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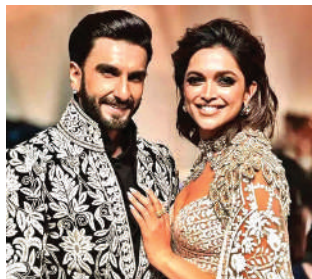


Radio Zindagi Group launch Suno 87.7 FM

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India, US work on 'early conclusion' of trade pact

► Details on page 12



Deepika-Ranveer seen together after Dua's birth

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HINDU PLURALISM

An untold story of Global Hindu Pluralism and universal harmony

NEW DELHI: Some may dismiss religion for being divisive. I, however, have experienced the Hindu tradition as a unifier. On the morning of 22 January 2024, I chanted Siya-Rama and Swaminarayan intermittently while watching Prime Minister Narendra Modi perform the inauguration of the Rama Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya.

I observed around me not only the diversity of the flock, but its solidarity. Shaivas, Shaktas, Vaishnavas, Swaminarayans, Jains, Sikhs, Christians and Muslims all experienced themselves as Bharatiya. This focus on similarities is the way of Bharat - a land of diverse religions, sects, manifestations of the Divine (deities), languages, foods, and people.

As Hindus around the world prepared to celebrate Ramanavami and Swaminarayan Jayanti on Chaitra Shukla Navami, I found that morning in Ayodhya at the forefront of my consciousness even as I sat here in Abu Dhabi.

It heartens me to briefly reflect on the plurality of deities in India through the lives of Shri Rama and Shri Swaminarayan.

The plurality of lineages or sampradays, have been an asset to the Hindu Sanatan tradition for nearly two millennia. These sampradays typically worship different manifestations of the divine and believe in distinct theological principles or dar?ans. Despite these differences and diversities, Hinduism has flourished as one identity.

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PM Modi lauds Dubai's 'key role' in partnership

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Nainital: Lush green hills and the City of Lakes

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: President Droupadi Murmu being accorded a ceremonial welcome with the Guard of Honour, at the Presidential Palace, in Bratislava. Slovakia President Peter Pellegrini is also present. (ANI Photo) Details on page 12

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INDIA POST SURVEY

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This week's question

Will Trump listen to Musk on tariff?

Last week's result

Will US attack Iran if they refuse to sign nuclear deal?

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HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:

Ameesha Patel defends Fawad Khan



Addressing the ongoing debate, Ameesha highlighted that the country has always celebrated talent, regardless of its origin, and that art transcends borders.

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Mom-to-be Kiara Advani



Mom-to-be Kiara Advani to add another feather to her cap, as she will be representing India at the prestigious Met Gala 2025

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HINDU PLURALISM



The focus on similarities is the way of Bharat -a land of diverse religions, sects, manifestations of the Divine, languages, foods, and people

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US tariffs



With China facing a 34 percent US tariff and Vietnam 46 percent, India's relatively lower tariff of 27 percent may shift supply chain dynamics

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Capt. Aparna Hande's vision



Capt. Hande set the tone for the event, underscoring significance of non-violence and harmony across all faiths, which resonated throughout the subsequent speeches

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Nainital: City of Lakes



Visitors are drawn to Nainital for scenic vistas, adventure activities, and charming colonial architecture. Closer to Dehradun & Delhi, Nainital is a perfect weekend getaway

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US to revoke visas for South Sudan



US Department of State announced immediate measures to revoke all visas held by South Sudanese passport holders and prevent issuance of new visas

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World Health Day



PM Narendra Modi, on occasion of World Health Day, urged Indians to adopt a healthier lifestyle and work towards a life free from obesity

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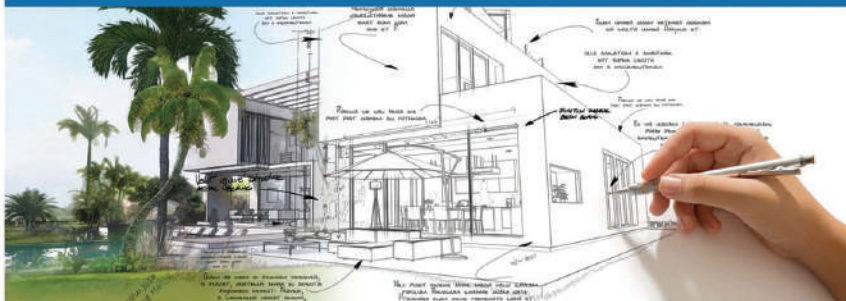
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Thou art the Kettledrum of victory today, Thou art the Hero of the world."*

