield and strategic adaptation. But what stands out is that there is a need to develop hard power as a deterrent capability. And for that, apart from military structures, weapons systems, training, tactics, technology and doctrines, building a robust defence industrial base, backed both by research and development and manufacturing, is essential. The fact is that in any conflict, one stands alone. Hence, the significance of *Atmanirbhar*.

Conclusion

All wars end sometime, but how they end is also important as the ending determines the peace that is to follow. The end of both World War II and the Cold War chartered the course that Europe followed, but now what is important is the unveiling of the new security architecture in Europe, which will have global implications.

At the end of the Cold War, there was an assumption that liberal democracy and globalization had triumphed. Many believed that the era of large conventional wars had come to an end. This prompted leaders to downsize their countries' military forces,

munition stocks, and production capacity. The situation in Ukraine has shown that such optimism was misguided. Unfortunately, the complexities of this conflict preclude quick solutions. But regardless of the outcome of the negotiations, the war in Ukraine has already changed the character of conflict around the world. Countries now need to adapt to the new realities on the battlefield. However, the credibility of the global policymakers now depends on how soon and in what manner this war ends.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

It's Bollywood Coming Home!! Jaipur is in Fashion!!

As the glitz and glamour of Bollywood descends upon Jaipur for IIFA 2025, there's an added layer of magic in the air. For many stars, this is not just another awards night, it's a homecoming of sorts. Whether by birth, family roots, or cinematic history, several Bollywood A-listers share a deep connection with Rajasthan, making this year's IIFA a celebration steeped in nostalgia and emotion.



Ranveer Singh: The Reel Maharaja Returns

Ranveer Singh isn't just bringing his larger-than-life energy to IIFA, he's stepping into a familiar royal territory. Having played the fierce Rajput warrior Alauddin Khilji in *Padmaavat*, Ranveer has embraced Rajasthan's regal aura like no other. "There's something majestic about Rajasthan, the energy, the culture, the people. Every time, I come here, I feel like I belong," he once gushed. Expect him to light up Jaipur with his signature charisma, possibly in an over-the-top traditional look, fit for royalty! Oh, and let's not forget, he's a fashion icon! Will he make a grand entry in a regal *sherwani*, or surprise us with his quirky Ranveer-style twist to *Rajasthani* attire? Fans can't wait to see what he pulls off!

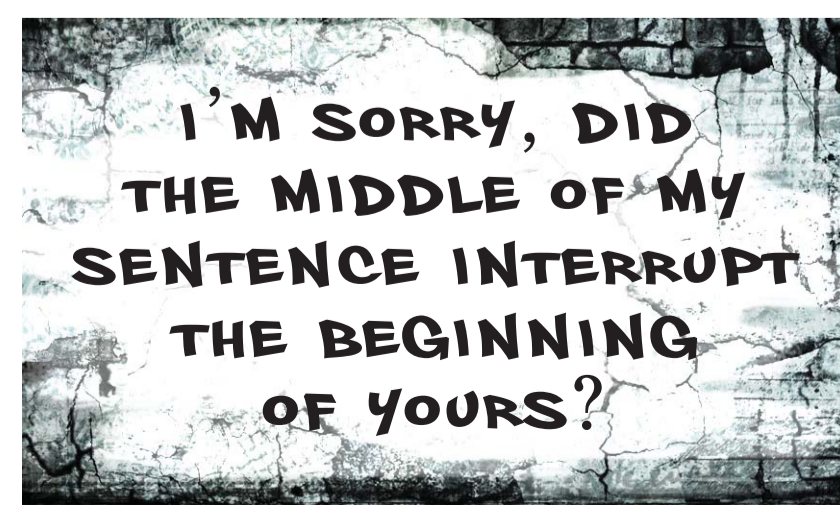


Jaipur Goes Bollywood: A Star-Studded Homecoming at IIFA 2025



Jaipur in particular, has long been a favourite ground for the stars, be it for blockbuster film shoots, extravagant weddings, or simply indulging in the opulence that the state has to offer. But this year, it's bigger than ever! The Pink City is rolling out the green carpet to welcome the biggest names in Bollywood for IIFA 2025. With all the glitz, glamour, and grandeur descending upon Jaipur, for many celebrities, this won't just be another dazzling event, it will feel like a homecoming. Let's take a walk down memory lane and spill some starry secrets about their special connections with Jaipur!

THE WALL



Deepika Padukone: A Royal Rendezvous

Deepika Padukone has ruled the cinematic universe as Rani Padmavati and the fearless Mastani, both roles that brought her to Rajasthan's historic landscapes. Having shot extensively in Jaipur and Udaipur, the actress has often said, "The backdrop of Rajasthan adds a poetic touch to storytelling." With IIFA 2025 calling her back to Jaipur, it's bound to be a glamorous déjà vu moment for the queen of Bollywood. And let's not forget, Deepika and Ranveer have shared some of their most iconic cinematic moments in Rajasthan. Will this power couple set the IIFA stage on fire with a special performance? Fans are already hoping for it!



