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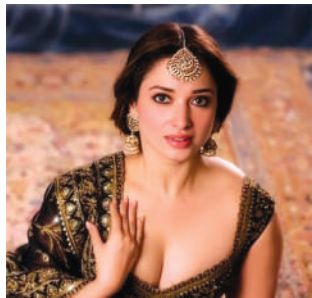


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# COUNTRIES HAVE RIGHT

*Sovereign countries have right to choose trading partners: Russia backs India amid Trump's tariff threat*

MOSCOW: Russia has backed India and while criticizing US President Donald Trump over his threats to increase tariffs on New Delhi for buying oil from Moscow, saying that "sovereign nations must have the right to choose their trading partners."

Speaking at a regular press briefing recently, Russian President's Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov stated that Russia has noted the US threats against India and does not consider them to be legitimate. He emphasized that nations should have the right to choose the trading part-

ners based on their own interests.

"Russia notes US threats against India, but does not consider such statements to be legitimate. Sovereign countries must have and have the right to choose their own trading partners, partners in trade and economic cooperation, and to choose those trade and economic cooperation regimes that are in the interests of a particular country," Peskov was quoted as saying by Russia's state-owned news agency TASS.

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A view of the flash flood that struck Dharali village in the Kheer Gad area near Harsil following a cloudburst, in Uttarkashi on August 5. (ANI Photo) Details on page 7



## Mathura Sridharan faces backlash

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**E-SUBSCRIPTIONS & EDITORIAL:** Vidya Sethuraman: Tel: 510-491-4867 • e-mail: vidya@indiapost.com  
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# COUNTRIES HAVE RIGHT

## Sovereign countries have right to choose trading partners: Russia backs India amid Trump's tariff threat

MOSCOW: Russia has backed India and while criticizing US President Donald Trump over his threats to increase tariffs on New Delhi for buying oil from Moscow, saying that "sovereign nations must have the right to choose their trading partners."



Russian President's Press Secretary  
Dmitry Peskov

Speaking at a regular press briefing recently, Russian President's Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov stated that Russia has noted the US threats against India and

does not consider them to be legitimate. He emphasized that nations should have the right to choose the trading partners based on their own interests.

"Russia notes US threats against India, but does not consider such statements to be legitimate. Sovereign countries must have and have the right to choose their own trading partners, partners in trade and economic cooperation, and to choose those trade and economic cooperation regimes that are in the interests of a particular country," Peskov was quoted as saying by Russia's state-owned news agency TASS.

The Kremlin's reaction came after Trump threatened to substantially raise tariffs on India for purchasing oil from Russia. "India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian Oil, they are then, for much of the Oil purchased, selling it on the Open Market for big profits. They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine," Trump wrote in a social media post.

"Because of this, I will be substantially raising the Tariff paid by India to the USA," he added.

After Trump threatened to impose hefty tariffs on New Delhi, the Indian government said the targeting of the country by the US over Russian oil purchase is unjustified and unreasonable. A statement released

been targeted by the United States and the European Union for importing oil from Russia after the commencement of the Ukraine conflict.

"In fact, India began importing from Russia because traditional supplies were diverted to Europe after the outbreak of the conflict. The United States at that time ac-

*"Russia notes US threats against India, but does not consider such statements to be legitimate. Sovereign countries must have and have the right to choose their own trading partners, partners in trade and economic cooperation, and to choose those trade and economic cooperation regimes that are in the interests of a particular country,"*

by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson said that like any major economy, "India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security".

According to the government, India has

tively encouraged such imports by India for strengthening global energy markets stability," the Centre emphasized.

"India's imports are meant to ensure predictable and affordable energy costs to the Indian consumer. They are a necessity compelled by global market situation. However, it is revealing that the very nations criticizing India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia. Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion," the government highlighted.

According to the Indian government, the European Union in 2024 had a bilateral trade of Euro 67.5 billion in goods with Russia. In addition, it had trade in services estimated at Euro 17.2 billion in 2023.

"This is significantly more than India's total trade with Russia that year or subsequently. European imports of LNG in 2024, in fact, reached a record 16.5 million tons, surpassing the last record of 15.21 million tons in 2022. Europe-Russia trade includes not just energy, but also fertilizers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel and machinery and transport equipment," said the official statement.

The government further stated that as far as the United States is concerned, it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV industry, fertilizers as well as chemicals.

"In this background, the targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable. Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security," the MEA statement stressed. *IANS*

## PoJK Doctor barred from leaving Pakistan, sparks outcry over rights violations

KOTLI: Following India's "Operation Sindoor," Pakistan is intensifying its efforts to suppress dissent in both Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) and Pakistan-occupied Gilgit Baltistan (PoGB), regions that have been unlawfully occupied by Pakistan since 1947.

According to the post shared by Kashmir Activist Javed Beigh on X, "In continuation of its brutal suppression of dissent in Pakistan Occupied Gilgit and Baltistan (PoGB), the state of Pakistan has also begun tightening its control over Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), especially in light of last years anti-government protests in PoJK in which nearly 2 dozen civilians were killed and the state of Pakistan was forced to call its paramilitary force in PoJK for the first time since 1947 to control anger of the people of PoJK."

Javed Beigh mentioned in a recent post that a young Kashmiri Muslim physician from the Potohari Pahari-speaking community in Kotli district, located in Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, was forcibly taken off his flight to the United States

earlier this month and barred from departing Pakistan, allegedly due to accusations against his family of being "Indian Agents."

Syed Rehan Touqeer, a qualified medical professional from Kotli in PoJK, had obtained a valid US immigrant visa and was en route to join his wife and family when he was not allowed to board his flight at Islamabad International Airport on June 4.

*Young Kashmiri Muslim physician from the Potohari Pahari-speaking community in Kotli district, located in Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, was forcibly taken off his flight to the United States earlier this month and barred from departing Pakistan*

As reported, despite passing all standard immigration procedures and boarding an Etihad Airways flight to New York, Rehan was unexpectedly removed from the aircraft just before it was set to depart. Pakistani officials informed him that his name had been added to the Provisional National Identification List (PNIL), which func-

tions as a no-exit list, without any advance notice, judicial directive, or clarification.

Further reports indicate that Rehan was kept in the dark about any accusations against him. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) of Pakistan allegedly asserted that Rehan's name was associated with a First Information Report (FIR) filed in Kotli, PoJK in November 2024, even

though official records confirm that he was on duty in Lahore during that time. Notably, his name does not appear in the FIR itself, as highlighted in the post.

The civil society of PoJK has condemned the blacklisting of Dr. Rehan as a violation of constitutional and international human rights. *ANI*



# Pak forces behind 121 killings, 785 forcible disappearances in Balochistan this year: Report

QUETTA: A human rights organization has revealed that 785 individuals were forcibly disappeared and 121 were extrajudicially killed in Balochistan at the hands of Pakistani forces and "state-backed death squads" since the start of 2025.

Paank, the Baloch National Movement's Human Rights Department, mentioned that the daily toll of disappearances and killings was at an average of four enforced disappearances and one killing per day.

*Paank, the Baloch National Movement's Human Rights Department, mentioned that the daily toll of disappearances and killings was at an average of four enforced disappearances and one killing per day. The victims include students, journalists, and peaceful protesters*

The victims include students, journalists, and peaceful protesters, many of whom were abducted from cities such as Karachi and Islamabad.

"These actions were carried out by security forces and state-backed death squads operating with complete impunity," said the rights body.

This comes just after Dil Jan Baloch was extrajudicially killed by the state-backed death squad on August 2, after he was forcibly disappeared on July 22 from the Kech district in Balochistan, according to the human rights organization Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC).

Another incident happened August 3, when Inayat Khair Mohammad, who was forcibly disappeared last December, was killed by the Pakistan-backed death squad, the Human Rights Council of Balochistan (HRCB) said.

The rights body stated that these groups, locally referred to as "death squads," are known to operate with "impunity" and are widely believed to "act as proxies for state interests in Balochistan."

"This pattern is consistent with previously documented tactics aimed at silencing voices critical of state policy in Balochistan while avoiding formal channels of justice and oversight," the HRCB stated.

The rights body emphasized that these practices constitute ongoing "violations of Pakistan's binding international human rights obligations," including those under the

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), particularly the right to life, protection from arbitrary detention, and the prohibition of enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killing.

The human rights organizations have repeatedly called for international scrutiny and credible accountability mechanisms to ensure justice for victims and to deter further violations in Balochistan. *IANS*

## Respect terms of your US visa, authorized period of stay: warns US

NEW DELHI: The US Embassy in India has issued a stern warning to visa holders, reminding them to respect the terms of their US visa and authorized period of stay in the United States and making it clear that any violation could lead to visa revocation and possible deportation.

In a post on X the US Embassy said, "Respect the terms of your U.S. visa and your authorized period of stay in the United States. Remaining in the United States past your I-94 'Admit Until Date' can lead to severe consequences such as visa revocation, possible deportation, and ineligibility for future visas. Overstaying may permanently affect your ability to travel, study, or work in the United States."

Also on August 4, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Congresswoman from Georgia's 14th District in a post on X said, "End Indian H1-B visas replacing American jobs instead and stop funding and sending weapons to the Obama/Biden/Neocon Ukraine Russia war."

Her remarks came while referring to the latest statement by US President Donald Trump, who said that the United States will "substantially raise" the tariff paid by India for buying "massive amounts of Russian Oil", stating that much of the oil purchased from Moscow is being sold in the open market "for big profits".

Trump wrote on Truth Social, "India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian Oil, they are then, for much of the Oil purchased, selling it on the Open Market for big profits. They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine. Because of this, I will be substantially raising the Tariff paid by India to the USA. Thank you for your attention to this matter!!!"

India has defended its sovereign right to conduct energy policy based on national interest.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came out strongly in defense of the country's decision to import oil from Russia, despite criticism from the United States and European Union.

According to the MEA, India's imports from Russia are driven by necessity and aimed at ensuring predictable and affordable energy costs for Indian consumers. *ANI*

## "India becomes 5th strategic partner for Philippines," Philippines President Marcos

NEW DELHI: Philippines President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr, while addressing a joint press meeting in the national capital recently, said that India has become the fifth strategic partner for the Philippines.

Marcos said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and he have agreed to cooperate further in the defense and security sector.

"Today, India becomes only the fifth strategic partner for the Philippines. This new apex attests as much to the remarkably rapid growth, broadening and deepening of our 75-year-old bilateral relationship, the possibilities represented by the strong upward trajectory of our true economies as it does to the growing alignment of our interests and views on the challenges and imperatives of our time," he said.

"This was also the auspicious context in which Prime Minister Modi and I engaged in far-reaching, productive and forward-looking discussions this past hour. We agreed to continue leveling up our collaboration in defense and security," he added.

Marcos said that the Philippines is satisfied with the defense modernization along with India's Brahmos project.

"We express satisfaction over the rapid pace of the Philippines ongoing defense modernization and the expanding capabilities and footprint of India's indigenous defense industry as a partner in this undertaking exemplified by our Brahmos project. We concurred that we should be accompanied with intensified dialogue and exchanges between our defense establishments," he said.

The Philippines and India also agreed to establish mechanisms for training among their militaries.

"So we have agreed to establish mechanisms for service-to-service talks for information sharing and training exchanges amongst our militaries. We will foster naval and coast guard interoperability via port calls in cooperative activities and capacity building in the maritime

domain," the Philippines President said.

Marcos further felicitated PM Modi's undertaking to make India a developed nation (Viksit Bharat) by 2047.

"Despite these challenges, I also bear felicitations on India's remarkable transformation and inexorable march to become Viksit Bharat by 2047 under Prime Minister Modi's guiding hand," he said. *ANI*



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Philippines President Bongbong Marcos shake hands during a joint Press Statement, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. *ANI Photo/Rahul Singh*



# No stone being left unturned in providing assistance to people: PM Modi takes stock of Dharali cloud burst in Uttarkashi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed his deep condolences to the people affected by the cloudburst in Dharali, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand. He prayed for the well-being of the victims and their families.

PM Modi spoke with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to obtain detailed information about the situation and the ongoing relief efforts.

"I express my condolences to the people affected by this tragedy in Dharali, Uttarkashi. Along with this, I pray for the well-being of all the victims. I have spoken to Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami and obtained information about the situation," PM Modi posted on X.

"Under the supervision of the state government, relief and rescue teams are engaged in every possible effort. No stone is being left unturned in providing assistance



Army personnel conduct relief and rescue operations following cloudburst, at Dharali in Uttarkashi. (@adgpi X/ANI Photo)

to the people," he added.

Meanwhile, Uttarakhand's Sukhi Top

area experienced another cloudburst on 5 August, hours after the Dharali area also experienced huge losses due to a previous cloudburst. Further information on the fatalities, damage to property, and injuries are awaited.

CM Dhami, posting about the call with the Prime Minister, said that he apprised him about the situation.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi obtained

information over the phone regarding the unfortunate cloudburst incident in Dharali (Uttarkashi). During this, he was informed about the relief and rescue operations being conducted by the state government, SDRF, army, and other rescue teams. Prime Minister assured all possible assistance from the central government," CM Dhami posted on X in Hindi.

Currently, CM Dhami is returning from his trip to Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, due to the cloudburst.

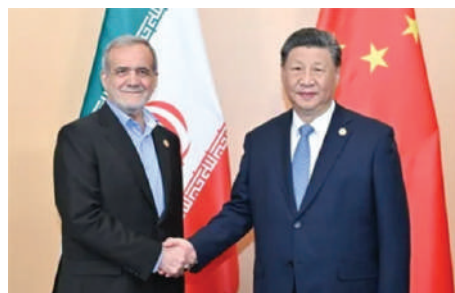
Union Home Minister Amit Shah also spoke with Uttarakhand CM on the issue, and directed Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to the affected area. A total of 16 ITBP teams have reached the area to assist in rescue operations.

Taking swift action, Shah directed the deployment of rescue teams from both the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to the affected area.

Meanwhile, in Saldhar, the Jyotirmath-Malari motor road has been washed out, Chamoli police said, while advising people to avoid unnecessary travel and follow issued guidelines. ANI

## After backing Pakistan, China now faces scrutiny over providing military support to Iran: Report

BEIJING: China, which has for long claimed of having a "noninterference" foreign policy and not providing direct military assistance to nations engaged in conflict, reportedly supplied batteries for surface-to-air missiles to Iran in exchange for oil during the recent conflict with Israel, a new report has cited. This comes after Beijing is already facing heat for its alleged involvement in Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine and backing Pakistan in its conflict with India in May following the heinous April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.