- Guru Gobind Singh Ji



Sunday, April 20, 2025

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3:40 am Japji Sahib • 4 am to 6 am - Asa di Vaar

6 am to 6:45 am - Grand Procession of Siri Guru Granth Sahib Ji to Convention Center

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Ragi Jathas from Southern CA Gurudwaras
and Saropa Presentations

3:00 pm Grand Procession of Siri Guru Granth Sahib Ji
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HINDU PLURALISM

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It heartens me to briefly reflect on the plurality of deities in India through the lives of Shri Rama and Shri Swaminarayan.

The plurality of lineages or sampradays, have been an asset to the Hindu Sanatan tradition for nearly two millennia. These sampradays typically worship different manifestations of the divine and believe in distinct theological principles or dar?ans. Despite these differences and diversities, Hinduism has flourished as one identity.

This variability reiterated the universal lessons of Hinduism for different regional communities in disparate languages and eras. Shri Rama is celebrated for his discipline, dignity (maryada), and respect for individuals irrespective of their social class and gender.

These stories are well known and well told. I first encountered them before my initiation as a youth while reading the Amar Chitra Katha series. I later retold them several times in sermons across India, Europe, and the Middle East.

Not too far from Ayodhya, just across the Saryu River, is Chhapaiya, a small village in the Gonda District of Uttar Pradesh, which is celebrated as Shri Swaminarayan's birthplace.

Millions flock annually to this small town to honor the teachings of Shri Swaminarayan. Swaminarayan left home at the age of eleven, travelled across the Indian subcontinent from the Himalayas to

Kanyakumari, and later settled in Gujarat.

Swaminarayan's sabha in Gujarat became a place for open conversation among devotees, theologians, and politi-

teachings is why the Hindu concept of manifestation (avtara) is important -- not to alienate and separate Hindu believers through reverence for different manifesta-

His subtle yet impressive reform of class-oppressive practices and superstitious ritualistic behavior has been lauded by his contemporaries and subsequent Hindu leaders. It can be argued that his teachings paved the way for an articulation of Hinduism that spoke to a changing Colonial India and later a grand global Hindu identity.

Most importantly, Shri Swaminarayan's community resonated the Vedic Hindu Sanatan teachings outside of India in an impactful manner.

BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Jersey, USA, BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi, and the most recently inaugurated BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and Cultural Complex in Johannesburg, South Africa make accessible the universal teachings of Hinduism to tens of millions outside of India.

Again, I reflect on Shri Swaminarayan's work and teachings as a celebration of the collectiveness and commonality found in all of Hinduism -- as a continuation or reverberation and not an amendment or restructuring of the work of those who preceded him.

I write this final thought while sitting under the central dome of the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

In such mandirs and cultural complexes, Shri Rama and Shri Swaminarayan, along with several other deities, grace all. Here, the benedictions are not limited to those who identify as Swaminarayan, or even more broadly Hindu.

There are no conversations of superiority or hierarchy-only blessings for all those who come with curiosity, spiritual thirst, or a quest for personal betterment or cultural belonging. These are the lessons of love, peace and harmony, which are the need of the hour for all countries, communities, cultures and religions.

No wonder, the universal ideal of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - the whole world is one family - which is one of the core values of the Hindu Sanatan Dharma is felt here, on the Day of Ram Navmi.

(Sadhu Brahmaviharidas is a Hindu monk initiated into the Swaminarayan Sampraday by His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj in 1981. He currently serves as the head monk responsible for the design, creation, and management of the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates) IANS



BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Jersey, USA, BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi, and the most recently inaugurated BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and Cultural Complex in Johannesburg, South Africa make accessible the universal teachings of Hinduism to tens of millions outside of India

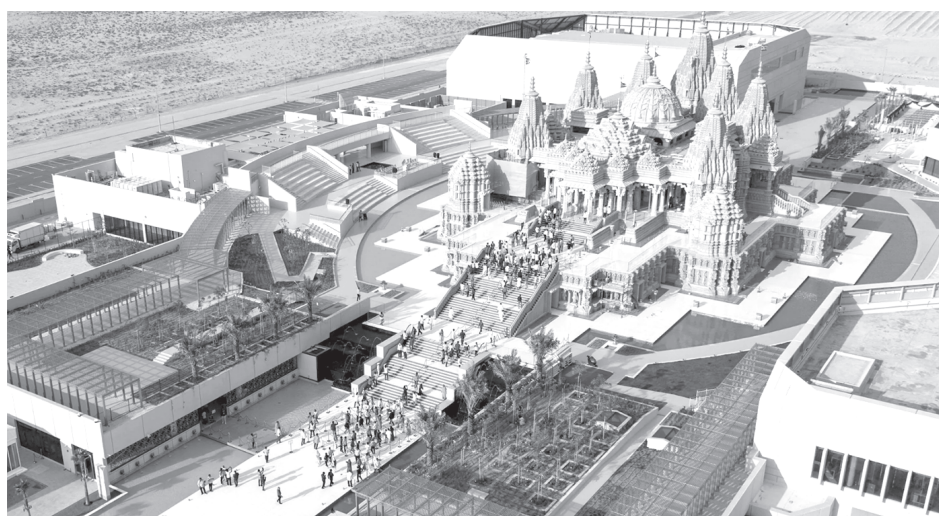
cal emissaries, but also the performance of music and literature representing various cultural streams from across India.

These conversations were compiled in a text of 273 teachings called the Vachanamrut. The proliferation of these lessons amplified the earlier teachings of Maryada Purushottam Shri Rama and Lila Purushottam Shri Krishna, both of whom Shri Swaminarayan revered.

The relevance of Swaminarayan's

tions of Divinity, but rather to unite them by sharing these same lessons in various tones and registers for diverse communities after a few thousand years.

Shri Swaminarayan's social reform work embodies these same Hindu values and promotes spiritual excellence. His emphasis on empowering women's status in the home as well as in society has been appreciated by notable scholars and historians such as Kanaivalal M. Munshi.



Elon Musk unsuccessfully appealed to Trump to roll back tariffs, says US newspaper

WASHINGTON DC: Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, who heads the US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), had appealed to American President Donald Trump to reconsider the retaliatory import tariffs, the Washington Post reported, citing sources.

According to the US daily, Musk's attempted intervention was unsuccessful and the CEO of X and Tesla also disagreed with other high-ranking Washington officials on issues such as migrant visas and DOGE's approach to government spending, The Washington Post pointed out citing two people familiar with the matter.

The newspaper recalled that on April 5, Musk criticized White House trade adviser Peter Navarro, who played a key role in preparing a plan to introduce tariffs. "A PhD in Econ from Harvard is a bad thing, not a good thing," Musk wrote on his X page, referring to Navarro. This exchange marks the highest-profile disagreement between the President and Musk, the report said

The Washington Post also said that Musk had over the weekend said that he would like to see a "free trade zone" between Europe and the United States. "

"At the end of the day, I hope it's agreed that both Eu-

rope and the United States should move ideally, in my view, to a zero-tariff situation," the newspaper quoted the entrepreneur as saying.

According to Musk, he would like people to be able to move freely between European countries and the US "if they wish." "That has certainly been my advice to the president," he added.

"At the end of the day, I hope it's agreed that both Europe and the United States should move ideally, in my view, to a zero-tariff situation"

Musk's brother and fellow Tesla board member Kimbal Musk also lobbed sharp criticism at the President over the tariff policies.

Trump had announced a sweeping 10 percent baseline tariff on all imports to the United States, alongside steeper duties targeting specific countries, including India.

Meanwhile, Tesla sales plunged 13 percent in the first three months of this year, the largest drop in deliveries in its history, as backlash against CEO Elon Musk and growing competition took a

large bite out of demand for its EVs, as per a report in the CNN earlier this month.

Amid the turmoil in the global markets following the tariff announcements, US President Donald Trump has ruled out the possibility of a "pause" on the tariffs on countries during negotiations. AN/

Pakistan can say goodbye to IMF by tapping mineral wealth: PM Shehbaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan could free itself from reliance on global financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) if it successfully harnessed its mineral reserves, which are estimated to be worth "trillions of dollars." He made the remarks while addressing the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2025 (PMIF25), held at the Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad, Dawn reported.

The two-day forum brings together around 300 foreign delegates and aims to showcase investment opportunities in Pakistan's emerging mineral sector. The government plans to unveil a unified national framework to promote mining ventures across all four provinces, as well as Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan.

"The deposits are valued in trillions of dollars. If we are able to harvest these great assets... Pakistan would say goodbye to institutions like the IMF... It will be able to get rid of the mountain of loans and borrowed sums of money costing us a fortune," PM Shehbaz said. He also emphasized that any future investor engagement would be conditional on downstream processing within Pakistan.

"We will not allow raw materials to be shipped out of Pakistan," he stated. "There has to be an integrated policy where you [investors] mine raw material, have downstream industry, convert them into finished goods and then export it out." AN/

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PM Modi lauds Dubai's 'key role' in advancing India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in New Delhi, asserting that Dubai has played a "key role" in advancing the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Prime Minister Modi hosted a working lunch for the visiting dignitary who had arrived in New Delhi earlier in the day at his invitation.

"Glad to meet HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai. Dubai has played a key role in advancing the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. This special visit reaffirms our deep-rooted friendship and paves the way for even stronger collaboration in the future," Prime Minister Modi posted on X after the meeting.

This is Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum's first official visit to India as the Crown Prince of Dubai and he is accompanied by several ministers, senior government officials and a high-level business delegation.

"It was a pleasure meeting the Prime Minister Narendra Modi today in New Delhi. Our conversations reaffirmed the strength of UAE-India ties which is built on trust, shaped by history, and driven by a shared vision to create a future full of opportunity, innovation, and lasting prosperity," he posted on X after meeting PM Modi.

The Crown Prince also held meetings with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar and Defense Minister Rajnath Singh.

"Delighted to welcome Crown Prince of Dubai and DPM & Minister of Defense of UAE HH Hamdan Mohammed at the start of his first official visit to India. Value his positive sentiments for our wide-ranging cooperation and vibrant ties," said EAM Jaishankar.

Defense Minister Rajnath also said that he had a "productive meeting" with the Crown Prince of Dubai.

"For India, the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with the UAE is of immense priority. In the coming years, we are eager to work closely in areas such as defense cooperation, co-production and co-development projects, innovation and technology. Both India and the UAE are committed to work towards peace and prosperity in the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Dubai Crown Prince Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, in New Delhi. (ANI Photo)

region," Singh posted on X.

After Delhi, the Crown Prince will visit Mumbai and will also participate in a business roundtable with prominent business leaders from both sides. The interaction will strengthen India-UAE economic and commercial cooperation across traditional and futuristic areas.

"Traditionally, Dubai has played an important role in India's commercial, cultural and people-to-people exchanges with the UAE. Majority of India's around 4.3 million diaspora in UAE reside and work in Dubai. The visit of His Highness the Crown Prince will further solidify the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and strengthen our multifaceted ties with Dubai," read a statement issued by the MEA. *IANS*

President Murmu addresses Indian diaspora in Portugal, highlights strong bilateral ties

LISBON: President Droupadi Murmu addressed members of the Indian diaspora in Portugal, emphasizing that the community embodies the shared values of democracy, pluralism, and fraternity that link both nations.

President Murmu addressed the Indian community during a reception hosted by the Ambassador of India to Portugal as part of her state visit to Portugal.

In her address, President Murmu highlighted the role of the Indian community in Portugal, noting that the community, which represents many parts of India and various cultural backgrounds, reflects India's diversity.

"The President said that members of the Indian community representing many parts of India and different communities not only reflect the diversity of India but also represent the shared values of democracy, pluralism and the spirit of fraternity that bind our two countries," she said, taking to social media platform X.

She acknowledged the strong cultural ties between the

two countries, pointing out the popularity of Indian art, culture, cuisine, Yoga, and Ayurveda in Portugal and also discussed India's transformative path, focusing on the initiatives undertaken by the Indian government in the past decade, changes in the governance system, and efforts to engage the creative energy of the Indian people.

"During my short but profoundly meaningful stay in Portugal, I felt the strong cultural ties between India and Portugal, which can be seen in the popularity of Indian art, culture, and cuisine, Yoga, and Ayurveda. India is on a transformative path today. The initiatives taken by the Indian government over the past 10 years, changes in the governance system, and the efforts to energize the creative energy of our people are contributing to this," she said during her address.

President Murmu reaffirmed the Government of India's commitment to strengthening its relationship with the diaspora and ensuring their welfare. *ANI*

India, US work on 'early conclusion' of trade pact

WASHINGTON: India and the United States have said they both wanted an "early conclusion" of a bilateral trade agreement.

The two countries have accelerated talks on the agreement in the run-up to and following US President Donald Trump's announcement of a reciprocal tariff of 26 percent on goods from India, along with a broader levy of varying degrees that covers nearly all of America's trading partner countries.

"Exchanged perspectives on the Indo-Pacific, the Indian Subcontinent, Europe, Middle East/West Asia and the Caribbean," External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar wrote in a post on X after a phone call with his American counterpart, Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

"Agreed on the importance of the early conclusion of the Bilateral Trade Agreement," he went on to write in the post, adding "look forward to remaining in touch".

The call appeared to be the first publicly known contact between cabinet officials of the two countries after Trump's announcement last week.

US readout of the call is awaited.

India has not announced a retaliatory tariff such as China, which hit back with a 34 percent levy on American goods matching the American tariff. Most other trading partner countries of the US have held back from retaliation and indicated readiness to negotiate with the US instead. Vietnam was the first, offering to scale down its tariffs to zero. Trump also spoke with Japan's Shigeru Ishiba.

The US President said in a post on Truth Social, his social media platform, "Countries from all over the world are talking to us. Tough but fair parameters are being set. Spoke to the Japanese Prime Minister this morning. He is sending a top team to negotiate! They have treated the US very poorly on Trade. They don't take our cars, but we take millions of theirs. Likewise agriculture, and many other things. It all has to change, but especially with China!!!"

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is meeting Trump later in what is being called the first in-person meeting between a world leader and the American President on tariffs. Trump has slapped a tariff of 17 percent on Israel, a key military ally. *IANS*

The two countries have accelerated talks on the agreement in the run-up to and following US President Donald Trump's announcement of a reciprocal tariff of 26 percent on goods from India, along with a broader levy of varying degrees that covers nearly all of America's trading partner countries

Tibetans call out China's language policy amid claims of cultural erasure

BEIJING: Hundreds of Tibetans have flocked to social media to urge the Chinese government to reinstate Tibetan language education in schools, following Beijing's release of a white paper asserting that Tibetan language rights are guaranteed in the region, according to a report by Radio Free Asia (RFA).

In the report from March 28 discussing human rights in Tibet, China declared that Tibetan is frequently used in government documents, public announcements, media, and educational institutions, claiming that both Mandarin and Tibetan are taught in primary and secondary schools, according to RFA.

However, Tibetans argue that this statement is inaccurate and that China has deliberately sought to diminish the usage of their language, which they view as part of a broader effort to erase Tibetan cultural identity, as noted by RFA.

In 2020, Mandarin became the main language of instruction in all primary and secondary schools in Tibet, labeled as "bilingual" education; however, in practice, Mandarin was predominantly used, as highlighted by RFA.

In 2023, China introduced a Mandarin-only policy for students taking the annual college entrance examination, placing many ethnic minorities, including Tibetan children who had previously been able to take the test in their native language, at a disadvantage, as cited by an RFA report.

Moreover, the title of the white paper, "Human Rights in Xizang in the New Era," utilized the

Beijing-endorsed term "Xizang" to refer to Tibet, further indicating efforts to assimilate Tibetans into Han Chinese culture. According to RFA, access to Tibet for outsiders has been severely limited by China, making it extremely challenging to accurately depict the conditions on the ground. ANI

In 2020, Mandarin became the main language of instruction in all primary and secondary schools in Tibet, labeled as "bilingual" education; however, in practice, Mandarin was predominantly used, as highlighted by RFA

Raman Nehra appointed as State Cell Executive Member by Punjab BJP NGO Cell

SHIV KAURA

PHAGWARA: Punjab BJP NGO Cell has appointed Raman Nehra as State Cell Executive Member. Punjab BJP NGO Cell State Convener Manjinder Singh while issuing the appointment letter to him at a party function in Ludhiana said that this cell enables Raman Nehra to enhance the efficiency of NGOs in the designated area with the help of Central Government schemes and develop cordial relations to support them for the welfare of the society. He said that he is confident that with Raman Nehra's honest efforts and hard work, he will be able to perform his duties as per the strict norms and expectations of the party. This will help the party to gain a strong foothold among all sections of the society. He wished Raman Nehra a successful tenure.

Raman Nehra, while welcoming his appointment, thanked the State Convener Manjinder Singh and assured that he would discharge the responsibility entrusted to him with complete honesty and dedication. It is worth noting that social worker Raman Nehra is already associated with many

social service organizations and is always available to serve the society with full readiness. He is the General Secretary of Khatri Mahasabha Punjab and is also the State President of Human Rights Council India (Anti-Corruption Cell). As the President of Vishwa Hindu Sangh, District Kapurthala, he is always busy in social welfare works. On

this occasion, many intellectuals of Phagwara have congratulated Raman Nehra.



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US tariffs: Gold, crude oil prices tumble amid global uncertainty

NEW DELHI: The effect of the newly announced reciprocal tariffs by US President Donald Trump is now being felt in the global commodity markets, with sharp declines seen in the prices of key commodities like gold and crude oil.

According to the Indian Bullion Jewellers Association (IBJA), the price of 24-carat gold on 7 April fell sharply by Rs 2,613 to Rs 88,401 per 10 grams, down from Rs 91,014 on Friday 4 April.

Similarly, the price of 22-carat gold dropped to Rs 86,280 per 10 grams, while 18-carat gold is now priced at Rs 78,680 per 10 grams.

Silver prices also took a hit. A kilogram of silver declined by Rs 4,535 to Rs 88,375, compared to its previous price of Rs 92,910 per kg.

The fall in gold prices is largely due to a global decline in rates. The price of gold internationally has come down from its record high of \$3,201 per ounce to \$3,060 per ounce.

A similar trend is seen in silver, which dropped from \$35 per ounce to around \$30.40 per ounce. Crude oil prices have also slumped amid concerns over a slowdown in global economic activity following the announcement of the trade tariffs.

On 7 April, Brent crude was trading 2.12 percent lower at \$64.24 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude dropped 2.24 percent to \$60.61 per barrel. *IANS*

Malls, main streets drive 55 pc surge in India's retail leasing during Jan-March

NEW DELHI: Leasing activity in India's retail sector recorded a robust 55 percent jump to cross 2.4 million square feet (MSF) in the January-March quarter this year across top eight cities, with both malls and main streets contributing to the growth, according to recently released report. Both malls and main streets contributed to this growth owing to the commencement of new supply in emerging locations, said the report by Cushman & Wakefield.

The report highlighted that Hyderabad was the frontrunner in terms of leasing volume, contributing 34 percent (0.8 MSF) of the total leasing activity, with a staggering 106 percent year-on-year growth. *IANS*

US tariffs: India's tech hardware sector likely to gain over China, Vietnam

NEW DELHI: With China facing a 34 percent US tariff and Vietnam 46 percent, India's relatively lower tariff of 27 percent may shift supply chain dynamics, helping the domestic tech hardware sector grow further, according to a new report.

India's electronics manufacturing, especially smartphones, are set to gain a competitive edge as the US imposes tariffs on electronics imports from key countries, says a CLSA report.

The shift in the global supply chain could favor India, particularly in the smartphone-manufacturing segment, it added.

Smartphones account for \$51 billion worth of imports for the US, with China, Vietnam and India being key sources, according to the global brokerage.

Apple and Samsung already have robust manufacturing operations in India.

India's lower tariff combined with its large domestic market and increasing backward integration supported by the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, enhances its cost

competitiveness.

Dixon Technologies is likely to be a key beneficiary of this shift in the global supply chain dynamics.

While Apple and Samsung's

According to other reports, the expected direct impact of US reciprocal tariffs would vary in nature for the sectors in India. The impact is expected to be largely neutral for electronics, textiles,

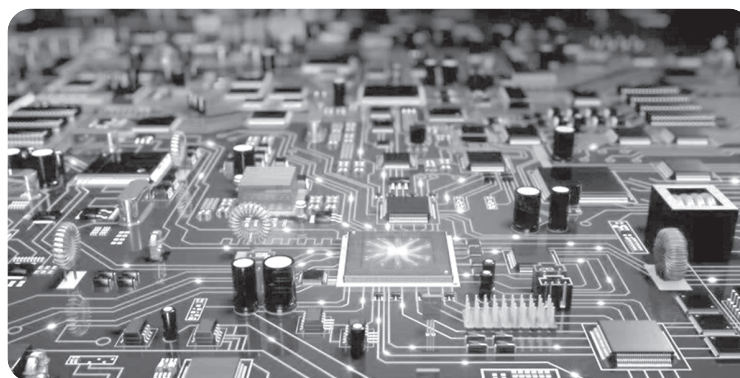
tronics exports, said the report by CareEdge Ratings.

Meanwhile, the recently-announced Rs 22,919 crore Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), which has the potential to generate nearly 1 lakh direct jobs and several indirect jobs, focuses on the local production of sub-assemblies and bare components like inductors, resistors, PCBs and capacitors, etc.

The scheme envisages to attract investment of Rs 59,350 crore, result in production of Rs 4,56,500 crore and generate additional direct employment of 91,600 people and many indirect jobs as well during its tenure.

There has been five times increase in production over 10 years (17 percent CAGR) to reach Rs 9.5 lakh crore in 2024, while 25 lakh jobs have been generated.

There has also been six times increase in exports (43 percent CAGR) to Rs 2.4 lakh crore in 2024. Electronics items are now among India's top three export items. *IANS*



India's electronics manufacturing, especially smartphones, are set to gain a competitive edge as the US imposes tariffs on electronics imports from key countries, says a CLSA report

assembly operations are either in-house or with companies not listed in India, Dixon's role in the supply chain is expected to grow, said CLSA.

agricultural products, chemicals, and automobiles and parts.

In electronics, higher reciprocal tariffs on China would mean a neutral impact for India's elec-

India poised to convert current market fluctuations into an opportunity: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that India is well poised to convert the current market fluctuations into an opportunity, against the backdrop of the reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US.

In his address at the 'India Global Forum' here, the minister said that Indian industries need to keep nationalism at the core of their work, and look to convert the current set of challenges into "opportunity".

"Unless we bring in the balance of honest values, we will see the world have more instability," he said.

On the Chinese growth story, Goyal said that the foundation of China's growth was fuelled by unfair trade practices.

"The focus is to bring back fair play, pricing of goods and services at an honest value. Unless we bring this balance, the world will be in more turbulence," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump are "very good friends", the minister stated, stressing the early conclusion of the US-India bilateral trade agreement (BTA).

Meanwhile, India and the US

said that they both wanted an "early conclusion" of a bilateral trade agreement.

The two countries have accelerated talks on the agreement in the run-up to and following US

President Donald Trump's announcement of a reciprocal tariff of 26 percent on goods from India, along with a broader levy of varying degrees that covers nearly all of America's trading partner countries.

"Exchanged perspectives on the Indo-Pacific, the Indian Subcontinent, Europe, Middle East/West Asia and the Caribbean," External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar wrote in a post on X after a phone call with his American counterpart, Secretary of State Marco Rubio. *IANS*



Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal

Local tug manufacturing a symbol of India's growing green maritime capabilities: Minister

NEW DELHI: The indigenous development of hybrid and electric propulsion tugs is not only a technological advancement but also a symbol of India's growing capability to lead the global green maritime movement, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, has said.

After unveiling advanced machinery at Cochin Shipyard to enhance shipbuilding capacity of the country, the minister remarked that this is a movement towards realizing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. The Union Minister inaugurated the 'ProArc CNC

ceremony for two Green Tugs being developed under the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP), a flagship sustainability initiative by the Ministry.

Cochin Shipyard is the first Indian company to undertake the construction of these hybrid and electric propulsion tugs, with a total of 16 vessels planned across major ports in the country.

The project is being executed in collaboration with Robert Allan Ltd., the Indian Register of Shipping, and other global experts, marking a major step in India's green maritime transition.

"From building the iconic INS Vikrant to delivering over 175 vessels and completing more than 2,500 ship repair projects, Cochin Shipyard reflects the transformative vision of PM Modi's towards self-reliance," the minister noted.

"Under his leadership, India's maritime sector is scaling new heights - through world-class infrastructure, national expansion, and institutions like METI that are shaping the skilled maritime workforce of tomorrow," Sonowal noted.

The Union Minister also reviewed the progress of the construction of India's largest Trailer Suction Hopper Dredger, being built by Cochin Shipyard for the Dredging Corporation of India in partnership with IHC Holland.

The dredger is a strategic national asset that will reduce dependency on foreign services while enhancing coastal access and maritime infrastructure. *IANS*

After unveiling advanced machinery at Cochin Shipyard to enhance shipbuilding capacity of the country, the minister remarked that this is a movement towards realizing the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'

Plasma Cum Oxy Fuel Plate Cutting Machine' - an advanced facility that will significantly enhance Cochin Shipyard Limited's shipbuilding capabilities.

The system allows real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance, and increased production efficiency, directly aligning with the objectives of the Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy (SBFAP) 2.0.

"The launch of Industry 4.0-ready facilities and the Green Tug Transition Programme marks a transformative leap in India's shipbuilding and green maritime journey," said Sonowal.