Katrina Kaif: Pink City, Golden Memories

Katrina Kaif is no stranger to the splendor of Rajasthan, both on and off screen. From shooting *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* and *Rajneeti* in Jaipur to her mother's social work in the state, she has deep ties to the region. "There's an unspoken charm in the Pink City. It's as if history whispers its stories in your ears," she once said dreamily. And let's not forget, she and hubby, Vicky Kaushal, tied the knot in a royal Rajasthani wedding! Will IIFA 2025 be another chapter in her Jaipur fairytale? Speaking of fairy tales, Katrina is known for her stunning IIFA appearances. Will she bring back the old-school glam in a breathtaking *lehenga*, inspired by the Rajasthani aesthetic? We're betting on it!



Vicky Kaushal: Mr. Rajasthan Returns

Speaking of Vicky Kaushal, this trip to Jaipur will be extra-special for him! His high-profile wedding to Katrina at the Six Senses Fort Barwara in Sawai Madhopur made global headlines. Plus, he's filmed parts of *Sam Bahadur* in Rajasthan, making his return all the more sentimental. "Rajasthan has given me some of the most important moments of my life, both personally and professionally," he once admitted. With IIFA 2025, it's time for another grand Rajasthan rendezvous! Vicky, who loves traditional aesthetics, might just give fans a royal appearance at IIFA. Will he go full *Maharaja* mode or keep it classic? Either way, Jaipur is about to witness some serious charm.

Anushka Sharma: Desert Dreams and Bollywood Scenes



Anushka Sharma's love affair with Rajasthan isn't new! She's shot hit films like *PK* and *NH10* across the state, and she often raves about its rich culture. "There's poetry in the air here," she once said. Could we see her and Virat Kohli sneaking in some Jaipur sightseeing between the award show madness? We wouldn't be surprised! Rumour has it that Anushka is set to make a big return to Bollywood. Will IIFA 2025 mark the moment she announces a new project? Bollywood gossip mills are already buzzing!

Salman Khan: The Sultan of Rajasthan

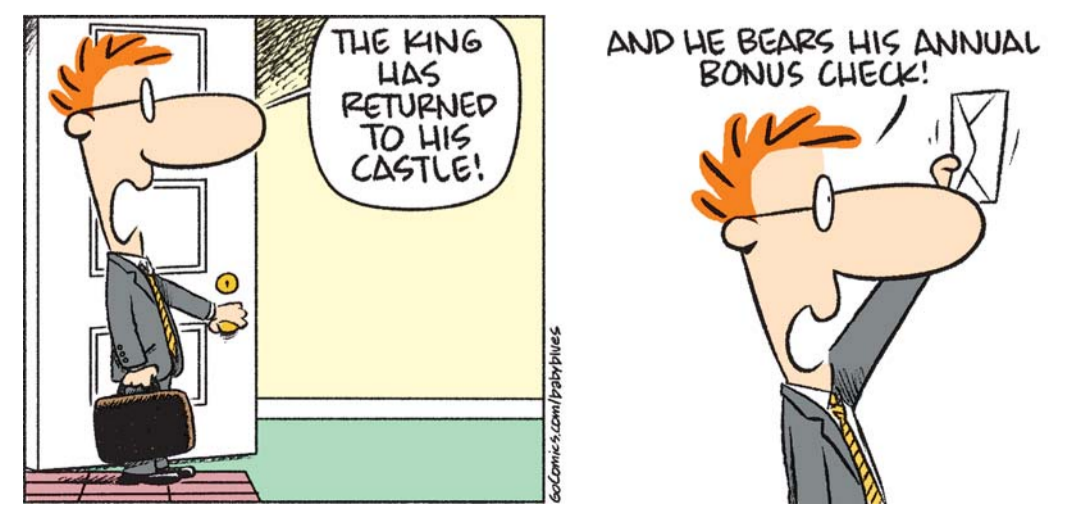


Salman Khan has ruled the big screen with Rajasthan-based hits like *Hum Saath Saath Hain* and *Bajrangli Bhaujaan*. With his ancestral roots tracing back to Indore, he's always had a fondness for the state, even calling it "like a second home." And let's be real, any IIFA event with Salman in Jaipur is bound to be *masaledaar*! Will the *Bhaujaan* of Bollywood have a surprise performance? Will he charm fans with his signature moves? With Salman in town, expect the unexpected!

Jaipur: The Perfect Bollywood Muse

Jaipur is no stranger to the camera, it's been immortalized in films like *Jodha Akbar*, *Bhool Bhulaiyaa*, and *Paheli*. With its breathtaking forts, vibrant bazaars, and old-world charm, it's the perfect setting for cinematic magic and star-studded celebrations. From high-energy performances to heartfelt tributes to the city, expect Bollywood to embrace Jaipur in all its glory. And let's not forget the fans, Jaipurites are known for their passion for Bollywood! With IIFA 2025 turning the city into Bollywood's ultimate playground, expect fan frenzy, fashion statements, and Instagram-worthy moments galore. With IIFA 2025, Jaipur is about to become the hottest destination for every Bollywood lover. Stay tuned, because the Pink City is about to shine brighter than ever! The only question is, are you ready for the madness?

BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman