



FOG Idol: Silver Jubilee event starts off with a bang

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Without subsidies, Musk to close up shop: Trump

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NO NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL

"No yielding to nuclear blackmail, no impunity to terrorists...": Jaishankar reiterates India's stance on terrorism

WASHINGTON, DC: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that India is not going to yield to nuclear blackmail, stating that New Delhi will no longer accept that terrorists are proxies and spare the government that supports and finances them. He said terrorists will be treated with "no impunity" and India will do what needs to be done to defend its people.

"We are not going to yield to nuclear blackmail that you know there could be escalation, and therefore we should not do anything," Jaishankar said in an interview

to Newsweek in Manhattan.

The External Affairs minister's remarks come nearly two months after the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam in which 26 people were killed.

Jaishankar called it an "act of warfare" aimed at destroying tourism in Kashmir, which he said was the mainstay of the economy. He stated that India, after the Pahalgam attack, decided that it could not allow terrorists to function with impunity.

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Dr Romesh Japra honored at Nobel Peace Center

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External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addresses the All Quad Foreign Ministers press conference, in Washington, D.C. (ANI Video Grab) Details on page 6



Alleppey: Houseboats and Backwater Cruises

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INDIA POST

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This week's question

Do you think Iran is continuing to enrich Uranium?

Last week's result

Can Trump receive the Nobel after the Israel-Iran ceasefire?

YES 12% NO 88%

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E-SUBSCRIPTIONS & EDITORIAL: Vidya Sethuraman: Tel: 510-491-4867 • e-mail: vidya@indiapost.com
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NO NUCLEAR BLACKMAIL

*"No yielding to nuclear blackmail, no impunity to terrorists...":
Jaishankar reiterates India's stance on terrorism*

WASHINGTON, DC: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said that India is not going to yield to nuclear blackmail, stating that New Delhi will no longer accept that terrorists are proxies and spare the government that supports and finances them. He said terrorists will be treated with "no impunity" and India will do what needs to be done to defend its people.

"We are not going to yield to nuclear blackmail that you know there could be escalation, and therefore we should not do anything," Jaishankar said in an interview to Newsweek in Manhattan.

The External Affairs minister's remarks come nearly two months after the April 22 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam in which 26 people were killed.

Jaishankar called it an "act of warfare" aimed at destroying tourism in Kashmir, which he said was the mainstay of the economy. He stated that India, after the Pahalgam attack, decided that it could not allow terrorists to function with impunity.

In his Newsweek interview, Jaishankar stated that India's message to the world is that there should be zero tolerance for terrorism and there should be no circumstances under which terrorists' acts should be allowed, supported or financed. He said that India has been a victim of terrorism for the past four decades, and recalled various terrorist attacks, like the 26/11 Mumbai attack and the Parliament attack.

Asked about India's message to global powers and international institutions on cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan, he said, "This morning, I was at an exhibition on terrorism at the United Nations, and this was something which our embassy, our mission to the UN, had organized and the reason we did that, we had a number of ambassadors from other countries who were there as well is because we believe that terrorism is actually a threat to everybody, that no country should use it as an instrument to further its policies because at the end of the day it comes back to bite everyone."

"If we take the view that one terrorist act or one terrorist organization or one sponsor of terrorism is justified here or you give them a free pass or you underplay it, it can easily happen, in fact, it does happen in other situations. The message to the world has to be that there should be zero tolerance for terrorism, that there should be no



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a conversation with Newsweek CEO Dev Prasad, in New York. (@DrSJaishankar X/ANI Photo)

circumstances, no excuse, no justification, under which you would allow, support, finance, sponsor terrorist acts."

"Now in our particular case, we've unfortunately had an experience of this. The

and they are tribal invaders and then soon enough the Pakistani army followed," Jaishankar said.

"We have battled terrorism really intensively for the last four decades and we've

India's message to the world is that there should be zero tolerance for terrorism and there should be no circumstances under which terrorists' acts should be allowed, supported or financed. He said that India has been a victim of terrorism for the past four decades, and recalled various terrorist attacks, like the 26/11 Mumbai attack and the Parliament attack

experience has been very very intense for the last four decades but actually started from the time of our independence. If you see within a few months of our independence, terrorists were sent into Kashmir again with this idea that they are proxies

had some horrific cases. Everybody would remember the Mumbai attack and where really a major global metropolis was for a few days really sort of brought to a standstill with attacks on a scale which could not be contemplated and with particularly



A view of gathering during a conversation between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar (unseen) and Newsweek CEO Dev Prasad (unseen), in New York. (@DrSJaishankar X/ANI Photo)

targeted foreigners especially of this country. And we've had an attack on our parliament, our parliament meeting in session, with the intent of taking lawmakers and the people governing India hostage at that time. That it was foiled was a different matter but do look at the dangerous intent and the risks inherent in this," the External Affairs Minister said.

He said, "We have had a string of these attacks and we've now reached a point, and I think in many ways the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22nd, this sentiment in India that look enough is enough that we are because you know the Pahalgam was meant, I mean it was an act of economic warfare. It was meant to destroy tourism in Kashmir which was the mainstay of the economy. It was also meant to provoke religious violence because people were asked to identify their faith before they were killed. We decided that we cannot let terrorists function with impunity, the idea that they're on that side of the border and that therefore sort of prevents retribution, I think is a proposition that needs to be challenged and that is what we did."

"So, now bear in mind these are not people you know who operate in secret, I mean these are terrorist organizations who have the equivalent of the corporate headquarters in the populated towns of Pakistan everybody knows what is the headquarters of organization A and organization B and those are actually the buildings, the headquarters that we destroyed," he told Newsweek.

Emphasizing India's stance on dealing with terrorism, Jaishankar said, "We are very clear, there will be no impunity for terrorists that we will not deal with them any longer as proxies and spare the government which supports and finances and in many ways motivates them."

Jaishankar emphasized that India will not be deterred by the threat of nuclear weapons when it comes to responding to cross-border attacks.

"We will not allow nuclear blackmail to prevent us from responding because we've also heard this for too long that you know you are both nuclear countries therefore the other guy will come and do horrible things but you mustn't do anything because it gets the world worried. ANI

Quad ministers demand bringing Pahalgam terrorists to justice, renew commitment to counterterrorism

WASHINGTON: Renewing their commitment to work together to fight terrorism, the Quad foreign ministers have demanded that all those responsible for the "reprehensible" Pahalgam attack be immediately brought to justice and countries concerned cooperate with the authorities.

In a joint statement after their meeting recently, they said, "We call for the perpetrators, organizers, and financiers of this reprehensible act to be brought to justice without any delay and urge all UN Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant UNSCRs (Security Council Resolutions), to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in this regard."

"The Quad unequivocally condemns all acts of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, and renews our commitment to counterterrorism cooperation," the statement said.

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Foreign Ministers Penny Wong of Australia and Takeshi Iwaya of Japan representing the major democracies of the Indo-Pacific region met for their second ministerial meeting of the year.

They said, "We condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22, 2025, which claimed the lives of 25 In-

dian nationals and one Nepali citizen, while injuring several others."

The statement did not name any country while calling for bringing the perpetrators of the massacre to justice, but the nation was obvious because The Resistance Front, which carried out the attack, is an arm of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during the All Quad Foreign Ministers meeting, in Washington, D.C. (@DrSJaishankar X/ANI Photo)

sheltered by Pakistan.

Before the ministers met, Jaishankar said, "India has every right to defend its people against terrorism, and we will exercise that right."

"We expect our quad partners to understand and appreciate that," he emphasized.

The top diplomats said they looked forward to the Quad summit to be hosted later this year by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi, which will be attended by US President Donald Trump and Prime Ministers Anthony Albanese of Australia and Shigeru Ishiba of Japan.

The ministers said that they "plan to launch the Quad Ports of the Future Partnership in Mumbai this year."

"To ensure the Quad's enduring im-

While their joint statement repeatedly spoke of threats to countries in the region from the use of force and coercion by China, they did not name it.

"We remain seriously concerned about the situation in the East China Sea and South China Sea," the statement said listing the various actions, including "unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion ... dangerous and provocative actions, including interference with offshore resource development, the repeated obstruction of the freedoms of navigation and overflight, and the dangerous maneuvers by military aircraft and coast guard and maritime militia vessels, especially the unsafe use of water cannons and ramming or blocking actions in the South China Sea."

While China was not mentioned, it had carried out all those actions against the Philippines, Vietnam, and South Korea, and it has been involved in disputes with Malaysia over offshore oil drilling.

"These actions threaten peace and stability in the region", they said. "We are seriously concerned by the militarization of disputed features."

The ministers expressed concern over the disruptions to the supply chain, particularly of critical minerals and said it was important to diversify supplies. /ANS

"Will hear from President and his trade team soon when it comes to India": White House spokesperson

REENA BHARDWAJ

WASHINGTON DC: White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt recently confirmed that US and India are close to finalizing a trade agreement, following President Donald Trump's earlier an-



Karoline Leavitt

nouncement about the deal.

Speaking at a press briefing, Leavitt responded to a question from ANI and said, "Yes, the President said that last

week (that the US and India are very close to a trade deal), and it remains true. I just spoke to our Secretary of Commerce about it. He was in the Oval Office with the President. They are finalizing these agreements, and you'll hear from the President and his trade team very soon when it comes to India."

Her remarks follow President Trump's recent statement expressing optimism about securing a trade deal with India. While addressing a question on reciprocal tariffs, Trump said the US was seeking "full trade barrier dropping" and greater access to the Indian market, though he admitted uncertainty about achieving that goal.

"India, I think we are going to reach a deal where we have the right to go and do trade. Right now, it's restricted. You can't walk in there, you can't even think about it.

We are looking to get a full trade barrier dropping, which is unthinkable and I am not sure that that is going to happen. But as of this moment, we agree that going to India and trade..." Trump said.

Last week, during a public event, Trump had also said, "Everybody wants to make

ing to open up India."

Earlier in June, US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick had expressed confidence that a trade agreement between India and the United States would be finalized soon. Speaking at the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, Lutnick

"Yes, the President said that last week (that the US and India are very close to a trade deal), and it remains true. I just spoke to our Secretary of Commerce about it. He was in the Oval Office with the President

a deal and have a part of it. Remember a few months ago, the press was saying, 'Do you really have anybody of any interest?' Well, we just signed with China yesterday. We have one coming up, maybe with India. A very big one, where we're go-

said, "I think we are in a very, very good place, and you should expect a deal between the United States and India in the not-too-distant future because I think we found a place that really works for both countries." ANI

India and France wrap up SHAKTI 2025, strengthening military interoperability and strategic defense partnership

PARIS: The 13th French Foreign Legion Demi-Brigade (13th DBLE) hosted the eighth edition of the Indo-French Army exercise SHAKTI from 18 June to 1 July 2025 in France, according to a release by the Embassy of France in India.

The exercise involved more than 500 legionnaires and military personnel from various units of the French Army, the Foreign Legion, as well as the French Air and Space Force, and the French Navy.

The Indian contingent of 90 personnel primarily comprised a battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, besides personnel from other arms and services. About 50 armored and tactical vehicles and fighter jets have been deployed in this exercise.

The joint drills were held in two phases. The first, which took place from 18 to 21 June in Aveyron, Monclar district, focused on ramping up joint training on shooting,

issuing orders, and combining units.

The second phase, from 22 to 26 June in Hérault, involved the deployment of the

day and night, the release said.

The legionnaires of the 13th DBLE had earlier participated in the SHAKTI 2024 ex-

facing the toughest combat situations in a sub-conventional environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, with training being conducted in a realistic semi-urban terrain, while strengthening ties with a strategic partner.

Serving as an effective platform for exchanging best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPS), Exercise SHAKTI will pave the way for deeper cooperation and mutual respect between the French and the Indian armed forces, as well as significantly reinforcing the Indo-French defense partnership, the Embassy of France in India noted in its release.

Indo-French defense exercises such as Exercise GARUDA between the air forces, Exercise VARUNA between the navies, and Exercise SHAKTI between the armies are held regularly and have grown in scope and complexity over the years. They attest to the shared commitment of both nations towards peace, stability, and global security.

In this context, the Indo-French Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI-VIII continues to strengthen operational interoperability and mutual cooperation between the Indian and French Armies. ANI



Indian Army and French Army personnel take part in Indo-French Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI-VIII at Camp Larzac, La Cavalerie. (Defense PRO/ANI Photo)

Monclar Combined Arms Tactical Group (GTIA) as part of an open-field exercise in semi-urban combat training during both

exercise in India and were determined to continue developing this strategic partnership with a view to enhancing interoperability, refining and sharing best practices in tactical drills, and training with contemporary military technologies.

Exercise SHAKTI was a vital opportunity for Indian and French military personnel to boost joint operational preparedness for

"I was in room when Vance spoke to PM Modi on night of May 9": EAM

WASHINGTON, DC: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has refuted US President Donald Trump's claims that he used trade to force India and Pakistan to accept a ceasefire after tensions escalated between the two nations following India's Operation Sindoor. Jaishankar said he was present when Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US Vice President JD Vance held a telephonic conversation on the night of May 9.

During the fireside chat with Newsweek, Jaishankar stated that Vance had told PM Modi that Pakistan would launch a massive assault on India if they did not accept certain things. According to him, PM Modi during the call indicated that there would be a response from India.

Jaishankar confirmed that Pakistan launched a massive attack on that night, to which India responded quickly. He stated that he received a call from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio called him the next day and expressed Pakistan's willingness to hold talks.

When asked about whether Trump's claims of using trade as a means of resolving the India-Pakistan conflict have affected trade negotiations, Jaishankar said, "No, I don't think so. I think the trade people are doing what the trade people should be doing, which is negotiating with numbers and lines and products and making their tradeoffs. I think they're very professional and very focused about it." ANI

Human rights body condemns rape of Hindu woman in Bangladesh

DHAKA: In yet another disturbing incident of violence on minorities and the atrocities against women in Bangladesh, a Hindu woman was brutally gang raped in her own home in the Cumilla district, while her attackers filmed the assault and circulated the footage, a human rights body said recently.

So far, five accused have been arrested, including the main accused, Fajar Ali, who is a politician of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The Human Rights Congress for Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) said that the culprits circulated the video of the brutal assault "like a war trophy."

"On the night of June 26, 2025, a Hindu woman in Muradnagar, Cumilla District, endured one of the most brutal forms of violence imaginable: her home was forcibly invaded, her dignity shattered, and her trauma recorded and circulated like a war trophy. She was gang raped by multiple assailants, her cries echoing through the silence of a country that has, for decades, looked away from the suffering of its most vulnerable," read a statement issued by the HRCBM.

The human rights organization also mentioned that the law enforcement officials failed to arrange a mandatory medical examination, delayed filing her First Information Report (FIR) until June 29, and later deflected blame by claiming it was "up to her" to pursue medical treatment. IANS

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FOG Idol 2025-Silver Jubilee event starts off with a bang

LAKSHMI IYER
India Post News Service

FREMONT, CA: FOG Idol 2025 kicked off in superlative fashion in Saraswati Hall at the Fremont Hindu Temple on Sunday, 15th June, 2025, with celebrities and managers from the American music and film industries attending the inauguration and emphasizing its global outlook.

The event itself is in its 25th year, marking its silver jubilee.

True to tradition, the program was initiated with a Ganesh 'vandana', an invocation to Lord Ganesha, the remover of all obstacles. And what a splendid invocation it was! One of the contestants, 19-year-old Neil Nayar, plays 120 instruments and is a regular performer at various events in and around the Bay Area. He gave a bravura rendition of the high-energy "Jai Ganesha" on his saxophone, mesmerizing the audience.

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California leads resistance to immigration crackdown

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

California is proud to be home to one of the most diverse populations in the nation. Communities in every corner of our state, including Los Angeles, San Diego, Kern, and the Bay Area are home to immigrants, refugees and mixed status families from all around the world. As California's students and families are targeted by immigration enforcement, college access professionals and the California Student Aid Commission join to affirm our commitment to serve all students and learners across California, regardless of documentation status.

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7th Annual Mandala Makers Festival

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COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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July 4, 2025

Dr Romesh Japra recognized at Nobel Peace Center in Oslo

ALL PHOTOS: Courtesy Rajarshi Bhupendra Modi



Organizers and awardees pose for a photo at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo June 20, 2025, for the award ceremony

India Post News Service

OSLO, NORWAY: June 20, 2025-In a historic ceremony held at the Nobel Peace Center, spiritual and cultural leaders from across the globe were honored for their contributions to global harmony, dharma, and peace. The prestigious event, hosted by Rajarshi Bhupendra Modi-philanthropist, peace-builder, and founder of the Global Hindu Leadership movement-recognized in-

Shankaracharya's spiritual mission to unite humanity through dharma. The event marked a significant step in reaffirming the global relevance of Hindu traditions in contemporary society.

Honorees included:

- Dr. Sudhir Parikh - Padma Shri awardee, U.S.-based physician, philanthropist, and founder of Parikh Worldwide Media.
- Dr Romesh Japra - Community leader and Cardiologist, Pub-

• Dr. Deepak Chopra - Globally renowned author and wellness guru.

In his keynote, Rajarshi Modi declared, "This is a call for dharmic action-a moment for global Hindu leaders not to rule, but to serve." He emphasized the urgent need for spiritual trusteeship in the modern world and called for unity beyond geographic or sectarian lines.

The ceremony highlighted the

Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, where he was ceremonially honored as a "Rajarshi" by religious leaders.

As part of his ongoing mission, Rajarshi Modi announced the launch of the Global Hindu Kings Movement, with the goal of nominating 500 new "New Age Hindu Kings and Queens"-inspirational figures who exemplify spiritual service and global impact.



Romesh Japra

Humbled by This Honor!

On June 20, 2025, at a prestigious ceremony held at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, I was deeply honored to be recognized for Global Hindu Leadership, alongside visionaries like Dr. Deepak Chopra, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, and Princess Gouri Lakshmi Bayi.

Grateful to Rajarshi Bhupendra Modi for this meaningful recognition, which celebrates Sanatana Dharma, dharmic unity and peace across the globe.

Let this be a call to serve, unite, and uplift. - Romesh Japra



Dr. Deepak Chopra



Princess Aswathi Thirunal Gouri Lakshmi Bayi

dividuals embodying Sanatan Dharma and promoting intercultural unity.

The awards celebrated the honorees as "Hindu Kings," symbolic leaders representing the vision and values of Adi

lisher India Post honored for promoting global unity through cultural events.

• Princess Aswathi Thirunal Gowri Lakshmi Bayi - Princess of the Travancore royal family, revered for preserving cultural heritage.

spiritual message of "Atithi Devo Bhava" (Guest is God) and marked a milestone in Rajarshi Modi's lifelong mission to build a spiritual movement that transcends borders. His vision was previously reaffirmed at the 2024

From Devon Avenue to D.C.: Bushra Amiwala's campaign

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: A wave of excitement and unity swept through Khan B.B.Q Restaurant in Chicago's Devon Avenue on June 26, 2025, as community leaders, supporters, and activists gathered to rally behind Bushra Amiwala, a candidate for Illinois's 9th Congressional District.

The event, a fundraiser marked a pivotal moment in Amiwala's campaign, showcasing her vision for transformative leadership and galvanizing a diverse coalition to propel her to Congress in the March 2026 primary election.

Amiwala 's seven years of service have been defined by groundbreaking initiatives: championing transparency through livestreamed public meetings,

ensuring accessibility with free extracurricular programs for students on free or reduced lunch, and leading the nation by introducing Halal, Kosher, and vegetarian meal options in schools. Now, she's set her sights on Washington, D.C., to advocate for healthcare, education, housing, and economic security.

The event was a testament to the grassroots momentum building around Amiwala's platform, which prioritizes Medicare for All, humanitarian aid over military spending, protecting education from executive overreach, combating climate change, and fostering economic security through clean energy jobs.

Sohan Joshi, Director of the Alliance of Indians in America and North American College, set the tone with an impassioned

speech. "Bushra Amiwala is the new generation of leadership we



Bushra Amiwala

need-active, intelligent, and ready to represent us in Washington," Joshi declared. "It's our job to ensure she wins, and our

support will send her to Congress to fight for us."

Sufyan Feroze, who drove from Naperville with his wife Neha Shagufta, spoke to Amiwala's historic candidacy.

Mahek Feroze, a businesswoman and entrepreneur, delivered a heartfelt endorsement, emphasizing Amiwala's role as a trailblazer for Muslim women.

Amiwala herself took the stage to a roaring crowd, delivering a powerful message of unity and action. "

" We're facing a national crisis, and I'm committed to fighting for healthcare over medical bankruptcies, education over student debt, and housing over

homelessness. I refuse to be bought in this election-my priority is the everyday voices of this district."

Bushes observed

Her priorities resonate deeply in a district grappling with economic and social challenges. Amiwala's advocacy for Medicare for All addresses the healthcare insecurities faced by many, while her focus on clean energy jobs aligns with the urgent need to combat climate change while boosting employment.

The event also highlighted Amiwala's achievements

The fundraiser was more than an event; it was a rallying cry for a new era of leadership.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice condemns Supreme Court order

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Asian Americans Advancing Justice - urged to stop the Massachusetts District Court's order that was safeguarding immigrants from deportation to third-party countries without due process.

This ruling empowers the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to unconstitutionally remove immigrants to third countries where they hold no nationality or prior personal ties - without

Guantanamo Bay and the CECOT prison in El Salvador, and shipping containers on a military base in Djibouti.

As Justice Sotomayor powerfully noted in her dissent in the Supreme Court's decision, this ruling is an incomprehensible abuse of power and effectively "rewards lawlessness" by allowing the government to bypass legal safeguards designed to prevent torture and persecution. The ruling undermines the fundamen-


This ruling empowers the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to unconstitutionally remove immigrants to third countries where they hold no nationality or prior personal ties - without notice

notice or a meaningful opportunity to contest the removal orders. This will further expose immigrants to risks of persecution, torture, and death.


These third-country removals are part of a cruel and calculated policy designed to bypass the refusal of countries of origin to accept deportees. Instead of receiving due process, these vulnerable immigrants are being sent to subhuman detention conditions near the Darien Gap, at

tal principle that all people - regardless of immigration status or history - are entitled to due process and protection under the law.

As organizations working closely with Asian Americans, we are acutely aware of the devastating legacy of exclusionary immigration policies. We stand in unwavering solidarity with all the vibrant immigrant communities affected by this ruling. This decision is not only indefensible; it is profoundly immoral.



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Program 3 to 6 PM

Pooja begins at 2:30 pm!
Followed by Sunderkand, Aarti and
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Please note: This month's Sunderkand is moved to July 20. There will be no Sunderkand on July 27.

California leads resistance to immigration crackdown

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

California is proud to be home to one of the most diverse populations in the nation. Communities in every corner of our state, including Los Angeles, San Diego, Kern, and the Bay Area are home to immigrants, refugees and mixed status families from all around the world. As California's students and families are targeted by immigration enforcement, college access professionals and the California Student Aid Commission join to affirm our commitment to serve all students and learners across California, regardless of documentation status. American Community Media (ACoM) held an online discussion on June 27th, inviting officials and scholars to discuss the impact of federal tough actions on communities and California's response.

Rob Bonta, California Attorney General said that California has filed 26 lawsuits against the federal government, involving immigration policies, birthright citizenship, social assistance, education funding and

data privacy. He emphasized: "It is not to oppose for the sake of opposition, but to defend the rule of law and California's core values."

Antonio Villaraigosa, former LA Mayor and Gubernatorial hopeful bluntly stated that in his more than 50 years in politics, he had never seen such a scene. He pointed out that in the 1930s, the United

of action to become the new normal.

Jeannette Zanipatin, Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) pointed out that there have been many raids and arrests in Los Angeles recently, and some American citizens were even mistakenly taken to federal detention centers and released a few days later. She said that

has received a large number of reports about masked agents driving unmarked vehicles and using out-of-state license plates, patrolling communities, stopping people, and even breaking into homes. Even legal residents have begun to carry birth certificates and passports just in case.

Henry Brady, Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at the University of Berkeley pointed out that California became the target of federal crackdown because "we have been too successful." He said that California's policies emphasize multiculturalism, protect immigrants' rights, and promote universal health care and education. He pointed out that this will severely damage California's economy; the loss of port trade and manpower alone has caused damage of US\$275 billion. If agriculture, technology, education and other fields are included, the loss may exceed US\$500 billion. Ultimately, it will bring down not just California, but the entire U.S. economy.

Rob Bonta, California Attorney General said that California has filed 26 lawsuits against the federal government, involving immigration policies, birthright citizenship, social assistance, education funding and data privacy. He emphasized: "It is not to oppose for the sake of opposition, but to defend the rule of law and California's core values."

States deported a large number of Hispanics, including U.S. citizens, in the name of "deportation." In the 1950s, it launched "Operation Wetback." He called on the community to unite and "not allow this kind

many of the arrests occurred after court appearances or during routine interviews with the Immigration Bureau. Lawyers and family members were unable to contact the clients. She pointed out that CHIRLA

Reaffirming California's commitment to immigrants

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

American Community Media, in partnership with the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC), hosted a statewide media briefing on June 24th to reaffirm California's commitment to supporting immigrant, refugee, and undocumented students and families. As federal challenges with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) continue to create confusion and concern particularly around unprecedented federal data sharing, California leaders are working together to promote the California Dream Act Application (CADAA) as a safe, inclusive, and reliable alternative.

Dr. Daisy Gonzales, Executive Director,

California Student Aid Commission students from undocumented, refugee and mixed-status families are faced with the dilemma of "education or self-protection" due to federal data privacy concerns and spreading fear in their communities. At a time when errors in updating federal FAFSA forms are intertwined with the pressure of immigration enforcement, the importance of CADAA has become increasingly prominent. California Dream Act application information is a safe application channel that can protect the academic education of every California student, regardless of their status. She added as a daughter of immigrants and a first-generation college student, I know the power of education to change

your destiny.

Similar to 16 other states, California offers access to financial aid for their diverse populations by operating a state financial aid application in addition to the FAFSA. The CADAA offers access to state aid for undocumented students who meet nonresident tuition criteria,

their eligibility for state and institutional aid, and will not be shared with the federal government, and will be protected to the fullest extent of the law.

A student from LA felt hopeless when faced with her dream of higher education. It wasn't until she came across the California Dream Act (CADAA) with

Dr. Daisy Gonzales, Executive Director, California Student Aid Commission students from undocumented, refugee and mixed-status families are faced with the dilemma of "education or self-protection" due to federal data privacy concerns and spreading fear in their communities

and most recently, students from mixed-status families. The CADAA is California's solution to serve students during these unprecedented times. The information shared on the CADAA is held by the California Student Aid Commission, offering a secure way to apply for state and institutional aid. The data students and families share through the CADAA will solely be used to determine

the help of her school and community organizations that her vision suddenly broadened. CADAA provides a secure pipeline for students like her from undocumented or mixed-status families to apply for state financial aid without having to disclose sensitive information. Her story is the epitome of countless students who have benefited from the California Dream Act.

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7th Annual Mandala Makers Festival

Showcases South Asian Performing Artists

Mandala South Asian Performing Arts continues celebrating 10 years of connecting audiences with the vibrancy, flavors, and colors of the performing arts traditions of South Asia, presenting its seventh Mandala Makers Festival. This annual platform for support-

The Mandala Makers Festival holds space for artists to progress and challenge traditions of the South Asian diaspora. The three programs include classical and contemporary dance; classical, folk, and contemporary music; Bollywood dance; and, for the first time,

this year's Mandala Makers Festival reflects on the aesthetic and creativity of these artists and the audience," said Artistic Director Pranita Nayar. "The festival reveals how they honor the traditions they were born into and new works they are making as they encounter new cultural, social, and global influences."

This year's lineup includes:

Friday, September 5

Contemporary Dance and Music Performances, 6-8 p.m., free

EDM Dance Party, 8:30 p.m., \$40

This high-energy night spotlighting cutting-edge South Asian and Desi talent features Indian contemporary dance, experimental performances, and an EDM party with live DJs.

Saturday, September 6

Folk Dance and Music Performances, 4-6 p.m., free

Bollywood Dance Performances, 6-8 p.m., free

Bollywood Dance Party, 8:30 p.m., \$40

A mix of South Asian folk music, colorful dances, and high-energy Bollywood

performances showcases Punjabi dhol beats to dazzling group choreo, bringing together local and national talent.

Sunday, September 7

Classical Dance and Music performances, 2-6 p.m., free

Featuring masterful performances in Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Carnatic, and Hindustani music, this day honors the depth and beauty of South Asian classical arts, with seasoned artists and rising stars.

Participating artists offer a range of genres that celebrate tradition and the next generation of South Asian-influenced performing arts: dance performers Mandala Ensemble, Aikyam, Anindita Anaam and Shreevidya, and RVD Academy; DJs and EDM producers Deadstream, G-Tam, Atish Mehta, Nandu, Saqib, and Jimmy Singh; musical performers Chicago Jamrock Collective, Ochin Pakhi, Rini, and Nate Torrence-American Alghoza; and more. Bios and more information are available at mandalaarts.org/events/mandala-makers-festival-copy/.



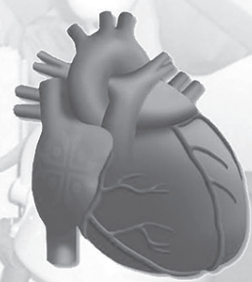
ing multidisciplinary South Asian performing artists takes place September 5-7 at the Athenaeum Center for Thought and Culture, 2936 N. Southport Avenue, Chicago.

EDM. Major funding for the Mandala Makers Festival has been provided by the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation.

"As a new generation of the South Asian diaspora population matures in the U.S.,

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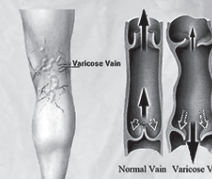


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AAPIs 43rd convention offers an enriching experience of networking, learning and celebration

It is my great pleasure to personally invite you all to the 43rd Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPi), being held in vibrant Cincinnati, Ohio, from July 24th to 27th, 2025," said Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPi, while inviting AAPi members to the prestigious event that will bring together nearly 1,000 delegates including Physicians, Academicians, Researchers and Medical students, along with guests to the Convention in Cincinnati from across the country for an enriching experience of networking, learning, and celebration.

Elaborating on the highlights of the convention, Dr. Kathula said, the Convention will offer 10-12 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) sessions delivered by world-renowned speakers, a dynamic CEO Forum, Women's Forum, and specialized tracks on Medical Education and



Medical Licensing. This conference will host acclaimed Physicians, Healthcare professionals and leaders from across the world for a dynamic exchange of ideas, serving as a collaborative effort to shape the future of

Whether you are a physician, a healthcare professional, or an industry partner, this convention presents a valuable opportunity to showcase your business and connect with influential leaders in the medical field, said Dr. Sunil Kaza

healthcare on a global scale. In addition to the academic and professional offerings, attendees will enjoy three nights of world-class entertainment, making this a well-rounded and memorable gathering. "Whether you are a physician, a healthcare professional, or an industry partner, this convention presents a valuable opportunity to showcase your business and connect with influential leaders in the medical field, said Dr. Sunil Kaza, Chair of AAPi BOT. "We look forward to welcoming you all to Cincinnati for this exceptional event." Dr. Mario Capecchi, a Nobel laureate,

who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine/Physiology in 2007 for his contributions to the development of "Mouse knockout technology" will deliver the keynote address during the 43rd annual AAPi Convention.

Other confirmed Speakers at the Con-

Elaborating on the highlights of the convention, Dr. Kathula said, the Convention will offer 10-12 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) sessions delivered by world-renowned speakers, a dynamic CEO Forum, Women's Forum, and specialized tracks on Medical Education and Medical Licensing

vention include: Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, president-elect of the American Medical Association; Dr. Lyuba Konopasek, MD, Senior Vice President, Intellect/ECFMG, Executive Director, FAIMER; Michael Suk, MD, BOT Chair, AMA; George Abraham, MD, Chair, Federation of State Medical Boards; and Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy, a Padma Vibhushan awardee.

"We have convened a dedicated group of people to meet the needs of the 2025 convention and are very excited about this year," Dr. Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President-Elect of AAPi said. "We invite you to the AAPi 43rd Annual Convention and take advantage of the Early Bird Special that is going on at the moment. Please reach out to any one of the Convention Team with questions or comments."

Dr. Meher Medavaram, Vice President of AAPi, while describing how AAPi's mission has evolved in the past 43 years, said,

"Today, AAPi is strong representing over 120,000 Indian American physicians, 130 local Chapters, who make up of 10% of total physicians in the US and nearly 50% of International Medical Graduates, rooted in every corner of the nation, who serve every 7th patient in the US. We are proud of our achievements and our contributions to the healthcare industry and the millions of people we serve."


Physicians and healthcare professionals from across the country will convene and participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, to develop health policy agendas, and to encourage legisla-

tive priorities in the coming year. The annual convention offers extensive academic presentations, recognition of achievements and achievers, and professional networking at the alumni and evening social events, in addition to offering an exciting venue to interact with lead-


ing physicians, healthcare industry leaders, academicians, and scientists of In-

dian origin. Physicians and healthcare professionals from across the country will participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, to develop health policy agendas, and to encourage legislative priorities in the coming year. "The annual convention offers extensive academic presentations, recognition of achievements and achievers, and professional networking at the alumni and evening social events. We invite you to be an active participant in this transformative journey and be part of the Convention," said Dr. Kathula. For more details on AAPi and the convention, please visit: www.aapiconvention.org and www.aapiusa.org


More Community stories on page 16-17 ▶



Fremont Hindu Temple
Vedic Dharma Samaj



Fremont Hindu Temple
Vedic Dharma Samaj



(Organized by FOG Odisha
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Study finds how pig kidney transplants work in humans

NEW DELHI: With xenotransplantation -- animal-to-human transplantation -- poised to address the global organ shortage crisis, a pioneering study has outlined how human immune cells interact with pig kidney tissue in transplanted organs, revealing critical early markers of rejection and potential intervention strategies.

Led by French and US researchers, the study deployed cutting-edge spatial molecular imaging to find key molecular mechanisms that could help overcome the biggest challenge in xenotransplantation: rejection by the human immune system.

The team led by Dr. Valentin Goutaudier from the Paris Institute for Transplantation and Organ Regeneration & NYU Langone Transplant Institute) found that human immune cells were found in every part of the pig kidney's filtering system after the transplant.

Researchers observed early molecular signs of antibody-mediated rejection as soon as Day 10 and peaking at Day 33, reinforcing previous findings that rejection begins rapidly but progresses over time.

By tracking these immune responses for up to 61 days, the team identified a crucial window for targeted therapeutic intervention.

"Our study provides the most detailed molecular map to date of how the human immune system engages with a transplanted pig kidney," explained Goutaudier, while presenting the study at the ESOT Congress 2025 in London, UK. *IANS*



One can be said to be perfectly healthy in body and mind only if no part of the body or mind makes itself felt. A part makes itself felt only when there is something wrong with it. You know that you have a head only when it aches.

Sri Atmananda (1883 - 1959)

July 4, 2025

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India Post 13

Your morning cup of coffee key to slow down ageing, boost longevity: Study

NEW DELHI: Love your morning cup of coffee? A new study has shown that it may not only energize you but also help slow down ageing and boost longevity.

Caffeine has long been linked to potential health benefits, including reduced risk of age-related diseases.

However, the study led by researchers from Queen Mary University of London in the UK revealed how caffeine works inside human cells, and what exactly its connections are with nutrient and stress-responsive gene and protein networks.

The researchers found that caffeine affects ageing by tapping into an ancient cellular energy system.

They showed that caffeine works by activating an important system called AMPK -- a cellular fuel gauge that is evolutionarily conserved in yeast and humans.

"When your cells are low on energy, AMPK kicks in to help them cope," said Dr Charalampos (Babis) Rallis, Reader in Genetics, Genomics, and Fundamental Cell Biology at Queen Mary's



University of London's Centre for Molecular Cell Biology.

"And our results show that caffeine helps flip that switch," Rallis added, in the paper published in the journal *Microbial Cell*.

Interestingly, AMPK is also the target of metformin -- a common diabetes drug that's being studied for its potential

to extend the human lifespan together with rapamycin.

Using a yeast model, the researchers showed that caffeine's effect on AMPK influences how cells grow, repair their DNA, and respond to stress -- all of which are tied to ageing and disease.

"These findings help explain why caffeine might be

beneficial for health and longevity," said Dr John-Patrick Alao, the postdoctoral research scientist leading this study.

"And they open up exciting possibilities for future research into how we might trigger these effects more directly -- with diet, lifestyle, or new medicines," Alao added. *IANS*

Indian researchers develop diagnostic device to detect early-stage bone cancer

NEW DELHI: In a major scientific breakthrough, researchers from IIT (BHU) in Uttar Pradesh have developed a miniaturized, self-reporting diagnostic device that can detect early-stage bone cancer with high precision.

The first-of-its-kind sensor detects osteopontin (OPN) -- a key biomarker for bone cancer.

The device is reagent-free, portable, and cost-effective and is ideal for rural healthcare,

said the research team led by Dr. Pranjal Chandra from the School of Biochemical Engineering.

The device works much like a glucose meter and enables quick, accurate, and on-the-spot detection, even in resource-limited settings.

The device uses a custom sensor surface composed of gold and redox-active nanomaterial, allowing it to function similarly to a glucose meter.

"This technology simplifies cancer detection and empowers pri-

mary health centers," said Prof. Chandra. The findings are published in the prestigious journal *Nanoscale* (Royal Society of Chemistry, UK).

OPN is a crucial biomarker associated with osteosarcoma -- a highly aggressive form of bone cancer that primarily affects children and adolescents.

While current methods to detect OPN are costly and time-consuming, the new device offers rapid and accurate results with minimal equipment.

It is designed as a reagent-less immunosensor, which enables on-the-spot and affordable testing. It is especially beneficial in rural and resource-constrained areas where early cancer detection is often delayed.

Cancer is a major public health concern in India, with rising incidence rates and significant mortality.

Lauding the innovation, Director Prof. Amit Patra called it "a prime example of technology with

a human face". He said it contributes to precision medicine and national health priorities. He added that the innovation aligns with the government's Make in India and Start-up India initiatives.

A patent application has been filed, and efforts are underway to convert the prototype into a smartphone-compatible diagnostic kit for remote healthcare access, the researchers said. *IANS*

International Day of Yoga conveyed message of peace, stability: PM Modi in 'Mann Ki Baat'

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday praised the nationwide and global celebrations of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, calling them a grand and meaningful expression of peace, stability and balance.

Addressing the 123rd episode of his monthly radio program 'Mann Ki Baat', PM Modi said Yoga has become an integral part of people's lives, both in India and across the world.

"All of you right now must be feeling the energy of Yoga and the memories of the International Day of Yoga. This year, too, on June 21, millions across the country and the world participated in Yoga Day. You must remember that it all began 10 years ago, and every year this tradition is becoming grander than before. This indicates that more and more people are incorporating Yoga into their daily lives," he said.

Highlighting some of the most captivating moments from this year's celebrations, the Prime Minister referred to the massive gathering of three lakh people performing Yoga on the beaches of Visakhapatnam.

"Another incredible sight from Visakhapatnam, over 2,000 tribal students performed 108 Surya Namaskars for 108 minutes. Imagine how much discipline and dedication they must have had," he remarked.

He also praised the unique observations on Indian Naval ships, the participation of over 3,000 specially-abled individuals in Telangana, and the Yoga sessions conducted on the banks of the Yamuna River, which also helped promote the clean Yamuna initiative.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, people performed Yoga on the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway bridge. Yoga was also performed by ITBP jawans at the snow-covered peaks of the Himalayas, showcasing a powerful blend of courage and spiritual discipline. The people of Gujarat also created a new history. People of Vadnagar set a new record when 2,121 people performed Bhujangasana (Cobra Pose) together," he added.

The Prime Minister applauded the global observance of the Yoga Day, noting that cities such as New York, London, Tokyo, and Paris hosted large-scale events.

"Every picture of Yoga Day from around the world conveyed a special message of peace, stability and balance," he said.

PM Modi also emphasized the significance of this year's theme -- Yoga For One Earth, One Health -- calling it a guiding principle that echoes the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, or "the world is



one family".

Expressing confidence in the impact of

this year's celebrations, the Prime Minister said, "The grandeur of this year's IDY

will encourage more and more people to adopt Yoga into their daily lives." IANS

This new AI tool can detect 9 types of dementia from single brain scan

NEW DELHI: In a significant achievement for identifying neurodegenerative diseases early, a team of US researchers has developed a new artificial intelligence (AI) tool that helps clinicians detect brain activity patterns linked to nine types of dementia using a single and widely available scan.

The tool, StateViewer, not only helped in early detection but also provided accurate diagnosis -- it identified the dementia type in 88 percent of cases, including Alzheimer's disease.

It also enabled clinicians to interpret brain scans nearly twice as fast and with up to three times greater accuracy than standard workflows, according to the research, published online in the journal *Neurology*.

Researchers from the Mayo Clinic trained and tested the AI on more than 3,600 scans, including images from patients with dementia and people without

cognitive impairment.

Currently, diagnosing dementia requires cognitive tests, blood draws, imaging, and clinical interviews, and yet, distinguishing conditions such as Alzheimer's, Lewy body dementia and frontotemporal dementia remains a challenge.

"Every patient who walks into my clinic carries a unique story shaped by the brain's complexity," said David Jones, a Mayo Clinic neurologist.

"StateViewer reflects that commitment -- a step toward earlier understanding, more precise treatment, and, one day, changing the course of these diseases," added Jones, director of the Mayo Clinic Neurology Artificial Intelligence Program.

The tool analyses a fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography (FDG-PET) scan, which shows how the brain uses glucose for energy. It then compares the scan to a large database of scans from people

with confirmed dementia diagnoses and identifies patterns that match specific types, or combinations, of dementia.

While Alzheimer's affects memory and processing regions, Lewy body dementia involves areas tied to attention and movement. Frontotemporal dementia alters regions responsible for language and behavior.

StateViewer displays these patterns through color-coded brain maps that highlight key areas of brain activity, giving all clinicians, even those without neurology training, a visual explanation of what the AI sees and how it supports the diagnosis.

Dementia affects more than 55 million people worldwide, with nearly 10 million new cases each year.

Alzheimer's disease, the most common form, is now the fifth-leading cause of death globally. IANS

A bowl of spinach, kale and broccoli may boost heart health in elderly women

NEW DELHI: Eating a bowl of leafy green and cruciferous vegetables like spinach, kale, and broccoli may be good to ward off the risk of heart attack and stroke, particularly in elderly women.

A team of researchers from the Edith Cowan University (ECU), the University of Western Australia, and the Danish Cancer Institute found that leafy green vegetables - rich in Vitamin K1 -- may help prevent atherosclerotic vascular diseases (ASVDs).

ASVD is a subgroup of cardiovascular diseases -- the leading cause of death worldwide, primarily due to heart attacks and strokes. It causes plaque to build up inside the arteries, potentially leading to cardiovascular problems.

The research conducted in 1,436 elderly women showed that a higher dietary intake of Vitamin K1 could reduce the risk of ASVD.

In addition, Vitamin K may also be beneficial for musculoskeletal health, through its impact on bone strength.

Notably, a higher Vitamin K1 intake also leads to less thickening of blood vessels



in the neck -- a marker of atherosclerosis.

"Leafy green and cruciferous vegetables, like spinach, kale, and broccoli, contain Vitamin K1 which may assist in preventing vascular calcification processes that characterize cardiovascular disease. The great news is that these vegetables can be easily incorporated into your daily meals" said Montana Dupuy from ECU. ECU Senior Research Fellow Dr Marc Sim noted that a cup and a half of such vegetables is an easy way to increase our daily vitamin K intake and may lower our risk for cardiovascular disease".

"This research found women who consumed approximately 30 percent higher intakes of Vitamin K1 had lower long-term risk of ASVD," he said.

As the research provided key evidence to support future studies, the team is now creating new foods that pack more leafy greens that are rich in Vitamin K1, to be used in communities with special nutritional and dietary requirements, such as aged care residents. *IANS*



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FOG Idol 2025 - Silver Jubilee event starts off with a bang

Photos courtesy SITAARRE TV



From left to right: Sanjay Saxena presenting a certificate of appreciation to Kelly Love, along with Niharika Srivastav. In the background: Lionel Pasamonte, Szilva Vecserdy and Noah Berlow

LAKSHMI IYER

India Post News Service

FREMONT, CA: FOG Idol 2025 kicked off in superlative fashion in Saraswati Hall at the Fremont Hindu Temple on Sunday, 15th June, 2025, with celebrities and managers from the American music and film industries attending the inauguration and emphasizing its global outlook.

The event itself is in its 25th year, marking its silver jubilee.

True to tradition, the program was initiated with a Ganesh 'vandana', an invocation to Lord Ganesha, the remover of all obstacles. And what a splendid invocation it was! One of the contestants, 19-year-old Neil Nayyar, plays 120 instruments and is a regular performer at various events in and around the Bay Area. He gave a bravura rendition of the high-energy "Jai Ganesha" on his saxophone, mesmerizing the audience.

Ritu Maheshwari, FOG Idol coordinator welcomed everyone and elaborated the role of FOG Idol in uplifting the music talent and encouraging community in Bay Area.

Guests of honor Kelly Love, Hollywood singer and multi-instrumentalist, Lionel Pasamonte from American Idol, and a movie producer, Noah Berlow, co-founder at Immortal cinema, and Szilva Vecserdy, an award-winning songwriter and lyricist, took the stage to inaugurate the event with cutting the ribbon and lighting the lamp. Ms. Szilva Vecserdy, who was born and raised in Australia, performed an inspiring song that she has written herself, to thunderous applause.

Sanjay Saxena, an accomplished musician, cricket enthusiast with a radio show, and a FOG Idol judge who has presided over other auditions and finals, and his wife, Niharika Srivastav, one of the emcees for FOG Idol, were instrumental in getting the celebrities to the event. The couple runs Drishtee Foundation to empower women in rural India. They are making a documentary called "Changemakers", focused on women overcoming insurmountable odds to build a better future for themselves and their families.

Alka Bhatnagar, Chair Music, FOG since its inception, is one of the chief judges. Archana Varshney, choreographer and artistic director, and Ritendra Datta, local playwright and director, who also plays many musical instru-



Senior participant Nirmala Joshi presented with a certificate. From left to right: Sujata Shrivastava, Ritendra Datta, Nehal Raval, Lakshmi Iyer, Alka Bhatnagar, Ritu Maheshwari, and contestant Parag Joshi. Seated: Archana Varshney

ments, were the other judges for the first day of auditions. Ritendra's wife, Roshni Datta, a Bay Area Radio Jockey from Radio Zindagi and a prominent theater actress, also helped with the event.

SITAARRE TV is the official television media partner for the event.

FOG Idol core team included Sujata Shrivastava and emcee Lakshmi Iyer (this correspondent).

The first performer of the day was Aadhy Yadav in the 10-17 age group. Coincidentally, her name is a variation of "Aadi" meaning "first" or "root" in Sanskrit, making her a perfect first contestant.

She did justice to the number, "Ab Hai Saamne... Choo Lo Zara...", hitting the high notes comfortably.

For his audition round, Neil Nayyar performed "Sun raha hai tu...", showing impressive vocal staying power, holding his breath on extended notes.

When the judges requested him to sing something



Contestant Swara Chada presented with a certificate

without a background track, he sang a medley in multiple languages, beginning with the famous "Pal pal dil ke paas...", interspersed with "Pogaade..." in Tamil, Green Day's "Boulevard of Broken Dreams", and other numbers, finishing with a Mandarin song.

"Pal pal dil ke paas..." is an extremely popular romantic melody, and it has been a performer's favorite. Dhiren Shah, a singer who lends his vocal talent to 'garba' performances in the temple, chose this for his audition, although without an accompanying track. His deep baritone voice was the perfect vehicle for the tune.

For his second number, he performed "Mere Sapnon Ki Rani...", an evergreen Kishore Kumar song, to claps and beats from the audience.



Milpitas Mayor Carmen Montano (fourth from right) and Milpitas Planning Commission member Dipak Awasthi (far right) with the FOG Idol team and contestants

Returning contestant, Parag Joshi, gave a soulful performance of the ghazal, "Hoshwaalon ko kya khabar..." from the movie, "Sarfaroosh".

Sai Shukla, all of 6 years old, started off the 5-9 years' age group category, with a confident rendition of a devotional song.

When asked for another song, she sang "Ram Siyaa Ram...", with the audience singing along.

Swara Chada, also in the same age group, sang the Telugu version of the foot-tapping number, "Kanmani..." from the Kamal Hassan film, "Guna", her sweet voice standing out while keeping pace with the beats.

Sonal Singh in the 10-17 years' age group chose "Aaahe jab tum saajna..." and gave a wonderful performance in a mellifluous voice.

Vikas Kumar from the 18+ group stunned everyone with his soothing yet commanding voice, effortlessly carrying the song, "Ek Kudi..." from "Uda Punjab". When asked for another number without an accompanying track, he chose the folksy "Maayari...", showing the judges his vocal mettle.

Santosh Sahoo took everyone back to Hindi cinema's golden era with his performance of "Jaane waalon zara mudke dekho zaraa...", originally sung by the legendary Mohammed Rafi. He was also helpful in helping the organizing team line up the vocal tracks.

Like last time, Parag Joshi had brought his elderly mother, Nirmala Joshi to the audition and she represented senior citizens in the 18+ category.

As the event is held in the Fremont Hindu Temple, curious devotees often stop by and end up participating as walk-ins. One such serendipitous participant in the 10-17 years' age group was Siya Rajvaidya. She sang without a track. Her first number was a modern one with lots of Punjabi influence, and on the judges' request, she chose the peppy "Pal pal pal har pal..." from "Lage Raho Munnabhai", with many folks tapping along.

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



Neil Nayyar



Sonal Singh



Siya Rajvaidya



Santosh Sahoo



Dhiren Shah



Vikas Kumar

FOG Idol Day 2 Auditions

LAKSHMI IYER
India Post News Service

The second day of the Festival of Globe (FOG) Idol 2025 auditions took place on Sunday, June 22nd, at the Saraswati Hall in the Fremont Hindu Temple.

It was a brilliant showcase of local talent, with 21 new participants across all age groups.

FOG Idol Chair and judge Alka Bhatnagar inaugurated the event with a beautiful rendition of "Jai Ganesha jai Ganesha Deva, Mata Jaaki Parvati Pita Mahadeva..." in her signature melodious voice.

Emcee Lakshmi Iyer also opened with a Carnatic classical Geetham, "Shri Gananatha Sindura Varna..."

After the obsequies were paid, the emcee called upon Angela Tirado, 2024 FOG Idol contestant. Angela had truly blown everyone away with her phenomenal voice last year. In addition, she sang atop a truck as part of the FOG Idol walking group at the India Day Parade.

Angela shared her musical journey. At the age of eight, she joined the choir even though the minimum age was twelve. She amazed people with her rendition of "Ave Maria", a Latin devotional dedicated to Mother Mary.

The judges and the FOG idol team presented her with a certificate for her outstanding performance.

K P Maheshwari, Chair of FOG India Day Parade, came up on stage to announce this year's upcoming Parade on August 17th in Fremont and invited everyone to watch and participate.

For the second day, Nehal Raval and Sanjay Saxena joined Alka Bhatnagar as judges. Ms. Raval is a Radio Jockey on Radio Zindagi, a classical music teacher, and an accomplished singer and musician.

Archana Nindra started the competition in the 18+ category with "Teri mitti..."

The 10-17 years' category saw some stellar fresh talent.

Charmy Gajjar chose "Mangal bhavan amangal...", which she confidently sang with no background track.

Paridhi Shah sang the popular "Dil hai chhota sa...", her innocent voice a perfect fit for the famous number from the 90s film, "Roja", a song and film that straddled languages and launched composer A. R. Rahman and director Mani Ratnam into the Hindi film stratosphere.

When asked for a second song by the

judges, she sang the very famous "Barso re megha megha...", another A.R. Rahman piece from the Mani Ratnam movie, "Guru".

Aarya Jyothiprakash also chose "Barso re megha megha..." for her first song, which she performed with gusto to a background track, matching the song's symbolism. When asked for a number without a track, she took on "Chura liya hai tumne..."

Aarmaan Chanana was the only male contestant in this age group of adolescents on the second day. His voice stood out in his rendering of the famous Arijit Singh number, "Tum hi ho... hum tere bin ab reh nahi sakte..." with the background karaoke tune.



Subha Mohan



Angela Tirado



Satish Kumar



Mohili Yenni



Aarmaan Chanana



Himani Tiwari



Manasa



Tanisha Bhatti



Anvith Iyer



Sangeetha Sutar



FOG India Day Parade Chair K P Maheshwari (center) with the FOG Idol team, contestants, and their families
Seated in the second row from left to right: Rithvika Puvvada, Aarya Jyothiprakash, Shreya Sutar, and Advika Sahoo



From left to right: Contestants Charmi Gajjar (standing), seated: Paridhi Shah, Aarya Jyothiprakash, and Archana Nindra, standing: Indira Jha (second from left), along with Lakshmi Iyer, Sanjay Saxena, Nehal Raval, Alka Bhatnagar, and Sujata Shrivastava (far right)



Contestant Tanisha Bhatti (far right) receiving her certificate



Tina Kutub and Lakshmi

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

Remittances by Indians working abroad scale record high of \$135 billion

MUMBAI: The remittances sent back home by Indians working abroad have registered a 14 percent rise in the financial year 2024-25 to a record \$135.46 billion, according to data compiled by the RBI.

The RBI said the inflows, classified under "private transfers", accounted for more than 10 percent of India's gross current account flows of \$1 trillion in FY25.

Personal transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, rose to \$33.9 billion in the January-March quarter of 2024-25 from \$31.3 billion in the same quarter of the previous year, RBI data shows.



Indians working abroad sent home a record \$129.4 billion in 2024, with the highest ever inflows of \$36 billion in the October-December quarter.

India tops the list of recipient countries for remittances in 2024 and is way ahead of second-placed Mexico with \$68 billion. China (\$48 billion) is in the third spot, followed by the Philippines (\$40 billion) and Pakistan (\$33 billion), according to figures compiled by World Bank economists.

The growth rate of remittances in the 2024 calendar year is estimated to be 5.8 percent, compared to 1.2 percent registered in 2023, according to the World Bank data.

The number of Indians working overseas has tripled from 6.6 million in 1990 to 18.5 million in 2024, with its share in global migrants rising from 4.3 percent to over 6 percent during the same period. Indian migrants in the Gulf countries account for around half of the total Indian migrants in the world. *IANS*

India discusses mineral security, green steel production with the Gulf

NEW DELHI: India's story is no longer confined within its borders but is being written in global cities like Dubai, by institutions like NMDC and MECON, through partnerships that build prosperity across continents, Union Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy has said. In a landmark development for India's global industrial outreach, Kumaraswamy began his official visit to the United Arab Emirates with a high-level meeting with His Highness Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah (RAK), followed by the inauguration of the international offices of NMDC Limited and MECON Limited in Dubai. *IANS*



Without EV subsidies, Musk to close up shop, head back home to South Africa: Trump

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump has issued a deportation warning for Tesla and Space CEO Elon Musk who also served as his former advisor, saying the tech billionaire may need to "close up shop" and move back to South Africa in absence of electric vehicle (EV) subsidies.

Trump's warning on his Truth Social platform this week came amid the feud between him and Musk over the 'One Big Beautiful Bill'.

"Elon Musk knew, long before he so strongly Endorsed me for President, that I was strongly against the EV Mandate. It is ridiculous, and was always a major part of my campaign. Electric cars are fine, but not everyone should be forced to own one. Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

"No more Rocket launches, Satellites, or Electric Car Production, and our Country would

save a FORTUNE. Perhaps we should have DOGE take a good, hard, look at this? BIG MONEY TO BE SAVED!!!" the US Presi-



"Elon Musk knew, long before he so strongly Endorsed me for President, that I was strongly against the EV Mandate. It is ridiculous, and was always a major part of my campaign. Electric cars are fine, but not everyone should be forced to own one"

dent further added.

Trump had appointed Musk the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

Meanwhile, Musk has threat-

ened to unseat the lawmakers who support the unpopular package.

"Every member of Congress



shame," Musk, who was Trump's presidential advisor till May, said in a post on X.

"And they will lose their primary next year if it is the last thing I do on this Earth," he added.

Musk also warned that he would launch a new party -- the American Party -- if lawmakers pass Trump's spending bill in the Senate.

The US Senate narrowly advanced President Trump's major tax-cut and spending bill, marking a key procedural step toward passing the legislation before the upcoming July 4 recess.

The 940-page package, formally titled the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, was approved in a 51-49 procedural vote late night 28 June, setting the stage for formal debate. The bill aims to extend the 2017 tax cuts, cut other taxes and boost military and border security spending, while offsetting revenue losses through deep cuts to Medicaid, food stamps, renewable energy and other social welfare programs. *IANS*

9 sectors have potential to generate up to \$738 billion revenue in India by 2030: Report

NEW DELHI: Driven by sound fundamentals and a resilient economy, Indian firms in nine sectors could collectively generate between \$588 billion and \$738 billion in revenues by 2030, according to a new report.

McKinsey & Company said in its report that this represents a three-and-a-half fold surge from \$164-206 billion pegged in 2023.

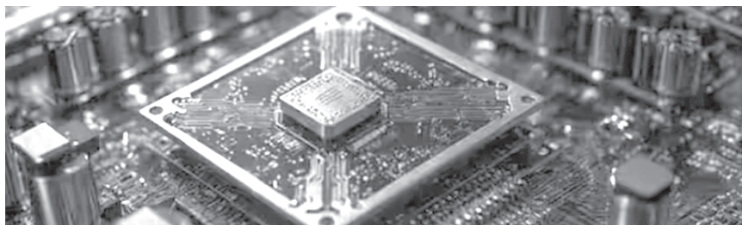
The nine sector are: e-commerce, semiconductor, Cloud

services, cybersecurity, electric vehicle and battery, artificial intelligence (AI) software and services, space, nuclear fission, and robotics.

According to the report, the sectors were chosen based on either patent activity being twice

the median or research and development (R&D) investment outpacing the national average by a factor of two.

In e-commerce, revenue estimates project a four-fold increase, from \$60-70 billion in 2023 to \$240-300 billion by 2030.



In the electric vehicle (EV) sector, revenues are expected increase six-fold to eight-fold to touch \$40-60 billion by the end of the decade.

In the space sector, revenues are expected to rise fourfold to fivefold by 2030, according to the report.

Semiconductor revenues are expected to treble from \$40-45 billion in 2023 to \$100-120 billion by 2030, it added. *IANS*

Digital India made healthcare, education, business inclusive, innovative: Amit Shah

NEW DELHI: The 10 years of digital India have made sectors from healthcare to education to business and commerce inclusive and innovative, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently.

The Digital India mission, launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aimed to democratize access, build an inclusive digital infrastructure, and provide opportunities for all.

"The Digital India initiative has democratized technology, transforming India into a global digital powerhouse. From healthcare and education to business and commerce, it has made every sector more inclusive, innovative, and future-ready by empowering citizens and driving a sustainable digital economy," Shah said in a post on social media platform X.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda said that digitalization led to transformative initiatives like e-Sanjeevani -- National Telemedicine Service and U-WIN portal,



Amit Shah

which has digitalized the vaccination records of children and pregnant women.

The 10 years of the Digital India initiative "has brought about a digital revolu-

tion across the country, building a robust digital infrastructure that not only connected millions but also bridged the digital divide among citizens".

"Digitalization has made our lives easier and introduced transparency in governance. With transformative initiatives like e-Sanjeevani, U-WIN, DBT Direct Benefit Transfer, eNAM, and UPI payments, the digitalization of services has streamlined processes and curbed leakages by ensuring efficient, accountable, and real-time delivery of benefits," Nadda said.

The Health Minister noted that the "Modi government is committed to expanding digital reach so every citizen, even in remote areas, can access key services with ease".

Earlier, PM Modi in a post on LinkedIn enumerated how each sector has been transformed due to the initiative. He also mentioned how the CoWIN web portal supports and enhances the effectiveness of India's Covid-19 vaccination drive.

"CoWIN enabled the world's largest vaccination drive, issuing 220 crore QR-verifiable certificates," PM Modi said. IANS

FM Sitharaman meets key leaders in Spain to boost bilateral relations

SEVILLE: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the International Business Forum Leadership Summit here, where she discussed cooperation in mutual areas of interest in defense, education, technology and agriculture, among other sectors.

She met Dr Shane Reti, Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, Universities, Statistics and Pacific Peoples, New Zealand. Both ministers discussed cooperation in mutual areas of interest in defense, education, technology and agriculture, and shared values rooted in democracy, rule of law, and robust people-to-people ties.

The Finance Minister discussed the world-class opportunities available at GIFT-IFSC in terms of banking, bullion exchange, capital markets, funds ecosystem, FinTech, insurers and reinsurers.

"She noted educational exchange as a cornerstone of India-New Zealand relationship with many Indian students pursuing higher education in New Zealand," according to a post on X by Finance Ministry.

Dr Reti agreed to the need for enhancing education sector ties bilaterally, and also shared New Zealand's experience in engaging with the Pacific.

The Finance Minister highlighted India's strong partnership with Pacific Island Countries, and looked forward to enhancing engagement along with New Zealand through the Pacific Islands Forum.

She also met Elmer Schialer Salcedo, Foreign Minister of Peru, on the sidelines of the 'FFD4' meeting.

The two leaders discussed deepening strategic partnerships across FinTech, trade, investment, mining and defense, as well as the potential for collaboration in in-

The Finance Minister shared India's interest in diversifying exports to Peru, especially in automobiles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, engineering goods, and IT services; and valued imports of critical minerals such as copper and lithium from Peru - a potential key for India's energy transition and industrial growth.

She met Germany's Development Minister Reem Alabali Radovan and congratulated her on her recent appointment as Federal Minister for Economic Coopera-

She met Dr Shane Reti, Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, Universities, Statistics and Pacific Peoples, New Zealand. Both ministers discussed cooperation in mutual areas of interest in defense, education, technology and agriculture, and shared values rooted in democracy, rule of law, and robust people-to-people ties

frastructure projects, particularly the railways, according to an official statement.

FM Sitharaman highlighted India's expertise in building rail links and manufacturing of rolling stock. Salcedo said that he looked forward to India's participation in international bids for three rail links being developed in Peru.

tion and Development.

They discussed various mutual areas of collaboration under India-Germany Green and Sustainable Development Partnership including green and renewable energy, urban mobility and sustainable urban development, and sustainable livelihoods through ecology. IANS

Next decade to further bolster India's global digital leadership: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: As 'Digital India' completes 10 years, the next decade will be even more transformative, as the country moves from digital governance to global digital leadership -- from India-first to India-for-the-world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said recently.

According to PM Modi, 'Digital India' has not remained a mere government program; it has become a people's movement.

"It is central to building an 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', and to making India a trusted innovation partner to the world. To all innovators, entrepreneurs, and dreamers: the world is looking at India for the next digital breakthrough," said the Prime Minister in a post on LinkedIn.

Ten years ago, India embarked on a bold journey into uncharted territory with great conviction. While decades were spent doubting the ability of Indians to use technology, "we changed this approach and trusted the ability of Indians to use technology," said PM Modi. IANS

In Brief

US prez Trump celebrates the 'Big Beautiful Bill'

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill' has passed the key Senate vote.

The president calls it 'a great victory' for the Republican Party as the bill heads for its next round of votes.

Taking to X, Trump wrote, "Tonight we saw a GREAT VICTORY in the Senate with the 'GREAT, BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL,' but, it wouldn't have happened without the Fantastic Work of Senator Rick Scott, Senator Mike Lee, Senator Ron Johnson, and Senator Cynthia Lummis."

"As President of the USA, I am proud of them all, and look forward to working with them to GROW OUR ECONOMY, REDUCE WASTEFUL SPENDING, SECURE OUR BORDER, FIGHT FOR OUR MILITARY/VETS, ENSURE THAT OUR MEDICAID SYSTEM HELPS THOSE WHO TRULY NEED IT, PROTECT OUR SECOND AMENDMENT, AND SO MUCH MORE. GOD BLESS AMERICA & MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!!!" he added.

While all Republicans voted 'yes' to pass the bill, Thom Tillis, Ron Johnson and Rand Paul sided with the Democrats, making the bill pass with a narrow 51 to 49 vote.

The 'Big Beautiful Bill' focuses on funds for the US president's top immigration, border, tax-cut and military priorities and policies. The bill is a part of Trump's efforts towards tax cuts and spending. *IAN S*

Immigration

POST

20 India Post

www.indiapost.com

July 4, 2025

The move is part of President Donald Trump's broader strategy to tighten immigration screening, according to official statements

US tightens visa rules for Pakistani applicants

KARACHI: The US consulates in Karachi and Lahore have mandated that all F, M, and J nonimmigrant visa applicants make their social media accounts public as part of enhanced vetting measures, ARY News reported.

This directive aligns with a similar policy recently enacted by the US Embassy in Delhi.

An internal US State Department cable, dated June 18, instructs consular officers to screen visa applicants more thoroughly to detect any individuals with hostile views toward the United States or its institutions.

The move is part of President Donald Trump's broader strategy to tighten immigration screening, according to official statements.

ARY News further reported that the consulates announced on Instagram that applicants must adjust their social media privacy settings to allow officials to verify identity and eligibility.

The consulates warned that failure to comply could result in visa denial or future ineligibility.

Since 2019, visa applicants have been required to list their



An internal US State Department cable, dated June 18, instructs consular officers to screen visa applicants more thoroughly to detect any individuals with hostile views toward the United States or its institutions

social media handles on application forms. However, the updated

rule extends transparency by requiring public access to profiles

for F (academic), M (vocational), and J (exchange visitor) visa categories.

ARY News noted that these updated screening procedures, aimed at bolstering national security, require consular officers to conduct comprehensive background checks, including detailed reviews of applicants' social media activity.

The State Department stated, "Every visa adjudication is a national security decision... We must ensure that those applying for admission do not intend to harm Americans or our institutions."

Building on this approach, the US government has now made it mandatory for all F, M, and J nonimmigrant visa applicants to set their social media profiles to 'public' so that officials can properly verify their identity and admissibility under US law. *ANI*

Charlize Theron slams US administration for their policies

LOS ANGELES: Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron is getting political, and is not mincing words. The actress recently gave remarks about immigration, LGBTQ and women's rights and the devastating cuts to foreign aid.

The actress attended the 5th annual Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Program Block Party on the Universal lot, reports 'Variety'.

She said at the event, "The world feels like it's burning because it is. Here in Los Angeles, in the US and across the globe, we are moving backwards fast. Immigration policy is destroying



Charlize Theron

the lives of families, not criminals. Women's rights are becoming less and less every day, queer and trans lives are increasingly being erased, and gender-

based violence is on the rise. This isn't just policy, it's personal. F*** them".

She continued, "Foreign aid cuts brought HIV and AIDS programs in my home country of South Africa to an absolute standstill. All of this is not just detrimental, it's dangerous. People will lose their lives. Many have already unfortunately and at a frightening rate. It's absolutely heartbreaking to see this kind of unnecessary suffering".

As per 'Variety', Theron did not mention President Donald Trump by name but his administration has made cutting foreign aid a core part of its agenda. *IAN S*

PRADEEP ROY-SINGH

B.A. LL.B. M.B.A. J.D.

Attorney-at-Law

Former Assistant State's Attorney

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Airport security in India: CISF's new vision for safer, smoother passenger experience

NEW DELHI: In a major step toward enhancing airport security and improving passenger experience, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) hosted a high-level workshop that brought together all key stakeholders in India's civil aviation ecosystem.

The "Functional Workshop of Airport Sector," held at the CISF Airport Sector Headquarters, saw participation from top CISF officials, security heads of 69 airports, and

Discussions focused on integrating biometric entry passes with facial recognition, closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), and FASTag integration for vehicles. These measures aim to speed up airport entry and reduce wait times at checkpoints. Digitized Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will ensure quicker, more effective responses to any security concerns.



The workshop focused on making airport security not only more robust but also smarter and more passenger-centric. Here are the key takeaways and how they will benefit different categories of air travellers

senior representatives from the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Airports Authority of India (AAI), Delhi Police, Bureau of Immigration (BOI), Special Protection Group (SPG), National Security Guard (NSG), Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), as well as major airlines such as Air India Express and IndiGo.

The workshop focused on making airport security not only more robust but also smarter and more passenger-centric. Here are the key takeaways and how they will benefit different categories of air travellers.

Security checks are set to become more seamless.

A major focus was placed on "training synergy" among all airport stakeholders. Unified training for airport personnel -- from CISF to airline staff -- will standardize procedures and create a smoother, more consistent experience for passengers. Plans to set up more Aviation Security Training Institutes (ASTIs) in tier-2 and tier-3 cities will also prepare for rising passenger traffic while maintaining uniform security standards nationwide.

VIP security protocols are being upgraded with an emphasis on layered protection, insider threat mitigation, and advanced anti-drone technologies. These enhancements aim to ensure high-profile individuals travel

safely, with minimal disruption to general airport operations.

The workshop also reviewed the Passenger Grievance Redressal Mechanism, with a focus on "balancing customer expectations without compromising security." Stakeholders agreed on the need for a prompt, humane, and proactive approach to handling complaints. Platforms like AirSewa will be leveraged for real-time feedback and faster resolution.

A key theme was the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in threat analysis -- using predictive analytics to anticipate risks before they materialize. The goal is "mindful use of technology," resulting in more efficient security checks without compromising safety. *IANS*

Mexican govt reiterates protection for nationals amid US immigration raids

MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has said that her government will protect the country's migrants in the United States, where a series of immigration raids have resulted in the arrest of 252 Mexican nationals.

"Our solidarity, our support, and everything within our reach -- we will do everything to protect our migrant brothers and sisters," said the president during her daily press conference last week.

Sheinbaum also noted that Mexican consulates in the United States have been instructed to visit, at least once a day, the detention centers of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection, as part of a strategy to strengthen the protection of Mexican mi-

grants, reports Xinhua news agency.

She added that the consuls are required to hold a public hearing once a week "to listen and understand what is happening so they can take action."

The president emphasized that her government will spare no effort or resources to protect migrants from threats or rights violations, and pledged that complaints and concerns raised by Mexicans abroad will be addressed without exception.

Sheinbaum also condemned Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' proposal to build a new detention facility dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz" in the wetlands in the south of the state.

"Immigrants are not criminals," she said. *IANS*

Trump hails Supreme Court ruling limiting injunctions as landmark win for executive power

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump celebrated a major victory after the Supreme Court limited the ability of federal judges to impose nationwide injunctions, a decision that could expand his executive power, CNN reported.

Trump, who has often criticized unelected judges for blocking his policies, saw the ruling as a form of vindication. "Thanks to this decision, we can now promptly file to proceed with these numerous policies and those that have been wrongly enjoined on a nationwide basis," Trump said during an hour-long press conference at the White House. The case in question stemmed from a challenge related to birthright citizenship, though the broader impact of the ruling centers on presidential authority, CNN noted.

The decision marked a high point in what Trump described as one of the most consequential weeks of his second administration. According to a senior Israeli military official, Trump also launched military strikes on Iran during the same period. Trump took the podium wearing a confident smile, thanking the court and singling out Justice Amy Coney Barrett--whom he had previ-

"Thanks to this decision, we can now promptly file to proceed with these numerous policies and those that have been wrongly enjoined on a nationwide basis"

ously criticized--for writing the majority opinion. "I want to thank Justice Barrett, who wrote the opinion brilliantly, as well as Chief Justice Roberts and Justices Alito, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh and Thomas. Great people," Trump said.

In the ruling, Barrett wrote, "When a court concludes the executive branch has acted unlawfully, the answer is not for the court to exceed its power too." Trump, according to CNN, cited the opinion as support for his long-standing position against nationwide judicial overreach. White House officials indicated that the ruling would allow Trump to advance policies that were previously blocked, including defunding sanctuary cities, freezing refugee resettlement, and suspending taxpayer-funded transgender medical care.

Trump's Attorney General Pam Bondi, speaking alongside him, said, "These injunctions have allowed district court judges to be emperors. They vetoed all of President Trump's power, and they cannot do that. This has been a bipartisan problem that has lasted five presidential terms. Five different presidents and it has ended today." *ANI*

'Strong capital flow and consolidation continue to drive real estate growth'

NEW DELHI: Aided by strong collections and delivery lined up for next 2-3 years, the real estate companies in India are estimated to clock 22 percent CAGR in revenue over FY25-FY27 to Rs 861 billion, a report of 26 June showed.

EBITDA is expected to post a 26 percent CAGR to Rs 252 billion and blended operating margin is estimated to improve by 168bp to 29 percent over FY25-27E, according to the sector update report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

"With the timely execution of strong project pipeline, companies will achieve robust collections. Collections are expected to clock a 36 percent CAGR to Rs 1.5 trillion over FY25-27E," the report mentioned.

Strong collections should result in healthy operating cash flow (OCF) generation of Rs 600 billion by FY27E, while cumulative OCF is expected to be Rs 1.4 trillion over FY25-27E.

"With strong cash flow generation, developers are shifting their focus to business development to sustain the strong growth trajectory. Additionally, strong OCF generation allows developers to keep net D/E in check and at the comfortable level of below 0.5x," the report noted. *IANS*

Real Estate POST

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India's office market sees 11 pc growth in April-June, Grade A space demand surges

BENGALURU: India's office market continued its strong growth trajectory in the April-June period (Q2 2025), recording 17.8 million square feet (msf) of gross leasing across the top seven cities -- an 11 per cent increase compared to Q2 2024, a report showed on last week.

India's commercial, residential real estate market shows strong fundamentals in H1 2025



MUMBAI: Private equity (PE) investment in India's office real estate sector in the first half this year reflected measured optimism, driven by asset quality, prime locations and long-term tenancy visibility, according to a report of 26 June.

PE investments into Indian real estate sector stood at \$1.7 billion, spread across 12 deals in the April-June period.

While overall capital deployment across real estate declined due to global macroeconomic

pressures, the office segment stood out with \$706 million invested across three transactions in H1 2025, marking a 22 percent increase from \$579 million in H1 2024, according to the report by Knight Frank India.

Rather than broad-based investment, this growth was fuelled by strategic allocations into high-quality, Grade-A assets in core markets.

Investors showed a preference for larger, stabilized or near-stabilized office spaces

with strong cash flow potential, often through joint ventures or REIT-aligned platforms.

A notable trend in H1 2025 was the near-equal split between investments in ready and under-construction assets - about 50 percent each, said the report.

"India's commercial real estate market continues to show strong fundamentals, driven by the return to office, rising absorption levels, and strengthening rental values," said Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Direc-

tor, Knight Frank India.

Similarly, the residential sector has seen year-on-year growth, and retail consumption remains steady, supported by overall economic momentum.

"These factors have encouraged investors to adopt a long-term outlook on the Indian market. As macroeconomic conditions in the West begin to ease, we expect global capital flows to return to Indian real estate, further supported by the country's sustained growth and improving regulatory clarity," he mentioned.

After witnessing a slowdown post 2017 due to regulatory shifts like RERA and GST, residential real estate has seen a transformation in investment strategy. While volumes in H1 2025 remained below the peak achieved in 2015-16, the nature of capital deployment has matured, with a sharper focus on structured and risk-mitigated approaches.

According to the report, a key trend in H1 2025 was the return to credit instruments - 60 percent of the \$500 million invested came through debt structures, compared to 40 percent the previous year. Institutional investors preferred collateral-backed investments. *IANS*

ED attaches Rs 557 cr assets in Mahira Group scam; ex-MLA among accused

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth approximately Rs 557.43 crore in a major crackdown on a real estate scam involving Mahira Group companies.

The action, taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), includes 35 acres of residential and commercial land across key sectors

in Gurugram and fixed deposits of around Rs 97 lakh.

The case pertains to Mahira Infratech Pvt Ltd (formerly Sai Aaina Farms Pvt Ltd), Mahira Buildtech Pvt Ltd, and Czar Buildwell Pvt Ltd. The ED began its probe based on multiple FIRs lodged by the Gurugram Police for cheating and forgery. These companies allegedly submitted forged documents, including fake

bank guarantees, to obtain licenses for affordable housing projects in Sectors 68, 103, and 104 of Gurugram.

More than Rs 616 crore was collected from 3,700 homebuyers for these projects, which the company failed to deliver. Instead, funds were misappropriated, with money siphoned off using inflated construction costs and bogus invoices from

associated entities.

According to investigation, it was revealed that the diverted funds were routed to other group firms as long-pending loans and for personal gains by the company's directors and promoters.

"ED investigation revealed that the company siphoned off the funds by inflating construction costs through fake invoices from associated entities. *IANS*

Dubai Land Department encourages Emirati citizens to join Dubai Real Estate Brokers Program

DUBAI: Dubai Land Department (DLD) announced that Emirati citizens interested in joining the 'Dubai Real Estate Brokers Program' can now register via a dedicated link on its official website.

This follows strong interest since the program's launch, which has already drawn a significant number of citizens keen to enter the real estate brokerage sector.

The initiative continues reinforcing its role as a strategic platform for increasing national talent participation in this key industry.

In this context, Dubai Land Department calls on developers and real estate brokers, particularly those who have not had the opportunity to join the Dubai Real Estate Brokers Program in its previous phases, to take part in supporting the program's journey by presenting their proposals and initiatives that contribute to achieving its objectives as key partners in its ongoing success.

DLD emphasizes the importance of this collaboration in building an integrated ecosystem based on strong public-private sector synergy.

This cooperation opens the door to high-quality opportunities for training and employing national talent, supporting the sustainability of the real estate sector, and reinforcing Dubai's position as a leading destination for talent and investment.

To date, the program has surpassed expectations, with the number of qualified Emirati brokers reaching more than 180 percent of the annual target. It has also delivered numerous specialized training courses in collaboration with accredited academic institutions.

Upon completion of the required training, participants are issued an official real estate broker card valid for three years, allowing them to practice the profession in accordance with Dubai's legal and regulatory framework.

These efforts have significantly boosted broker performance, resulting in real estate transactions exceeding AED 500 million from the program's launch through the end of April 2025.

Furthermore, 231 new real estate brokerage firms have



been licensed.

As part of its institutional collaboration efforts, DLD organized more than 10 meetings and gatherings with its 71 strategic allies from various real estate-related sectors.

These include 26 real estate development companies, 38 brokerage firms, and four training and qualification institutes.

This initiative has contributed to building an integrated network that enhances professional success opportunities for participants and strengthens the ecosystem supporting Emiratisation in this vital sector.

As part of its efforts to stimulate the business environment and support the Emiratisation of real estate professions, Dubai Land Department will implement an incentive points system specifically for brokerage firms that employ Emirati citizens.

These firms will receive additional points that will en-

hance their ranking within DLD's approved evaluation system, positively impacting their competitive position in the market.

DLD affirms that the Dubai Real Estate Brokers Program is one of the key pillars aligned with the Dubai Social Agenda 2033 objectives.

The program aims to empower Emirati citizens to benefit from the economic opportunities available in the real estate sector by providing specialized professional training, issuing the 'National Broker' license, allocating a percentage of real estate projects to program participants, and enhancing their employment opportunities within active brokerage firms across Dubai.

Dubai Land Department invites all citizens interested in joining the program to complete the registration process, which has been simplified through logging in with the UAE Pass and then requesting to join the training course. ANI/WAM

India's office market sees 11 pc growth in April-June, Grade A space demand surges

BENGALURU: India's office market continued its strong growth trajectory in the April-June period (Q2 2025), recording 17.8 million square feet (msf) of gross leasing across the top seven cities -- an 11 per cent increase compared to Q2 2024, a report showed on Thursday.

This also marks a 12 per cent growth compared to the office space demand in the first quarter of the year and underscores the resilience of commercial real estate in India even in the wake of ongoing global uncertainties, said the report by Colliers.

In the first half this year (H1 2025), growth momentum remained strong with 33.7 msf of Grade A space uptake, a 13 per cent annual growth.



Bengaluru led leasing activity during Q2 with a 27 per cent share at 4.8 million square feet, reaffirming its

position as India's top office market. Hyderabad, Mumbai and Chennai also witnessed strong occupier traction, each recording over 2.5 million square feet of leasing in the quarter, the findings showed.

This momentum signals growing occupier confidence, particularly from flex space operators and firms across sectors such as technology, BFSI and engineering and manufacturing, etc.

"The fact that five of the seven major cities recorded over 2.0 million square feet of leasing each in a single quarter highlights the depth and vibrancy of India office market," said Arpit Mehrotra, Managing Director, Office Services, India, Colliers. IANS



Kareena Kapoor celebrates 25 YEARS IN BOLLYWOOD

Kareena Kapoor Khan, took to social media to celebrate her glorious 25 years in the Hindi film industry.

The actress took a nostalgic trip down memory lane, revisiting cherished moments from her debut film "Refugee." Taking to Instagram, Bebo posted a couple of her throwback photos from the movie and captioned it simply, "25 years and forever to go ...". The post featured a mix of solo pictures of Kareena and photos alongside her 'Refugee' co-star Abhishek Bachchan. The Uda Punjab actress also tagged director J. P. Dutta, Abhishek, Jackie Shroff, Sunil Shetty, and Anupam Kher in her post.

The 2000 released romantic drama, written and directed by J. P. Dutta, marked the acting debut of both Abhishek Bachchan and Kareena Kapoor. "Refugee," which was the fifth highest-grossing film of that year, narrated the story of an unnamed Indian Muslim who helped illegal refugees from India, Pakistan, and present-day Bangladesh cross the border through the expansive Great Rann of Kutch. It was believed to have been inspired by Keki N. Daruwalla's short story "Love Across the Salt Desert."

Speaking about completing 25 years in the showbiz, Abhishek Bachchan reflected on reaching this significant milestone and shared that rather than focusing on the past, he is embracing the future with a fresh sense of purpose and determination. He told IANS that he doesn't believe in looking back.

"I want to look forward. I want to think about the next 25 years-what I'm going to do next. That's done now." Taking inspiration from his father, Amitabh Bachchan, who has had a remarkable five-decade-long career, the 'Housefull 5' actor noted that living with someone who has completed 55 years in the industry teaches you the importance of always progressing and looking ahead. IANS

Somy Ali shares Aamir Khan reminds her of Rishi Kapoor

Former actress Somy Ali shared her fondness for superstar Aamir Khan and revealed why he reminds her of the late legendary actor Rishi Kapoor.

Speaking to IANS, Ali reflected on the legacies of the three Khans of Bollywood-Salman, Shah Rukh, and Aamir-discussing their evolving portrayals and the deep personal impact each has had on her life. Talking about Aamir, she shared, "Aamir is a perfectionist. He reminds me of Chintu uncle-so natural, it feels like he's having a conversation with you rather than acting. I've only done one photoshoot with him, but even then, I could sense his intellectual, professorial vibe. I'll never forget my little crush on him in Dil. He deserves far more accolades than he gets. His brilliance is underrated, and he's an incredibly kind person."

Calling SRK her 'favorite actor,' Somy mentioned, "I've never seen anyone ooze kindness, elegance, and beauty the way Gauri does-and it makes complete sense, because that's who Shah Rukh is too."

"SRK is a villain, a hero, a son with a vengeance, a sociopath in Darr, someone who does cameos and leads with equal power. No one does romance like Shah Rukh. The sky is the limit with him. And what blows my mind is how audiences accepted him in all those roles-because he's just that good. If I could start all over again, I would literally die to be his shadow-just to learn how to act from him and be a better human being." IANS

TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

- 1 Laal Pari: **Housefull 5**
- 2 Zamaana Lage: **Metro ... In Dino**
- 3 Chor Bazari Phir Se: **Bhool Chuk Maaf**
- 4 Koi Naa: **Bhool Chuk Maaf**
- 5 Aaj Ki Raat : **Stree 2**
- 6 Raanjhan: **Do Patti**
- 7 Saiyaara: **Saiyaara**
- 8 Tu Hain Toh Main Hoon: **Sky Force**
- 9 Dil E Nadaan: **Housefull 5**
- 10 Nasha: **Raid 2**

'Masti 4' actress Ruhii Singh says Milap Zaveri knows the pulse

Actress Ruhii Singh, who will be soon seen as one of the leads in the upcoming film 'Masti 4', has heaped praise on the film's director Milap Zaveri.

The actress recently spoke with IANS, and shared that Milap, who has been associated with the franchise since its inception, has a keen eye for what works with the mass audience.

The actress told IANS, "He has been a part of 'Masti' since the beginning and understands the essence of the 'Masti' franchise, its mass appeal, and now he's taking over as the director. I'm excited and looking forward to his take on the brand as the director. IANS



Kiara Advani's silence speaks volumes of 'Satyaprem Ki Katha'

It has already been two years since "Satyaprem Ki Katha" starring Kiara Advani and Kartik Aaryan released in the cinema halls.

Commemorating the milestone, let us revisit some of Kiara's most iconic scenes from the romantic entertainer. Ditching the dramatic outbursts, Kiara relied on the quiet scenes in "Satyaprem Ki Katha" to leave a mark on the audience.

Taking the example of the confrontation scene, we could see some powerful indicators in her body language which made her performance more impactful.

The way Kiara curled in her shoulders, the slight shake in her breath, along with eyes filled with water perfectly portrayed her emotional condition.

With her eyes hiding massive pain behind them, we could also feel the weight of what's been left unsaid.

Now, shifting our focus to some lighter moments in the movie, while her character does not speak much, a lot is expressed through her silence.

The way she glances when someone is about to touch her expressing her hesitation, makes the viewers understand what the character is feeling in that moment. A lot of the times, her eyes go on to express what words can't.

Made under the direction of Sameer Vidwans, "Satyaprem Ki Katha" has been backed by Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment in collaboration with Namah Pictures.

The film revolves around a middle-class boy from Ahmedabad, Satyaprem (Kartik) who falls in one-sided love with Katha (Kiara), unaware that she is coping with the breakup with her ex-boyfriend Tapan, who failed to understand the concept of consent. *IANS*



Avika Gor shares her story

Actress Avika Gor, who rose to fame with her portrayal of Anandi in "Balika Vadhu," took to social media to celebrate 20 years in the industry.

Taking to Instagram, she posted a heartwarming video compiling memorable moments from her journey including scenes from her shows and films, stage performances, and highlights from her career over the years. Alongside it, she penned a note expressing pride in how far she has come. Gor shared that she began her journey as a little girl with dreams in her eyes and has now grown into a woman who truly believes in herself.

The 'Sasural Simar Ka' actress wrote, "Sometimes we forget to pause. To breathe, to reflect, to just take it all in. We keep moving, chasing, growing...Until one quiet moment makes us look back. What felt like a few steps has become a journey. Filled with days, years, memories, and growth. Today, I pause to say thank you. To the stars in my sky, you all."

"From a little girl with dreams in her eyes to a woman who now believes in herself. I'm proud of how far I've come. And I'll keep making you proud and never ever take any of this for granted #avikagor #grateful."

In the video, Avika thanked her fans by saying, "You all must be thinking what all I am going to say today. I am going to say a lot. 20 years, it was in front of

the camera, but the real journey was with you.

To reach your heart and stay there. A small girl, a big dream. And the love of all of you which never decreased. From my first shot to every moment till date, you never left my hand."

"I was never perfect, but you never considered me less. Thank you. To let a small girl live such a big dream. The silent prayers behind the claps, I feel them everyday. Sometimes I cry in a scene. Sometimes I break in real life. But your love is always supporting me. You not only gave me 20 years of success. *IANS*

'Kaanta Laga' star Shefali Jariwala dies at 42

Shefali Jariwala, widely known for her breakout performance in the iconic 2002 music video 'Kaanta Laga', passed away in Mumbai late night last Friday. She was 42.

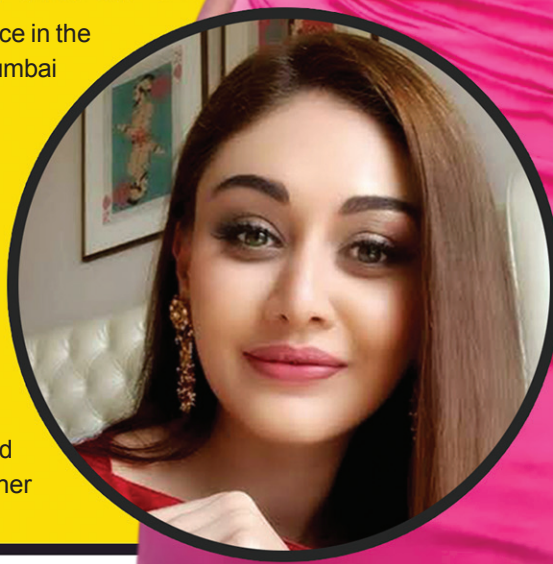
Jariwala was reportedly rushed to Bellevue Multispecialty Hospital by her husband after she was found unresponsive.

Despite all efforts, doctors declared her dead on arrival.

The cause of death has not yet been made public by the family. However, some reports suggest that Jariwala died due to cardiac arrest.

Her body has been sent to Cooper Hospital for postmortem examination.

Meanwhile, Mumbai Police have launched a Preliminary Investigation and are currently questioning the household cook and domestic help to ascertain the sequence of events leading to her death. *IANS*





How Lauren Sanchez's kids played an important role in her wedding with Bezos

WASHINGTON DC: Former news anchor Lauren Sanchez officially tied the knot with Jeff Bezos in a star-studded Italian wedding on June 27, and her sons played an important role in her special day, reported E! News.

Her kids, Nikko, 24, and Evan, 19, whom she shares with ex-boyfriend Tony Gonzales and ex-husband Patrick Whitesell, respectively, were right by her side as she walked down the aisle during the lavish ceremony, which was held on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore in Venice, as per the outlet.

Lauren's 17-year-old daughter, Ella, whom she also shares with ex Patrick, was her esteemed maid of honor. She delivered a heartfelt read-

ing during the ceremony, reported E! News.

The grand wedding, which took place on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore, had fewer than 200 guests in attendance for the three-day celebration, according

engagement in May 2023, a few years after publicly revealing their relationship.

For the occasion, the Emmy-winning journalist donned a chic off-the-shoulder black dress and sun hat as she blew kisses to onlookers. Meanwhile, the Amazon founder kept it casual with a brown t-shirt and matching trousers, reported E! News.

According to People, the couple's wedding ceremony began with a performance of "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis Presley, sung by Matteo Bocelli to cheers from the guests.

Ahead of the ceremony, Bezos and Sanchez were photographed leaving the Aman Hotel separately, presumably en route to their wedding venueANI

LAUREN'S 17-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER, ELLA, WHOM SHE ALSO SHARES WITH EX PATRICK, WAS HER ESTEEMED MAID OF HONOR. SHE DELIVERED A HEARTFELT READING DURING THE CEREMONY

to E! News.

The guest list included many high-profile names, such as Kim Kardashian, Khloe Kardashian, Kris Jenner, Kylie Jenner, Kendall Jenner, Eva Longoria, Orlando Bloom, Bill Gates, Ivanka Trump, and Karlie Kloss.

Jeff and Lauren confirmed their

Maahi reveals how dad Shaan made 'Jaan Se Zyada' extremely special for him

MUMBAI: "Jaan Se Zyada", the latest single of Maahi, son of singer Shaan is extremely special to him as it is his primary track featuring his parents.

Aside from Maahi and his parents, the video of "Jaan Se Zyada" further has Aadhy Anand.

Speaking to IANS during an exclusive conversation, Maahi said, "This song is extremely special to me because this is my first song with so much emotion and vulnerability. What makes this song extra special is the fact that it is my first song featuring my parents. Because of this, I

"The wait's finally over and this one's Jaan Se Zyada beautiful!"

With lyrics penned by Rashmi Virag, the score for "Jaan Se Zyada" has been provided by the composer duo Zain-Sam.

Maahi further talked about how he deals with comparison with his father Shaan.

When asked "If it was a conscious decision to make this song different from Shaan sir's songs", he said, "The song is very nice and naturally I ended up adding my own style to it, because of which it felt a little different. But I am sure if dad would



think I will keep watching this video throughout my life."

Shedding some more light on the melodious number, Maahi added, "This song has been written by the legendary Rashmi Virag and I think the poetry in the song is very special - something that will connect with you naturally and because of that, there is also a personal touch in the song.

Dropping the track on social media, Maahi wrote the caption,

have sung it, it would have sounded incredibly gorgeous and in the signature Shaan style that we are used to."

Sharing if he ever felt the pressure, Maahi stated, "Dad does not put a lot of pressure on me himself. But there is an element of carrying forward the legacy, and I think there is a little pressure because of it. However, I feel a little pressure is important as it helps you work a little harder." IANS

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Philosophy

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

Perhaps you are aware that you Americans and we Hindus and this lady from Iceland [Mrs. Sigrid Magnusson] are the descendants of one common ancestry known as Aryans. Above all, we find three ideas wherever the Aryans go: the village community, the rights of women and a joyful religion.

It is in the Aryan literature that we find women in ancient times taking the same share as men, and in no other literature of the world. Going back to our Vedas - they are the oldest literature the world possesses and are composed by your and my common ancestors (they were not written in India - perhaps on the coast of the Baltic, perhaps in Central Asia - we do not know).

Whatever may be said of the Hindus, they are one of the most learned races the world has ever produced. The Hindu is the metaphysician; he applies every-

to the choice of the boy or girl to marry, the boy or girl will be fascinated with a beautiful face. And then very likely all these circumstances will bring ruin to the family". This is the primary idea that governs our marriage laws, as you will find.

Whether right or wrong, there is this philosophy at the background. Prevention is better than cure. That misery exists in this world is because

we give birth to misery. So the whole question is how to prevent the birth of miserable children. How far the rights of a society should extend over the individual is an open question. But the Hindus say that the choice of marriage should not be left in the hands of the boy or girl.

I do not mean to say that this is the best thing to do. Nor do I see that leaving it in their hands is at all a perfect solution. I have not found a solution yet in my own mind; nor do I see that any country has one.

I admit that in our sacred books there are many passages which condemn



Swami Vivekananda

How to prevent birth of miserable children

Hindus are one of the most learned races the world has produced

thing to his intellect. Everything has to be settled by astrological calculation. The idea was that the stars govern the fate of every man and woman.

Even today when a child is born, a horoscope is cast. That determines the character of the child. One child is born of a divine nature, another of a human, others of lower character. The difficulty was: If a child who was of a monster-character was united with a child of a god-character, would they not have a tendency to degenerate each other?

The next difficulty was: Our laws did not allow marriage within the same clans. Not only may one not marry within his own family - or even one of his cousins - but one must not marry into the clan of his father or even of his mother. A third difficulty was: If there had been leprosy or phthisis or any such incurable disease within six generations of either bride or bridegroom, then there must not be a marriage.

