



San Antonio celebrates Diwali 2025

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'Pak's creation of Jihadi culture is a bleeding wound'

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INDIA DEFENSE

India emerges as key pillar of Quad's strategy and Indo-Pacific stability: Report

WASHINGTON: India's maritime resurgence lies at the heart of the Quad's strategic coherence and the Indo-Pacific's long-term stability, a recent report said.

It added that with China expanding its naval power and increasing maritime assertiveness, the Quad's ability to uphold a free, open, and rules-based order depends on India's capacity to safeguard the Indian Ocean, bolster regional maritime infrastructure, and deliver collective security goods.

"The future of the Indo-Pacific hinges on the freedom of navigation, the security of sea lanes, and the resilience of maritime infrastructure. At this critical juncture, India's maritime transformation - embodied in the Maritime India Vision 2030 and its extension to 2047 - is not merely a domestic policy initiative. It represents a strategic

pivot that positions India as an indispensable anchor of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) and a vital counterweight in the evolving geopolitical architecture of the Indo-Pacific," a report in India Narrative detailed.

"With nearly 95 percent of India's trade by volume traversing maritime routes, the nation's economic lifeline is intrinsically tied to the security and efficiency of its ports and shipping lanes. But India's maritime ambitions transcend commercial interests. They are rooted in a vision of regional leadership, collective security, and a rules-based maritime order-principles that align seamlessly with the Quad's strategic objectives and the broader Indo-Pacific framework," it added.

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USCIS enhances voter verification systems

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SBI: Time to have dedicated long term gold policy

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INDIA POST SURVEY

survey@indiapost.com

This week's question

Will Democrats be able to win the 2028 election?

Last week's result

Will Trump settle tariff issues with India?

YES 90% NO 10%



CHAMPIONS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with the champions of the ICC Women's World Cup 2025 at his residence New Delhi on November 5. (DPR PMO/ANI Photo)



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To empower the Indian Diaspora and make their voice strong and effective in countries of their adoption. RJ Media conglomerate offers a credible, professional and complete package of news, opinion, entertainment, networking and information.

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'Alpha' to release in April
 Alia Bhatt and Sharvari-starrer action film 'Alpha' has a new release date. The film, will now bow in cinemas on April 17, 2026.

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San Antonio Diwali celebrations



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Bodh Gaya in Gaya District of Bihar, famous for the Mahabodhi Temple, is where under the Bodhi tree Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment

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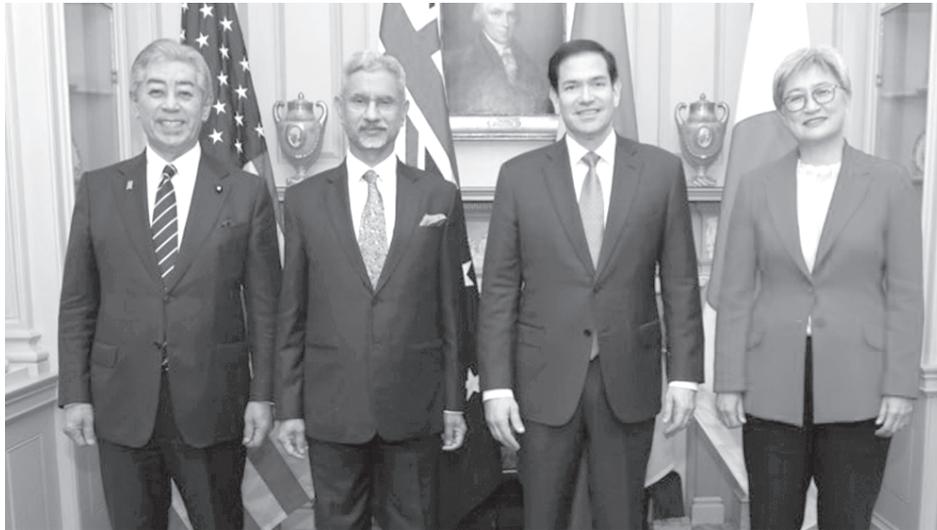
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"With nearly 95 percent of India's trade by volume traversing maritime routes, the nation's economic lifeline is intrinsically tied to the security and efficiency of its ports and shipping lanes. But India's maritime ambitions transcend com-



File photo of EAM S Jaishankar with all Quad Foreign Ministers

"With nearly 95 percent of India's trade by volume traversing maritime routes, the nation's economic lifeline is intrinsically tied to the security and efficiency of its ports and shipping lanes. But India's maritime ambitions transcend commercial interests"

mercial interests. They are rooted in a vision of regional leadership, collective security, and a rules-based maritime order-principles that align seamlessly with the Quad's strategic objectives and the broader Indo-Pacific frame-

work," it added.

According to the report, by pursuing a measured yet assertive approach through initiatives such as Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, India

has emerged as a net security provider, thereby enhancing the Quad's collective regional efforts.

The first-ever Quad at Sea Ship Observer Mission, launched in June 2025, brought together Indian Coast Guard officers and their counterparts from Japan, the United States, and Australia, exemplifying operational convergence. Such cross-embarkation initiatives, it said, strengthened joint readiness, domain awareness, and interoperability - key capabilities in countering unlawful maritime activities, from illegal fishing to piracy and territorial intrusions.

The report emphasized that India's maritime future is closely tied to the Quad and the Indo-Pacific, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated at the recent India Maritime Week 2025.

"India's coastline, strategic geography, and bold vision for Blue Economy growth position it as a natural investment destination and a maritime leader. The question is not whether India will shape the Indo-Pacific maritime order, but how swiftly and decisively it can leverage its strategic assets to anchor a free, open, and prosperous region. The waves of change are already in motion-India must navigate them with vision, strategy, and determination," the report noted. *IANS*

India and US focus on bolstering defense ties during Military Cooperation Group meeting in Hawaii

HONOLULU: Senior military leaders of India and the United States are holding "productive discussions" focusing on strengthening bilateral defense engagements, enhancing interoperability and promoting a free, open and secure Indo-Pacific region, during the two-day India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting which got underway at Hawaii, recently.

Chief of Integrated Defense Staff (CISC) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit co-chaired the meeting with Lt. Gen. Joshua M Rudd, Deputy Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command at the 22nd edition of the MCG meeting being held on November 3-4, the Headquarters of the Integrated Defense Staff (HQ IDS) stated.

The MCG serves as a vital forum to advance defense cooperation between the



Chief of Integrated Defense Staff Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit and United States Army Lieutenant General Joshua Rudd, during the 22nd India-US Military Cooperation Group meeting, in Hawaii. (@HQ_IDS_India X/ANI Photo)

Armed Forces of both nations through regular strategic and operational-level dialogue.

"The event witnessed productive dis-

cussions with senior military leaders focusing on strengthening bilateral defense engagements, enhancing interoperability and promoting a free, open and secure Indo-

Pacific region," the HQ IDS posted on X.

Rudd had also led a delegation of senior US officials during the 21st edition of the India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting which was conducted from November 5-6 at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.

The meeting had covered a wide range of topics, including capacity building, training exchanges, defense industrial cooperation and the advancement of joint exercises that bolster preparedness for conventional and hybrid threats.

According to the Indian Defence Ministry, during the last meeting, both sides had emphasized the importance of the Indo-US defense partnership and committed to strengthening this strategic relationship through proactive engagement and enhanced interoperability. *IANS*

"India is a global superpower": Israel's Foreign Minister calls for long-term strategic partnership with New Delhi



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar hold a delegation-level bilateral meeting, in New Delhi. (@DrSJaishankarX/ANI Photo)

NEW DELHI: Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar, on his first visit to India, has described the country as a "global superpower" and said that Israel's goal is to build a long-term strategic partnership with New Delhi.

He made the remarks during his meeting with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar at Hyderabad House in the national capital.

"I believe that India is the future. I told you that. India is the world's largest democracy and the fastest growing economy. India is a global superpower. Is-

rael is a regional powerhouse. Our nations already share a warm friendship. Our goal is to build a long-term strategic partnership between Israel and India," Sa'ar said.

He thanked Jaishankar for the warm hospitality and expressed appreciation for the solidarity with Israel. "We remember that he was the first world leader to call Prime Minister Netanyahu after Hamas October 7 massacre, and we won't forget it," he said.

Condemning the recent terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, Sa'ar highlighted the shared threat of terrorism faced by both nations. "Radical terror is a

mutual threat to Israel and India. We strongly condemn the horrific terror attack in Pahalgam. In the Middle East, Israel faces a unique phenomenon which I call terror states. The radical terror states of Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and Houthis in Yemen have established themselves over the past decades. Uprooting them is necessary for the security and stability of our region."

Speaking on the Gaza situation, he said, "The eradication of Hamas' terror state is at the heart of President Trump's plan. Hamas must be disarmed. Gaza

must be demilitarized. We will not compromise on it."

Sa'ar also expressed optimism about future regional partnerships. "Israel supports regional connectivity projects such as I2U2 and IMEEC. We want to promote connectivity between South Asia, West Asia, and Europe," he said, thanking Jaishankar for his friendship in his concluding remarks.

EAM Jaishankar hailed the meeting with his Israeli counterpart, where the two leaders discussed strengthening the strategic partnership and reaffirmed their commitment towards all forms and manifestations of terrorism.

"An excellent meeting with FM @gidonsaar of Israel today in New Delhi. Productive discussions on strengthening our Strategic Partnership across various domains reaffirmed our zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Appreciate FM Sa'ar sharing the Israeli perspective on developments in the region, the Gaza Peace Plan and efforts to build a durable and lasting solution. Also exchanged views on our cooperation in multilateral fora. And witnessed the exchange of MoU on Training between @SSIFS_MEA and @IsraelMFA," Jaishankar wrote in a post on X.

Jaishankar reaffirmed India's strong ties with Israel, describing the relationship as one built on "a high degree of trust and reliability" and expressing support for the Gaza Peace Plan. ANI

Indian Ambassador meets US Senator to discuss cooperation in technology, innovation

WASHINGTON: India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Kwatra, met with Republican Senator Mike Rounds to discuss cooperation between India and the United States in technology, innovation, and trade.

In a post on X, Ambassador Kwatra described the meeting as "productive."

"Useful exchange on enhancing cooperation in technology and innovation between India and the US, and developing a roadmap for productive exchanges in the domain of Artificial Intelligence. Also apprised him of our current bilateral engagement on trade and increasing hydrocarbons purchases from the US by India," Kwatra added.

Energy cooperation has become a major component of the India-US partnership, with

India now accelerating purchases of American crude oil and liquefied natural gas.

Senator Rounds, a Republican representing South Dakota, serves as Chair-



person of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and is co-chair of the Senate Artificial Intelligence Caucus. He has been involved in legisla-

tive initiatives aimed at promoting innovation and strengthening US leadership in emerging technologies.

Ambassador Kwatra's meeting with Rounds is part of a series of his ongoing engagements with US lawmakers and officials to deepen cooperation across high-technology sectors. In recent months, the Indian Ambassador has held several interactions focused on strengthening partnerships in innovation, trade, and clean energy.

Last month, he attended multiple Diwali events in Washington, including at the World Bank and other think tanks.

On October 24, the Indian Ambassador took part in Diwali celebrations organized by the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, a think tank. IANS

हमें कैलिफ़ोर्निया से मोहब्बत है, और क्यों न हो?

आपने इस स्टेट को बनाने में मदद की है— अपना देश छोड़कर, अपनों को छोड़कर, और अपनों के बेहतरीन ज़िंदगी के लिए।

60 देशों के लोग एक स्टेट में – यह फूलों का गुलदस्ता, जहाँ हर एक फूल अपने रंग और खुशबू से इस जगह को महका देता है - वहाँ उनकी हिफाज़त भी ज़रूरी है।

आपको चाहिये थोड़ा सा प्यार, थोड़ा देखभाल – एक चैंपियन की, क्योंकि हर कैलिफ़ोर्निया-वासी को कारगर स्वास्थ्य सेवा मिलनी चाहिये।

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हम स्वास्थ्य बीमा कंपनी नहीं हैं। हम इसमें आपके लिए हैं।



कलिफ़ॉर्निया
के लिए
दिल से



CoveredCA.com

Miraculous images of Lord Shiva in their home strengthen a New Jersey family's faith

Advertorial

We are all basking in the afterglow of Diwali, India's Christmas and New Year rolled into one. While holding on to our traditions, we should also respect others' festivals and celebrations. "Understanding that all religions are paths to One God will bring us closer together, healing a fractured world," says Abhishek Mishra, whose faith in the Divine was strengthened by some mysterious events unfolding in their home in Edison, New Jersey.

Mishra and his family are religious by nature, but they can't thank Lord Shiva enough for blessing their home. He has reached out to the community papers, showing them naturally formed (Swayambhu) images of Shiva appearing in their home at 25 Lavender Drive. The family and their friends were stunned to witness



Abhishek Mishra of Edison, NJ, inspires people to recognize the existence of a Divine Power

A collage of images of Lord Shiva that manifested in the Edison, NJ home of the Mishras



these sacred formations. "Mahadev ji has blessed our home, and we feel his divine presence on our property all the time," he says.

Among the astonishing manifestations at the Mishra house was a Shivling formed during the winter snow, while a 50-foot

image of Lord Shiva holding a trident appeared in the backyard snow. Inside, an image of Shiva with Nandi was discerned on the bathroom tiles, and another meditative form of Shiva emerged from ice.

As the word spread, many people have been eager to witness this spiritual

marvel. For many believers, the formations at the Mishra house are a sign of divine blessings, strengthening their faith and devotion. Abhishek Mishra, an intuitive individual, wants to inspire faith in a Divine Power, referred to by different names across religions and worshipped in various forms. Aligning with that Divine Power will make our worldly life happy, peaceful, and prosperous.

Abhishek Mishra's family is an accomplished one. With a master's in computer science from NYIT, he worked in the IT industry for 20 years at Fortune 500 companies. His wife, Namita, has a master's in computer engineering from Stevens Institute and has worked for Goldman Sachs and other top firms. Their son is pursuing a master's in computer science, and their daughter is a genetic counselor.

The Mishra family welcomes visitors who would like to learn about and experience the spiritual miracle. Contact 732.690.0404 for more information.

Tulsi Vivah
celebrated with
devotion and joy

AVYUKT BHARADWAJ
India Post News Service

FREMONT, CA: The Fremont Hindu Temple hosted a deeply spiritual and vibrant Tulsi Vivah celebration on Sunday, November 2, marking the divine union of Goddess Tulsi and Lord Vishnu (Shaligram). Devotees from across the Bay Area gathered in large numbers to witness this sacred ceremony, which symbolizes purity, devotion, and the commencement of the Hindu wedding season.

The evening began with soulful bhajans and devotional chanting, followed by a beautifully performed wedding ritual led by the temple priests. The traditional Tulsi-Shaligram Vivah was conducted with Vedic mantras, symbolic garland exchange, and joyous celebrations reminiscent of an actual wedding atmosphere.

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Rishi Kumar Leads Property Tax Exemption Revolution in California

India Post News Services

From Engineer to reformer, Rishi Kumar is fighting for California's seniors as Candidate for Assessor by exempting their property tax.

As property tax reform sweeps the nation, Silicon Valley's Rishi Kumar is showing California the way. An innovator from the artificial intelligence software industry Kumar is now innovating to show the public policy works what good tax policy is.

Across America, counties and states are adopting property-tax exemptions for seniors from Virginia to Texas to Florida. Now Santa Clara County Assessor candidate Rishi Kumar is determined to bring that same reform home to California. "No senior should lose their home because of rising property taxes," Kumar said.

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COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

8 India Post

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November 7, 2025



San Antonio Diwali celebrations

AVYUKT BHARADWAJ
India Post News Service

Consul General D.C. Manjunath joined Mayor of San Antonio Gina Ortiz Jones, city council members, and community leaders in celebrating 'San Antonio Diwali 2025', jointly organized by the City of San Antonio and Anuja SA - San Antonio-Chennai Sister City Alliance.

The evening's highlight was the Diwali River Parade, a dazzling spectacle of floats representing various Indian states, each adorned with colorful lights, traditional designs, and artistic themes celebrating India's diverse cultural heritage. Thousands of residents and visitors lined the San Antonio River Walk to witness this vibrant display, followed by an array of cultural performances, live music, and authentic Indian cuisine that filled the air with festive energy.



Speaking on the occasion, Consul General D.C. Manjunath commended the City of San Antonio and Anuja SA for their continued efforts in promoting cultural harmony and strengthening the sister-city relationship

between San Antonio and Chennai. Mayor Gina Ortiz Jones emphasized the city's pride in celebrating Diwali as a festival that embodies universal values of light over darkness, hope over despair, and unity in

diversity. The event beautifully reflected the shared spirit of light, harmony, and friendship between India and San Antonio, strengthening cultural ties and fostering enduring connections.



Acclaimed Chef Ritesh Tulsian joins Jom Nom - A Fun Dining restaurant soon to be open in Santa Clara, California

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

The Bay Area's restaurant scene is about to witness a culinary revolution with the arrival of Jom Nom, a bold new concept in Fun Asian Dining in Santa Clara. With renowned hospitality consultant Chef Ritesh Tulsian joining as the strategic consultant, Jom Nom is set to redefine how California experiences Asian cuisine - vibrant, youthful, and deliciously unconventional.



Ritesh Tulsian is an Indian chef-consultant and hospitality entrepreneur who has built a career bridging culinary creativity and restaurant operations. He holds a Twin Diploma in Hospitality Management & Catering Operations from the Rizvi Academy of Hospitality Management, Mumbai. Early in his career he interned with the Taj Group of Hotels and had stints with global resort brands such as W Hotels Maldives and Atlantis The Palm, Dubai. Over the years, he transitioned into full-time consultancy and founded firms such as Echelon Hospitality and is often cited as a key figure in India's F&B consulting space.

Why his approach stands out

Several factors differentiate his consulting work:

- He comes from a strong chef background, which gives him practical credibility in kitchens and operations.
- He blends creativity with operational rigor - he emphasizes not just the look and cuisine, but the business mechanics.
- He is positioned as end-to-end: from ideation through execution rather than purely advisory. This full-spectrum service is a valuable proposition in hospitality.
- He has a track record of working across formats: high-end restaurants, bars, cloud-kitchens, QSRs, theme parks, etc.

"Jom Nom" derives from two playful Asian expressions - Jom, meaning to party or celebrate together, and Nom, an exclamation that celebrates the joy of eating. The name perfectly captures the brand's spirit: food as an experience of community, energy, and happiness. Having launched and consulted for award-winning restaurants like Yazu and Bambai, Chef Ritesh Tulsian brings a wealth of experience in turning culinary ideas into scalable, prof-

itable dining destinations.

At Jom Nom, Ritesh's consulting will encompass:

- Menu Engineering: Crafting a bold, shareable menu featuring pan-Asian favorites reimaged for California palates - with a focus on freshness, speed, and cross-cultural flavor.
- Operational Strategy: Designing kitchen layouts and workflows that balance creativity with efficiency, ensuring every "nom" moment is delivered perfectly.

- Brand Experience: Aligning the restaurant's music, décor, plating, and service with its playful, communal identity - an Asian celebration that's both Instagrammable and deeply authentic.

Sustainability & Sourcing: Building a supply chain that prioritizes quality, local ingredients, and responsible sourcing - a hallmark of Bay Area dining ethics.

The Bay Area has long embraced Asian cuisine - from traditional dim sum houses to high-end omakase and experimental fusion concepts. Yet, very few brands have captured the playful, community-driven side of Asian culture.

That's where Jom Nom hopes to stand apart. It's not about formality or fine dining; it's about fun dining - an atmosphere where flavor, energy, and design come together. The concept draws inspiration from Asian street food culture, transforming it into a high-spirited, modern



Chef Ritesh Tulsian

experience that feels at home in cities like San Francisco, Palo Alto, and San Jose.

As Ritesh Tulsian puts it, "Food should be fun, not formal - a reason to come together and celebrate life."

That's exactly what Jom Nom promises to deliver - one



Tulsi Vivah celebrated with devotion and joy at Fremont Hindu Temple



AVYUKT BHARADWAJ
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FREMONT, CA: The Fremont Hindu Temple hosted a deeply spiritual and vibrant Tulsi Vivah celebration on Sunday, November 2, marking the divine union of Goddess Tulsi and Lord Vishnu (Shaligram). Devotees from across the Bay Area gathered in large numbers to witness this sacred ceremony, which

symbolizes purity, devotion, and the commencement of the Hindu wedding season.

The evening began with soulful bhajans and devotional chanting, followed by a beautifully performed wedding ritual led by the temple priests. The traditional Tulsi-Shaligram Vivah was conducted with Vedic mantras, symbolic garland exchange, and joyous celebra-

tions reminiscent of an actual wedding atmosphere.

Participants took part in the rituals, offered prayers for family well-being and harmony, and joined in the concluding aarti and prasad distribution. The temple was adorned with flowers, diyas, and festive décor, creating a spiritually uplifting ambiance. "Tulsi Vivah is a reminder of the eternal bond between faith and na-

ture," said the Fremont Hindu Temple committee. "It was heartwarming to see our community come together in devotion and celebration."

The Fremont Hindu Temple continues to be a cornerstone of cultural and spiritual life in the Bay Area, offering weekly pujas, special festivals, and community engagement programs throughout the year.

India's cultural spirit shines in Riyadh as Embassy hosts 'Gita Mahotsav - A Musical'

RIYADH: The Embassy of India in Riyadh recently hosted 'Gita Mahotsav - A Musical' celebrating the timeless teachings of Bhagavad Gita and, India's rich cultural heritage. The event marked the grand finale of the Pravasi Parichay Cultural Week 2025.

The musical opened with a congratulatory video message from Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, who lauded the Indian community in Saudi Arabia for preserving and promoting India's cultural spirit abroad.



event was graced by Padma Shri and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awardee Pratibha Prahlad, a renowned Bharatanatyam dancer.

A highlight of the evening was a special dance and musical performance by the female students of Vaidehi Nritha Vidyalayam, Riyadh, who brought to life the message of the Bhagavad Gita through expressive art and movement.

India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Suhel Ajaz Khan, said the Gita Mahotsav aimed to highlight the deep cultural and spiritual ties that connect the Indian diaspora with India's civilizational heritage. He added that the festival embodies the universal values of harmony, duty, and selfless action, which are the core teachings of the Gita.

Khan also noted that the Riyadh celebration resonates with the spirit of the International Gita Mahotsav, which will be held later this month in Kurukshetra, Haryana. ANI

In a post on X, the Embassy said, "The grand finale of Pravasi Parichay Cultural Week concluded with a magnificent Gita Mahotsav, celebrating the eternal wisdom of the Bhagavad Gita and India's rich cultural heritage. The event featured soulful performances, spiritual reflections, and a spirit of unity."

The post added that Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh shared an inspiring message for the Indian community, while the

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Rishi Kumar Leads Property Tax Exemption Revolution in California

India Post News Services

From Engineer to reformer, Rishi Kumar is fighting for California's seniors as Candidate for Assessor by exempting their property tax.

As property tax reform sweeps the nation, Silicon Valley's Rishi Kumar is showing California the way. An innovator from the artificial intelligence software industry Kumar is now innovating to show the public policy works what good tax policy is.

Across America, counties and states are adopting property-tax exemptions for seniors—from Virginia to Texas to Florida. Now Santa Clara County Assessor candidate Rishi Kumar is determined to bring that same reform home to California. "No senior should lose their home because of rising property taxes," Kumar said. "After a lifetime of work, our seniors deserve stability, dignity, and the security of staying in the homes they built." Kumar, a Silicon Valley technology executive, former Saratoga City Councilmember, and long-time fiscal-reform advocate, has formally submitted a Proposition 13 amendment to the California Office of Legislative Counsel-making him the only candidate in the



it a regressive tax that "punishes working families and seniors for government inefficiency." He argues that Measure A ignored the county's \$4.4 billion structural deficit and would have deepened economic strain instead of reforming spending. Kumar has been championing fiscal discipline throughout his political career. "We can't keep solving fiscal mismanagement

campaign - a campaign where he came within 19,000 votes of beating Representative Anna Eshoo who had been in office for three decades - to focus on service. He created the Neighborhood Pandemic Preparedness Team, mobilizing hundreds of volunteers who reached 86,000 seniors with grocery deliveries, prescription pickups, and check-ins. Volunteers sewed 4,000 masks, hosted 25 virtual town halls, and launched online coding and entrepreneurship boot camps for home-bound students. "This pandemic reminded us what makes America special-neighbors helping neighbors," Kumar said. "That same compassion and problem-solving leadership is what I'll bring to the Assessor's Office."

A Record of Results

As a Saratoga City Councilmember, Kumar led initiatives that reduced burglaries by 50 percent, the largest drop in city history, and, earned him the highest vote count in 70 years a record that still holds good today. He also took on PG&E and the San Jose Water Company, convincing state regulators to reject or reduce 10 rate hikes that would have hurt residents.

Leading a National Movement

Property-tax reform is gaining momentum nationwide—and Rishi Kumar is leading California's fight. "Other states have already imple-

mented senior property-tax relief," he said. "Why not Santa Clara County?"

Kumar is the only candidate in the race committed to protecting Prop 13, opposing Measure A, and delivering a statewide property-tax exemption for seniors. "Seniors have earned the right to stay in their homes without fear," Kumar said. "I won't stop fighting until that right is guaranteed in California law."

Rishi Kumar is on November 4, 2025 ballot, and one thing is certain - he'll continue fighting for what's right and standing up for seniors who need our help the most. His mission goes beyond politics: it's about service, fairness, and ensuring that every Californian can age with dignity in the home they worked a lifetime to build.

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION for 60+ AGE GROUP

I've launched a Property Tax Exemption Ballot Initiative to exempt Californians aged 60 and over from property taxes. It's time to end wasteful government spending and put money back in the pockets of those who need it most. No senior should have to fear losing their home or be forced to move in their golden years.



Property Tax Reform is sweeping America! Let's get it done here in Santa Clara County and California

—Rishi Kumar
RishiKumar.com/Seniors

I believe Santa Clara County can cut as much as \$4 billion in government bloat - savings that could directly improve people's lives. That money should go toward better services for seniors, targeted healthcare, homelessness solutions, law enforcement support, and even increased funding for our schools"

Assessor's race to take legislative action for seniors.

The proposed amendment would grant a full property-tax exemption on primary residences for homeowners aged 60 and over, while maintaining full funding for schools, roads, and essential services by cutting waste-not programs. Kumar has the call to action -- "I believe Santa Clara County can cut as much as \$4 billion in government bloat - savings that could directly improve people's lives. That money should go toward better services for seniors, targeted healthcare, homelessness solutions, law enforcement support, and even increased funding for our schools."

Protecting seniors and Proposition 13

Kumar is also the only candidate who has opposed Measure A, Santa Clara County's proposed sales-tax hike, calling

with new taxes," he said. "Fiscal discipline—not higher taxes—keeps communities strong."

A lifelong defender of Proposition 13, Kumar says its spirit of homeowner protection must be expanded: "What should be the golden years of retirement are turning into years of financial anxiety. We must act now."

A Life of Advocacy for seniors

Kumar's policy commitments to senior are dates back to 2011, when he launched Saratoga's Got Talent, raising more than \$25,000 for the Saratoga Senior Center. As a City Councilmember, he pushed Saratoga earn its Age-Friendly City designation and consistently supported programs bridging youth and seniors.

When the pandemic struck in 2020, Kumar suspended his congressional

Sardar Patel's dream of confident, united India finds reflection in India's partnerships abroad: Report

DUBAI: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's dream of a confident, united India now finds reflection in India's partnerships with other nations, particularly in the Gulf, where mutual trust, cultural empathy, and shared opportunity are the foundation of one of the world's most stable relationships, a recent report on 31 October highlighted, as India celebrated 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas', or National Unity Day, to commemorate 150th birth anniversary of the leader who brought together a divided subcontinent into a single nation.

The message of 'Ekta Diwas' extended beyond India's borders, reaching the Gulf, where unity, inclusion and share destiny are daily realities.

"For hundreds of years, the Gulf and In-

dia have been bound by faith, culture and trade. In the present time, this historic connection has evolved into a partnership of progress. More than nine million Indians

"Modern India's story is a living testament to the power of unity. A nation of 1.4 billion people, hundreds of languages, and every major religion of the world, India's diversity has not divided it, it has driven it forward. That ability to turn difference into dynamism is what makes India the world's fastest-growing major economy"

live and work in Gulf nations in various work places like hospitals, classrooms, ports, start-ups, and boardrooms, em-

bodying the spirit of hard work, inclusivity and loyalty that Patel envisioned for India," Farheen M wrote in leading UAE daily Khaleej Times.

Gujarat are being complemented by community events organized by Indian missions and diaspora groups in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, and Muscat. Organized by Indian missions and diaspora groups, events like 'Run for Unity' campaigns and cultural festivals demonstrate that India's unity does not remain restricted by geography but lives in every Indian who carries the country's values like resilience, adaptability, and harmony in diversity to other nations.

"In an era of global polarization, Ekta Diwas offers a message that resonates across borders: unity is not sameness, it is strength through diversity. India's example shows that democracy and diversity can coexist, thrive, and even accelerate development. That same ethos drives the Gulf's transformation, where multicultural workforces, social reform, and economic diversification coexist in harmony. Together, India and the Gulf are shaping a new global model of cooperation, pragmatic, peaceful, and people-centric," wrote Farheen.

Patel's dream of a confident, united India, the writer stated, now finds reflection in India's partnerships abroad, particularly in the Gulf, where mutual trust, cultural empathy, and shared opportunity form the foundation of one of the world's most stable relationships.

"As India celebrates Ekta Diwas, it also celebrates the values it shares with the Gulf: tolerance, progress, and unity of purpose. Sardar Patel's words remain timeless: 'Every citizen of India must remember that he is an Indian and he has every right in this country but with certain duties.' That sense of responsibility, to nation, to community, to humanity, defines the Indian diaspora across the Gulf. From Ahmedabad to Abu Dhabi, from New Delhi to Dubai, the message of Ekta Diwas rings clear: unity is not just India's heritage, it is its greatest export, a living example of how harmony can power prosperity, and how nations, when united, can illuminate the world," it added. *IANS*

Vivek Ramaswamy responds to Democratic sweep, urges end to "identity politics"

WASHINGTON: American entrepreneur and politician Vivek Ramaswamy issued a stern warning to the Republican Party following Democrats' sweeping victories in key races across the United States. Speaking on X, Ramaswamy described the results as a wake-up call, urging the party to refocus on economic issues and abandon identity politics.

"We got our defeat handed to us in New Jersey, Virginia, and New York City. Democrats swept all," Ramaswamy said in a video shared on X.

"There are two key lessons for Republicans. Listen carefully: Number one, our side needs to focus on affordability, make the American dream affordable. Bring down costs: electric, grocery, healthcare, and housing. Lay out clearly how we're going to do it."

Calling for an end to identity politics, Ramaswamy added, "Number two, cut out identity politics. It doesn't suit Republicans. It's the woke left's game. We don't care about the color of your skin or religion; we care about the content of your character. That's who we are."

Ramaswamy, who previously ran for president, is now running for governor of Ohio in the Republican primary scheduled for May 5, 2026. His comments come in the wake of a night where Democrats made significant gains: Zohran Mamdani

won the New York City mayoral race, Mikie Sherrill became New Jersey's next governor, and Abigail Spanberger secured victory in Virginia.

On November 4, New York City witnessed the historic win of Zohran Mamdani, a Muslim and democratic socialist, who defeated Republican Curtis Sliwa and veteran politician Andrew Cuomo. Mamdani has become one of the youngest mayors in recent history and the first Indian-American to hold the position.

In New Jersey, Democrat Mikie Sherrill secured the governorship, while Virginia saw Democratic victories with Abigail Spanberger becoming the state's first female governor and Jay Jones defeating incumbent Republican Attorney General Jason Miyares.

Even before all results were finalized, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York framed the outcomes as a rejection of President Donald Trump's influence. "Tonight's results are a repudiation of the Trump agenda," Schumer said. "The cruelty, chaos, and greed that define MAGA radicalism and are skyrocketing costs were firmly rejected by the American people. It's a good night for Democrats and our fight to lower costs, improve healthcare, and build a better future for American families." *ANI*



Vivek Ramaswamy

The success of Indian diaspora has not only made them contributors but also stakeholders in the transformation of Gulf nations. Indian professionals and workers, the writer highlighted, have become an important part of the region's story of growth in various projects and initiatives like the UAE's futuristic skylines, Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 megaprojects and Oman's community initiatives. The unity in diversity is a lived ideal for the Gulf nations. The Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 reforms, UAE's 'Year of Tolerance,' and Oman's interfaith outreach demonstrate a shared belief that societies thrive when rooted in respect and cohesion.

"Modern India's story is a living testament to the power of unity. A nation of 1.4 billion people, hundreds of languages, and every major religion of the world, India's diversity has not divided it, it has driven it forward. That ability to turn difference into dynamism is what makes India the world's fastest-growing major economy and one of the most stable democracies. Behind every achievement, from Digital India to Make in India and Viksit Bharat 2047, lies the same unifying principle: inclusive growth. And this approach mirrors the Gulf's own development path, where modernization goes hand in hand with cultural continuity," the Khaleej Times report detailed.

This year, the main celebrations of 'Ekta Diwas' held at the Statue of Unity in

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Covid during pregnancy may raise autism

NEW DELHI: Children born to mothers who had Covid-19 while pregnant may be at a high risk of suffering from developmental disorders, including speech delays, autism, and motor disorders, by the time they turn 3 years old, according to new research.

Researchers from the Mass General Brigham in the US explained that these might be due to immune activation during pregnancy, which disrupts normal fetal brain development.

"These findings highlight that Covid-19, like many other infections in pregnancy, may pose risks not only to the mother, but to fetal brain development," said Andrea Edlow, Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mass General Brigham. The findings, published in the journal *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, are based on an analysis of 18,124 live births during the peak Covid window of March 2020 to May 2021.

The team studied 18,124 mother-child pairs. Among the 861 children whose mothers were SARS-CoV-2-positive during pregnancy, 140 (16.3 percent) received a neurodevelopmental diagnosis by 3 years of age, compared with 1,680 (9.7 percent) of the 17,263 remaining children from SARS-CoV-2-negative pregnancies. *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)

November 7, 2025

www.indiapost.com

India Post 13

Waist-to-height ratio more accurate in predicting heart disease risk than BMI

NEW DELHI: While obesity is a known risk factor for heart disease, a new study showed that the ratio of a person's waist measurement compared to their height is more reliable than body mass index (BMI) at pre-



dicting the risk.

The finding, published in *The Lancet Regional Health-Ameri-*

cas, could reshape how clinicians and the public assess cardiovascular risk, especially for people who don't meet the classic definition of obesity.

"Higher BMI, waist circumference, and waist-to-height ratio at baseline were all associated with higher risk of developing future cardiovascular disease -- until we adjusted for other classic risk factors, such as age, sex, smoking, exercise, diabetes, hypertension, and cholesterol," said lead author Thiago Bosco Mendes, from the University of Pittsburgh, US "When we did that, only waist-to-height ratio held as a predictor," Mendes said.

Researchers analyzed data from 2,721 adults who had no cardiovascular disease at baseline and were followed for more than five years.

Much of that predictive power is concentrated among individuals with a BMI under 30, which is

below the classic threshold for obesity, who may not realize they are at risk for cardiovascular disease.

BMI doesn't account for fat distribution or distinguish between harmful, visceral fat and protective, subcutaneous fat.

By contrast, waist-to-height ratio (WHtR), calculated by dividing waist circumference by

height, directly reflects central obesity, which is more closely linked to heart disease.

That means that people with a BMI lower than 30, but a WHtR over 0.5, may be at higher risk of future coronary artery calcifica-

"Higher BMI, waist circumference, and waist-to-height ratio at baseline were all associated with higher risk of developing future cardiovascular disease -- until we adjusted for other classic risk factors, such as age, sex, smoking, exercise, diabetes, hypertension, and cholesterol"

tion, a key marker of cardiovascular disease, even in the absence of other risk factors, the study showed.

"Using waist-to-height ratio as a cardiovascular screening tool could lead to earlier identification and intervention for at-risk patients who might otherwise be missed," said senior author Marcio Bittencourt, Associate

Professor of Medicine at Pitt.

"It's a simple and powerful way to spot heart disease risk early, even if a patient's weight, cholesterol, and blood pressure all seem normal," Bittencourt added. *IANS*

Campaigns like Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan to empower, transform women's lives: PM

NEW DELHI: Mass campaigns like the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan (Healthy Woman, Empowered Family) help to empower and transform the lives of women, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He also lauded the creation of three Guinness World Records titles under the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan.

"This is very commendable! Such mass movements add impetus to our women empow-

erment efforts and have a transformative impact on the lives of our Nari Shakti," the Prime Minister said in a post on social media platform X.

The records include the highest number of people registering for a healthcare platform in one month, with more than 3.21 crore registrations.

The second record was for the most people signing up for breast cancer screening online in a single week, with over 9.94 lakh participants.

The third record was for the

most people signing up for vital signs screening online at the



state level within a week, crossing 1.25 lakh participants.

Launched by the Prime Minister, the campaign ran from September 17 to October 2, coinciding with Poshan Maah.

It focused on improving the health and nutrition of women, adolescent girls, and children while promoting early disease detection and access to essential health services.

Earlier, Union Health Minister JP Nadda said the three Guinness World Records reaffirm "our commitment to preventive and women-centric healthcare". *IANS*

Dark-chocolate berries may help boost memory and relieve stress: Study

NEW DELHI: Struggling with memory and stress issues? A bite of dark chocolate or a handful of berries may help boost your memory levels and also cut down stress, according to an animal study.

The improved memory and cognition may be due to flavanols, found abundantly in cocoa and berries, said the team from Shibaura Institute of Technology, Japan.

The study, published in the journal *Current Research in Food Science*, demonstrated that flavanol intake can trigger wide-ranging physiological responses resembling those induced by exercise -- functioning as a moderate stressor that activates the central nervous system and enhances attention, arousal, and memory. Flavanols also protect against neuronal damage.

"Stress responses elicited by flavanols in this study are similar to those elicited by physical exercise. Thus, moderate intake of flavanols, despite their poor bioavailability, can improve the health and quality of life," said Dr. Yasuyuki Fujii from the Shibaura Institute.

In the study, the team investigated how flavanols affect the nervous system through sensory stimulation. They tested the hypothesis that the astringent taste -- a dry, puckering, rough, or sandpapery sensation in the mouth -- of flavanols may



act as a direct signal to the brain.

The researchers conducted experiments in 10-week-old mice, administering flavanols orally at doses of 25 mg/kg or 50 mg/kg body weight, while control mice received only distilled water.

Behavioral tests showed that flavanol-fed mice exhibited greater motor activity, exploratory behavior, and improved learning and memory compared to controls.

Flavanols enhanced neurotransmit-

ter activity across several brain regions. Dopamine and its precursor levodopa, norepinephrine, and its metabolite normetanephrine were elevated in the brain immediately after the administration.

These chemicals regulate motivation, attention, stress response, and arousal.

Furthermore, enzymes critical for noradrenaline synthesis (tyrosine hydroxylase and dopamine-beta-hydroxylase)

and transport (vesicular monoamine transporter 2) were up regulated, strengthening the signaling capacity of the noradrenergic system.

In addition, biochemical analysis revealed higher urinary levels of catecholamines -- hormones released during stress -- as well as increased activity in the hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus (PVN), a brain region central to stress regulation. *IANS*

Japan confirms season's third bird flu outbreak

TOKYO: An outbreak of Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been confirmed at a poultry farm in the central Japanese prefecture of Niigata, local authorities said.

The prefectural government said it has confirmed the outbreak at the farm in the city of Tainai, with a total of 630,000 egg-laying chickens to be culled.

Officials said that the Niigata farm reported abnormalities on Monday (Nov 3) morning, including an increase in the number of chicken deaths.

A preliminary virus test returned positive results, while a detailed genetic analysis was conducted.

The latest case marks the third bird flu outbreak confirmed at a poultry farm in Japan this season, Xinhua news agency reported.

The country's first case was confirmed in the town of Shiraoui in the north-

ernmost prefecture of Hokkaido on October 22, followed by the second case in the city of Eniwa, also in Hokkaido, on Sunday (Nov. 2).

HPAI is a highly contagious transboundary disease with zoonotic potential affecting both animal and human health. It causes variable clinical signs and high mortality rates in both wild and domestic bird populations. Current H5A1 outbreaks have severely impacted countries globally, causing losses of rare and important wild bird species, as well as significant social and economic costs, including livelihood losses and egg shortages.

The spread of HPAI also strains poultry-related businesses, as measures such as culling and movement restrictions are necessary to contain the virus, which can disrupt the trade of poultry products. *IANS*

UN report urges nations to tackle inequalities driving pandemics for global health security

NEW DELHI: Inequality is undermining national and global efforts to combat pandemics, making them more disruptive, deadly, and longer in duration, according to recent global report by UNAIDS.

The report by the world-leading economists, public health experts, and political leaders as part of the Global Council on Inequality, AIDS and Pandemics, a high-level initiative convened by UNAIDS, highlighted how inequality is making the world more vulnerable to pandemics.

It highlighted that high levels of inequality, within and between countries, are not only making pandemics more economically disruptive and deadly but also enabling them to last longer.

On the other hand, pandemics are also fostering inequality, fuelling a cycle that was visible not just for Covid-19, but also for AIDS, Ebola, influenza, mpox, among

others.

The report called for actions on inequality before pandemics hit to protect the world from the next global disease crisis more effectively than current preparedness efforts.

"This report shows why leaders urgently need to tackle the inequalities that

drive pandemics, and it shows them how they can do this. Reducing inequalities within and between countries will enable a better, fairer, and safer life for everyone," said Winnie Byanyima, UNAIDS Executive Director and United Na-

tions Under-Secretary-General.

The new findings arrive as G20 Health Ministers prepare to meet amidst reports of new and growing outbreaks internationally of avian flu and mpox, and as breakthrough HIV prevention drugs are being approved by drug regulators. *IANS*



India delivers over 16 tons of medicines to Afghanistan to help combat vector-borne diseases

KABUL: India has delivered over 16 tons of medicines to Afghanistan to help combat vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue, and leishmaniasis, a Taliban spokesperson announced.

Taliban spokesperson Sharafat Zaman stated that the medicines and diagnostic kits will support Afghanistan's National Malaria and Other Vector-Borne Diseases Prevention Program. He noted that supplies sent by India will help enhance Afghanistan's capacity to combat diseases like malaria, dengue, and leishmaniasis.

In a post on X, Zaman stated: "India Donates over 16 Tons of Anti-Vector Borne Disease Medicines to Afghanistan. The government of India has extended a significant gesture of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan by gifting over 16 tons of anti-vector-borne disease medicines and diagnostic kits to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). This donation is part of India's continued commitment to supporting the health sector in Afghanistan and strengthening bilateral cooperation in public health and disease prevention."

"The medicines and diagnostic kits will directly support Afghanistan's National Malaria and Other Vector-Borne Diseases Prevention Program. The supplies are aimed at enhancing the country's capacity to combat diseases such as malaria, den-



gue, and leishmaniasis, which continue to pose serious public health challenges across several regions of Afghanistan," he added.

Zaman said that Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health expressed appreciation

for the Indian government's timely and valuable assistance. "The Ministry noted that these medicines and diagnostic kits represent a crucial step toward improving public health infrastructure and ensuring effective disease control, especially in vul-

nerable and high-risk communities. This latest donation underscores India's longstanding partnership and developmental support to Afghanistan. By contributing essential medical supplies, India reaffirms its role as a reliable partner in pro-

moting health, stability, and humanitarian cooperation in the region," he added.

India's medical assistance to Kabul comes after the recent visit of Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi to New Delhi in October. On October 10, he met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar as both held discussions on India's support for Afghanistan's development, bilateral trade, territorial integrity and independence, people-to-people ties and capacity-building, besides several other issues. EAM Jaishankar noted that Muttaqi's visit to India marks an "important step" in advancing bilateral ties. He also announced the handing over of five ambulances to Afghanistan.

On October 10, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal informed that India delivered additional food supplies to Afghanistan for the people affected by the earthquake. The MEA spokesperson further informed that the announcement was made by EAM Jaishankar during his meeting with his Afghan counterpart Muttaqi. IANS

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IFFI 2025 to feature country FIRST AI FILM FESTIVAL AND HACKATHON

GOA: The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will launch the country's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Film Festival and Hackathon in Goa.

The event, which will run from November 20 to 28, will be organized in partnership with LTIMindtree and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

According to a press release, the initiative aims to ex-

plore how AI can change filmmaking and storytelling. It will bring together filmmakers, creators, and tech experts to experiment with AI-driven tools and ideas.

Festival Director Shekhar Kapur, who will also head the jury of the AI Film Festival, said the event is about expanding creativity through technology.

"Cinema has always reflected the power of human imagination. Today, AI gives us

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR SHEKHAR KAPUR, WHO WILL ALSO HEAD THE JURY OF THE AI FILM FESTIVAL, SAID THE EVENT IS ABOUT EXPANDING CREATIVITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

a new lens that expands our ability to dream, design, and express. The IFFI AI Film Festival will be a playground for that evolution," Shekhar said, as per a release.

Executive Vice President and Global Head of Interactive Services at LTIMindtree, Sujay Sen, said the collaboration aims to support creativity in the age of technology.

"At LTIMindtree, we believe the future of storytelling lies at

the confluence of human creativity and AI. Through this collaboration, we are proud to create a platform that nurtures innovation and brings the magic of AI to India's creative economy," said Sen.

The AI Film Festival will include a showcase of AI-generated films across different genres such as fiction, documentary, animation, and experimental cinema. A 48-hour hackathon will also be held for developers and storytellers to create new AI-based film tools.

Workshops and master classes will focus on topics like the use of AI in film production and the ethics of technology in storytelling. The organizers also plan to collaborate with international AI film festivals to encourage global partnerships and give recognition to new creators. ANI

Jonathan Bailey named 'Sexiest Man Alive for 2025,' calls it "absolutely absurd"

LOS ANGELES: Hollywood actor Jonathan Bailey has been named People Magazine's 'Sexiest Man Alive for 2025,' an honor he described as both flattering and "absolutely absurd."

Bailey's name was officially announced on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon' this Monday (Nov 3).

Speaking on the show, the British actor recalled first hearing about his newfound title at the beginning of 2025 when he was a part of a production of Shakespeare's 'Richard II'.

"The only thing madder than doing 'Richard II' was to be in-

cluded into this. And also in 2025, I'm sort of thrilled that People Magazine has invited someone in



Jonathan Bailey

to bestow this honor on someone who can really cherish the value of a sexy man," Bailey said, as

quoted by Variety.

Having started his acting career at the age of 7 with the Royal Shakespeare Company in London, Jonathan Bailey quickly mastered his craft both on the screen and on stage. While he got his first major TV break with the hit murder drama 'Broadchurch', it was his performance as Lord Anthony Bridgerton in the Netflix show 'Bridgerton' that brought him much applause.

His other notable credits include 'Fellow Travelers' and 'Heartstopper'. Most recently, Bailey appeared in 'Wicked' and

'Jurassic World: Rebirth'.

Speaking to People magazine about the title, Bailey said, "It's a huge honor. Obviously, I'm incredibly flattered. And it's completely absurd. It's been a secret, so I'm quite excited for some friends and family to find out."

In a humorous note, the actor said his close friends would likely have mixed reactions. ANI

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DIVINE ARCHITECTURE

VIVEK SABHERWAL

Architecture is the crystallization, the residue in some way of the life of the time and character of the place, the nature of the man of that time - therefore extremely indicative and valuable - the only record we now can read concerning civilizations that have disappeared.

Architecture should not be seen as a collection of buildings but as a "great living creative spirit". Architecture is life, or at least life taking form, and therefore it is the truest record of life as it was lived in the world yesterday, as it is lived today or ever will be lived. We are all inspired. But by what, or how, remains the question. Inspiration is a prayer, a deep felt wish.

To really believe in something is the greatest boon man can live with. It is a bad architect who believes in one thing but conforms to another. It is often asked, "What is truth?" Truth is natural, Truth is organic. A man's conscience is really the mainspring of his soul. So listen attentively to your conscience, let it be your guiding star. A good design squares up with the conscience. The materials and the shape square with the purposes of the building. More and more, the thing you see becomes the thing you are. Look into the thing, not just at it. That is Architecture. As you get closer to the real thing, you get your true feelings into it and it becomes a religion. There is no architecture that is not religion, in the non-sectarian sense.

Stand square on your spiritual feet.

We no longer live on simple terms, in simple times or places. Life is a more complex struggle now. It is now valiant to be simple, a courageous thing to even want to be simple. It is a spiritual thing to comprehend what simplicity means.

All we need, to meet the evils we are suffering from now, is a little more freedom, a little more honesty, and a little more courage.

In the modern world, the chief obstacle to any real solution of the moderate cost house problem is the fact that our people do not really know how to live. They imagine their idiosyncrasies to be their "tastes", their prejudices to be their predilections, and their ignorance to be their virtue where any beauty of living is concerned.

Buildings, like people, must first be sincere, must be true and then be as gracious and lovable as may be. Simplicity and repose are qualities that measure the true value of any work of art.

What is needed the most in architec-

ture today is the very thing that is most needed in life Integrity. Just as it is in a human being, so integrity is the deepest quality in a building.

Integrity is not something to be put on and taken off like a garment. Integrity is a quality within and of the man himself. So it is in a building. It cannot be changed by any other person either, nor by the exterior pressures of any outward circumstances, integrity cannot change except from within because it is that in you which is you, and due to which you will try to live your life (as you would build your building) in the best possible way. To build a man or his building from within is always difficult to do because deeper is not as easy as shallow.

"Do not look at Nature, look into Nature"- Frank Lloyd Wright.

The above statement has many deep layers of meaning and understanding. Na-



The "Fay Jones Chapel at Arkansas" most likely refers to the Thorncrown Chapel, an award-winning building designed by architect E. Fay Jones, located near Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Completed in 1980, it is renowned for its seamless integration with nature, featuring a striking design with more than 6,000 square feet of glass and wood that appears to grow out of the surrounding forest



The only synagogue designed by Frank Lloyd Wright is the Beth Shalom Synagogue in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania. Commissioned in 1953, it is a National Historic Landmark known for its unique design, which features a sloping glass roof resembling a tent or mountain, symbolic of the Jewish people's journey through the desert.

ture means not just "out-of doors" clouds, trees, terrain and animal life, but refers to their nature as to the nature of materials or the "Nature" of a plan or tool.

I am convinced that Nature provides the nourishment needed for the development of the spirit of man.

The next step is to be with Nature, and to be emotional with it. According to Mr Wright, a genius is one who has an eye for Nature. Nature begins somewhere inside. Feeling for Nature is feeling for life. Some people never flower because they never open.

You can listen to music and understand it. You can look at a painting and understand it. But a building stands there as an experience. To understand it, you have to live in it, or work in it, or worship in it. Architecture like any art, must be continuous rebirth-and always reveal its human significance, its purpose. It must not be reiteration and a restatement, but always a beginning.

The age-old philosophy of Laotze is alive in architecture. Space within is the reality of a building and not the walls or ceiling, and the essence of architecture is space, flowing outward, space flowing inward. Only when the buildings are comprehended from within... their own special environment... are they really seen.

As Frank Lloyd Wright said, "A man's building gives you the man. When you build something, you cannot hide. What a man knows, you can see; what he does not know, you can also see"

Great Architecture is the greatest proof of human greatness.

About Author: Vivek Sabherwal is a Practicing architect and an academician (ex Director of Apeejay School of Architecture & Planning) based in New Delhi. He did his Masters in Architecture from Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, USA (first Indian architect) and currently writing a book, 'Spirit of an Architect'. (sabherwalvivek@yahoo.com)

India to become world's 3rd largest economy soon: FM Sitharaman

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India will soon become the world's third-largest economy, as the country is making rapid progress and, stands tall today because of its economic strength.

Delivering the diamond jubilee valedictory lecture at the Delhi School of Economics, Sitharaman said, "We are at a time when India is moving fast on so many different parameters, largely they are all economic. Of course, India and its population,



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

India and its location have strategic significance, but India stands together today and stands tall and stands distinctly on its feet, because of the economic strength of India."

"I am not saying we have become a developed country yet, because Viksit Bharat 2047 lies ahead of us. What is making us stand out is the rapid progress from being the 10th-largest economy in 2014 to the 5th, soon to become the 4th, and probably the 3rd before long," the Finance Minister said. *IANS*

Nvidia joins Indian and US investors to boost deep-tech startups with \$850 million funding push



NEW DELHI: Global chipmaker Nvidia has joined hands with a group of Indian and US investors to support India's fast-growing deep-tech ecosystem, as the India Deep Tech Alliance recently announced over \$850 million in new capital commitments.

The alliance, which was launched in September with an initial \$1 billion fund, aims to back startups working in cutting-edge sectors such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and space technology. *IANS*

Time for India to have dedicated long-term gold policy: SBI

NEW DELHI: The State Bank of India (SBI) Research, has called for a comprehensive long-term policy on gold, highlighting the need to define the role of gold in the economy -- whether as, a commodity or as money - and, how it is perceived by Indian consumers.

In a report authored by Dr. Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Advisor at SBI, it was noted that India's cultural affinity for gold, combined with its role as an investment asset and a hedge against inflation, makes it essential for the country to frame a clear, forward-looking gold policy.

"The time has now come to conceive a comprehensive policy on gold. It is important to define what is gold -- a commodity or money -- and how it is perceived by its ultimate consumer," Ghosh wrote in the report.

The report pointed out the stark difference between how gold is viewed in the East and the West.

In Western economies, gold is largely seen as public property

shaped by centuries of wars and economic turmoil, while in Asian nations such as India, Japan, Korea, and China, gold continues to be regarded as private property -- a personal asset and

holds as net buyers, even as the West's attitude toward gold has evolved.

He added that India's current approach, which focuses on reducing demand and recycling ex-

The report also proposed discussions around integrating gold into broader financial sector reforms -- potentially through instruments like gold-backed pension schemes -- and aligning such efforts with India's long-term goal of capital account convertibility.

India remains one of the world's largest markets for gold, with households cherishing it as a store of value, investors viewing it as a safe haven, and central banks increasing their holdings amid global uncertainty.

Gold prices have soared in 2025, rising over 50 percent year-to-date (YTD), driven by geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, and a weakening US dollar.

After briefly dipping below \$4,000 per ounce in October, gold prices climbed back above that mark in November.

The rising attractiveness of gold as an asset class has also boosted inflows into exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

Between April and September of FY25, inflows into gold ETFs jumped 2.7 times, and during the same period in FY26, they rose 2.6 times.

The net assets under management (AUM) of gold ETFs surged to ₹901.36 billion as of September 2025 -- marking a 165 percent increase year-on-year.

The report further mentioned that the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is considering allowing exposure to commodities like gold and silver within pension fund portfolios -- a move that could strengthen the role of gold in India's long-term investment landscape. *IANS*



"The time has now come to conceive a comprehensive policy on gold. It is important to define what is gold -- a commodity or money -- and how it is perceived by its ultimate consumer"

a symbol of financial security.

Ghosh explained that this deep-rooted cultural connection to gold has kept Asian house-

holding gold for productive use, should expand toward monetization efforts that can positively influence future investments.

Bitcoin tumbles below \$100,000 amid global market sell-off

MUMBAI: Bitcoin prices fell sharply, briefly dipping below the \$100,000 mark amid heavy selling in the spot market.

The fall came as part of a broader global sell-off in risk assets, with investors increasingly worried about overvalued markets and fading risk appetite.

The world's largest cryptocurrency dropped 3.7 percent to trade at \$101,822 after touching an intra-day low of \$99,010.06 -- its weakest level since mid-June.

Other major digital assets also

traded lower, with Ethereum sliding 6.76 percent to \$3,331.65, Solana down 3.16 percent to \$157.66, XRP declining 3.16 percent to \$2.24, and Dogecoin slipping 1.47 percent to \$0.165.

Bitcoin has now officially entered bear market territory, falling more than 20 percent from its record high of \$126,186 reached in early October.

According to data from

analytics firm CoinGlass, more than \$1.27 billion worth of leveraged crypto positions were liquidated earlier this week, most of them being long positions as traders betting on further price gains faced steep losses.

In total, nearly \$2 billion in crypto positions were wiped out in the past 24 hours, although the scale was smaller compared to the \$19 billion liquidations seen during last month's



crash.

Reports suggest that open interest in Bitcoin futures remains subdued, while options traders are increasingly betting on further downside, with several targeting the \$80,000 level through put contracts.

The latest slide in Bitcoin coincided with weakness across global equity markets. Fears of an artificial intelligence-driven bubble in tech valuations and concerns about stretched stock prices sparked broad selling on Wall Street. *IANS*

Imported car sales rise 13.2 pc in Oct in S. Korea on Tesla, German models

SEOUL: Sales of imported vehicles in South Korea jumped 13.2 percent in October from a year earlier, helped by solid demand for Tesla and German vehicle models, recent industry data showed.

The number of newly registered imported cars reached 24,064 units last month, up from 21,249 a year ago, ac-



cording to the Korea Automobile Importers & Distributors Association (KAIDA), reports Yonhap news agency.

The three bestselling models were the Tesla Model Y, BMW 520 sedan and Mercedes-Benz E200 sedan, the data showed.

Sales of Tesla vehicles, in particular, more than tripled to 4,350 units last month from 1,263 a year earlier.

By fuel type, hybrid vehicles accounted for 59.8 percent of monthly sales with 14,389 units, followed by electric vehicles (EVs) at 28.8 percent, gasoline models at 10.9 percent and diesel cars 0.6 percent.

From January to October, imported vehicle sales climbed 15.5 percent to 249,412 units from 215,980 a year earlier.

Three German automakers -- Volkswagen Group Korea, BMW Group Korea and Mercedes-Benz Korea -- sold a combined 140,670 vehicles in the first 10 months, up 3.5 percent from 135,933 units over the same period last year.

German brands accounted for six out of every 10 imported vehicles sold in South Korea during the 10-month period.

Meanwhile, sales of imported vehicles in South Korea jumped 22.6 percent in August from a year earlier, driven by strong demand for newly launched models, earlier industry data showed.

The number of newly registered imported cars reached 27,304 units last month, up from 22,263 the same month last year, the Korea Automobile Importers & Distributors Association (KAIDA) said.

KAIDA said the monthly result was boosted by robust sales of new models such as the Tesla Model Y and Model 3.

The three bestselling models in August were Tesla's Model Y, the Model Y Long Range and the Model 3, the data showed. *IANS*

India sees highest AI bot activity in APAC, followed by Japan and China: Report

NEW DELHI: India leads the Asia-Pacific region in AI bot activity, and a 300 percent increase in automated traffic globally is witnessed over the past year, a recent report said.

AI bots generated 3.2 billion triggers in India, positioning the country as the most targeted in the APAC region, followed by Japan and China, said the report from cybersecurity and cloud computing company, Akamai Technologies.

The report revealed an alarming spike in automated traffic driven largely by AI-powered bots targeting websites across all industries.

These bots generate billions of requests, significantly distorting digital operations and analytics, and make up nearly 1 percent of total bot traffic on Akamai's platform.

The spike is primarily caused by content scraping, which undermines traditional web-based business models, publisher analytics, and ad revenue.

As bot traffic grows, publishers and other content-driven businesses are seeing corrupted analytics and collapsing ad revenues through bots extracting value without giving any in return.

The report also revealed that the rapid growth of AI-enabled tools has made it easier than ever for both experienced threat professionals and new malicious actors to launch impersonation attacks, conduct social engineering, distribute phishing campaigns, and commit identity fraud using AI-generated fake documents and images.

In addition, malicious bots such as FraudGPT, WormGPT, ad fraud bots, and return fraud bots are driving up costs, degrading site performance, and skewing key metrics.

Further, the global report stated that the commerce industry leads in AI bot activity, registering more than 25 billion bot requests over a two-month observation period.

But publishing faced the largest impact in the digital media industry, representing 63 percent of AI bot triggers.

In the healthcare sector, more than 90 percent of AI bot triggers stem from scraping, largely by search and training bots, the report said. *IANS*

India-US trade talks "going on very well" says Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal

AUCKLAND: Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has indicated that talks on the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement are "going on very well", but said there are "many sensitive and serious issues" and it would take time.

"Talks are going on very well. There are many sensitive issues, many serious issues, so naturally, it takes some time," Minister Goyal told ANI, when asked to provide an update on India-US trade talks.

Recently, a government official had asserted that India and the US were "very near" to finalizing the first tranche of the ambitious Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

The official affirmed that both sides are converging on most of the issues and negotiators of both the countries are sorting out "language of the agreement".

Talks are progressing well on the agreement and no new issues are acting as hurdle in the negotiations, he further said, adding that both parties are hopeful of the deadline.

On October 23, negotiators of both countries had a virtual discussion. So far, five rounds of talks have been completed since March for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement, initially decided to be inked by the "fall of 2025."

The bilateral trade agreement, formally proposed in February following directives from leaders of both coun-

tries, aims to more than double trade volumes from the current USD 191 billion to USD 500 billion by 2030.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was in the United States in September, leading high-level trade negotiations as both nations work toward concluding a comprehensive bilateral trade agreement. Goyal was accompanied by a delegation of senior ministry officials including Special Secretary and India's Chief Negotiator Rajesh Agrawal.



Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal

In mid-September, a team of United States officials led by Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia, Brendan Lynch, had "positive and forward-looking" discussions with the officials from India's Department of Commerce in New Delhi, and it was decided to intensify efforts to achieve early conclusion of a mutually beneficial trade agreement.

Over the past few months, India and the US have been actively negotiating for the interim trade deal.

Initially, US President Donald Trump announced 25 percent tariffs on Indian goods that came into effect on August 1, even as there were hopes of an interim India-US trade deal that would have otherwise helped avoid elevated tariffs. A few days later, he imposed another 25 percent tariff, taking the total to 50 percent, citing India's continued imports of Russian oil. *ANI*

In Brief

'Over 2790 Indian nationals deported from US this year'

NEW DELHI: Over 2790 Indian nationals have been deported from the United States this year for illegally staying in the country, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed. The exercise was conducted after the Indian authorities thoroughly verified their credentials and nationality.

"Since January this year, we have had over 2790 Indian nationals who did not meet the criteria. They were illegally staying there, and we verified their credentials, their nationality, and they have returned. This is the status as of yesterday," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said while addressing a weekly media briefing in New Delhi.

Responding to a question on the issue of deportation of Indians from other countries, Jaiswal further stated that around 100 Indian nationals have also been deported from the United Kingdom following the verification of their nationality by the Indian authorities.

India has been reiterating its longstanding stance against illegal migration while emphasizing its commitment to promote legal pathways of migration.

"In the last several months, since January 2025 so far, we've had 2,417 Indian nationals deported or repatriated from the United States... We want to promote legal pathways of migration." *IAN S*

Immigration

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"USCIS remains dedicated to eliminating barriers to securing the nation's electoral process," said USCIS spokesman Matthew Tragesser

USCIS enhances voter verification systems

States can now use last four digits of Social Security numbers to verify citizenship

WASHINGTON: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has continued its upgrades of the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program to enable states to verify that only U.S. citizens are voting in federal elections. States can now use SAVE to verify the citizenship of voters and voting registrants using the last four digits of the individual's Social Security number rather than requiring the full nine digits.

"USCIS remains dedicated to eliminating barriers to securing the nation's electoral process," said USCIS spokesman Matthew Tragesser. "By allowing states to efficiently verify voter eligibility, we are reinforcing the principle that America's elections are reserved exclusively for American citizens. We encourage all federal, state, and local agencies to use the SAVE program."

As part of USCIS' commitment to Executive Order 14248, Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections, this system enhancement enables

complete Social Security number.

SAVE Optimization has enabled state voting agencies to submit over 46 million voter verification queries and has also al-

lowed federal agencies to submit over 110 million queries to help verify eligibility for federally funded benefits. These initiatives combined with SAVE's status verifications for new benefit requests have collectively resulted in more than 205 million status verification queries as of October 2025 compared to 25 million status verification queries in all of calendar year 2024.

Currently, only 26 states already have, or are in the process of establishing, a memorandum of agreement for voter verification with SAVE. Government officials at all levels in all states should be committed to eliminating voter fraud and restoring faith in America's elections.

More information is available on SAVE's Voter Registration and Voter List Maintenance Fact Sheet.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and LinkedIn. *USCIS*



registered user agencies, especially those verifying voter rolls, to create a SAVE case without needing a Department of Homeland Security identifier or com-

pleted federal agencies to submit over 110 million queries to help verify eligibility for federally funded benefits. These initiatives combined with SAVE's status

Canada's crackdown on student visas hits Indian applicants hard

OTTAWA: Canada's recent restrictions on international student permits have significantly affected applicants from India, according to government data, with what was once a preferred destination now losing its appeal for Indian students, CTV News reported, citing Reuters.

According to the report, Canada reduced the number of international study permits for the second consecutive year in early 2025 as part of efforts to curb temporary migration and tackle student visa fraud.

About 74 percent of study permit applications from India

were rejected in August 2025, compared to around 32 percent in the same month last year, the Immigration Department told Reuters.

Nearly 40 percent of all study permit applications were refused overall, while 24 percent of those from China were turned down.

The total number of Indian applicants fell sharply from 20,900 in August 2023 to 4,515 in August 2025.

Despite India being Canada's largest source of international students for over a decade, it now has the highest study permit refusal rate among countries with more than 1,000 approved

applicants, according to CTV News, citing Reuters data.

The spike in visa refusals comes amid continuing diplomatic tension between Canada

and India following former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 2023 allegations that India was in-

involved in the killing of a Canadian citizen in Surrey, British Columbia, claims New Delhi has repeatedly denied.

In 2023, Canadian authorities

uncovered nearly 1,550 fraudulent study permit applications linked to fake letters of accep-

tance, most of which originated from India. Last year, its enhanced verification system flagged more than 14,000 potentially fraudulent documents across all applications, according to Reuters.

In response, Canada's immigration department tightened verification processes and raised the financial threshold for applicants.

The Indian Embassy in Ottawa said it was aware of the increased rejection rate but acknowledged that issuing study permits "is Canada's prerogative." *ANI*

About 74 percent of study permit applications from India were rejected in August 2025, compared to around 32 percent in the same month last year, the Immigration Department told Reuters

and India following former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's 2023 allegations that India was in-

uncovered nearly 1,550 fraudulent study permit applications linked to fake letters of accep-

Delhi HC suspends Look-Out Circular against US citizen in Gensol probe

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has ordered suspension of the Look-Out Circular (LOC) issued against Inderpreet Singh Wadhwa, a US citizen and former Independent Director of Blu-Smart Mobility Pvt. Ltd., who is under investigation in connection with alleged large-scale financial irregularities involving Gensol Engineering Ltd.

Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma directed that the LOC be kept in abeyance during the pendency of the writ petition, subject to strict conditions, including furnishing of a Rs 25 crore security through Fixed Deposit or Bank Guar-

antee, and an additional surety of Rs 5 crore from a family member residing in India.

The court observed that while the authorities must continue their investigation unhindered, "the petitioner's liberty and professional as well as personal life cannot be placed in indefinite suspension"

team of lawyers, argued that the continued operation of the LOC was arbitrary and disproportionate.

They contended that Wadhwa, an independent professional with no role in the financial management of Blu-Smart Mobility, had himself raised governance concerns and lodged complaints with the Registrar of Companies prior to the investigation.

The petitioner also cited pressing medical and family obligations abroad.

Opposing the plea, Meghav Gupta, Special Counsel for the Union of India and the Bureau of Immigration, and Amit Tiwari, CGSC, for the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, argued that the LOC was necessary to ensure the petitioner's availability during an ongoing investigation into an alleged Rs 2,385

crore corporate fraud.

Balancing both sides, the court ruled that preventive measures must not become punitive, observing that Wadhwa had voluntarily come to India and cooperated with the authorities.

The court directed him to cooperate with the investigation and to provide advance intimation of his travel itinerary, contact details, and address abroad to the authorities. ANI

US lawmakers urge Trump to reconsider H-1B visa crackdown

WASHINGTON: US Representative Jimmy Panetta, along with four other Congress members, has written a letter to President Donald Trump, urging him to reconsider his September 19th Proclamation on H-1B visas due to its "potentially negative impacts" on the India-US relationship.

"The H-1B visa program is an important part of why the United States continues to lead in technological innovation, and is needed now more than ever with the recent sharp rise of artificial intelligence," Panetta said.

"Although 75 percent of current H-1B visa recipients come from India, the program still needs to be enhanced and increased rather than limited to a select amount of people or corporations that can pay exorbitant amounts of money to get a visa. My Congressional colleagues and I wrote and sent this letter to the Administration so that they not only preserve, but also expand the H-1B visa program as a key factor for the United States to remain competitive in the 21st century," he added.

The letter was sent to Trump, and co-signed by Congressmen Ami Bera, Salud Carbajal, Derek Tran and

Congresswoman Julie Johnson.

No Republican lawmaker signed the letter.

They defended the H-1B program, highlighting how "many of America's most successful companies were founded or led by former H-1B holders" who create "new businesses, job creation, and keep the United States at the forefront of technological progress".

"The H-1B visa program is an important part of why the United States continues to lead in technological innovation, and is needed now more than ever with the recent sharp rise of artificial intelligence,"

"Indian-Americans and other H-1B holders also comprise a thriving constituency in each of our districts, enhancing our local economies, contributing to our academic and civic institutions, and strengthening our communities," it noted.

They also urged Trump to "preserve and expand the H-1B program to strengthen America's technological leadership, create jobs for American workers, and safeguard our national security".

The letter comes a day after Florida moved to ban H-1B visa hiring across state universities.

Speaking at a press conference at the University of South Florida in Tampa recently, Governor Ron DeSantis said the decision is aimed at ensuring that Florida citizens are "first in line for job opportunities". IANS

1,796 Sikh pilgrims to visit Pakistan for Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birth anniversary

AMRITSAR: A jatha of 1,796 Sikh pilgrims from India will visit Pakistan to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji on November 5, paying their respects at various historic gurdwaras on the occasion of 'Parkash Purb'.

The pilgrims will enter Pakistan through the Attari-Wagah border. Expressing their happiness, several members of the jatha thanked the government for granting them permission to undertake the pilgrimage.

"We thank the government for giving permission to do darshan..." said one pilgrim, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to visit the sacred sites.

Harpreet Singh, another pilgrim, appreciated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to allow the darshan, while also suggesting that the visa procedure should be simplified so that more devotees can participate in the pilgrimage.

"Even after Operation Sindoor, the yatra continue to remain normal, we did not expect PM Modi to allow the yatra, but we thank him for this decision... The visa procedure should be simple so that more people can go."

"Even after Operation Sindoor, the yatra continue to remain normal, we did not expect PM Modi to allow the yatra, but we thank him for this decision... The visa procedure should be simple so that more people can go"

Meanwhile, Kuldeep Singh Gadgaj, Jathedar of Shri Akal Takhat Sahib, noted that the majority of visas for Sikh pilgrims had been processed and granted, expressing gratitude to the respective governments for facilitating the journey.

"The 'jatha' is going to celebrate the birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. They are lucky to be visiting places associated with Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. This time, most visas were processed and granted. I thank the respective governments for giving the required permission," said Gadgaj.

Earlier, the Pakistan High Commission shared it has issued over 2100 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India ahead of the birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak.

The Pak High Commission said in a post on X, "The Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi has issued over 2100 visas to Sikh pilgrims from India to participate in the Birth Celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji, to be held in Pakistan from 04-13 November 2025." ANI

Commercial office rental grows 6 pc YoY to Rs 90 per sq ft in 9M 2025

NEW DELHI: The commercial office real estate sector is growing steadily across the top 7 cities with a 6 percent yearly rise in monthly office rentals - from Rs 85 per square feet (Sq. ft.) in first nine months (9M) of 2024 to Rs 90 per sq. ft. in 9M 2025, a report said.

Predictably, the Information Technology and Information Technology Enabled Services (IT/ITeS) sector comprised the largest share, at 27 percent, followed by coworking at 23 percent and BFSI at 18 percent.



"Compared to last year's corresponding period, the IT/ITeS sector's leasing share declined marginally by 1 percent. On the other hand, coworking saw an overall share increase of 2 percent - from a 21 percent share in 9M 2024 to a 23 percent share in 9M 2025," Anarock Research said in its report.

Among the cities, Pune witnessed the highest growth of 97 percent in net office absorption - from 3.14 Mn sq. ft. in 9M 2024 to approx. 6.2 Mn sq. ft. in 9M 2025. Kolkata was the only city to record a decline in net office leasing, of 19 percent. IANS

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Asia-Pacific commercial real estate investment volume hits \$63.8 billion in Q3 2025



NEW DELHI: Asia-Pacific commercial real estate investment volumes reached \$63.8 billion in the third quarter of 2025, marking the highest level on record and a 56.8 percent increase on the same period last year, a recent report said.

Additionally, the growth in activity nearly doubled the volumes recorded in Q2. IANS

JLL India Appoints Gaurav Sharma to Lead Hotels & Hospitality Business

MUMBAI: JLL, India's leading real estate professional services firm, today announced the appointment of Gaurav Sharma as Head of Hotels & Hospitality Group for India and Senior Director Hotel Capital Markets, Asia. In this strategic role, Gaurav will lead the company's hospitality practice across the Indian market, leveraging his extensive experience to capitalize on emerging opportunities in India's rapidly evolving hotel and hospitality sector.

Gaurav will be based out of Delhi and will report to Nihat Ercan, CEO, JLL's Hotel & Hospitality Group, Asia Pacific. Gaurav's appointment marks his return to JLL India, where he previously led capital markets for North India from 2006 to 2012, and comes at a pivotal time as India's hospitality sector demonstrates exceptional growth momentum. In his wider Hotel Capital Markets role Gaurav will lean into strategic transactions in Asia, leveraging his considerable M&A and platform experience.

According to JLL analysis, the hotel sector in India has delivered outstanding performance with

Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) surging 10.5% year-over-year as of YTD September 2025, building on 2024's record-breaking achievements that included over 42,071 new keys and approximately 25 significant investment transactions. This robust trajectory is evidenced by unprecedented development activity, with 182 hotel signings totaling 22,469 keys in the first half 2025, a jump of 16% from the same time last year, reinforcing the sector's



Gaurav Sharma

high-net-worth individuals, family offices, and private hotel owners contributing 51% of transaction volume, followed by listed hotel companies at 34% continues to drive sustained confidence across the market. Given the positive momentum in investment activity, total transaction volume in 2025 is forecast at USD 450 million and JLL is projecting hotel transactions activity to reach USD 1 billion by 2028.

"Gaurav's appointment rein-

of both domestic and international hospitality markets, coupled with his exceptional transaction experience, positions him perfectly to guide our clients through India's hospitality sector. His return also signifies JLL's continued investment in India's booming hotel industry, as we build on our presence with dedicated hospitality expertise across our three key offices in Mumbai, Delhi, and Bangalore."

Gaurav brings with him nearly 20 years of distinguished experience in real estate and hospitality investment, having spearheaded high-value transactions, asset acquisitions, and portfolio turnarounds that consistently drive sustainable growth. His proven track record spans fundraising, asset management, project execution, and organizational leadership, combining financial precision with visionary strategic execution.

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Gaurav will be based out of Delhi and will report to Nihat Ercan, CEO, JLL's Hotel & Hospitality Group, Asia Pacific. Gaurav's appointment marks his return to JLL India, where he previously led capital markets for North India from 2006 to 2012

strategic expansion beyond traditional urban centers as more than 70% of new signings concentrate in Tier 2 and 3 cities.

The diverse investor ecosystem that emerged in 2024--led by

forces JLL's commitment to strengthening our hospitality expertise in India, and it's particularly meaningful to have him return to the JLL family," said Ercan. "His deep understanding

Mumbai property registrations to touch 11,200 in Oct; stamp duty collections Rs 1,004 crore

MUMBAI: Mumbai is projected to record approximately 11,200 property registrations in October 2025, with stamp duty collections estimated at Rs 1,004 crore, as per recent report.

On a YTD basis till October, property registrations observed a 4 percent year-on-year (YoY) growth, while revenue grew by

11 percent YoY during the same period due to sustained buyer confidence, the report from real estate services firm Knight Frank.

Meanwhile, there will be a 14 percent decline in registrations year-on-year and a 17 percent drop in revenue for October due to a high base and the shift in festive calendar, the report said.

While lower than last year, numbers remained in a respectable range, holding above the 11,000 mark, the real estate services firm said.

Residential deals continued to dominate, accounting for about 80 percent of total registrations during the month.

Mumbai recorded over

1,23,141 property registrations till October 2025, contributing more than Rs 11,151 crores to the state exchequer during this period.

"Mumbai's housing market continues to display depth and stability through 2025. While October saw a moderation from last year's festive-driven high base,

the city still recorded over 11,000 registrations, underscoring resilient underlying demand," said Shishir Bajjal, Chairman & Managing Director, Knight Frank India.

"Mumbai's housing market reflects structural strength supported by steady end-user demand. IANS

Dosti Realty partners with Primus to launch MMR's landmark senior living community

MUMBAI: Dosti Realty, one of the most trusted names in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), has partnered with Primus, India's leading senior living brand, to introduce the region's first purpose-built senior living community.

This landmark collaboration signals a paradigm shift: for the first time, MMR will house a thoughtfully designed, world-class senior living community right within its urban fabric -- close to families, friends, and

The timing makes this especially relevant. JLL India, the transaction advisor to this partnership, recently released a report with ASLI projecting that India's senior community will more than double, from 162.2 million in 2025 to over 346 million by 2050. This demographic shift underscores the need for communities that go beyond safety and care to deliver vibrancy, independence, and quality of life.

Leadership Voices

DOSTI
FRIENDS FOR LIFE

PRIMUS
SENIOR LIVING

This landmark collaboration signals a paradigm shift: for the first time, MMR will house a thoughtfully designed, world-class senior living community right within its urban fabric -- close to families, friends, and support systems

support systems.

Meeting Evolving Needs Across Life Stages

For Dosti Realty, this initiative reflects a larger vision: modern townships must evolve with residents across every stage of life. Housing needs change from the early years of home ownership, to family-centric residences, and finally to senior living that balances independence with personalized care.

The Urgency of Now

Deepak Goradia, Chairman & Managing Director - Dosti Realty, "We believe that true community living embraces every generation. With Dosti Primus, we're creating a space where seniors don't just live securely - they live meaningfully, with comfort, care, and connection at the heart of it."

Anuj Goradia, Director - Dosti Realty, added, "At Dosti Realty, we've always believed that great communities evolve with the people who live in them. With Dosti

Primus, we're not just introducing a new project -- we're shaping a new way of living for Mumbaiers. Senior living has long been seen as a niche; we see it as the next natural chapter in urban life. Dosti Primus brings together comfort, care, and connection in a way that lets seniors live independently, joyfully, and close to everything they hold dear. For us, this is more than real estate -- it's about redefining how cities like Mumbai care for those who built them."

"At Primus, we have been able to increase healthspan and reduce the pace of aging for elders across the various cities where we are present. We are very excited to now bring this solution to Mumbai and help the elders of this city lead more joyous, active, and purposeful lives," said Adarsh Narahari, Founder & Managing Director - Primus.

"The national penetration rate for organized senior living remains low at 1.4% of the addressable market - compared to mature markets such as the US (6-7%) and New Zealand (14-15%). This underscores the vast, untapped potential that defines the Indian landscape," said Karan Singh Sodi, Senior Managing Director, MMR & Head - Alternatives, JLL India.

(ADVERTORIAL DISCLAIMER: The above press release has been provided by PNN. ANI and India Post will not be responsible in any way for the content of the same.)

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Premium housing demand sees 4 pc growth in Jan-Sep 2025

NEW DELHI: Premium apartments valued at over Rs 1 crore recorded 4 percent year-on-year (YoY) growth in sales during the first nine months of 2025, a recent report said.

This increased contribution was primarily driven by 10 percent growth in demand for the Rs 1.5 to 3 crore housing segment, according to the report from commercial real estate company JLL India.

While premium homes gained market share in year-to-date (YTD) sales till September, the share of apartments priced under Rs 1 crore dropped from 48 percent to 38 percent compared to the same period last year.

Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Pune accounted for over 60 percent share in residential sales volume across India's top seven cities during January-September 2025.



The total residential sales dropped 12 percent Y-o-Y to 2,02,756 units during January-September 2025 period due to sustained high property prices, seasonal monsoon impacts, and a pre-festive lull in housing demand.

The Indian housing market, however, underwent recalibration while maintaining strong underlying fundamentals, as evident from increasing sales in the premium housing segment, the report noted.

New launches of homes priced over Rs 1 crore surged by 5 percent, the report said, adding that a marginal Y-o-Y decline was noted in overall year-to-date project launches until September.

Home prices in India's seven major cities maintained their upward trajectory in Q3 2025, posting annual increases ranging from 6 percent to 16 percent. Kolkata topped the list with 16 percent growth, followed by Chennai at 14 percent. Delhi NCR and Bengaluru recorded 13 percent price growth, the report noted.

JLL India forecasted that apartment prices will keep rising due to strong luxury demand, low inventory, and developers' pricing power, even as sales moderate. IANS

How is loan against property different from a home loan

NEW DELHI: Owning property gives you not only a sense of security but also an opportunity to access funds when needed. Two popular loan options related to property are a Home Loan for buying a house and a Loan Against Property for meeting financial needs. While both involve property as collateral, they serve very different purposes.

Leading banks such as ICICI Bank offer both these loan options with flexible repayment terms, transparent processing, and attractive interest rates. However, understanding how they differ can help you choose the right product for your financial goals.

This article explores the key differences between a Loan Against Property (LAP) and a Home Loan, including eligibility, usage, tenure, and required documentation.

What Is a Loan Against Property?

A Loan Against Property is a type of secured loan where you pledge your existing property, residential, commercial,



or industrial, as collateral to raise funds. The loan amount depends on the property's market value and your repayment capacity.

Borrowers use a Loan Against Property for purposes such as:

- * Expanding a business or managing working capital

- * Paying for education or weddings

- * Consolidating debt

- * Managing medical expenses

A Loan Against Property has a lower interest rate as compared to unsecured loans since it's backed by a tangible asset.

What Is a Home Loan?

A Home Loan is designed specifically to help individuals purchase or construct a new house, or renovate an existing one. The property purchased through the loan is pledged to the bank until the loan is repaid in full. VMPL/ANI

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



ALIA BHATT, SHARVARI STARRER 'ALPHA' TO RELEASE IN APRIL

The upcoming Alia Bhatt and Sharvari-starrer action film 'Alpha' has a new release date. The film, which was earlier slated to release on December 25 (as confirmed by Alia on the sidelines of the Milan Fashion Week), will now bow in cinemas on April 17, 2026.

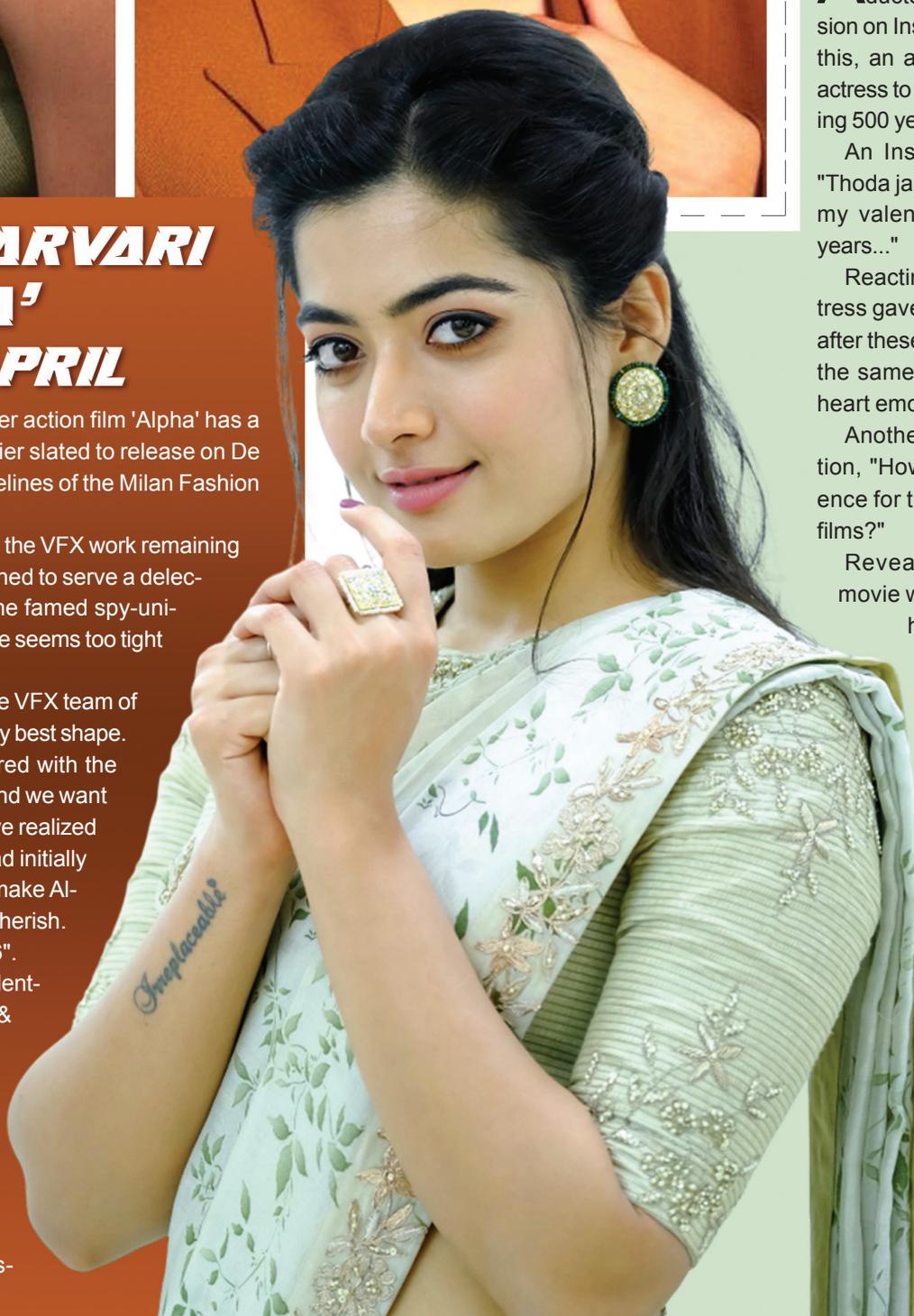
The reason behind the release getting pushed is the VFX work remaining on the film. The makers are leaving no stone unturned to serve a delectable actioner, and the first female-led film from the famed spy-universe, and for that to happen, December 25 deadline seems too tight of a ropewalk.

Yash Raj Films confirmed as they shared that the VFX team of 'Alpha' needs more time to present Alpha in its visually best shape.

A YRF spokesperson said in a statement shared with the media, "'Alpha' is an extremely special film for us and we want to present the film in its most cinematic self. We have realized that the VFX will take a little longer than what we had initially assumed. We want to leave no stone unturned to make Alpha into a theatrical experience for everyone to cherish. Thus, we will now release the film on April 17, 2026".

Alpha that pairs Alia Bhatt with Sharvari in this relentless action thriller, and also stars Anil Kapoor & Bobby Deol in pivotal roles. Alia and Sharvari will go toe to toe against Bobby in this brutal showdown that is a part of YRF spy-universe.

Another top trade source said, "'Alpha' team wants to put out the best film for audiences to enjoy. It is a fair move by YRF. This was brewing as the VFX team was under a lot of pressure with regards to timelines, which was seeming unrealistic. IANS



TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

- 1 Saiyaara: Saiyaara
- 2 Barbaad: Saiyaara
- 3 Pardesiya: Param Sundari
- 4 Qayde Se: Metro ... In Dino
- 5 Dhun: Saiyaara
- 6 Janaab-e-Aali: WAR 2
- 7 Deewaniyat: Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat
- 8 Tum Ho Toh: Saiyaara
- 9 Raanjhan: Do Patti
- 10 Zamaana Lage: Metro ... In Dino

Rashmika Mandanna reacts when fan asks to be his Valentine

Actress Rashmika Mandanna conducted an Ask Me Anything session on Instagram recently, and during this, an admirer asked the 'Pushpa' actress to be her Valentine for the coming 500 years.

An Insta user asked Rashmika, "Thoda jaldi puch leta hu - Will you be my valentine for the next 400-500 years..."

Reacting to this, the 'Animal' actress gave a hilarious reply saying, "If after these 100 years if we are alive in the same lifetime then why not (red heart emoji) (sic)."

Another netizen shared the question, "How was the shooting experience for the Girlfriend from the other films?"

Revealing that working on the movie was mentally exhausting for her, Rashmika shared, "I remember it was very mentally exhausting because

we had to tap into really really deep and raw emotions that generally you want to forget or you just do everything and anything to move on from...I had to tap into them and re live them...which was very hard for me..(crying emoji) #TheGirlfriend Ask @rahulr_23 he'll tell you. (crying emoji)."

Prior to this, Rashmika expressed unwavering faith in director Rahul Ravindran and "The Girlfriend". IANS

When Palak Tiwari tried to befriend her unique neighbors

Newbie actress Palak Tiwari tried to befriend her unique neighbors during her stay in Australia.

In the video uploaded by her on Insta, she was heard saying, "I have some neighbors and I'm gonna try and befriend them."

Then she goes to show us her new neighbors, a couple of Giraffes.

Palak tells them, "Hey guys! Are you looking for a human friend or something? I mean I have the neck of it (flaunting her long neck), and the last time I posted a giraffe, they said I look like one."

When she did not get any response, she added, "I think they are busy right now, I should try later, they are eating. It is rude to disturb someone when they are eating."

Some time later, Palak once again tried to make friends with them, even offering them water. However, she informed in the caption that she is still waiting for the giraffes to consider her friend request.

"All the @jamalalodge animals are still considering my request. Will get back with an update (Smiling Face with Tear Emoji @australia @visitcanberra (sic)," she wrote in the caption.

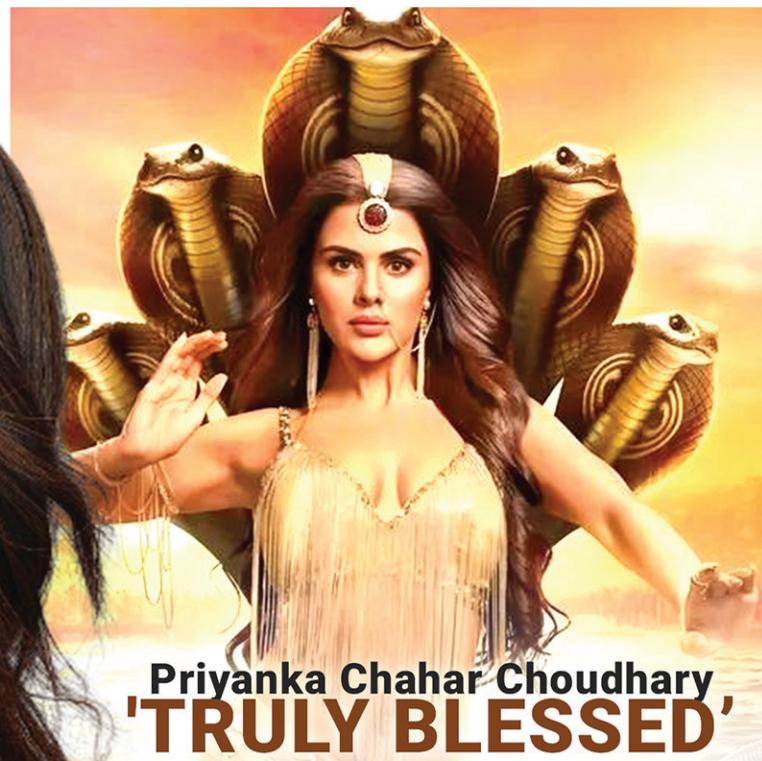
In the meantime, Palak celebrated her 25th birthday on October 8, and on her special day, she received a wish from Saba Ali Khan Pataudi, the sister of actor Saif Ali Khan and aunt to Ibrahim Ali Khan, who has long been rumored to be dating Palak.

The post that was deleted later included a picture of Palak, along with the caption, "Happiest birthday filled with love and blessings (sic)," tagging Palak.

As part of her birthday celebration, Palak went to Lonovala with mother Shweta Tiwari and brother Reyansh.

Shweta, who herself turned 45 on October 4, used social media to drop sneak peeks into the celebration.

Thanking Palak for making her birthday "truly unforgettable", the 'Kasautii Zindagii Kay' actress penned. IANS



Priyanka Chahar Choudhary 'TRULY BLESSED' on bagging 'Naagin 7'

Actress Priyanka Chahar Choudhary was introduced as the lead for Ektaa Kapoor's highly awaited show "Naagin 7" during the latest episode of "Weekend Ka Vaar".

Ektaa joined host Salman Khan on the stage of "Bigg Boss 19". During the episode, Ektaa officially announced Priyanka as the lead Naagin for "Naagin 7".

Now, Priyanka has taken to social media to express her delight at getting the opportunity to embark on this new professional journey.

She penned a heartfelt note on her official Instagram handle that read, "Meet your new Naagin (Snake and sparkle emojis) Coming to your screens very soon, and my heart is overflowing with gratitude today (sic)."

Expressing her gratitude to Ektaa for believing in her, she added, "A huge thank you to @ektarkapoor ma'am @shobha9168 for believing in me and trusting me to take the Naagin legacy ahead - it truly feels like a dream come true. To @balajitelefilmslimited, thank you for giving life to this iconic world and making me a part of it." IANS

Kartik Aaryan-starrer 'Tu Meri Main Tera, ...' hops on Dec. 25 release

Bollywood is a place where timing is of essence. Be it the box-office clashes or their aversion, timing plays a huge role in how things play out on the ticket windows.

The Kartik Aaryan-starrer 'Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri', which was earlier scheduled to close the entertainment year on December 31, 2025, now has a new release date. The film is set to arrive in cinemas on December 25, 2025.

Over the past few years, Kartik Aaryan has emerged as one of the most bankable stars in the country, consistently delivering hits across genres. Whether it's a mass entertainer, a romantic drama, the actor's name alone now commands strong box office openings. His relatability, charm, and growing stardom have positioned him as the face of the new-age commercial cinema, someone who bridges the gap between youth appeal and family audiences. IANS



New US Assistant Secretary meets Indian Ambassador in Washington

WASHINGTON: India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Kwatra, hosted Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Paul Kapur at his residence in Washington.

The State Department Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs posted on X, "Thank you @AmbVMKwatra for graciously hosting me at India House last night. Appreciated the opportunity to discuss shared bilateral and regional priorities, including strengthening the U.S.-India

served as Assistant Secretary from September 2021 through January 2025.

He previously served from 2020 to 2021 on the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, where he worked on issues related to South and Central Asia, Indo-Pacific strategy, and India-US relations.

Kapur has also led the India-US Track 1.5 dialogue and other strategic defense engagements between the two countries.

He is a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution and a professor at the US Naval Post-

demically and now stepping into a leading diplomatic role.

"I can't avoid the feeling of having come full circle. I was born in New Delhi to an Indian father and an American mother. Although I visited India often during my childhood, I grew up in the United States as a thoroughly American kid, never imagining that my career would someday return me to the place where I was born," he added.

On US ties with India, Kapur stressed that the two countries "share a host of common interests".

"The United States and India share a host of common interests: ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific region, which is not dominated by China; expanding bilateral trade, building our economic relationship so that it is more symmetrical and profitable; facilitating technology sharing and innovation; and ensuring access to the energy necessary to fuel our economies," he noted.

On Pakistan, he said he would "pursue security cooperation where beneficial to US interests".

The bureau plays a crucial role in shaping US policy on security, economic engagement, counterterrorism, and infrastructure development in the broader South and Central Asia region. *IANS*

Thank you @AmbVMKwatra for graciously hosting me at India House last night. Appreciated the opportunity to discuss shared bilateral and regional priorities, including strengthening the U.S.-India relationship. - A/S Paul Kapur."

relationship. - A/S Paul Kapur."

On October 22, Kapur, an Indian American security expert, was sworn in as the next Assistant Secretary, marking a key appointment of the Trump administration for the region.

Kapur succeeded Donald Lu, who

graduate School in Monterey, California.

In early October, Kapur was confirmed by a Senate vote, along with the new US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor.

During his Senate confirmation hearing in June, Kapur said his career "has come full circle", having studied the region aca-

Republican lawmaker backs stronger India-US ties, cautions Trump to be 'careful' on tariffs

WASHINGTON: Republican Congressman and the co-chair of the India Caucus, Rich McCormick, has called for a stronger India-US partnership, saying the two nations together could usher in "another generation" of global peace.

While speaking at a recent event at the Hudson Institute, McCormick said the Trump administration should keep friends like India "close" to the United States.

"When you talk about India, and I'm the chair of the India caucus, I love India. I think India and the United States... we pair up well into the future of the largest democracy, the wealthiest and oldest democracy, pairing together, it could bring us together for another generation of peace that the world's never seen, where you can have prosperity and wealth development," he added.

He also advised the Trump administration on its tariff policy against India, stressing that they should be "careful."

"India was, on average, charging about

15 percent tariffs with barriers, us about 2 percent with no barriers. That's something that President Trump did very well, but we have to be careful," he noted.



Congressman Rich McCormick

McCormick also praised India's space program and its achievement of becoming the first country in the world to successfully land a spacecraft near the dark side of the moon in 2023.

"A country that does things very well

puts a spaceship on the dark side of the moon for \$74 million. I always joke that we couldn't even develop a building to talk about putting a spaceship on the dark side of the moon for that amount. We could do things so much better if we keep our friends close," he highlighted.

After a period of prolonged silence, many Republican lawmakers are now publicly defending India-US ties.

At least six bipartisan letters and resolutions have been drafted over the past three weeks defending the interests of the Indian American community, reaffirming support for the India-US partnership, and pressing the administration for accountability over its recent actions targeting New Delhi.

In October, a bipartisan group of six House Representatives wrote to US President Donald Trump and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, expressing concerns over the H-1B proclamation. *IANS*

Interim government won't allow Zakir Naik to enter Bangladesh

DHAKA: The Interim government has decided not to allow Indian-origin Islamic preacher Zakir Naik to enter Bangladesh. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Law and Order Core Committee at the Home Ministry's meeting room at the Secretariat recently.

Quoting sources, the daily Prothom Alo reported that the meeting discussed the possible visit of Zakir Naik. "If Zakir Naik comes to Bangladesh, there will be a huge crowd. A large number of law enforcement personnel will be needed to control the crowd. There is no opportunity to deploy so many members there at the moment, focusing on Zakir Naik's visit to Bangladesh", the report said.



Zakir Naik

The meeting of the core committee on law and order was held under the chairmanship of Home Affairs Advisor Lieutenant General (Retd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury.

A company called Spark Event Management recently announced on their Facebook post that they will bring Zakir Naik to Bangladesh at the end of November.

"Spark Event Management is the sole authorized organizer of Dr. Zakir Naik Bangladesh Tour 2025. The event is being held with the permission of the Government of Bangladesh and in collaboration with the concerned authorities," the company said.

Dhaka has said it has taken note of the remarks made by the spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs regarding the possible visit of a prominent Islamic scholar to Bangladesh.

"We have taken note of the remarks made by the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs of India regarding the possible visit of a prominent Islamic scholar or cleric to Bangladesh," Foreign Ministry spokesperson SM Mahbul Alam told ANI.

He further said, "We also believe that no country, including India, should provide shelter to any accused or fugitive individuals from another country." *ANI*

'Pakistan's creation of Jihadi culture is a bleeding wound'

NEW DELHI: Pakistan is confronted with four bleeding wounds, which include the country's sick economy, political instability, security situation, and ever-growing corruption gripping national life that no government has been able to fix, a media report said.

The article in the Lahore-based Friday Times newspaper laments the creation of Jihadi culture in Pakistan, which "generated several militant organizations for jihad in Afghanistan and Jammu and Kashmir,

liament in December 2002. They turned against Pakistan and General Musharraf, merged into one organization called TTP".

The article states that there was no security issue before Pakistan's plunge into the first Afghan Jihad. "From 1982 to 1985, we recruited, indoctrinated, radicalized, trained in camps on our soil and launched into Afghanistan for guerrilla warfare a force of over 85,000 mujahideen. These jihadists came from different Muslim countries. The credit for this spectacular task

fused to take them back. Many had married local girls and were allowed to settle down in the tribal agencies," the article observed.

It further states that this jihad project made Pakistan self-sufficient in drug production, drug addicts, Kalashnikov rifles, and religious militancy. In 1985, Pakistan could boast of having 1.5 million heroin addicts, while this scourge was non-existent in 1978. Again, Pakistan became part of the anti-terrorism war in 2001 and lost over 80,000 precious lives of its security personnel and citizens in terrorist attacks and suicide bombings.

On the economic front, Pakistan has chronically faced a shortage of foreign exchange reserves, food insecurity, stagnant exports, rising imports, dire balance of payments, ever-expanding non-developmental expenditures, reckless wastage of resources, uneven landholdings, unsustainable burden of defense budget, unending obsession with loans and foreign aid, unjust taxation and exploitative practices for recovery of taxes, the article points out.

"We face the unchecked growth of population, the unplanned expansion of our cities and the swelling number of unskilled youth with no jobs or livelihood. They seek employment abroad, and only fall prey to human smugglers and die a helpless death in foreign waters," the article states.

"The poverty ratio has grown to 45 percent. The foreign exchange reserves have hovered around 14-15 billion dollars, the bigger part of which consists of safe deposits or rolled-over loans of some friendly countries. We face the humiliating conditions imposed by International Financial Institutions on our sovereign autonomy, but avoid drastically reducing our non-developmental expenditures; abolishing privileges of the elite that devour over \$17.5 billion, and taking other structural steps to reform our economy and live with honor, dignity and pride instead of kowtowing to friendly friends for dole-outs," the article observes.

The article also laments that Pakistan has never had any political stability conducive to the free exercise of our fundamental rights as provided in the Constitution, with free and fair, non-controversial elections under an independent and impartial Election Commission. In this context, it also refers to the secession of East Pakistan to form Bangladesh due to the imposition of martial law after the election in December 1970. *IANS*

Many jihadist organizations were banned by General (Pervez) Musharraf, after the terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament in December 2002. They turned against Pakistan and General Musharraf, merged into one organization called TTP"

many of which were patronized by the security establishment for their strategic use. Many jihadist organizations were banned by General (Pervez) Musharraf, after the terrorist attack on the Indian Par-

liament was claimed by General Zia (ul-Haq) and General Akhtar (Abdur Rehman). The Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989, but these jihadists remained in Pakistan as the countries of their origin re-

India sends 20 tons of relief material for Jamaica and Cuba after Hurricane Melissa

NEW DELHI: An Indian Air Force flight dispatched from India to deliver 20 tons of humanitarian aid for the hurricane-hit Jamaica and Cuba, External Affairs Minister (MEA) S Jaishankar said.

Sharing the details in a post on X, the EAM said that the relief material includes Aarogya Maitri BHISHM Cube, rehabilitation support items, food & daily utilities, medicines, medical equipment, power generators, shelter support and hygiene kits.

"Despatched 20 tons each of HADR relief materials for Jamaica and Cuba in the aftermath of

#HurricaneMelissa. @IAF_MCC flight carrying aid including Aarogya Maitri BHISHM Cube, rehabilitation support items, food & daily utilities, medicines, medical equipment, power generators, shelter support and hygiene kits has departed from New Delhi today. India stands with our Global

South partners in the face of such natural disasters and will assist our friends in recovery and reconstruction," he wrote.

Hurricane Melissa has left at least 50 people dead in the Caribbean as it finally moves away after devastating communities in Jamaica, Haiti, and Cuba, with authorities warning that the death toll could rise further, Al Jazeera reported.

According to Al Jazeera, the hurricane struck Jamaica as a Category 5 storm, causing widespread destruction.

More than 60 percent of the island remains without power, and nearly half of the water systems are offline.

Jamaica's Information Minister Dana Morris Dixon said that while 19 deaths have been confirmed, credible reports suggest up to five additional fatalities may be identified. *ANI*



Trump has 'great respect' for PM Modi, says White House on ties with India

WASHINGTON: The White House has said that US President Donald Trump has great respect for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and that the two leaders speak "pretty frequently."

The White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, while responding to a question on India-US ties, said that Trump "feels very positive and strongly" about the bilateral relationship. "I know the President has great respect for Prime Minister Modi, and they speak pretty frequently."

She also highlighted last month's Diwali event at the White House and the appointment of Sergio Gor as the next US Ambassador, as evidence of the US President's commitment to the relationship with India.

"He recently, a few weeks back, spoke to the Prime Minister directly when he celebrated Diwali in the Oval Office with many high-ranking Indian American officials here at the White House. We have a great US Ambassador to India in Mr Sergio Gor, who will represent our country very well," she noted.

On October 21, Trump hosted a special Diwali event at the White House, where he termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi "a great person" and said he loves "the people of India".

The event was attended by the Indian Ambassador to India Vinay Kwatra, Sergio Gor, FBI Director Kash Patel and Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard. Leading business leaders from the Indian diaspora were also part of the celebrations.

Trump lit the diya in the Oval Office, calling it "a symbol of faith in the victory of light over darkness" and extending his "warmest wishes to the people of India".

On the trade negotiations, Leavitt revealed that Trump and his team are in "serious discussions" with the Indian side.

"The President and his trade team continue to be in very serious discussions with India with respect to that topic," she added. *IANS*

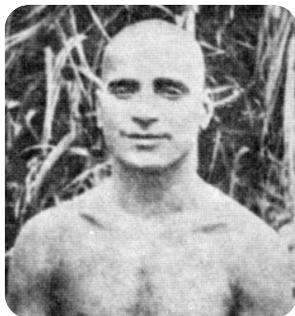
Philosophy

SWAMI RAMA TIRTHA

There are some people who do not pray in the usual way but their desires get fulfilled. What kind of persons are these? Just see. You have a desire and you go on desiring, yearning, willing, wishing, craving. So long as you are in that beggarly mood, everything is denied unto you.

You see if you have to go to a great man, you go to him in decent clothing. God is the Greatest of the great, the Highest of the high, above all needs, above all wants. If you go to Him, go in decent dress, go in a dress which is like Him, which is worthy of a man who is to approach a Being above want.

You also must be above want. You also should be above beggary, above the shopkeeper's dress, above the beggar's dress. Nobody likes a beggar. A beggar



Swami Rama Tirtha

at a higher level than the object. You rise above the object, and that object will seek you. Is it not so? Every person knows it by experience, simply appeal to your own experience; and in every desire you have had this kind of experience.

When you love a person and yearn for him and hunger for him and thirst for him, you want him, oh, you want him. It is only when you leave him and lose him for a higher sentiment, a sentiment which rises above all 'me and thee,' it is then alone that you will find the desired object by your side. That is a fact, a stern fact. Then alone you will have the object by your side.

In a car there is a door, and a person is standing at the door. He invites his friend, "Come in, come in." When the friend comes, on account of over-anxiety this person at the door does not vacate the door, remains standing there.

They don't pray but their desires get fulfilled

If you have to approach God, go in a godly dress

is refused. People shun his presence.

So if you have to approach God, go in a godly dress. What is a godly dress? A dress which does not smack of a beggar, which does not smack of need or want. Above need or want you should feel yourself; then you will be welcomed by God, then alone.

Happiness cannot come to a person who is yearning, willing, wishing. There is antagonism between the two. Your self is beggarly, needful; that object of desire is high, glorious, full of happiness. You will be drawn towards the object; you will be seeking it, but it will shun you, always so.

And when you leave it and when you turn your back to the object, after being discouraged for some time, after suffering from failure for some time, you leave and lose the object, you become hopeless about it, you give it up. You turn your back to it. Now the very moment you turn your back to the object, you leave it and lose it, that very moment you are above the object.

That very moment you place yourself

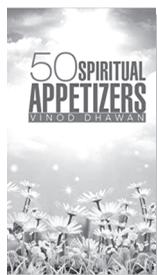
Where is the friend to come in? He makes no room for the friend, the friend cannot come to him; the car goes on, and he remains without the friend. Just so.

The air in this place is warmed by the sun and rises; and the air from around rushes in to fill the vacant place. If the air keeps its place, the air from outside cannot come and take its place.

Excerpted from 'In Woods of God Realization'. The 152nd birth anniversary of Swami Rama Tirtha was observed on October 22

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

Vinod Dhawan



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Jac O'Keeffe

Spirituality teacher based in USA.

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South Asia Can Benefit from Its Common Educational Heritage

RAYEES MASROOR

South Asia represents one of the world's most diverse and populous regions, encompassing a vast range of geographical features - from the lofty Himalayas to the coastal plains. This immense diversity creates both opportunities and challenges for educational systems. Long before the modern states of South Asia came into existence, the region was bound by a remarkable tradition of knowledge and learning. From the ancient universities of Nalanda and Taxila to the literary exchanges across Bengal, Persia, and Kashmir, knowledge once moved freely across borders. Education was not confined by language, religion, or nationality - it was a common civilizational pursuit.

A Shared Educational Heritage

The educational heritage of South Asia stems from rich indigenous traditions dating back thousands of years. The renowned Gurukul system, where students lived with their guru, promoted holistic de-

Ancient Centers of Learning

Among the most significant ancient centers of learning in South Asia were Nalanda, Taxila, Vikramshila and Ratnagiri - all recognized globally for their scholarship in astronomy, philosophy, and medicine.

Founded during the Gupta dynasty, Nalanda stood as a testament to India's enduring tradition of intellectual excellence. It was more than just a university - it was a thriving hub of knowledge that attracted scholars from across Asia. The curriculum covered philosophy, medicine, astronomy, mathematics, and languages. Its vast library held thousands of manuscripts, making it a repository of ancient wisdom.

Nalanda's pedagogy emphasized debate and discussion, fostering critical thinking - an approach often missing in modern education systems. Students came from China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Turkey, Sri Lanka, and Southeast

Asia, creating a vibrant international academic community.

Similarly, Taxila University, located in present-day Punjab, Pakistan, flourished as a celebrated seat of learning until the 5th cen-

The educational heritage of South Asia stems from rich indigenous traditions dating back thousands of years. The renowned Gurukul system, where students lived with their guru, promoted holistic development and spiritual growth

development and spiritual growth. Similarly, Buddhist viharas and Islamic madrasas enriched the region, offering diverse approaches to knowledge and learning. These traditional foundations continue to influence contemporary educational philosophies and practices across South Asia.

A Region Bound by History

South Asia today consists of ten modern nation-states: India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. All share a long and intertwined history. Their common cultural heritage can be traced to the Mughal era and, more recently, to British colonization of various territories.

The region accounts for nearly 24 percent of the world's population and 27 percent of its youth, but also 29 percent of the world's illiterate population and 40 percent of its poor. South Asia remains home to immense linguistic, cultural, and religious diversity.

tury CE. It offered a wide-ranging curriculum - from philosophy and law to medicine, astronomy, military science, and the arts. Among its eminent scholars were the grammarian Panini, physician Jivaka, and political thinker Chanakya (Kautilya).

These universities fostered a culture of dialogue and diversity, underpinned by philosophical schools such as Vedanta, Samkhya, Buddhism, and Jainism, all of which emphasized self-realization and ethical living beyond mere vocational goals.

Colonial Transformation and Shared Challenges

The British colonial period introduced a modern, standardized education system focused on Western knowledge and administrative efficiency.

(The author is a columnist and academician based in Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

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UDUPI PALACE

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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 Phantom Capture: How a Faked Rafale Pilot Story Became a Case Study in Misinformation

AARAV SHARMA

When the truth is lost in the midst of conflict, propaganda soon replaces it. The latest story about the alleged capture of an Indian Air Force pilot during Operation Sindoor exemplifies how misinformation spreads in today's internet ecosystem.

Within hours of cross-border air operations being reported, social media platforms were inundated with reports that a Rafale fighter plane had been shot down near Sialkot and its pilot, a female officer, had been captured alive. The identity of India's first female Rafale pilot, Squadron Leader Shivangi Singh, was quickly linked to these claims, giving them a strong emotional appeal.

The claim spread astonishingly quickly. Anonymous social media handles, partisan web pages, and multiple unverified

Inter-Services Public Relations, Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, openly addressed the situation. Speaking at a press conference, he claimed unequivocally that Pakistan had no Indian pilots in custody. He described the claims of a captive female pilot as "social media chatter and fake news." This direct and unmistakable denial from Pakistan's own military spokesperson basically put an end to the conjecture from an official perspective.

Around the same time, India's Press Information Bureau published a fact-check, condemning the floating claims as bogus propaganda. It confirmed that all Indian Air Force pilots were safe, and that no Rafale aircraft were lost in the exercise. Dassault Aviation, the French Rafale maker, also stated that none of its aircraft used by the Indian Air

Force had been downed. mental concept in media studies created by Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw. The concept believes that the media does not instruct individuals what to think, but it does impact what they think about. In this situation, social media platforms set the agenda by making the "captured Rafale pilot" narrative the most popular topic of conversation. Even when it was disproven, the story had affected public perception of the operation and influenced foreign discussion. Misinformation, by establishing the agenda, shifted public focus away from proven events and toward a completely fabricated one.

Another important concept stems from Marshall McLuhan's thesis that "the medium is the message." The nature of social media, with its speed, virality, and emotional design, offers misinformation an inherent advantage over factual reporting. A fraudulent assertion made thousands of times online gains a sense of collective authenticity. In crisis circumstances, where national passions are already high, internet platforms serve as psychological weapons. Misinformation spreaders do not need to prove their statements. They only need to dominate the debate for a short time, knowing that the official truth will take longer to arrive.

Textbook Example Of Disinformation

The episode took a decisive turn when President Droupadi Murmu traveled in a Rafale fighter jet and was pictured at Ambala Air Force Base alongside Squadron Leader Shivangi Singh.

(The author is a political analyst and columnist with a deep interest in South Asian geopolitics, international diplomacy and policy reform. He graduated from King's College London with a focus in global governance and is passionate about narrowing the disparity among academia and policy making) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Within hours of cross-border air operations being reported, social media platforms were inundated with reports that a Rafale fighter plane had been shot down near Sialkot and its pilot, a female officer, had been captured alive

blogs all repeated the story, adding phony graphics and created elements to make it appear genuine. Screenshots of bogus news alerts were extensively distributed. Old photographs of unrelated aircraft wreckage were used as proof. The myth spread because it combined attention-grabbing factors such as national rivalry, gender symbolism, and the grandeur of India's most modern fighter plane. People wanted to believe the story, which could be interpreted as either a victory or a tragedy depending on their point of view.

Government Responses Tardy

For several days, the two governments were silent. The quiet allowed falsehoods to grow. It wasn't until May 14 that Pakistan's Director General of

Force had been downed.

By the time these declarations were published, the harm had been done. The matter had dominated digital communications for days, influencing public opinion and eliciting emotional reactions. Many of those who had received the misinformation were unlikely to see or believe the revisions. The latency between rumor and response is one of the modern information environment's distinguishing qualities. Falsehoods spread faster, further, and more effectively than official pronouncements because they are motivated by emotion rather than verification.

Media Sets The Agenda

To understand why the bogus claim acquired traction, consider Agenda-Setting Theory, a funda-



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HINDUPHOBIA IN AMERICA

Vance's statement about his wife, Usha Vance, was not a private comment made in the warmth of family life, but in the official house of the Vice-President of United States of America. It was a deliberate, public declaration meant to send a signal to voters. J.D. Vance represents the same mindset that once sent missionaries to 'save' the souls of India, by Christian missionaries. When J.D. Vance, told a gathering of Christian conservatives that he hopes his Hindu wife will one day be moved by Christianity, reveals his hollowness. Is he the same person we voted for?

The arrogance that sees another's faith as inferior, another's belief as incomplete, and another's identity as something to be corrected is hollow. Some breed that preach about freedom of faith, but they only respect freedom when it looks like them, talks like them, and prays like them. When a man of power looks at one of the world's oldest and most profound faiths, a civilization that gave humanity yoga, meditation, the concept of karma, the zero, and spiritual pluralism, and implies it's somehow lacking, that is prejudice. It's the colonial mind speaking through a bias mindset.

What if Usha Vance had said she hopes her Christian husband would one day embrace Hinduism; imagine the outrage. The Western media would have called it "religious coercion," "cultural subversion," or "Hindu nationalism gone global." But when the Vice-President says it, it's sold as romance, as devotion, as a Christian man's loving concern for his wife's soul. That's not love. That's religious vanity.

On the other hand, Usha, represents exactly what America claims to celebrate, diversity, intellect, self-made success. The daughter of Hindu immigrants from Andhra Pradesh, she went to Yale, earned her own place in life, and the two married in mutual choice and respect. That's the American dream. Yet her husband now wants to "upgrade" her faith, as if she is from a lesser faith.

Faith is a personal dialogue with the divine, not a political press release. No man, however powerful, has the right to turn his wife's soul into a symbol of campaign virtue. By declaring his hope for her conversion, Vance didn't just disrespect Hinduism; he disrespected the American constitution and what it stands for.

For decades, the West has positioned itself as the moral guardian of the world, lecturing India on religious freedom, tolerance, and pluralism. But the same West rarely looks inward at its own spiritual chauvinism.

Hinduism, with its openness and philosophical depth, doesn't need validation from a politician who discovered God when he discovered campaign donors. Vice-President has all the right in the world to follow any faith. What he doesn't have is the right to belittle another's faith. Faith, when used to uplift, is beautiful. But faith, when used to impose, becomes tyranny. Jesus didn't convert anyone through power. He inspired through love. And if Vance truly wants to lead by Christian example, he should begin by respecting his wife's Hindu roots. He should know that she comes from the root that believes in "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", meaning the world is one family. This is also a main reason that inspires Indians to come to America.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

Bodh Gaya

"Enlightenment Site of the Buddha"

Bodh Gaya is a Buddhist pilgrimage site in Gaya District of Bihar. Famous for the Mahabodhi Temple, it was here under the Bodhi tree that Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

It is now one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and a lot of foreign countries, including Japan and China, have helped the Indian government in building facilities for the Buddhist pilgrims. The place is bustling with pilgrims all through the year from India and abroad who come to pay their homage in monasteries, temples and remnants of Bodhi Tree.

Located near the river Neranjana, Bodh Gaya was earlier known as Uruwela. It was also known as Sambodhi, Vajrasana or Mahabodhi until the 18th century CE. It is one of the four important Buddhist sites that include: Kushinagar, Lumbini and Sarnath.

PLACES TO VISIT IN BODH GAYA

Mahabodhi Temple: The Mahabodhi temple, also called the "Great Awakening Temple", is a UNESCO

World Heritage Site located in Bodhgaya, Bihar. It is a Buddhist temple that marks the location where the Lord Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment. Lord Buddha holds a very significant place in the religious history of India as he is believed to be the 9th and the most recent incarnation of Lord Vishnu to have walked the earth. The temple spreads over an area of a whopping 4.8 hectares and is 55 meters tall. The Bodhi Tree is situated to the left of the temple and is believed to be the direct descendant of the actual tree under which Lord Gautam Buddha meditated and attained enlightenment and laid down his philosophy for life. The original temple was built by Emperor Ashoka after he turned to Buddhism in order to seek peace and solitude from war and conquests.

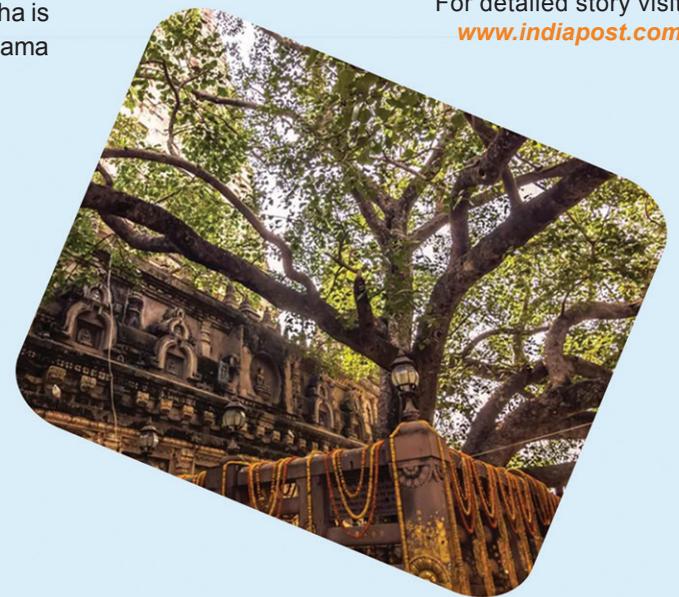
Great Buddha Statue: This statue of Lord Buddha is the tallest in India and was instated by the XIV Dalai Lama

Bodhi Tree: The Bodhi Tree, located 100 kilometers to the south of Patna in the north Indian state of Bihar, is perhaps the most prominent and respected sacred places in Buddhism because of the rich historical significance attached to it. It is under this tree that Prince Siddhartha Gautama, the spiritual teacher who later became to be known as the Buddha, attained enlightenment. It is believed that Prince Siddhartha had to sit and meditate under this tree for seven days.

Thai Monastery: Well known for its curved roof covered with exquisite tiles of gold, the Thai Monastery houses a bronze statue of Buddha and another recently erected 25m high statue in the garden.

Mahabodhi Temple Complex Book store: This book store offers a wide range of collection of Buddhist books, books on Buddhist culture and history of Mahabodhi Temple. www.holidify.com

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



in 1989. It is a meditating Buddha resting on a giant lotus, carved from locally quarried sandstone and red granite.

Tibetan Refugee Market: This market is paradise for shopping lover. It offers a large variety of winter-wears handicrafts and souvenirs, etc.

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