"As an expert specializing in China's grand strategy, I think it is highly possible that China would offer Iran military support while denying it publicly. Such plausible deniability would allow Beijing to assert military influence and showcase some of its hardware, while deflecting international criticism and preserving diplomatic flexibility," Linggong Kong, a leading researcher on international relations and China's grand strategy, wrote in 'One World Outlook'. IANS

## Arms worth \$2 bn shipped to Pakistan: Indian Army shows US the mirror amid Trump tirade

NEW DELHI: Amid growing strain between US and India over trade ties, the Indian Army shared details of how Pakistan, the safe haven for global terrorists, was receiving an 'uninterrupted' supply of weapons from America since 1954.

The Eastern Command of the Indian Army shared a throwback newspaper clipping from 1971 archives, and shared it on its social media handle and wrote, "This Day That Year" Build Up of War - 05 Aug 1971".

"US Arms worth \$2billion shipped to Pakistan since 1954", the newspaper heading reads, with details of US shipments to Pakistan elaborately explained in the news report.

The report highlights how the United States remained one of the key suppliers of arms to Pakistan till 1971, the year when war broke out between India and Pakistan, resulting in the formation of Bangladesh.

Indian Army's digging out old news report on US arms supply to Pakistan assumes importance in light of the American President, Donald Trump's recent tirade at India and also his threats of imposing 'penalty', besides the recently unveiled 25 percent tariff.

Trump recently threatened to impose additional tariffs on Indian goods, objecting to the latter's purchase of subsidized oil from Russia. This prompted a strong counter from India as well as the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), which pointed to 'unfair' treatment and targeting by the US. IANS


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## Flag hoisting ceremony at the Consulate premises Chicago

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: On the occasion of the 79th Independence Day of India, the Consulate General of India, Chicago will be organizing a Flag Hoisting Ceremony at the Consulate premises Chicago, IL-60611 on Friday, 15 August 2025 at 0900 hrs CST.

The event will comprise of Flag Hoisting Ceremony followed by the National Anthem, reading out of the President's address to the Nation by the Consul General, cultural performances and light refreshment.

Consulate General of India, Chicago cordially invites you to be part of the Independence Day celebrations. We request you to please arrive at the Consulate by 0830 hrs.

Invitees are advised to carry photo ID card for entry in the NBC Tower. Please RSVP by 11 August 2025 to Ms. Niveditha.

## India expands consular services in US with eight new centers

WASHINGTON DC: The new Indian Consular Application Centers (ICACs) are located in Boston, Columbus, Dallas, Detroit, Edison, Orlando, Raleigh, and San Jose, bringing the total number to 16 nationwide. A 17th center is planned to open in Los Angeles later this month.

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# COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

8 India Post

www.indiapost.com

August 8, 2025

Ohio's new Solicitor General Mathura Sridharan faces backlash, Attorney General defends her appointment



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## North American Film Association (NAFA) holds Marathi Film Festival held with grand fanfare



RITU MAHESHWARI  
India Post News Service

SAN JOSE, CA: The NAFA Marathi Film Festival 2025 was held from July 25th thru 27th in The California Theatre, San Jose to packed halls and thousands of enthusiastic viewers. Replete with vibrant enthusiasm, the festival presented films, artists, and collaboration.

The festival featured a dazzling Red Carpet, with artists



from Maharashtra honored for their contributions. The prestigious NAFA Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the legendary actor Amol Palekar

who was the cynosure of the audience.

Actor Sachin Khedekar delivered a powerful keynote speech emphasizing how associations

like NAFA can contribute to cultural progress.

Several interactive sessions discussed topics of filmmaking where personalities like Ashwini Bhawe and Avadhoot Gupte shared insights.

U.S. release of Amol Palekar's autobiography Aivaj and its English translation Viewfinder were highlights of NAFA festival.

U.S. Congressman Shri Thanedar graced the event and presented recognition from US Congress.

Following were the winning films in the Festival:

Best Short Film: Dumpyard  
Best Screenplay: Bhangi - Durva Nandapurkar

Best Cinematography: Dumpyard - Bhushan Pal

Best Editing: Changing Room - Ruchir Kulkarni

Special Mentions: Biryani - Prafulla Kharkar & Submission - Gargi Khode

NAFA festival continued its mission of promoting and progressing Marathi culture with the successful Film Festival.

## EAM Jaishankar urges global participation of Indians in 'Har Ghar Tiranga' ahead of 79th Independence Day

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar has called upon all Indians, both at home and abroad, to participate in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign as the nation gears up to celebrate its 79th Independence Day on August 15.

In a post on X, Jaishankar highlighted the campaign's significance as a symbol of India's unity, strength, and collective

aspirations. He pointed out that the campaign embodies the pride and zeal of the Indian people in their homeland.

"India is a symbol of India's unity, strength and our collective aspirations. The

#HarGharTiranga campaign captures the pride and enthusiasm of the people of Bharat in our motherland. Urge all Indians at home and abroad to celebrate the tri-

color by hoisting it in our homes and uploading a selfie with on <http://harghartiranga.com>," the EAM wrote in his post.

According to the Ministry of Culture, this year the initiative will run from August 2 to August 15, during which the government has urged the people of India to hoist the tricolor at their homes.

The Ministry also stated that this year around, along with the

'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, the government has also taken up a resolve for cleanliness.

"From August 2 to 15, hoist the tricolor at your home," The Ministry of Culture stated in a post on X. "This time, along with the tricolor, a resolve for cleanliness -- The message of "Cleanliness is Service" will be spread to every individual," the post added. ANI



# Dr. Bharat Barai gets Legacy Award

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Dr. Bharat Barai, a distinguished Indian American physician, was honored with the first ever Dr. Sampat Shivangi Legacy Award for his leadership, contributions to the society and close association with Dr. Shivangi, during the 43rd annual American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) Convention in Cincinnati on July 26, 2025.

Congressman Jonathan Jackson, representing District 1 in Illinois presented the award to Dr. Barai. The award ceremony

Born in Mumbai, Dr Barai is a distinguished physician, a respected leader of the Indian American community. He currently serves as the Medical Director of the Cancer Institute, Methodist Hospitals, Clinical Asst. Professor of Medicine at Indiana University Medical School, Secretary and former President of the Medical Licensing Board of the State of Indiana (since year 2000).

Dr. Barai obtained his MD in Medicine (University of Illinois), MD in Medical Oncology (Northwestern University Med

ings of the Mahatma Gandhi, while mine in the sorrow of the songs of the plantations and the sermons of Reverend Martin Luther King, both people are marked as outsiders now shaping the very center of our great democracy.:

Rep. Jackson reminded the Indian American physicians, that Liberty demands not only resistance but resilience. So, I honor you today for having gone into the parts of this nation to heal the sick and care for those that have been distressed."

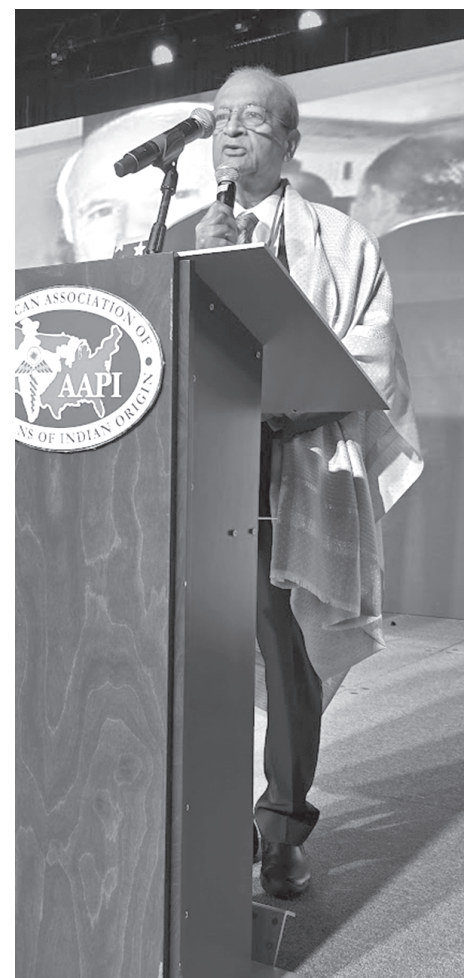
Dr. Shivangi's wife, Dr. Udaya Shivangi, and their two daughters, Priya Kurup and Pooja Shivangi Amin, vowed to continue his noble mission.

Dr. Udaya Shivangi told Rep. Jackson, "You have been a great help, not only to me, but to all our Indian doctors. Thank you."

It was only about a month prior to his sudden death that the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated the newly built Dr. Sampat Kumar S. Shivangi Cancer Hospital in Belagavi, Karnataka. Spanning 1,75,000 square feet with a capacity of 300 beds, the hospital was built with cutting-edge technology with funds donated and raised by Dr. Sampat Shivangi, she pointed out.

Dr. Satheesh Kathula acknowledged Dr. Shivangi's selfless service to AAPI. "There was no committee he didn't serve on, and he was present at every convention and global health summit," he noted. Recalling their friendship, Dr. Kathula said, "He would call me, advise me, and even scold me when I was wrong. He was like a father figure and a true role model."

Dr. Shivangi has been actively involved in several philanthropic activities, serving with Blind Foundation of MS, Diabetic, Cancer and Heart Associations of America. Dr. Shivangi has a number of philanthropic works in India including Pri-



Dr. Bharat Barai

*In his address, Dr. Barai shared with the audience, his close association with Dr. Shivangi and how both of them have strived to enhance the Indo-US relationship to the next level. Born in Mumbai, Dr Barai is a distinguished physician, a respected leader of the Indian American community*

attended by nearly 1,000 physicians, and community was a tribute to Dr. Shivangi, remembering his impactful work in healthcare, politics, and US - India relations. In him, the Indian American community has lost a great leader and friend whose contributions will continue to resonate for generations.

Dr. Sampat Shivangi, a physician, philanthropist, influential Indian American community leader, and veteran leader of AAPI for several decades, suddenly passed away due to health reasons in his hometown, Jackson, Mississippi, on February 10, 2025.

In his address, Dr. Barai shared with the audience, his close association with Dr. Shivangi and how both of them have strived to enhance the Indo-US relationship to the next level.

School), and MD in Hematology (Rush University Medical School).

In his address, Congressman Jonathan Jackson said, "Let us not forget, the path of honor in this country was never laid smooth. Just as black Americans marched from Selma to Montgomery demanding dignity and the franchise for the right to vote that came to the Civil Rights Act of 1965, so too have the Indian Americans journey with courage, discipline and ancestral wisdom to etch their names into the bedrock of the American Congress."

Drawing parallel between the Indian American Diaspora and the African American community in the US, Rep. Jackson said, "We are linked, you and I, bound by histories, tied together by history and a common destiny, both ancient and recent, yours, rooted in the Vedas and the teach-

mary & middle schools, Cultural Center, and IMA Centers that he opened and helped to obtain the first ever US Congressional grant to AAPI to study Diabetes Mellitus amongst Indian Americans.

In addition to establishing the Dr. Sampat Kumar S. Shivangi Cancer Hospital in Karnataka, through the Dr. Sampat Shivangi Foundation, Dr. Shivangi has established multiple charitable institutions in India, including primary and middle schools, community halls, and healthcare facilities, greatly enhancing educational and healthcare access.

## Medicaid Turns 60 - The Road Ahead for Health Care Justice

VIDYA SETHURAMAN

India Post News Service

As the federal Medicaid program (Medicaid) has been implemented for more than 60 years, California has become one of the most iconic states in the country with its aggressive expansion and policy innovation. However, with the uncertainty of federal policy and the risk of potential cuts, national medical and policy leaders recently gathered at the ACoM meeting to discuss whether California's model can set a more equitable and accessible public medical model for the country.

Dr. Ilan Shapiro Strygler, SVP, Chief

Health Correspondent and Medical Affairs Officer, AltaMed Health Services noted that low-income and immigrant communities are facing a medical existential intersection. "We see many patients choosing to delay medical treatment because they are afraid of losing their insurance, or even only going to the emergency room when their lives are in danger." He said that this not only causes the chronic disease to worsen, but also increases the overall medical cost. He said that California has shown a model of innovation by expanding Medicaid eligibility, simplifying the insurance enrollment process and culturally

sensitive service design, "but if federal policies retreat, all of this will be in jeopardy." Medicaid is not only a form of health insurance in many communities, but also the cornerstone of economic and social stability. Without Medicaid, they can't even get a basic checkup." Losing coverage for children, pregnant women, and people with chronic diseases not only endangers individuals, but also drags down the health and productivity of entire communities.

Anthony Wright, Executive Director, Families USA warned that immigrant groups are particularly vulnerable to voluntarily withdrawing from the medical sys-

tem due to misunderstanding of policies and concerns about data being tracked. According to data, about 70 million people in the United States currently rely on Medicaid. If the policy direction continues to lean toward spending cuts in the next few years, millions of people will face the risk of losing insurance, especially marginalized groups and primary medical networks will bear the brunt. At the end of the meeting, experts jointly called on Congress and state governments to continue to strengthen investment in Medicaid while protecting the insurance rights of legal immigrants and disadvantaged communities.



# India expands consular services in US with eight new centers

REENA BHARDWAJ

WASHINGTON DC: The new Indian Consular Application Centers (ICACs) are located in Boston, Columbus, Dallas, Detroit, Edison, Orlando, Raleigh, and San Jose, bringing the total number to 16 nationwide. A 17th center is planned to open in Los Angeles later this month.

The expansion, announced jointly by the Indian Mission and VFS Global, aims to make essential services more accessible to Indian Americans and other applicants seeking India-related documentation.

The centers will handle a comprehensive range of services, including India visa applications, overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) applications, Indian passport services, renunciation of Indian citizenship, police clearance certificates, Global Entry Program applications and Document attestation services.

To improve accessibility, the new centers will operate on Saturdays and include return courier services in standard fees. Additional services such as photographs, photocopies, and form assistance will be provided at no extra charge.

"We are very happy to announce the opening of 8 new Indian Consular Application Centers," said Vinay Mohan Kwatra, India's Ambassador to the United States. "We firmly believe that people-to-people ties are the heart of India-US partnership."

The centers are expected to benefit Indian communities under the jurisdiction of Indian consulates in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, New York, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, DC.

VFS Global, which has been the exclusive service provider for Indian consular services in the US since 2020, says the expansion responds to growing demand driven by increased business partnerships, tourism and trade between the two countries.

Amit Kumar Sharma, Head - North America & Caribbean, VFS Global, said, "We are honored by the continued trust the Government of India has placed in VFS Global to support its diplomatic mission in



the United States. These ICACs will play a crucial role in effectively catering to the growing demand for visa and consular services to India, led by business partnerships, tourism and trade."

VFS Global operates as the world's

largest outsourced visa services company, managing over 3,900 application centers across 165 countries for 69 client governments. The company, headquartered in Zurich and Dubai, has processed more than 499 million applications since 2001.

The expansion reflects the growing importance of India-US relations and the increasing need for streamlined consular services as travel and business ties between the two nations continue to strengthen. ANI

## Ohio's new Solicitor General Mathura Sridharan faces backlash, Attorney General defends her appointment

WASHINGTON: Indian-origin Mathura Sridharan has been appointed Ohio's 12th Solicitor General, the Attorney General's office announced in a statement on X. However, her appointment faced backlash with trolls questioning why a 'non-US citizen' was selected for the position, with some even pointing to her bindi, saying "This one has a perma-dot, huh."

In a post on X, Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost's office stated: "AG Yost today named Mathura Sridharan as his pick for Ohio's 12th solicitor general, the state's top attorney for appeals in state and fed-

eral courts."

In response to the announcement made on X, some of the online users criticized her appointment. One user said, "Couldn't find a citizen and native of the United States for the job?" Another user wrote, "Native Ohioans can't even get jobs with the state. Who is this foreigner? Did Ohio run out of Americans?"

Another social media user wrote, "Nothing says 'Ohioan' like a dot right on the forehead", while another wrote: "This one has a perma-dot, huh." Another online user commented, "What's the dot on her forehead?" Another user questioned her appointment, saying, "No Americans were available?"

In response to the trolls, AG Yost defended Sridharan's appointment and praised her legal abilities, calling her "brilliant." He expressed confidence that she will serve Ohio well and mentioned that Sridharan is a US citizen.

"A few commenters have asserted in-

correctly that Mathura is not American. She is a United States citizen, married to a US citizen, and the child of naturalized US citizens. If her name or her complexion bothers you, the problem is not with her or her appointment," Yost posted on X.

"Mathura is brilliant... she won her argument at SCOTUS last year. Both the SGs she worked under (Flowers and Gaiser) recommended her. I told her when I originally hired her, I

needed her to argue with me. She does... All the time! Excited to promote her. She will serve Ohio well," he further stated.

Currently, Sridharan works as Deputy Solicitor General in Ohio's Office of the Solicitor General. She also heads Ohio's Tenth Amendment Centre. Prior to joining the Ohio Solicitor's Office, she clerked for Judge Steven J. Menashi (US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit) and Judge Deborah A Batts (US District Court, Southern District of New York). IANS



Mathura Sridharan

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# California's Gun Safety Laws Save Lives

VIDYA SETHURAMAN  
India Post News Service

California has one of the lowest gun deaths nationwide, but the toll remains high, with roughly 3,200 Californians losing their lives annually. California has the strongest gun safety laws in the country which have helped lower the state's rate of firearm deaths. But many Californians still don't know that powerful tools already exist to help prevent gun violence. A recent state-wide poll found that 80 percent of Californians know little or nothing about gun violence protection orders (GVPOs). These civil court orders temporarily prevent a person at risk of harming themselves or others from accessing firearms. To close this information gap, Governor Gavin Newsom's office launched the Reduce the Risk campaign through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). The campaign is raising awareness about gun violence restraining orders and other legal tools that can help families, educators, health professionals, and law enforcement

take action before violence occurs. ACOM media briefing on July 30 focused on how increasing public awareness of these laws can improve safety and save lives, especially in communities that have been hit hardest by gun violence. A judge can grant a gun violence restraining order to stop someone from having, owning, or buying any firearms (guns), firearm parts, ammunition, magazines, or body armor. Once an order is granted by a

lice applications filed by telephone in critical situations, is effective immediately for 21 days. The latter is open to written applications from family members, cohabitants, colleagues, schools, or employers, and can be granted for up to five years if the court finds sufficient evidence. This is particularly crucial for preventing potential large-scale violence. Ari Freilich, Director of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention under the California

person from possessing, purchasing or having access to firearms, ammunition and ballistic protection equipment, and forces the person to surrender existing weapons within 24 hours, otherwise it will constitute a criminal offence. Amy Barnhorst, Professor of Psychiatry at UC Davis, shared clinical experience and said that GVRO effectively fills the gap between the mental health and justice systems. She recalled coming into contact with a young man who was full of violent tendencies but did not meet the criteria for mandatory medical treatment. Since no other measures could be taken, she suggested that the police apply for a GVRO, which ultimately successfully removed the young man's potential fatal risk. The California government has established a dedicated website "ReduceTheRisk.ca.gov", which provides resource downloads and district court application guidelines in 14 languages, encouraging the public and professionals to proactively understand and make good use of GVRO to avoid tragedies.

*ACOM media briefing on July 30 focused on how increasing public awareness of these laws can improve safety and save lives, especially in communities that have been hit hardest by gun violence*

judge, the police can be called to enforce the order and the restrained person will have to turn in any firearms, ammunition, or body armor they have. GVROs can be applied for through two pathways: "Emergency Procedure" and "Standard Procedure." The former, which is limited to po-

Department of Justice, pointed out that these protection orders provide a legal basis so that people can submit evidence to the court to prove that someone may pose a significant harm to themselves or others to obtain a temporary restraining order. This type of restraining order prohibits the

## EducationUSA to organize 8 'Study in US Fairs' across India in August 2025

NEW DELHI: EducationUSA, the US government's official source of information on US higher education, will host a series of eight Study in the US education fairs across India, beginning in Chennai on August 9 and concluding in Pune on August 17, the Embassy of the United States of America said. More than 50 accredited US universities will participate in this nationwide series, offering students and parents a unique opportunity to meet official representatives from American institutions. The fairs are free and open to the public, but registration is required at: <https://bit.ly/EdUSAFair25EMB>, the Embassy added. These fairs serve as a valuable opportunity for aspiring undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral students to receive first-hand advice and guidance from education experts to help them chart their individual paths toward world-class educations in the United States, the Embassy of the United States of America said. Through direct engagement with university officials, EducationUSA advisers, and US Embassy representatives, attendees will gain reliable and transparent information to help them make informed choices and follow a lawful and well-supported

journey to academic success, the Embassy noted. The fairs will also feature expert-led sessions covering academic programs, application processes, scholarships, eligibility, and campus life in the United States. With a wide range of disciplines--from science, technology, and engineering to the arts, business, and more--these events are designed to empower Indian students with the knowledge they need to pursue higher education in the

*More than 50 accredited US universities will participate in this nationwide series, offering students and parents a unique opportunity to meet official representatives from American institutions. The fairs are free and open to the public*

United States. The EducationUSA fair will kick off in Chennai on Saturday, August 9, from 2 to 5 pm. It will then move to Bengaluru on Sunday, August 10, from 1 to 5 pm, followed by Hyderabad on Monday, August 11, from 4:30 to 7:30 pm. The event will take place in New Delhi on Tuesday, August 12, from 6 to 9 pm, and in Kolkata on Wednesday, August 13, from 6 to 9 pm. Ahmedabad will host the fair on Friday, August 15, from 2 to 5 pm, and Mumbai on Saturday, August 16, from 2 to 5 pm. The final leg will be held in Pune on Sunday, August 17, from 2 to 5 pm. According to the Embassy of the United States of America, EducationUSA is a US Department of State network of over 430 international student advising centers in more than 175 countries and territories. In India, EducationUSA services are offered through five centers located in Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Hyderabad. EducationUSA provides the most up-to-date, accurate, and comprehensive information to students seeking to study at accredited post-secondary institutions in the United States. ANI

## Hindu mantras to start the day of St. Petersburg City Council in Florida

India Post News Service CHICAGO: Hindu prayers will open the St. Petersburg City Council (Florida) meeting on August seven, containing verses from world's oldest extant scripture. Rajan Zed will deliver the invocation from ancient Sanskrit scriptures before the St. Petersburg City Council. After Sanskrit delivery, he then will read the English interpretation of the prayers. Zed, the President of Universal Society of Hinduism, will recite from Rig-Veda, the oldest scripture of the world still in common use; besides lines from Upanishads and Bhagavad-Gita (Song of the Lord), both ancient Hindu books Reciting from Brahadaranyakopanishad, Rajan Zed plans to say "Asato ma sad gamaya, Tamaso ma jyotir gamaya, Mrtyor mamrtam gamaya"; which he will then interpret as "Lead us from the unreal to the real, Lead us from darkness to light, and Lead us from death to immortality." Hinduism, oldest and third largest religion of the world, has about 1.2 billion adherents and moksh (liberation) is its ultimate goal. There are about 3.2 million Hindus in the USA.



# Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, AMA President, calls for action for health care reform

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: In a deeply moving and wide-ranging keynote address at a recent national healthcare advocacy conference, Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, President of the American Medical Association (AMA) delivered message for reflective for unity, reform, and equity throughout the U.S. health system.

Drawing from personal experiences both as a physician and as a patient, the AMA President wove together stories of family, professional dedication, and the stark realities of American healthcare, galvanizing colleagues and policymakers with both candor and vision.

Dr. Bobby Mukkamala made a historic milestone as the organization's first leader of Indian origin in its 178-year history. He is the first physician of Indian heritage to lead the influential organization. Mukkamala's appointment came just months after he had surgery to remove an 8-cm brain tumor.

Dr. Satheesh Kathula, the outgoing President of AAPI passed on the gavel to Dr. Amit Chakrabarty during the Gala on a Saturday night at the end of the convention, marking a new chapter of service, collaboration and vision.

The convention under the leadership of Dr. Satheesh Kathula, brought together hundreds of members of AAPI, past leaders, and incoming officers, symbolizing unity and a shared commitment to elevating the voice of Indian-origin physicians across the U.S.

In his keynote address at the 43rd annual Convention of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) at the iconic Cincinnati Marriott at RiverCenter and Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Cincinnati, OH on Saturday, July 26, 2025, Dr. Mukkamala celebrated the rapid expansion of telehealth and digital health, noting, "That was an amazing silver lining during Covid, that we were able to take care of our patients via telemedicine.

A significant portion of the speech fo-

cused on the critical contributions of international medical graduates (IMGs). In the President's hometown of Flint, Michigan, "Were it not for IMGs, we would lose 75% of the doctors in Flint, Michigan. And what is the consequence of that, people will get sick when that illness could have been prevented. People will die when that death could have been prevented, and that's because of IMGs."

The President highlighted recent advo-

the President recalled, "My nickname was brownie. And I had no idea that that was something that was kind of, you know, a little racist, things like that. I thought it was kind of funny. I thought maybe it's because I was sweet, because I tasted like brownies. But no."

The family faced discrimination even in purchasing a home: "He had to call the FBI because we got death threats in 1987...because this was the nature of the city at that

this country are members of the AMA. That is a problem, and so I think we can do better to be unified, to be the left hand and the right hand of healthcare in this country."

The address closed with a plea for engagement and unity: "Please don't join because of me. Please join because of the importance to the health care of our country, with the perspective of people that have their roots in India, that is critical. And so the AMA recognizes the importance of Indian physicians... We represent everybody, but only 20% are members. Look at the next 2% of the Indian physicians in this country are members of the AMA. That is a problem, and so I think we can do better to be unified."

The American Medical Association remains the nation's largest professional association for physicians, dedicated to the advancement of medical science, advocacy for patient and physician rights, and the improvement of public health.

With heartfelt storytelling and a clear policy agenda, Dr. Mukkamala's keynote became a rallying cry for all stakeholders to work together for a more just, effective, and inclusive healthcare future: "The AMA cannot do it alone; we must stand together."

Serving 1 in every 7 patients in the US, AAPI members care for millions of patients every day, while several of them have risen to hold high-flying jobs, shaping the policies and programs, and inventions that shape the landscape of healthcare in the US and around the world.

Since its inception in 1982, AAPI has been at the forefront, representing a conglomeration of more than 125,000 practicing physicians in the United States, seeking to be the united voice for the physicians of Indian origin. For more information on AAPI and its programs and initiatives, please visit: [www.aapiusa.org](http://www.aapiusa.org)



Dr. Bobby Mukkamala felicitated by AAPI

*Dr. Bobby Mukkamala made a historic milestone as the organization's first leader of Indian origin in its 178-year history. He is the first physician of Indian heritage to lead the influential organization. Mukkamala's appointment came just months after he had surgery to remove an 8-cm brain tumor*

cacy for the protection of J-1 visa holders, noting, "This is exactly when the AMA sent a note to Washington, DC, to this administration, saying You cannot do this to J-1 visa holders who are starting a design. This is exactly what the AMA does. And we do this every day, right?"

The AMA's work to "preserve the ability of international medical graduates to come to this country with an open door like my parents came in 1970 when we needed them badly" was described as "critical."

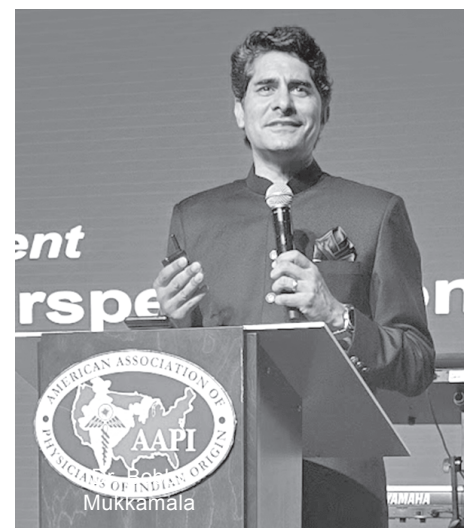
Dr. Mukkamala did not shy away from challenging conversations about race and community. Reflecting on experiences growing up as an immigrant in Michigan,

time. This was the nature of the country at that time."

The President's advocacy extends to social justice, as seen in the response to the murder of George Floyd: "What I tell people is that there's a risk to being a leader, to pursue things like diversity or equity in our country... If our passion is for allowing this country to be an open door to international medical graduates, particularly from my country of origin, from India. If that is the passion, this is the organization that we should work with to make that happen Absolutely."

As the first Indian American president of the AMA, Dr. Mukkamala acknowledged both the honor and the challenge, stating, "There's never been an Indian president of the American Medical Association... 10% of the doctors in this country are like you and me. We have an enormous ability, an enormous responsibility, to improve the healthcare of this country."

He noted with concern that "The AMA represents all physicians in this country. 20% of those physicians are members of the AMA... 2% of the Indian physicians in



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## 'Trade deal discussions to ensure fairness, national security'

NEW DELHI: As US President Donald Trump threatened hefty tariffs, India remains actively involved in the discussions on the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), which aims at expanding trade and investment and deepening the US-India trade relationship to promote growth that ensures fairness, national security and job creation -- especially in labor-intensive sector including agricultural products, the Parliament was informed recently.

The ongoing discussions are focused on how to take an integrated approach to strengthen and deepen bilateral trade by mutually increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, and deepening supply chain integration, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Ramnath Thakur, told the Lok Sabha in a written reply.

"Further, the livelihood interests of our farmers and requirements of food security have always been paramount for the government while negotiating trade agreements with our international partners, including the US," he added.

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, replied to a similar question in the Parliament. *IANS*

## Indian stock market settles lower amid higher US tariffs concerns

MUMBAI: The Indian stock market settled in negative territory on Tuesday amid a mixed reaction from investors following the US President Donald Trump's fresh tariff threat and India's stern reply to it.

Sensex closed at 80,710.25, down 308.47 points or 0.38 percent. The 30-share index opened the session slightly down at 80,946.43 against last day's closing of 81,018.72. However, the index further extended the loss amid a mixed approach in Auto, and Consumer Durable stocks and selling in the Pharma and Consumer goods sector. *IANS*



# Trump threatens to 'substantially' raise tariffs on India for buying Russian oil

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump issued a fresh threat to "substantially" increase tariffs on India as a penalty, for what he alleged, for selling imported Russian oil on the open market for "big profits".

He did not say what the additional tariff on top of the 25 percent he announced would be.

Trump has been frustrated by Russia's President Vladimir Putin's refusal to end the Ukraine War and is directing his ire against India to pressure Moscow.

He wrote on Truth Social: "India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian Oil, they are then, for much of the Oil purchased, selling it on the Open Market for big profits."

"They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine. Because of this, I will be substantially raising the Tariff paid by India to the USA," he said.

Trump had initially said the penalty, known as secondary tar-



US President Donald Trump

*"India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian Oil, they are then, for much of the Oil purchased, selling it on the Open Market for big profits"*

iffs, applying to all buyers of Russian apply would be 100 percent.

He moved the deadline for Russia to agree to a ceasefire with Ukraine to late this week.

News reports over the weekend quoted unidentified Indian officials as saying in response to Trump's earlier threats that New Delhi would continue to buy Rus-

sian oil, setting off the fresh outrage from Trump.

While he focused on India, he did not say if a China that also buys a substantial amount of Russian oil would face similar penalties - or other countries like Turkey would too.

The US and China are negotiating a trade deal, and if Trump were to impose tariff penalties, it would complicate the talks.

According to the International Energy Agency, India bought nearly 40 percent of its imports from Russia, and 70 percent of Moscow's oil exports went to India.

Before the Ukraine War, India had bought only about 0.2 percent of its needs from Russia, but it steeply increased after embargoes were placed on Russian oil, while keeping the price below the European Union-mandated price of \$60 per barrel.

Some of the refined petrol and other oil products were reportedly exported by Indian refineries. *IANS*

## Amendment to boost Indian wind turbine manufacturers by promoting 'Make in India': Report

NEW DELHI: Centre's amendment to the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) (Wind) procedure is expected to benefit domestic wind turbine original equipment manufacturers by enhancing domestic sourcing of equipment, a report said recently.

Indian and Chinese wind OEMs will now compete on more equal terms due to a new rule. Currently, Chinese wind OEMs operating in India import lots of lower-cost components

from China, resulting in their products being 10-15 percent cheaper than those of Indian manufacturers, according to a report by Crisil Ratings.

However, these Chinese wind OEMs will be forced to source their components from Indian manufacturers after the recent amendment, assuming Indian wind component makers are

only added to the ALMM list. This will remove manufacturing cost disparities for Indian wind OEMs compared to Chinese firms and strengthen the local supply chain.

The move will also support the credit profiles of domestic wind OEMs. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) amended the procedure for including wind turbine models in the ALMM list (Wind) on July 31. This list certifies wind turbine models eligible for installation in the country.

The new amendment mandated wind OEMs

to source key components - blade, tower, gearbox, generator, and special bearings, which make up 65-70 percent of the total cost of a wind turbine - only from ALMM (Wind Turbine Components) listed suppliers. It also mandates wind turbine data and control systems to remain within India, using local data centers, servers, and R&D facilities, which, in turn, should improve data security and enhance the country's cybersecurity ecosystem. *IANS*





# Hyderabad has become global GCC hub, says CM Revanth Reddy

HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has said that Hyderabad has transformed into a global GCC hub in 20 months of the Congress government.

The Global Capability Centre (GCC) growth is an important step towards achieving the TelanganaRising 2047 vision and the goal of a one-trillion-dollar

government made Hyderabad the global GCC capital and hub.

"We are not opening any ordinary center or GCC, but a nerve center of Eli Lilly, like the brain of the corporation, will operate from here. It will manage, lead and accelerate Eli Lilly's global operations," he said.

The Chief Minister said that the GCC

Hyderabad has become the preferred global destination for cutting-edge capability centers of the world's top pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. The city is the Life Sciences capital of India, with the presence of over 2,000 companies, he added.

The Hyderabad GCC will integrate Lilly's advanced technology capabilities across key functions, supporting accelerated innovation, enhanced efficiency, and improved health outcomes for patients globally.

The facility will support innovation and strengthen digital capabilities across Lilly's global operations. The new center will create opportunities for local talent and advance Hyderabad's biotech ecosystem.

By focusing on areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), automation, cloud computing, and software product engineering,

the site will contribute to solving some of the world's most pressing health challenges while also creating growth oppor-



*The Chief Minister said that the GCC growth in Hyderabad, in line with the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, will help in the state's roadmap to achieving a one trillion-dollar economy. "We are proud that 1 in every 3 vaccines administered anywhere in the world is developed or manufactured in Hyderabad*

economy, he said at the inauguration of US pharma major Eli Lilly's new technology and innovation facility here.

The Chief Minister described the launch as clinching proof that in less than 20 months, with IT & Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu's vision and hard work, the

growth in Hyderabad, in line with the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, will help in the state's roadmap to achieving a one trillion-dollar economy. "We are proud that 1 in every 3 vaccines administered anywhere in the world is developed or manufactured in Hyderabad."

tunities for local talent. The company has already onboarded 100 professionals at the 220,000 square feet Hyderabad facility and plans to expand the headcount to 1,500 over the next few years. IANS

# EV giant Tesla launches its first charging station in Mumbai

MUMBAI: Tesla has taken another significant step in its India journey by launching its first charging facility in the country.

The US-based EV giant debuted in India by launching its first showroom in Mumbai last month.

ture expansion. These will be situated in Navi Mumbai, Thane, and Lower Parel.

The action aims to support Tesla's premium clientele in India's financial capital and increase the adoption of EVs.

CEO Elon Musk had previously cited

model that starts at Rs 67.89 lakh and a rear-wheel drive version that costs Rs 59.89 lakh.

Completely built units (CBUs) of both models are being imported from China's Shanghai Gigafactory, which is home to Tesla. The third and fourth quarters of 2025 are anticipated to see the start of deliveries.

Tesla's Supercharging stalls will offer a peak charging speed of 250 kW, priced at Rs 24 per kWh, while the destination chargers will provide up to 11 kW at Rs 14 per kWh.

Tesla is setting itself up to compete in India's developing premium EV market with its strong brand, expanding model lineup, and developing infrastructure.

The launch demonstrates the company's sincere desire to enter one of the automotive markets with the fastest rates of growth in the world.

In order to establish a service center near the showroom in BKC, Tesla India Motor and Energy Private Ltd had previously leased a 24,500-square-foot space in Kurla West, Mumbai. IANS



The new facility, which has four V4 Supercharging stalls (DC fast chargers) and four AC destination chargers, is situated at One BKC in Mumbai's Bandra-Kurla Complex.

By the end of September, Tesla intends to open three more charging stations in Mumbai as part of its charging infrastruc-

high import duties as a barrier to the company's long-awaited entry into India.

This is a significant turning point for the American electric vehicle (EV) behemoth, which debuted its Model Y SUV in India on July 15.

Tesla now offers two versions of the Model Y: a long-range rear-wheel drive

## India should prioritize industrial electronics to become manufacturing leader

NEW DELHI: The India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) has called for urgently prioritizing industrial electronics as a central pillar of India's \$500 billion electronics manufacturing target by 2030.

The future of India's electronics industry lies in the manufacturing of goods that will automate our factories, cities, and transportation networks, a statement said.

Through its Steering Committee on Industrial Electronics and Infrastructure, ICEA is working with the government and industry leaders to develop a dedicated policy of industrial electronics and a strategic roadmap, the statement added.

The steering committee, including leaders from Delta Electronics, Infineon Technologies, Festo, Fanuc and others, will produce a market study addressing technology access, regulatory frameworks, and ecosystem development to position India as a global leader in industrial electronics.

The industrial electronics segment must be recognized as a national strategic priority. IANS



## Indian scientists: New approach for treatment of liver cirrhosis

NEW DELHI: A team of Indian scientists has found a new way to treat liver cirrhosis, by targeting the lymphatic vessels in the liver and intestine that fail in case of cirrhosis.

Chronic liver disease can progress from mild disease to fibrosis to cirrhosis (also known as scarring).

Cirrhosis is accompanied by the distortion of both blood and lymphatic vessels in the liver and the intestine. Patients with advanced cirrhosis often develop complications like fluid accumulation in the abdomen.

A team of scientists from the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi, and National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Guwahati, focused on improving the drainage capacity of lymphatic vessels in the liver and intestine by using nanocarriers filled with a powerful protein called VEGF-C.

"Vascular endothelial growth factor-C (VEGF-C) is a key pro-lymphangiogenic factor that activates lymphangiogenesis or new lymphatic vessel growth. It does this through binding to a cell membrane tyrosine kinase receptor, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-3 (VEGFR-3), the activation of which is essential for the growth and development of new lymphatic vessels," said the researchers. *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)*

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August 8, 2025

## Telangana ranks number one in organ donation

HYDERABAD: Telangana has been ranked number one state in organ donation in India during 2024.

A total of 188 brain-dead donors contributed organs in Telangana during the year. As many as 725 lives saved through successful transplants

According to officials 4.88 donations per 10 lakh population in the state is far above the national average of 0.8

Telangana received the NOTTO Award at the National Organ Donation Day event in Delhi recently. The award was presented by Union Health Minister J. P. Nadda to representatives of Jeevandan, Telangana's organ donation program.

National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) presented the award to state with the highest organ donation rate at the 15th Indian Organ Donation Day.

Telangana has been presented the award for the exceptional contribution in the field of organ donation and



transplantation.

Telangana Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha expressed joy at the recognition, recalling that Jeevandan was launched in united Andhra Pradesh in 2012.

He emphasized the state's adoption of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act (THOTA) to ensure fair and transparent organ allocation across economic backgrounds.

He also urged citizens to come forward and pledge organs, especially in cases of brain death, to prevent precious organs from going to waste. He affirmed that free organ transplant surgeries are being provided under Aarogyasri.

In March this year, The Telangana Transplantation of Human Organs Bill, 2025 was passed in the Legislative Assembly to bring the State's organ transplantation regulations

in line with the Central Act and curb organ trade.

It replaced Telangana Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1995, which was originally enacted in undivided Andhra Pradesh. The 1995 Act, which has been in force in Telangana since its formation, was modeled on THOTA 1994, a law enacted by the Parliament of India to regulate organ donation and prevent commercial transactions in human organs. *IANS*

## Centre cuts prices of 35 essential medicines

NEW DELHI: In a move to make medicines more affordable for patients, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has reduced the retail prices of 35 essential drugs sold by leading pharmaceutical companies.

The formulations, which will now cost less, span a wide range of medicines including anti-inflammatory, cardiovascular, antibiotic, anti-diabetic and psychiatric medicines.

The Ministry of Chemicals

and Fertilizers notified the order based on price regulation by the NPPA. The price reductions, which apply across drugs, are expected to bring relief to consumers, particularly those managing chronic conditions.

The key formulations covered by the price control order include fixed-dose combinations of Aceclofenac, Paracetamol and Trypsin Chymotrypsin, Amoxicillin and Potassium Clavulanate, Atorvastatin combinations and newer oral anti-dia-

betic combinations like Empagliflozin, Sitagliptin, and Metformin.



The price of one Aceclofenac-Paracetamol-Trypsin Chymot-

rypsin tablet manufactured by Akums Drugs & Pharmaceuticals and marketed by Dr Reddy's Laboratories has now been fixed at Rs 13, while the same formulation marketed by Cadila Pharmaceuticals is now priced at Rs 15.01.

Similarly, a tablet containing Atorvastatin 40 mg and Clopidogrel 75 mg, widely used

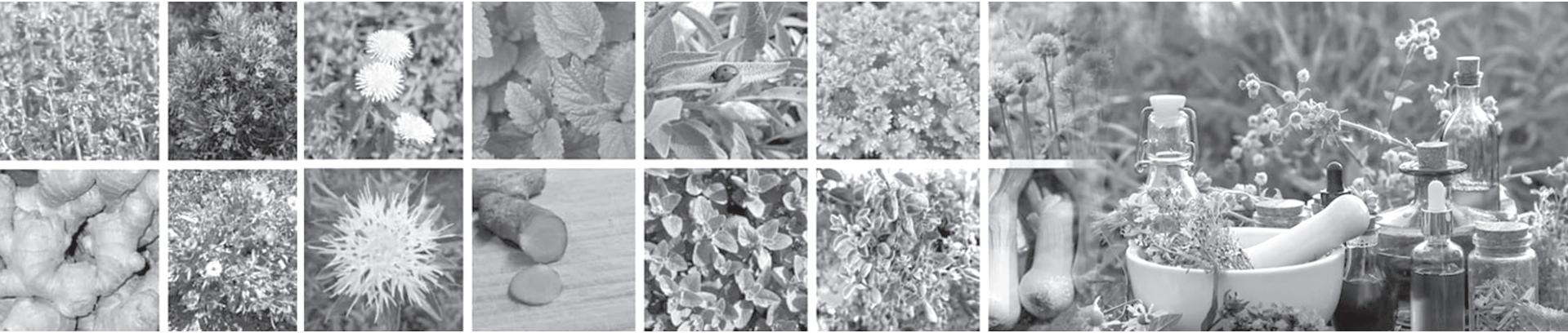
for cardiovascular conditions, is priced at Rs 25.61.

Oral suspensions for pediatric use - Cefixime and Paracetamol combinations - have also been included, along with critical medications like Cholecalciferol drops for Vitamin D supplementation and Diclofenac Injection, which has been priced at Rs 31.77 per ml.

The official order states that retailers and dealers must display these updated price lists prominently in their premises. *IANS*



# Ayush Ministry, NMPB sign MoUs to boost conservation, awareness of medicinal plants



NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Ayush recently signed two significant Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), to boost the conservation and increase public awareness of medicinal plants in the country.

The first MoU was signed between the NMPB and IshVed-Bioplants Venture, Maharashtra, and the second tripartite MoU was signed among NMPB, All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

"The vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build a healthier and self-reliant India by 2047 guides our efforts today. I congratulate all the institutions involved in signing these important MoUs, which represent a significant milestone in conserving and promoting India's rich medicinal plant heritage," said Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav.

"By integrating traditional knowledge with modern science, we are making meaningful progress toward realizing this ambitious vision," he added.

The MoU between NMPB and IshVed-

Bioplants Venture aims to conserve and maintain the germplasm of rare, endangered, and threatened (RET) medicinal plants through tissue culture methods.

This will bring better value to the stakeholders through the development of tissue culture methods and their extensive cultivation and maintenance protocols. It will also help facilitate the supply of medicinal plants in the rare, endangered, and threatened (RET) category used in the Ayush industry.

The second MoU aims to establish a national-level medicinal plants garden in

the premises of AIIMS, New Delhi, and to spread public awareness about medicinal plants, sharing knowledge and expertise.

This will develop public awareness about the medicinal plants among patients and students who come from distant areas and will also benefit the visitors in the hospital premises, the Ministry said.

Both MoUs mark a milestone in the Ministry of Ayush's continued efforts to promote evidence-based conservation, research, and public engagement in the medicinal plants sector. *IANS*



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# Plastic pollution is under-recognized threat to health: The Lancet

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the UN treaty on plastics, a new report in The Lancet journal recently warned that plastic pollution is an under-recognized threat to the health of both humans and the planet, which must be addressed immediately.

The report, led by a group of international experts, reviews the current evidence on how plastics -- including microplastics and plastic chemicals -- impact health.

"Plastics are a grave, growing, and under-recognized danger to human and planetary health. Plastics cause disease and death from infancy to old age and are responsible for health-related economic losses exceeding \$1.5 trillion annually," said corresponding author Prof Philip J Landrigan, from Boston College, US.

The report discusses evidence that plastics endanger human health at every stage of their life cycle -- in production, use, and disposal. It showed that airborne emissions from plastic production include particulate matter (PM2.5), sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides, as well as hazardous chemicals to which plastic workers can be exposed.

The experts from the US, Switzerland, Germany, and Australia noted the lack of transparency around which chemicals are present in plastics, their production volumes, uses, and known or potential toxicity.

"Many plastic chemicals are associated with multiple health effects at all



stages of human life," the experts said.

Further, the report stated that microplastics have been reported in human tissues and body fluids, and, while further research is needed to understand the relationship with potential health impacts, a precautionary approach is warranted.

An estimated 57 percent of unmanaged plastic waste is burned in the open -- a major source of air pollution in low-and middle-income countries.

Plastic waste can also provide a habitat for mosquitoes to lay their eggs and for the growth of microorganisms, potentially contributing to the spread of vector-borne

diseases and antimicrobial resistance, said the experts.

They called for a greater focus on health impacts when considering plastic pollution.

Notably, the report projected that, without changes, plastic production will almost triple between 2019 and 2060.

Landrigan stated that while "continued worsening of plastics' harms is not inevitable," it can be mitigated cost-effectively by evidence-based, transparently tracked, effectively implemented, and adequately financed laws and policies.

To address plastics' harms globally, UN member states unanimously resolved in

2022 to develop a comprehensive, legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, namely the Global Plastics Treaty, covering the full lifecycle of plastic. The meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

Meanwhile, the experts also announced the launch of a new project to track the impact of plastics: the Lancet Countdown on Health and Plastics.

"The Lancet Countdown on Health and Plastics will identify and track a series of indicators that document the impacts of plastics and plastic chemicals on human health across all stages of the plastic life cycle. The first indicator report is expected in mid-2026," Landrigan said. *IANS*

## States asked to undertake regular screening to tackle rising fatty liver disease: Nadda

NEW DELHI: Amid the rising incidence of fatty liver disease, Union Health Minister JP Nadda informed the Parliament that the states have been asked to undertake screening to tackle and mitigate the condition.

Replying to a query in the Lok Sabha, Nadda shared that the government has issued operational guidelines that aim to raise awareness about Metabolic Dysfunction Associated Fatty Liver Disease (MAFLD) as well as promote healthy lifestyle interventions.

MAFLD, previously known as Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease, is characterized by excessive fat buildup in the liver. MAFLD highlights the link between fatty liver and metabolic issues like obesity, Type 2 diabetes, and high cholesterol.

"The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued operational guidelines

for Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, which provides for a healthy diet, regular physical activity, weight management, and reduced sugar/saturated fat consumption for prevention and management of NAFLD," Nadda said.

*MAFLD, previously known as Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease, is characterized by excessive fat buildup in the liver. MAFLD highlights the link between fatty liver and metabolic issues like obesity, Type 2 diabetes, and high cholesterol*

"Further, States and Union Territories have been requested to undertake screening and risk stratification by the health care providers as per the guidelines and guide appropriate referrals," he added.

The Union Minister cited two studies that indicate the rising prevalence of MAFLD in India.

The study published in the Nature Scientific Reports Journal in 2025 focused on the rising prevalence of MAFLD among information technology employees in India. The study, involving 345 IT employees in Hyderabad, showed that "Metabolic Syndrome (MetS) was present in 118 (34.20 percent) of the employees," Nadda said.

"A total of 290 (84.06 percent) employees had increased liver fat accumulation, which indicates a high prevalence of MAFLD among IT employees," he added. *IANS*

## Study finds inflammatory pathways behind asthma attacks in children

NEW DELHI: Scientists have found inflammatory pathways that contribute to asthma flare-ups in children that occur despite treatment.

Eosinophilic asthma is characterized by high levels of eosinophils -- a type of white blood cell involved in the body's immune response. While eosinophils typically help fight infections, in eosinophilic asthma, they accumulate in the lungs and airways, causing chronic inflammation, swelling, and damage to the respiratory system.

Eosinophilic asthma is driven by type 2 (T2) inflammation -- an immune response involving cytokines that promote the production and activation of eosinophils. *IANS*





## India Gears Up for the Indian Fashion Glamour League: Where Style Meets Strategy

A new kind of league is on the horizon. Entrepreneur Sandeep Nanda is bringing a grand, never-before-seen fashion league to India -- one that promises to blend the glamour of couture with the adrenaline of competition. Known for once soaring high in the aviation industry, Nanda is no stranger to glitz and innovation. His journey began with the entertainment revolution in India as part of the founding team at Radio Mirchi, where he helped shape FM radio

in North India. That experience gave him a masterclass in mass communication, pop culture, and audience psychology.

Now, he's channeling all that learning into launching the Indian Fashion Glamour League (IFGL) -- a league as ambitious, high-energy, and fan-driven as the most significant global sporting events. Nanda explains, "Why should sports have all the leagues? Why not fashion? Why not creativity?"

Backed by his India-Canada

.....  
NANDA IS NO  
STRANGER TO GLITZ  
AND INNOVATION. HIS  
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THE ENTERTAINMENT  
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PART OF THE FOUNDING  
TEAM AT RADIO MIRCHI,  
WHERE HE HELPED  
SHAPE FM RADIO IN  
NORTH INDIA  
.....

venture, Xmaxx Studios Pvt Ltd, the Indian Fashion Glamour League is no longer just an idea - it's a full-fledged, multi-million-dollar entertainment property in the making.

The concept is simple, yet revolutionary. Much like the Indian Premier League (IPL), IFGL will feature city-based teams -- such as Delhi Divas, Mumbai Marigold, Punjabi Patakas -- and even some international squads like Dubai Dazzlers and European Elites. Each team will be owned by celebrities or entrepreneurs and consist of models, stylists, designers, and digital influencers. These teams will compete weekly in fashion face-offs judged by experts and voted on by audiences, both on live stages and OTT platforms.

"It's fashion meets Formula 1. It's styling meets strategy. And it's time the world saw Indian creativity in a league format," says Nanda.

At Xmaxx Studios, the motto is "Ideas Become IP." With offices in Delhi and Vancouver, Nanda's vision for IFGL is to create India's answer to K-pop, Formula 1, and the Met Gala -- all rolled into one dynamic league, driven by format, fandom, and fire. "IFGL isn't just about fabric. It's about identity. It's not about walking the ramp -- it's about owning your space on it," he adds.

(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)

## Malaika Arora on the profound benefits of traditional Surya Namaskar

MUMBAI: Bollywood diva and an ardent yoga practitioner Malaika Arora has talked about the profound benefits of Surya Namaskar and showcased a step-by-step method on how to perform the asana.

Malaika took to Instagram, where she shared a video of herself performing the traditional Surya Namaskar, which is a series of 12 yoga postures performed in a fluid, continuous sequence.



She shared a video of herself starting with the prayer pose, and then doing the Hasta Uttanasana, Padahastanasana, Ashwa Sanchalanasana, Dandasana, Ashtanga Namaskara, Bhujangasana, Parvatasana, Ashwa Sanchalanasana, Padahastanasana, Hasta Uttanasana and the Pranamasana.

For the caption, she wrote: "Surya Namaskar is not just a physical practice, it's a sacred mantra." IANS

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## Delhi CM assures slum dwellers of proper housing, employment

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has assured that no slum in Delhi will be removed without providing proper houses to its residents.

She emphasized the need for collective effort to transform Delhi, criticizing those who politicize slum issues, including Rahul Gandhi, who she noted is only now visiting the slums.

Gupta guaranteed that every slum dweller would be provided with permanent housing before any demolition, allocating a budget of Rs 700 crore for slum development.

The government plans to offer employment opportunities and skill training to slum residents, aiming to improve their living standards.

"Delhi has to be changed, we have to work together. Those involved in politics in Delhi's slums have no connection to it. Rahul Gandhi is coming to the slums now... The people of Aam Aadmi Party, who completed their entire tenure and left. They never laid pipelines in the slums of Delhi. Today, I want to say that not even a single slum in Delhi will be removed without giving them proper houses. We will provide them with employment, skills, and houses. If there is a need to change the policy, we will change the policy..." said Delhi CM. ANI

# Real Estate POST

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August 8, 2025

**GTF Technologies: The Agency That Quietly Reimagined Real Estate Marketing in India**

NEW DELHI: In 2008, when most digital agencies were chasing fast-growing sectors like e-commerce and fintech, GTF Technologies chose a different path -- real estate. At a time when the industry relied heavily on hoardings, print ads, and site visits, GTF Technologies recognized the potential to drive a digital transformation.

Founded by marketing strategist Satish Singh, the agency was built on a focused vision: to solve the specific marketing challenges of real estate developers through measurable digital strategy. PNN/ANI

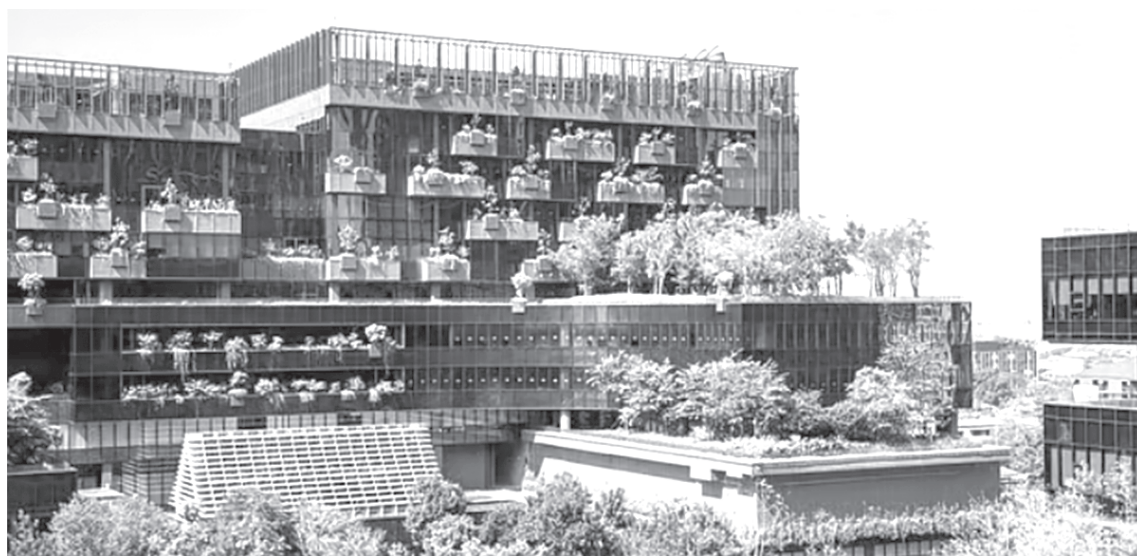
## India's top 7 cities record 65 pc jump in green office space since 2019: Report

MUMBAI: There has been a significant 65 percent jump in overall Grade A green-certified office stock across India's top seven cities since 2019, with global occupiers seeking green certifications in new buildings, according to an Anarock research report released.

Grade A office developers are increasingly constructing LEED, IGBC or GRIHA-certified stock to stay in sync with the demand. Approximately 530 Mn sq. ft. of Grade A office stock in the top 7 cities out of the total Grade A office stock of 865 Mn sq. ft. is green certified as of the first half of (H1) 2025 across cities. Back in 2019, approximately 322 Mn sq. ft. had such certification, the report states.

At approx. 163 Mn sq. ft., Bengaluru has the maximum stock of green-certified office stock among these cities in H1 2025 -- a 31 percent share of the total, green-certified inventory in the top 7 cities.

NCR comes in a distant second



with approximately 97 Mn sq. ft. or 18 percent overall green-certified share, followed by Hyderabad's 16 percent share. Kolkata has the least green-certified office stock with a 3 percent share.

With the highest green-certified office stock among all cities, Bengaluru also has the highest percentage share (73 percent) of green stock out of its total Grade A stock (approx. 223 Mn sq. ft.)

Anarock Group chairman Anuj

Puri said, "The push towards sustainability comes partly from the government's own initiatives and commitments, and partly from the demand for such solutions."

"There is increasing awareness about the need for sustainability across all real estate segments. However, the demand for sustainable office buildings outstrips that for green housing. A vast number of occupiers, especially MNCs and

GCCs, now insist on sustainability features only available in green-certified Grade A office buildings," Puri explained.

In contrast, there has still not been such an imperative-driven shift in the Indian housing segment, and this is visible in the relative scarcity of green residential stock in the country. Commercial real estate is proving to be India's sustainability vanguard, he added. IANS

## India's wealthiest 1 pc holds 60 pc assets in real estate, gold: Report

NEW DELHI: The top 1 percent of India's wealthiest citizens have parked 60 percent of their money in real estate and gold, according to a recent report.

This segment of 'wealthiest citizens' is comprised of Ultra High Net Worth Individuals (UHNIs), High Net Worth Individuals (HNIs) and the affluent class, which accounts for only 1 percent of Indian households but controls nearly 60 percent of the country's total assets, the report by US-based wealth management firm Bernstein said.

This segment holds \$11.6 trillion in total wealth and 70 percent of India's financial assets, the report said. India's total household wealth is estimated at \$19.6 trillion, out of which \$11.6 trillion, or 59 percent, is held by this wealthy segment of the population.

Out of this, only \$2.7 trillion is invested in serviceable financial assets that can be actively managed or reallocated, such as mutual funds, equities, insurance, and bank or government deposits. The remaining \$8.9 trillion is held in non-serviceable assets, including gold, cash holdings,

promoter equity, and physical real estate, according to the report.

The report indicates huge



growth potential for asset management firms to grow their assets under management (AUM)

over the next decade, as India's affluent class is looking for avenues to diversify their portfolios beyond gold and real estate.

The report highlighted how this wealth segment remains largely underpenetrated by formal wealth management services, with a considerable portion of financial wealth unmanaged. In a previous report, Bernstein had mentioned that specialized wealth managers currently hold only 11 percent share in the liquid financial asset pool of India.

The findings also underscore a broader structural trend in In-

dia: while income inequality is high, wealth inequality is even starker. "The top 1 percent earns 40 percent of all income, while the 'Rest of India' holds only a small fraction of both income and assets," the report said.

There are approximately 35,000 UHNI households whose net worth surpassed \$12 million (Rs 100 crore). These households have an average asset value of \$54 million (Rs 472.5 crore), including \$24 million (Rs 210 crore) in financial assets. IANS



# Investment in real estate in Russia redistributed from housing to offices

MOSCOW: In the first half of 2025, the Russian real estate market saw a redistribution of investment flows. The share of commercial real estate increased by 11 percentage points compared to the same period last year, reaching 78 percent of the total investment in real estate. At the same time, investments in residential development decreased from 33 percent to 22 percent. This conclusion follows from the research data of the consulting com-

pany CORE.XP, which was reviewed by Izvestia on July 31. According to the study, the largest increase in the share of investments was recorded in the office and warehouse segments -- by six percentage points (up to 36 percent) and four percentage points (up to 24 percent), respectively. Investments in hotels increased by three percentage points, accounting for 5 percent of all real estate investments. However, the share of investments in retail remained the same compared to last year, remaining at 12 percent, the analysts added.



pany CORE.XP, which was reviewed by Izvestia on July 31.

It is noted that despite the increase in the share of commercial facilities, in monetary terms, the volume of investments in key segments decreased by 12 percent year-

on-year, amounting to 325 billion rubles. Investments in the office segment fell by 10 percent against the background of a slowdown in economic growth, and in the warehouse real estate segment by 7 percent due to discrepancies in estimates of the cost per square meter between buyers and sellers. Investments in retail decreased by 28 percent year-on-year. "High interest rates in the economy continue to affect capital sentiment, leading to a decrease in total investment in real estate by 24 percent year-on-year (up to 417 billion rubles. -- Ed.), with a significant drop in the segment of housing sites (-49 percent, up to 92 billion rubles. -- Ed.) due to lower demand as a result of high mortgage rates. At the same time, there is a redistribution of capital in favor of development in commercial real estate, where an increase of 44 percent was recorded," the senior director, head of the Investment and Capital Markets Department at CORE explained to Izvestia.XP Irina Ushakova.

In addition, the share of foreign sellers in the volume of investments in real estate was only 7 percent, which is six percentage points lower than last year. Thus, almost all investment activity (93 percent) was generated thanks to Russian sellers, the analysts concluded.

In an interview with Izvestia on July 29, Alexander Volgin, founder of the Lendly investment platform, spoke about new instruments for collective investment in Russian real estate. He added that there is an increasing interest in collective investment in real estate in the Russian Federation, due to the high cost of facilities. Many investors seek to diversify their portfolios, but they do not have the opportunity to purchase housing completely. ANI/Izvestia

## Adani Realty most valuable unlisted company on 'Hurun Real Estate List 2025'

MUMBAI: Adani Realty has once again secured its position as the most valuable unlisted real estate company on the '2025 GROHE-Hurun India Real Estate 150 list', it was announced.

Valued at Rs 52,400 crore, Adani Realty continues its focus on large-scale urban projects and redevelopment initiatives across Indian cities, as noted in the report by Hurun Research Institute.

The report said that India's top real estate firms are valued at Rs 16 lakh crore or \$188 billion, up by Rs 1.9 lakh crore. Their total value grew by only 14 percent, a sharp drop from last year's 70 percent growth and the lowest on record for the list.

DLF remains India's most valuable real estate company at Rs 2 lakh crore. Adani Realty is the top unlisted firm, valued at Rs 52,400 crore.



Mumbai leads India's real estate sector, with 42 listed companies valued at Rs 6,96,800 crore. There is the emergence of 63 new entrants to the list, with 29 of these entrants debuting directly into the Top 100 in the list.

The overall real estate landscape in financial year 2025 presented a more modest growth trajectory, with the combined value of India's most valuable real estate companies reaching Rs 16 lakh crore or \$188 billion, an increase of Rs 1.9 lakh crore from the previous year.

The real estate added Rs 1.4 lakh crore in value, driven by a sharp rebound post-April, as stable interest rates and strong housing demand aided recovery.

Of the top 10 on the real estate rich list, four are from Bengaluru, three from Mumbai, two each from Hyderabad and Delhi-NCR, and one from Ahmedabad. IANS

## Puraniks to Launch India's Tallest Thematic Tower for Middle Income Homebuyers

MUMBAI: In a bold move that could redefine urban housing for middle-income families, Puraniks has announced the launch of India's tallest thematic residential tower, a 50-story skyscraper on Ghodbunder Road, Thane, tailored for the Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore homebuyers.

For the first time in the country, a structure of such height will pair global architectural themes with accessible price points, a format typically associated with high-end luxury developments. With smartly designed 1 and 2 BHKs, along with flexible jodi options, the project is targeted at salaried professionals and first-time homebuyers looking to upgrade their lifestyle without crossing into premium segments.

Shailesh Puranik, Managing Director, Puranik Builders, stated:

"We're building more than the tallest tower on Ghodbunder Road. We're setting a national benchmark where ambition, elegance, and affordability can coexist. For too long, skyscraper living was a luxury dream for the few. We're here to change that."

Located in the rapidly growing K a v e s a r - Gaimukh zone, the tower is poised to become a defining icon of Ghodbunder Road, a corridor increasingly seen as the MMR's most inclusive housing destination. Property values in the area have more than doubled over the past decade, from ₹6,400 per sq. ft. in 2014 to ₹13,800 to ₹18,000 in 2024 (CRE Matrix), while remaining far more affordable than the MMR average. In FY 2024-25, 81% of buyers in the belt declared self-use, with residential sales rising over 28%.

With a track record of delivering 7.5 million sq. ft. and housing over 9,000+ families in the Ghodbunder belt, with this launch, Puraniks Group is deepening its focus on bold vertical developments that cater to India's aspiring middle class, combining scale, design, and smart urban living.

"There are taller buildings in India. And there are themed buildings. But there has never been a themed skyscraper created for the ₹70 lakh buyer," said a senior Mumbai-based property consultant. "This project marks a new era of vertical democratization of aspiration."

(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)

*"We're building more than the tallest tower on Ghodbunder Road. We're setting a national benchmark where ambition, elegance, and affordability can coexist. For too long, skyscraper living was a luxury dream for the few. We're here to change that."*



## In Brief

### Afghan national, two others arrested in Jabalpur

JABALPUR: In a major crack-down on identity fraud and illegal immigration, the Madhya Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested an Afghan national, Sohbat Khan, from Jabalpur, for allegedly operating a passport racket using forged documents.

Khan, who had been living illegally in India for over a decade, is accused of facilitating the creation of Indian passports for Afghan citizens through fabricated residential and identity proofs.

According to officials, two other persons have been arrested for helping him.

The accused have been identified as Dinesh Garg, a forest guard currently posted in the Election Cell of the Collector's Office, and Mahendra Kumar Sukhdan, a resident of the Katanga area.

Both are suspected of playing roles in document fabrication and procedural manipulation.

Khan not only secured an Indian passport for himself in 2020 using fake documentation but also extended the service to Afghan associates residing in West Bengal and Chhattisgarh.

Investigators have so far identified 20 suspicious cases linked to the racket, with financial transactions amounting to approximately Rs 10 lakh.

Khan reportedly obtained a driving license in Jabalpur in 2015, which served as a precursor to his fraudulent passport application. He had also married a local woman, further embedding himself in the community. *IANS*

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# Immigration

## POST

22 India Post

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August 8, 2025

*A group of 39 Bangladeshi citizens, including a woman, were deported from the United States and arrived in Dhaka*

## US deports 39 Bangladeshi nationals amid crackdown on undocumented immigrants

DHAKA: A group of 39 Bangladeshi citizens, including a woman, were deported from the United States and arrived in Dhaka.

According to officials at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, the individuals were transported on a C-17 US military aircraft.

Bangladesh's leading daily, Dhaka Tribune, reported that some of the deportees claimed they were handcuffed throughout the flight.

"We're not criminals, we just sought asylum. But we were treated as if we were dangerous offenders," one of them was quoted as saying by the daily.

Shariful Hasan, Associate Director of Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) Migration Programme and Youth Platform, explained that many of the deported individuals had either sold family assets or borrowed heavily, often up to Tk 30-40 lakh to reach the United States through irregular channels, passing through Mexico and South America.

They had applied for asylum upon their arrival in the US. However, their requests were denied

by immigration officials and the courts, leading to the decision to deport them, Hasan said.

The move is part of a wider crackdown by the US immigration authorities. Since taking office, the Donald Trump administration has ramped up efforts to

scale demonstrations broke out in Los Angeles and major cities against the US administration's immigration policies.

"Our Nation's ICE Officers have shown incredible strength, determination, and courage as they facilitate a very important

the American People," Trump posted on his social media platform, Truth Social.

"ICE Officers are herewith ordered, by notice of this Truth, to do all in their power to achieve the very important goal of delivering the single largest mass de-



remove undocumented migrants from the country.

In June, US President Donald Trump instructed the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials to intensify deportation efforts against the "illegal aliens" in major American cities.

The move came after large-

mission, the largest mass deportation operation of illegal aliens in history. Every day, the brave men and women of ICE are subjected to violence, harassment, and even threats from radical Democrat politicians, but nothing will stop us from executing our mission and fulfilling our mandate to

portation program in history," he said.

Trump stated that immigration officials must expand efforts to detain and deport "illegal aliens" in America's largest Cities, such as Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York, where, he claimed, millions reside. *IANS*

### 1,703 Indians deported from US since January 2025: MEA

NEW DELHI: A total of 1,703 Indian nationals have been deported from the United States between January 20 and July 22, 2025, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said in response to a Lok Sabha query recently.

The deportees include 1,562 men and 141 women, with the highest numbers returning from states like Punjab (620), Haryana (604), Gujarat (245) and Uttar Pradesh (38).

The deportations were carried out via various modes, including US Customs and Border Protection military flights, chartered flights by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) charters. Addi-

tionally, several individuals were repatriated via commercial flights from both Panama and the US.

In a written reply to MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi, MoS Kirti Vardhan Singh confirmed that the government has taken up concerns with the US authorities regarding the treatment of

noted.

Specific objections were raised about the use of shackles, especially on women and children, and on issues related to cultural sensitivities such as turbans and dietary requirements. No complaints have been reported since February 5, 2025.

*The deportees include 1,562 men and 141 women, with the highest numbers returning from states like Punjab (620), Haryana (604), Gujarat (245) and Uttar Pradesh (38)*

deportees. "The Ministry strongly registered its concerns with the US authorities on the treatment of deportees, particularly with respect to use of shackles, especially on women and children," he

On the student visa issues, the MEA acknowledged it had received multiple representations about delays and difficulties in obtaining F, M, and J category US visas. *IANS*



# Court upholds block on Trump's asylum ban at US-Mexico border

WASHINGTON: A three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit has reaffirmed a lower court ruling that limits President Donald Trump's asylum ban at the US-Mexico border, effectively blocking a key order issued by Trump on his first day in office, The Hill reported.

Trump had sought to end asylum access for all migrants except those who entered the US at official ports of entry, claiming the change was necessary to stop what he described as an "invasion" at the southern border. In response, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration in February on behalf of nonprofit organizations.

While the DC Circuit panel--comprising Judges Patricia Millett, Cornelia Pillard, and Gregory G. Katsas--initially paused Moss's decision, it has now lifted the stay and allowed parts of the district court's ruling to take effect. However, the panel also narrowed the scope of Moss's decision, allowing the government to continue using elements of Trump's proclamation to bar certain migrants from accessing the asylum system, The Hill noted.

Reacting to the decision, Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin told CBS News, "The President secured the border in record time at an unprecedented level by using every available legal tool provided by Congress. A rogue district judge took those tools away, threatening the safety and security of Americans and ignoring a Supreme Court decision issued only days earlier admonishing district courts for granting nationwide injunctions."

*Trump had sought to end asylum access for all migrants except those who entered the US at official ports of entry, claiming the change was necessary to stop what he described as an "invasion" at the southern border*

In July, US District Judge Randolph Moss, an appointee of former President Barack Obama, ruled against the Trump-era ban, saying it violated the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), The Hill reported. Moss concluded that the former president overstepped his authority by severely restricting asylum for migrants fleeing danger and persecution.

"The Trump Administration is committed to restoring integrity to our immigration system and to our justice system," McLaughlin added.

The Hill reported that the case remains a flashpoint in the ongoing legal and political debate over presidential authority on immigration and the future of US asylum policy. ANI

## Immigration fraud fugitive arrested by Punjab police at Mumbai International Airport

LALRU: A 48-year-old man, Vikramjeet Singh; wanted in multiple immigration fraud cases involving crores of rupees, was arrested by the Lahli Police (Distt. SAS Nagar Mohali), from Mumbai International Airport.

According to Police Post in-charge Amandeep Singh, the accused was attempting to board a flight to Kenya using a forged passport.

Vikramjeet and his wife were having 6-7 cases registered in different police stations across four districts in Punjab. He was produced before the Dera Bassi court and sent on a four-day police remand.

As per the release, originally from Jalandhar, Vikramjeet Singh and his wife Karamjeet Kaur are accused of duping several people under the pretext of sending them abroad. Whenever a case was registered, they would relocate to a different district to avoid arrest.

In 2023, a case of fraud involving Rs 25 lakh was registered against them at Lalru Police Station, based on a complaint by Nirmal Singh, a retired army personnel from Dappar, who had paid them to send his son to Canada.

The accused's wife, Navneet Kaur, and their daughter had already reached Kenya much earlier.

Meanwhile, Amritsar Rural Police, in collaboration with central agencies, recovered a large consignment of weapons from five people allegedly involved in a trans-border smuggling network.

Speaking to ANI, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Amritsar Rural, Maninder Singh, said that five people have been arrested in the case, and the consignment was sent by an individual named Rana, linked to an ISI-sponsored terrorist element.

"Amritsar Rural Police, in collaboration with central agencies, conducted an operation and arrested five individuals. From them, one AK series assault rifle, 90 live rounds, two magazines, two Glock pistols, four Glock magazines, and Rs 7.5 lakh in drug money were recovered... The five arrested, Joban, Gora, Jaspreet, Sunny, and Shenshan, were stopped in a car in Kaler village, and arms were recovered from them. They revealed in a preliminary investigation that Nav Pandori, a close associate of gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, had ordered this consignment," SSP Singh told ANI. ANI

*Vikramjeet and his wife were having 6-7 cases registered in different police stations across four districts in Punjab. He was produced before the Dera Bassi court and sent on a four-day police remand*

## Germany's Bavaria steps up deportation of Afghans, Syrians

BERLIN: The Prime Minister of Germany's Bavaria state has once again emphasized the deportation of foreign criminals, including nationals from Afghanistan and Syria, as Germany pushes forward with a tougher migration stance, Tolo News reported.

Bavarian Premier Markus Soder stated that Germany has reformed its immigration policy, sending a clear message that all criminals and human traffickers will face quicker arrest and deportation in Bavaria than in other parts of the country.

"Law and order prevail in Bavaria. Foreign criminals must be decisively deported--even to Afghanistan and Syria. Overall, we have brought a shift in migration policy. The principle is: more people should be deported, and fewer should be accepted," Soder said.

Tolo News reported that the remarks come amid growing concerns among Afghan nationals living in Germany, who claim the federal government has tightened its stance toward foreign nationals--particularly Afghans--by delegating more authority to state governments in deporting individuals considered criminal offenders under German law.

Political analyst Najib Rahman Shamal said: "Germany has recently imposed stricter restrictions on refugees involved in criminal activities. These countries have reinforced their borders and imposed severe limitations."

Refugee rights activist Alireza Karimi also weighed in, stating that Soder's remarks reflect a harsh treatment of refugees in Germany. "Insisting on the deportation of Syrian and Afghan refugees indicates a significant legal shift in German state policy," he said.

Germany's renewed deportation push follows its latest action on July 17, when the country deported 81 Afghans to Kabul--marking the second such deportation this solar year, according to Tolo News.

In the wake of these developments, the caretaker government of Afghanistan has appointed two diplomats, Nebras-ul-Haq Aziz and Mostafa Hashimi, to serve at its embassy in Germany, a reliable source has told Tolo News.

Although the Acting Foreign Minister has not officially named the individuals, he confirmed that two diplomats have been dispatched to provide consular services to Afghan nationals. ANI

*"Law and order prevail in Bavaria. Foreign criminals must be decisively deported--even to Afghanistan and Syria. Overall, we have brought a shift in migration policy. The principle is: more people should be deported, and fewer should be accepted," Soder said.*



## Philosophy

OSHO

**G**oodness suffers from a basic weakness: it wants to keep away from conflicts and wars. Arjuna of the Mahabharat is a good man. The word "arjuna" in Sanskrit means the simple, the straightforward, clean. Arjuna means that which is not crooked. Arjuna is a simple and good man, a man with a clean mind and a kind heart. He does not want to get involved in any conflict and strife; he wants to withdraw.

Krishna is still more simple and good; his simplicity, his goodness knows no limits. But his simplicity, his goodness does not admit to any weakness and escape from reality. His feet are set firmly on the ground; he is a realist, and he is not going to allow Arjuna to run away from the battlefield.

Perhaps the world is once again being divided into two classes, into two camps. It happens often enough when a decisive moment comes and war becomes inevitable. Men like Gandhi and

point where a decisive event becomes imminent, the same destiny summons and sends forth the intelligence, the genius that is supremely needed to lead the event. And a right person, a Krishna appears on the scene.

The decisive event brings with it the decisive man too. It is for this also that I say Krishna has great significance for

the future. There are times when the voices of those who are good, simple and gentle cease to be effective, because people inclined to evil don't hear them, don't fear them, blindly go their own way.

In fact, as good people shrink back just out of

goodness, in the same measure the mischief makers become bold, feel like having a field day. India had many such good people after the Mahabharat, like Buddha and Mahavira. Nothing was lacking in their goodness; their goodness was infinite. In fact, it was too much - so much that the country's mind shrank under the weight of this goodness. The result was that the aggres-



Lord Krishna

## Goodness fights to prevent evil from winning

*As good people shrink back, the mischief makers become bold*

Russell will be of no use in this eventuality. In a sense they are all Arjunas. They will again say that war should be shunned at all costs, that it is better to be killed than to kill others.

A Krishna will again be needed, one who can clearly say that the forces of good must fight, that they must have the courage to handle a gun and fight a war. And when goodness fights only goodness flows from it. It is incapable of harming anyone. Even when it fights a war it becomes, in its hands, a holy war.

Goodness does not fight for the sake of fighting; it fights simply to prevent evil from winning. By and by the world will soon be divided into two camps. One camp will stand for materialism and all that it means, and the other camp will stand for freedom and democracy, for the sovereignty of the individual and other higher values of life. But is it possible that this camp representing good will find a Krishna to again lead it?

It is quite possible. When man's state of affairs, when his destiny comes to a

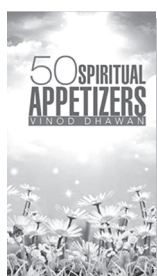
sors of the whole world set loose their hordes on India.

Know well that when someone slaps you, half the responsibility rests with you, because your being weak and passive becomes an invitation for him to hurt you.

*Excerpted from 'Krishna: The Man and His Philosophy - Talks given from 20/7/70 to 5/10/70 original in Hindi'. Janmashtami, the 5253rd birth anniversary of Krishna, is being celebrated on August 16*

### 50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

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Jac O'Keeffe

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## Democracy on Deadline: How electoral bureaucracy disenfranchises the marginalized in Bihar

DR KHWAJA MD AFROZ

**F**or thousands of voters in Bihar, casting a ballot has simply become a test of citizenship. The Election Commission of India's 2025 electoral roll revision aimed to 'filter out' the voter list has resulted in a bureaucratic and humanitarian disaster for Dalits, Muslims, landless peasants, migrant laborers, and displaced people. State-issued papers such as Aadhaar and voter IDs, which were previously praised as portals to welfare and inclusion, are now being discarded, putting countless people at risk of disenfranchisement, not as a result of fraud, but of systematic neglect. Democracy, in this situation, is not being protected. It is being filtered.

### Crisis of Documentation and Identity

In regions such as Bihar the land transcends mere geography; it embodies a profound sense of identity. What are the implications when successive generations of Dalits and Muslims have faced system-

concerns have emerged, particularly within marginalized communities that perceive the state as having disregarded their very existence.

### Electoral Bureaucracy Without Empathy

The typical justification for the ECI's defense has been that free and fair elections depend on the electoral roll being cleaned. There is no denying the importance of accuracy. However, fairness necessitates inclusion as well, and inclusion necessitates a thorough comprehension of the reality on the ground. Democracy is reduced to a paper chase when digital and bureaucratic measures are the only ones used, without regard for social context. The system has treated the impoverished as suspects rather than citizens in the purpose of avoiding fraud or duplication.

Numerous reports from local media and civil society organizations highlight startling trends, such as entire communities being

left off of voter lists, names being removed without warning, and officials refusing to accept alternative forms of identification. Settlements populated by Muslims and Dalits reported deletions of more than 40%

*In regions such as Bihar the land transcends mere geography; it embodies a profound sense of identity. What are the implications when successive generations of Dalits and Muslims have faced systematic exclusion from land ownership, or have been compelled to relocate as a result of Partition violence, caste-based oppression, or communal strife?*

atic exclusion from land ownership, or have been compelled to relocate as a result of Partition violence, caste-based oppression, or communal strife? Following independence, numerous communities transitioned into roles as wage laborers, artisans, or informal workers within urban slums. Their third generation is dispersed among various urban locales, devoid of ancestral documentation, birth certificates, or land records. To demand that they produce their "belongingness" within a specified timeframe is to exploit their historical dispossession.

Moreover, the exclusion bears a striking similarity to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) situation in Assam, where approximately two million individual - predominantly Bengali-speaking Muslims and Dalits - names were omitted from the final list, fostering an environment of trepidation and statelessness. In Bihar, analogous

in some places. The selective targeting of certain groups, according to activists, is a result of political design as well as administrative ineptitude.

### Political Implications and Selective Silence

The opposition's accusation that the governing body is orchestrating a clandestine NRC through electoral modifications is hardly surprising. With the impending state elections, many analysts view the revision exercise as a calculated effort to reshape the voter demographic by systematically sidelining groups that have traditionally backed secular or regional parties.

*(The author is Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad, India) South Asia Monitor*

For detailed story visit  
[www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com)

**Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author**



## Mawlynnong

"ASIA'S CLEANEST VILLAGE"

**M**awlynnong is a small village situated around 90 km from Shillong in the East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya and is also known as God's own Garden. It was declared as the cleanest village in Asia in 2003 by Discovery India which certainly makes it one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Indian state. Mawlynnong village is a community-based ecotourism initiative where the entire community made collective efforts in making and maintaining the cleanliness of the village.

Mawlynnong offers some of the most picturesque natural beauty with lush green valleys, crystal clear water in the river, an abundance of flowering orchids hanging from the trees and extremely clean roads which makes this small village a worth visiting destination for tourists visiting Meghalaya. Mawlynnong village also offers pleasant weather throughout the year and especially during monsoon, the village tends to extend its elegance which makes the visitors feel like heaven on earth. Apart from its cleanliness, Mawlynnong is also famous for its living root bridges, tribal locals having a 100% literacy rate with exceptional women empowerment and offering warm hospitality to the visitors.

### PLACES TO VISIT IN MAWLYNNONG

**Umngot river/Dawki river:** While visiting Mawlynnong village from Shillong, you will come across the Umngot/Dawki river, which is known as the cleanest river in India. The water is so clean and clear that the boats seem like floating on the river bed, which is a once in a lifetime experience. The boating charges in the river are around INR 600 for a 40-minute ride.

**Bophill Falls:** While travelling to Mawlynnong from Dawki, you will be delighted to witness an amazing piece of natural beauty in the form of a waterfall known as Bophill falls. The waters fall at an incredible force to form a river in the Sylhet border area of Bangladesh, making the water appear milky white in color.

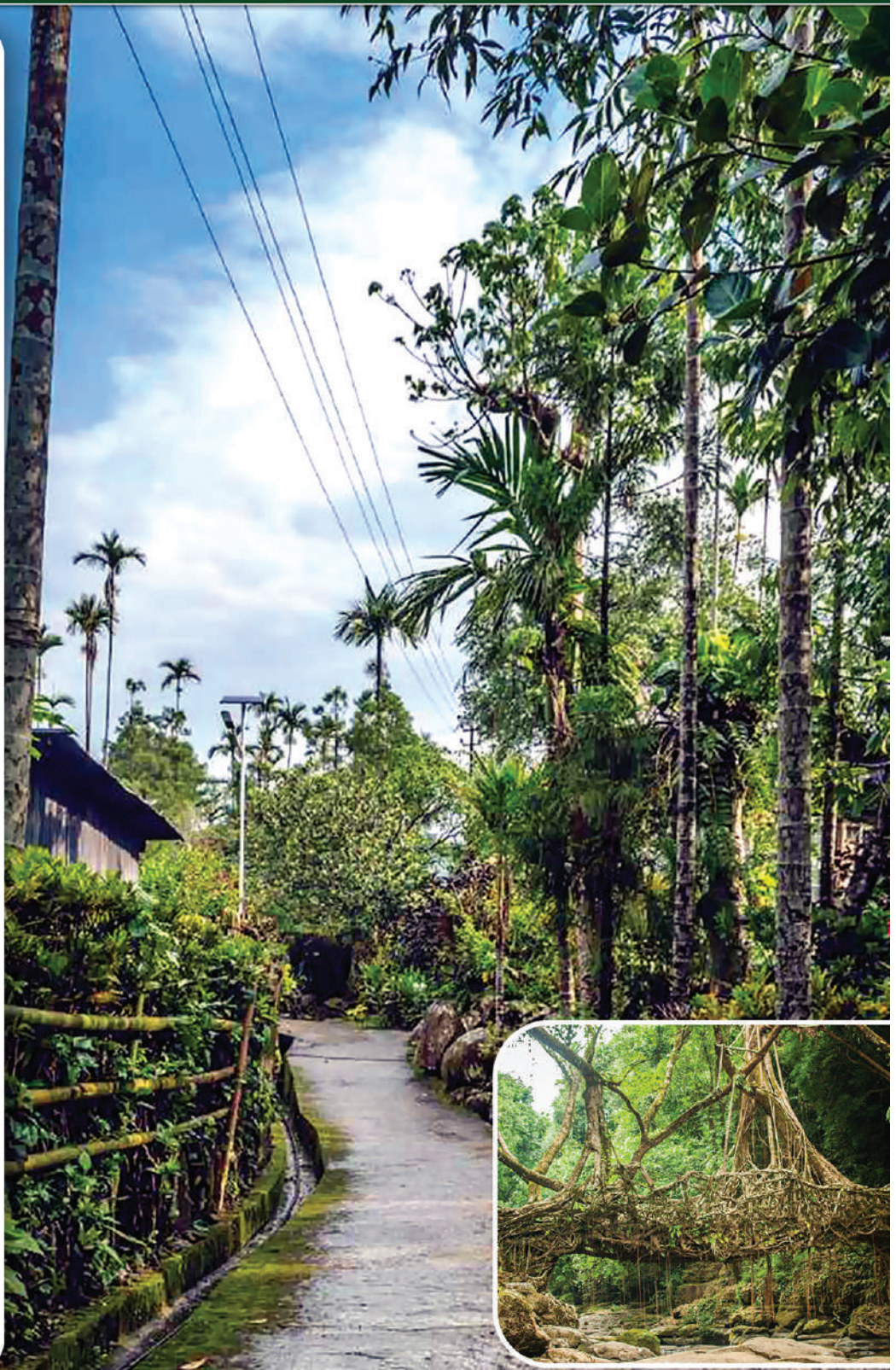
**Umngrem Falls:** Also known as Dawki falls, it is another waterfall situated near the border Road while travelling to Mawlynnong village which is considered as a hidden gem within the Meghalaya which is highly popular among the tourists.