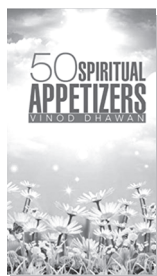
Now taking [into account] these three difficulties, the Brahmin says: "If I leave it

women as offering temptation. But there are also passages that glorify women as the power of God. And there are other passages which state that in that house where one drop of a woman's tear falls, the gods are never pleased and the house goes to ruin.

Excerpted from a lecture delivered at Cambridge, December 17, 1894, incorporated in 'Complete Works of Swami Vivekananda'. The 123rd death anniversary of Swami Vivekananda is observed on July 4

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Israel and the 'Clash of Civilizations': The Case for a Muslim Nuclear Security Framework

DR. MA HAIYUN

Long before Samuel Huntington gave it academic legitimacy, Israel began promoting the notion of a "clash of civilizations" as a strategic tool in the post-Cold War era. The purpose was clear: to position Israel as the vanguard of "Judeo-Christian civilization" under siege, thereby justifying its continued exploitation of U.S. power and resources. This ideological framing, packaged later by Huntington as a cultural theory, was in fact a geopolitical instrument aimed at sustaining American military and diplomatic support for Israel's regional ambitions.

This framework is no longer theoretical. Israel has actively applied the "clash of civilizations" logic in its wars against Hamas in Gaza and, more recently, in its attacks on Iran. These conflicts have been deliberately cast as religious battles-between "the children of light and the children of darkness", a binary drawn from biblical scripture and deployed to resonate with American religious and political narratives. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's references to the Old Testament, Reinhold Niebuhr's

senal, combined with its repeated threats and recent attacks, has forced Iran to reassess its strategic posture. In this context, Iran's appreciation of Pakistan's nuclear deterrent has grown. Despite complex regional dynamics, Tehran increasingly views Islamabad's nuclear stance as a stabilizing force that signals to Israel and its backers that unchecked aggression carries real risks.

Time for collective narrative

In the face of a collapsing international order, paralyzed by UN Security Council gridlock and Western double standards, it is time for Muslim-majority nations to consider a collective alternative. For many small and medium-sized states in the Islamic world, conventional deterrence is insufficient. Drawing from realist theory, particularly Kenneth Waltz's structural realism, a nuclear deterrence framework led by Pakistan emerges as not only a rational option but a necessary one.

A Pakistan-led Muslim nuclear security initiative would not be aimed at prolifera-

tion or escalation. Rather, it could serve as a stabilizing force, supporting the existing international order through multilateral cooperation. With Pakistan's technical capacity and strategic positioning, this framework could

This civilizational narrative has been aggressively promoted across American policymaking circles, social media ecosystems, and religious institutions. It has shaped the way Israel's actions in Gaza and toward Iran are framed, not as violations of international law or human rights

Children of Light and Children of Darkness, and civilizational rhetoric are calculated efforts to mobilize U.S. public opinion, political elites, and media in defense of Israel's militarized policies.

The civilizational narrative

This civilizational narrative has been aggressively promoted across American policymaking circles, social media ecosystems, and religious institutions. It has shaped the way Israel's actions in Gaza and toward Iran are framed, not as violations of international law or human rights, but as righteous wars of defense for Western civilization. In doing so, Israel has effectively turned American support into a religious and cultural allegiance rather than a strategic alliance, hollowing out the international legal system in the process.

Nowhere is the danger of this more evident than in Israel's ongoing hostility toward Iran. Israel's undeclared nuclear ar-

provide a nuclear umbrella for countries under direct threat, such as Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Gulf States, and Southeast Asian nations like Malaysia and Indonesia.

Such an initiative, guided by neoliberal institutionalism, would include shared protocols, joint inspections, and cooperation with international bodies like the IAEA. Drawing from constructivist theory, it could also foster a shared sense of purpose and identity among Muslim nations, one rooted not in confrontation, but in mutual assurance, stability, and a commitment to regional peace.

(The author is an Associate Professor of History at Frostburg State University, US and President of the Zhenghe Forum, which promotes cultural dialogue in the Indo-Pacific region. His work has appeared in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and other leading publications) South Asia Monitor

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Udupi Palace is a South Indian vegetarian BYOB restaurant. My friend and I had dinner there shortly after I returned from south India. We were greeted warmly and the ambiance is pleasant. The menu is so enticing that we ordered too much food but it was almost as good the next day.

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The Third Eye: New shades of 'proxy war'

DC PATHAK

Wars were always fought outside of the 'battlefield' as well- through the classic operations of Espionage, Sabotage and Subversion conducted "covertly".

'Open warfare' was always supplemented by Intelligence efforts to assess the strength and war plans of the enemy.

Post-Cold War, the world has seemingly passed into the era of "proxy wars", in which militants and terrorists could be secretly infiltrated with weapons into the enemy territory where they would covertly plan to carry out attacks on strategic and military assets of the adversary, causing them substantial damage. This was also termed as an "asymmetric war".

In India's experience, social media is used by opponents at home and the adversaries abroad-particularly by the Sino-Pak axis, to run down the government and sully the country's image internationally

The anti-Soviet armed campaign in Afghanistan, run on the war cry of Jihad, was the best illustration of such a war and it was successful in driving the Soviet troops out of that country.

A proxy war damages the opponent economically, as was found to be the case with the Soviet Union, which collapsed primarily because of the economic burden of the Afghan war. It so happened that the year of Soviet dismemberment, 1991, was also the year that marked the success of the Information Technology Revolution, characterized by instant communication across geographical frontiers and the advent of the Information Age.

This created a new level of globalized competitiveness and opened the gates of the "knowl-

edge economy".

IT Revolution set the pace for 'Information Wars' of which 'Influence' operations are a part. Influence warfare is a strategic instrument that uses information and communication technologies to manipulate perceptions, shape public responses and achieve political and defense objectives, often without a direct military confrontation.

It involves influencing public opinion to undermine the adversary's legitimacy. This is done through "narrative building", disinformation and cyber operations.

In India's experience, social media is used by opponents at home and the adversaries abroad-particularly by the Sino-Pak axis, to run down the govern-

ment and sully the country's image internationally.

China, unsurprisingly, has attracted notice for going beyond "influence warfare" to indulge in clandestine operations to interfere with elections in the US, its prime enemy, to alter the results to the Chinese advantage.

Kash Patel, appointed by US President Donald Trump as FBI Director, announced the declassification of intelligence reports that outlined an unconfirmed claim to the effect that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) had mass-produced counterfeit American driving licenses as part of a larger scheme to interfere with the 2020 Presidential election.

The alleged objective was to facilitate fraudulent mail-in ballots

to favor Joe Biden.

In August 2020, based on intelligence, the US Customs had reportedly seized nearly 20,000 fake driving licenses.

Kash Patel has submitted the reports to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley for further examination. This development follows another significant disclosure by FBI Director Christopher Wray in November 2022 that the FBI was monitoring reports about the Chinese Government having established unauthorized Police Stations in the US in outrageous violation of US sovereignty and all norms of law and order cooperation protocols.

Several US nationals of Chinese origin were said to have been arrested in April 2023 for running a "Police OutPost" in Manhattan and taking orders from China's Ministry of Public Security for intimidating on social media any Chinese dissidents abroad and for projecting China's image.

These are strikingly bold examples of how "influence warfare" was pursued.

In the recent India-Pakistan military conflict that followed the Pakistan-directed terror attack in Pahalgam, Chinese state media published unverified claims about Pakistan.

Pakistan's propaganda that it had destroyed a BrahMos missile storage facility in India was spread by it, even though India had rubbished it as misinformation.

Leading Chinese papers, blogs, and social media promoted narratives backing Pakistan's actions on the battlefield and insinuating that India's moves could adversely affect regional stability.

(The writer is a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau) IANS

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INDIA EMERGENCY@50

To mark the 50th anniversary of the imposition of Emergency, a period remembered as one of the darkest chapters in India's democratic history, an event was organized by the present government as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas' in the national capital in India. The occasion served as a powerful reminder of the importance of safeguarding the values enshrined in the Constitution and reaffirming the nation's commitment to democracy. 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas', a decision formalized through a notification by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The day serves to educate younger generations about the perils of authoritarianism and the need to uphold the spirit of the Constitution. "It is crucial to remember this day so that no one in the future can impose autocracy in this country. During the Emergency, a dangerous ideology took root.

During the event, Chief Minister of Delhi further added that, "We must remember it so that those who walk around with the Constitution in their pockets and preach about saving democracy are reminded that if ever there was a true betrayal of democracy, it happened on June 25, 1975, the day the entire nation was turned into a prison. Today, as we recall that day, we must take a pledge that in the future, Bharat's Constitution shall never again be threatened, and democracy shall never again be plunged into darkness." that the party is bigger than the nation, the family is bigger than the party, the individual is bigger than the family, and power is above national interest."

The media, often called the fourth pillar of democracy, was silenced across the nation. The Press Council of India was dissolved so that there would be no criticism of the government. The atmosphere during the Emergency was deeply suffocating. Yet, in those trying times, some media houses and journalists stood their ground with courage and strongly opposed the dictatorial mindset.

To many Diaspora living in US, many recent events remind them of what they had suffered during Indira Gandhi's administration, when media was totally contained and even Bollywood movies and Kishore Kumar songs were banned. Not to mention about forced sterilization led by her son Sanjay Gandhi. Thank God, India after brief period of tyranny, India returned back to democracy. All credits go to the people who stood against dictator and fought for freedom instilled in the constitution. Less hope America also try to learn from the mistakes done in India. Many Americans may not know that when India's constitution was drafted, our leaders borrowed many bills from US constitution and integrated in theirs.

That's how close we are that both our countries stood for so many years protecting our rights and also become the symbol of freedom. What you see today around the world is extremely sad, where millions being killed, starved and homeless. Humanity is being taken for granted, when there is abundance of food lying wasted and millions starving. Among all Democratic nations America always stood tall and American constitution has become the symbol of freedom and expression. The vision our forefathers saw and brought them to fruition is unimaginable today. That is the only reason our democracy has lasted more than 250 years. We must pledge to withhold the same.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

Officially called Alappuzha, Alleppey is known for its network of canals and lagoons with beautiful backwaters and the house boats offering overnight stays. Located in the southern part of Kerala, the coastline of Alleppey offers some of the best beaches with water sports during the dry season. Coupled with other beautiful places in Kerala like Munnar and Thekkady, Alleppey is often considered for a honeymoon or for a great family vacation.

Alleppey's palm-fringed inter-connect network of canal backwaters attracts a lot of tourists from all over the world. Kuttanad, also called the 'Rice Bowl of Kerala' covers a large part of Alappuzha and is home to lush green paddy fields, lakes and backwaters.

There are plenty of houseboats, homestays, and rejuvenating Ayurvedic resorts that make staying in Alleppey brilliant. The houseboats pass through the serene backwaters, where you can catch glimpses of green paddy fields, choir-making activities, and witness the life of locals in Kerala. Alleppey is also dotted with famous temples like Chettikulangara Devi Temple and Mullakkal Temple.

Be sure to catch a traditional snake boat race on the Punnamada Lake in the months of August and September and try out some toddy (palm wine) at a local toddy shop for adding a touch of authenticity to your travel experience in Alleppey.

PLACES TO VISIT IN ALLEPPEY

Alappuzha Beach: The Alappuzha beach, also known as the Alleppey Beach, is famous for local getaways, its intrinsic beauty and a 150 years old pier which stretches into the sea. Relaxing under the palm groves and picnicking beside the beach are fantastic options available to those visiting the beach. Alleppey Beach is a host to many festivals like Sand Art festival and Alappuzha Beach Festival.

Ambalapuzha Sree Krishna Temple: Ambalapuzha Sree Krishna Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Krishna situated in Alappuzha district. Built-in the traditional Kerala style architectural pattern, the temple is famous for its delicious rice pudding prepared in sweet milk, popularly known as Pal Payasam.

Alappuzha Lighthouse: Known for its breathtaking 360-degree views, the

Alappuzha Lighthouse (Alleppey lighthouse) is an old-world charm. It is 4 km away from the main town lying on the sea bridge facing the Arabian sea coast. The 1862 lighthouse has a museum that preserves old equipment like oil lamps and items that testify to its 150-year-old journey.

Revi Karunakaran Museum: Revi Karunakaran Museum is a memorial museum built by Betty Karunakaran in the memory of her namesake husband and one of the leading coir industrialist and businessman of Kerala- Revi Karunakaran. Built-in 2003, the renowned, privately-owned museum is a one of the largest of its kind, holding large Swarovski crystals in jade, ivory, porcelain; sculptures, Belgian glassworks, Murano glassworks and Tanjore paintings etc.

Mannarasala Sree Nagaraja Temple: Nestled in a forest glade near Haripad, Mannarasala Sree Nagaraja temple is dedicated to the snake god- Nagaraja. Nagaraja is considered to be a form of Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu. Flocked by pilgrims and devotees who believe in serpent worshipping, the temple is marked with over thirty thousand paintings and drawings of snakes along the path and over the trees in the surrounding grove.

Marari Beach: One of the great delights of the Malabar Coast, the Marari Beach is an idyllic serene beach. About 11 km from the city of Alleppey, this beach is a hotspot for fishing activity, deriving its name from the local fishing village Mararikulam. Visiting in August gives tourists the exclusive opportunity to view Snake Boat races across the waters. The serenity and quietude on the beach are beyond description, so much so that Marari Beach has been enlisted among the top five hammock beaches of the world by National Geographic Survey.

Backwaters in Alleppey: The Alleppey backwaters was earlier used as a mode of transportation, fishing and agriculture and have evolved over time as a tourism hotspot. The main attraction of the Alleppey backwaters is the overnight journey in the famous Kerala houseboats. www.holidify.com

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