**Sky view:** Also called Sky Walk, the place is a popular attraction at Mawlynnong village made up of cane and bamboo which offers complete view of Indo Bangladesh border along with the village. INR 10 will be charged per person to visit this 85 feet tower that offers a panoramic and picturesque view of the landscape, Indo Bangladesh border and local performing their daily activities

**Living root bridge and Riwai village:** After you have visited all the popular places in the Mawlynnong village, visit Riwai village which is situated just 2 Km away. The village is well known for its beautiful trekking through the rainforests.

www.holidify.com

For detailed story visit [www.indiapost.com](http://www.indiapost.com)





## Tamannaah Bhatia on ADULT FRIENDSHIPS

**T**his Friendship Day, actress Tamannaah Bhatia revealed that while everyone talks about their friends from school and college, according to her, adult friendships are the best.

Stating the perks of adult friendship in a heartfelt post, Tamannaah dropped a video on social media where she was heard saying, "You know, adult friendships are the best. It's like every friend that I talk to, our every call ends with an 'I love you'". Every phone call is about attending to how you are feeling, and it's such a misnomer that you meet your best friends when you are in your school and college, but I think adult friendships are the best."

Reacting to the post, one of Tamannaah's close friends, Rasha Thadani, wrote in the comment section, "I love u u r going to make me cry."

Kajal Aggarwal added, "Awwww I love you! Happy friendships day my dearest tamu."

Mrunal Thakur penned, "Awwww i am crying".

Mrunal also shared Tamannaah's post on her Instagram stories along with an emotional message.

Showering the 'Baahubali' actress with love, she wrote, "Life may be busy and chaotic but with friends like you, it's all worth it T. You bring so much joy and love into my life and I'm forever grateful. Nuvvvvv u @tamannaahspeaks."

On the professional front, the 35-year-old actress is currently busy with her next "Vvan: Force of the Forest", where she will be seen sharing the screen space with Sidharth Malhotra for the first time.

The gripping teaser of the drama shows Tamannaah making her way into the world of mythology and mysticism. **IANS**

## AJITH KUMAR REFLECTS ON HIS 33 YEARS IN CINEMA

**O**ne of the biggest names in the Tamil film industry, Ajith Kumar, has successfully completed 33 glorious years of his cinematic journey.

Commemorating the milestone, the 'Valimai' actor decided to look back at his incredible journey from being just an outsider with no film background to becoming one of the most loved actors in the South.

Ajith released a statement saying, "As I complete 33 years in this extraordinary journey called cinema, I do not pen this to celebrate. I don't wait for landmark numbers as I believe that each passing year is a landmark year. I thank you all with a full heart and folded hands."

"This journey was never easy. I did not come from legacy or influence. I started from the outside, with nothing more than a will to try. Life, in its own way, tested me over and over through injuries, setbacks, failures, and silence. But I never stopped. I endured. I got back up. "And I kept moving forward," he added.

Ajith further revealed that perseverance is not something he learnt, but something he lived. **IANS**

## TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

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

## Disha Patani tries contemporary dance with a 'sexy' teacher

**D**isha Patani took to social media to share a glimpse of her first-ever attempt at contemporary chair dance.

Under the guidance of her 'sexy' instructor, she showcased her effortless dance moves. Taking to her Instagram handle, the actress shared a video of herself dancing with a chair to Lata Mangeshkar's popular track "Jiya Jale" from Shah Rukh Khan's film "Dil Se." In the clip, Disha, clad in black athleisure, is seen performing the energetic routine alongside her instructor.

Alongside the clip, the 'Baaghi 2' actress wrote, "First time trying it, will

keep practicing with the sexiest teacher." Reacting to her post, many praised Disha's moves **IANS**





## ISHA KOPPIKAR: AGEING, AN ACTOR'S GREATEST STRENGTH

Actress Isha Koppikar, who is known for her work in 'Don', 'Kya Kool Hai Hum', and others, feels that ageing for an actor is an enriching experience as they can use their understanding of the world, courtesy the experience, as a strength adding a lot to their performance.

Reflecting on a well-known example, she said, "A film was made in 2019, titled Saand Ki Aankh. They made the film with youngsters in it, and Neena Gupta had also said that if you have written a role for a 50-year-old or a 60-year-old woman, then why are you casting and portraying 30-year-old girls as old? Why not take actors who have proven that they are really good, talented actors? Why are you not taking them now? Why do you think they are jaded?"

She further mentioned, "With time comes a deeper emotional understanding. That can bring something truly special to a character." Emphasizing on the importance of making space for stories that span the full spectrum of life experiences, Isha adds, "There's so much value in reflecting a variety of perspectives. When we include characters who are older, we're giving audiences more authentic, relatable stories".

However, the actress is hopeful about the direction the industry is heading in. In recent years, more films have started to feature older female protagonists, and discussions around representation have become more common. Isha sees this as a step toward a more inclusive approach to storytelling, one where both youth and maturity have their place.

She added, "Age shouldn't be seen as a limitation but as a valuable asset. It's about telling stories that feel real and allow actors of all ages to shine". IANS



## NEERU BAJWA CALLS 'TEHRAN' CO-STAR JOHN ABRAHAM, A DREAM CO-ACTOR

Actress Neeru Bajwa, who predominantly works in Punjabi cinema, has made a return to Hindi cinema with the recently released 'Son Of Sardaar 2' and is set to follow it up with another Hindi release 'Tehran'. The actress is all praise for her 'Tehran' co-star John Abraham.

While in 'Son of Sardaar 2', she essays the role of Bollywood superstar Ajay Devgn's wife, in 'Tehran' she shares the screen with John and Manushi Chhillar.

Talking about the film, Neeru said, "It is quite an amazing phase for me, getting to work in back-to-back Hindi releases. While 'Son Of Sardaar 2' is a comedy, Tehran will see me play an intense role and it is a poignant story that needs to be told. I feel really proud of my association with the film".

She also shared her experience of working with John, as she said, "John is a dream co-actor to work with and it was such a seamless experience working with him. The intensity and authenticity that he brings to his portrayal is commendable. Having a good co-star helps you perform better too and that happened with me on 'Tehran' with John. IANS

## Rubina Dilaik on why 'Pati Patni Aur Panga'

Popular TV actress Rubina Dilaik has opened up about her decision to join the reality show "Pati Patni Aur Panga" alongside husband Abhinav Shukla.

In an interview with IANS, she shared why she agreed to do the show post embracing motherhood. When asked what inspired her to take up the show after embracing motherhood, Dilaik shared that the concept resonated with her current phase in life and gave her a chance to explore a new dynamic with her husband Abhinav on screen. "After becoming a mother, I wanted to spend more time with my husband. I wanted to have some fun, so I took up this show."

When quizzed about whether reality shows are scripted, the Chotti Bahu actress stated, "Reality shows aren't scripted, but they are maneuvered. If a certain aspect works well, the makers steer it to highlight more of that element. So, no, it's not scripted, but yes, it's guided."

Abhinav Shukla also spoke about a direct correlation between screen time and the longevity of relationships on reality shows. According to him, "The more the screen time, the shorter the relationship might last."

Rubina added, "He's right. The more we can accept each other's differences, the better. We have to accept that we are different individuals with unique personalities, and respecting that will reduce fights and misunderstandings." IANS





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# Trump's tariffs, India, and the misreading of America

MAYANK CHHAYA

**A**t the heart of the rapidly souring India-US relations over the threat by President Donald Trump to impose 25% tariffs on New Delhi is a fundamental misreading of the notion of American friendship by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his advisers.

American society is generally given to hyperbole and expressions of accentuated superlatives even to describe things and situations in life that do not rise anywhere close to deserving them. It bears remembering that this is a society that casually uses "great" to describe any and all things. There are those who describe even bowel movement as great.

Of course, great in its pure

Trump, tariffs have been a long-held conviction for decades before he entered politics. Rightly or wrongly, he unassailably thinks that tariffs are a decisive weapon to achieve all manners of strategic and diplomatic goals. As it turns out, many countries have yielded to that logic out of their own particular sense of vulnerability, the European Union being the latest one. That in turn has only made Trump even more convinced about his approach.

## Overreading of Friendship

It is possible that at some level he does regard Modi as his friend but that is only in a limited sense. At best, it is a qualified friendship. If it stands in the way of his running of U.S. affairs or accom-

any world leader, particularly Trump will have no bearing on his policy however much he continues to refer to both India and the prime minister as his friend. At best, it is a lip-deep expression that so many Indians, both here in America and in India, have treated as an article of faith. It is anything but that.

Beyond the hard economic impact of the 25% tariff on India what needs to be remembered is that this is going to be the approach and attitude out of Washington until the next presidential election in 2028. New Delhi will have to make a choice of whether to calibrate its response in a pragmatic and unemotional way that does not significantly upend the relationship or take a loftily principled stand in defense of its civilizational pride.

## Tough Call for Modi

For any prime minister, this is a tough call. It is particularly so for one who invested so much political capital in the U.S. president and indiscriminately so. It is entirely conceivable that a deal will be reached that broadly grants India's interests even while ceding Washington some ground. Unlike China, India is not in a position to take a devil-may-care position. However, those who understand the intricacies of global trade say that the prime minister can still stand up to the president even as he directs the country's exporters to tap other markets.

According to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), "U.S. total goods trade with India were an estimated \$129.2 billion in 2024. U.S. goods exports to India in 2024 were \$41.8 billion, up 3.4 percent (\$1.4 billion) from 2023. U.S. goods imports from India totaled \$87.4 billion in 2024, up 4.5 percent (\$3.7 billion) from 2023.

*(The writer is a Chicago-based journalist and analyst. Views expressed are personal)*  
*South Asia Monitor*

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*With that as the backdrop Modi and his advisers should have known that Trump's seeming effusions about "my friend, Prime Minister Modi" were not necessarily in the spirit in which emotional Indians interpret. There is a cultural disconnect at play here*

sense means something or someone whose eminence or quality is far above average, distinguished by features truly out of the ordinary.

With that as the backdrop Modi and his advisers should have known that Trump's seeming effusions about "my friend, Prime Minister Modi" were not necessarily in the spirit in which emotional Indians interpret. There is a cultural disconnect at play here.

## Weaponising of Tariffs

By its very nature, U.S. presidency is driven by a sense of manifest destiny, and its occupants have always believed in American exceptionalism. Their professions of equal friendship with world leaders are more often than not a pose. They have no bearing on their policy.

In any case for President

plishing personal and political goals, it would be cast aside without any qualms just as it would be revived if it was determined to be utilitarian.

In contrast, the impression that Modi has given over the last 11 years as prime minister in dealing with world leaders is that he gets taken in by their public poses. He comes across as someone who thinks he has that special knack to charm and disarm his interlocutors. He often displays certain unseemly eagerness and familiarity as was evident during his recent interactions with Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Memes of Modi practically grabbing Starmer's hands have been doing the rounds of social media.

A hug, even an awkward or forced one, between Modi and



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## WHY U.S. STILL SUPPORTS PAKISTAN?

**T**he relationship between the two nations is best described as a "roller coaster" ride, characterized by close coordination and, lows marked by deep bilateral estrangement. Despite its troubled history, the Pakistani military once occupied an important place in American geopolitical strategy, and has been a major non-NATO ally since 2002. After Pakistan's participation in the Afghan peace process and Taliban takeover in Afghanistan in 2021, a sizeable number of US policy makers are revisiting United States' relations with Pakistan. At the same time, the strategic convergence of the United States and India has also brought greater pressure on Pakistani diplomacy.

However, the U.S.'s troubled relationship with Pakistan continues to be eroded crisis after crisis. It is alleged that ISI of Pakistan paid journalists to write articles hostile to United States during early 2010s. Is it not surprising that Pakistan being a close ally of United States fooled U.S. by providing Bin Laden a safe haven on its soil, while continuing to receive U.S. taxpayers' money, to fight terror. Despite this, the United States continued to seek a productive relationship to defeat terrorist organizations in the War on Terror.

In recent years, Islamabad has arguably lost some of its strategic significance in the West following the US/NATO withdrawal from Afghanistan. Pakistan once provided NATO with a supply route to Afghanistan, a link that dominated bilateral relations during the war. However, with the end of the war and the withdrawal of US troops from the region early 2020s, Pakistan's influence on the US disappeared and, US no longer needed it to engage with Afghanistan.

During these periods Pakistan changed its strategy and developed close relations with China. China of course took advantage and slowly filled the vacuum created left by U.S.. Now China has fully taken control of Pakistan's economy by providing loans against exploitation of minerals and oil. The way scenarios are developing; Pakistan may never be able to fulfill its obligation and return the loan and may soon become a failed State.

In a recent conflict U.S. bombed Iran for developing nuclear weapons while at the same time, U.S. continues to support Pakistan known to be the proliferator of nuclear weapons to other Islamic States.

Pakistan also fails to realize it can never win a direct conflict with democratic India, even after losing two major wars and a regional conflict in Kargil. So, as a policy, it continues to bleed India with its proxy war using terror as its weapon.

After the Modi government came to power, the strategy on terror has changed. India in recent times has been treating and neutralizing all acts of terrorism with the latest and state of the art technology, as it showed recently during "Operation Sindoor". Even after being hit badly on its defense establishments and India neutralizing the terror-training bases in Pakistan, within minutes Pakistan launched a false campaign as it has done in the past.

It appears the Trump administration, instead of supporting India who successfully continues to contain terror, is providing concessions on Tariffs to Pakistan and slapping India instead.

To the democratic world and the American tax payer the question is why our country continues to support Pakistan?

**Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author**





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