The Union Minister also presided over the steel cutting

Tariff shock indicates 25bps rate cut, RBI stance may turn 'accommodative': Report

NEW DELHI: The swift shift in global sentiment, high market volatility and fear of recession amid the US tariff shock indicate a 25bps cut by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 9, with possible change in stance to "accommodative" to give directional easing bias, a recent report showed.

The Central Bank began its three-day Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting this week.

"The extent to which this global trade war could stretch is unclear. Monetary policy may have to do the heavy lifting in India by being more countercyclical than fiscal this year. Implications for India could stem from both, global financial market disruptions and real sector hit," said Emkay Global Financial Services in the note.

While there is scope for negotiation and de-escalation, "we think this could be a pivotal turning point for emerging markets (EMs) assets in coming months".

However, the RBI may not want to use all the ammunition too soon, given fluid global markets, and may thus not frontload cuts in April.

The extent to which this global trade war could stretch is unclear. Monetary policy may have to do the heavy lifting in India by being more countercyclical than fiscal this year"

"Options like non-conventional easing in the form of easier regulatory (lending) norms, lower daily CRR requirement for banks to sub 90 percent, sterilized INR management, etc may be used, if needed," the report noted.

Near-term, however, there may be some overhaul of the liquidity framework in favor of daily variable rate repo (VRRs) instead of 14-day VRR, as the primary tool for easier asset liability management (ALM) and liquidity management for banks.

According to the report, the fluid global dynamics will require the RBI to be nimble in managing any risk of tighter financial conditions, "especially as the shock to sentiment/capital flows is likely to require higher risk premia from EMs".

While the extent of trade war pain is unclear, monetary policy may have to do the heavy lifting in India, it added.

According to Ankita Pathak, Macro Strategist and Global Equities Fund Advisor at Ionic Asset by Angel One, the RBI is likely to cut rates by 25bps tomorrow, with an expectation of a change in stance to accommodative from the current neutral. *IANS*

India ranks 3rd highest-funded fintech startup ecosystem globally in Q1 2025

BENGALURU: India secured the third position globally in terms of funding raised for the fintech sector in Q1 2025, following the US and the UK, a recent report showed.

A majority of the funding in this space has been seen in the late-stage rounds. Late-stage funding witnessed a 47 percent increase to \$227 million in January-March period, compared to \$154 million raised in Q4 2024, said the report by Tracxn, a leading market intelligence platform.

The first quarter of this year witnessed a total funding of \$366 million. March was the most funded month of the quarter, with \$187 million raised, accounting for 51 percent of the total funds.

The Indian economy faced bearish stock trends, US-imposed tariffs, global trade tensions, and rising inflation discouraging venture capital inflows.

Despite these challenges, India's GDP growth for FY 2025 is projected to remain resilient at approximately 6.5 percent.

Furthermore, the rising acceptance of UPI beyond Indian borders in countries like Singapore, Nepal, and Sri Lanka presents a significant opportunity for Indian fintech players to expand operations overseas and attract more capital into the sector, according to the report.

The sector witnessed significant growth in specific segments, with banking tech, Internet-first insurance platforms, and investment tech emerging as top performers in Q1 2025.

Banking tech, the highest-funded sector, received a funding of \$108 million, a 9 percent increase compared to the \$99 million observed in Q1 2024 and a substantial increase of 1,700 percent compared to \$6 million raised in Q4 2024, accounting for 29.59 percent of the total funds raised in Q1 2025 in this ecosystem, said the report.

Neha Singh, Co-Founder Tracxn, said, "The Indian fintech sector continues to evolve despite market fluctuations. While funding levels have declined, the industry's long-term growth potential remains strong".

"With increasing regulatory clarity, digital payment expansion, and a rising global footprint, we anticipate exciting opportunities for fintech startups in the coming years," she mentioned.

The quarter witnessed 10 acquisitions, reflecting a 67 percent and 100 percent increase compared to that of 6 and 5 acquisitions in Q1 2024 and Q4 2024, respectively. *IANS*

The first quarter of this year witnessed a total funding of \$366 million. March was the most funded month of the quarter, with \$187 million raised, accounting for 51 percent of the total funds

New research could help improve future whooping cough vaccines

TEXAS: Whooping cough, also known as pertussis, was formerly a leading cause of death in children in the United States and around the world before vaccines were introduced in the 1940s.

In the decades since, the bacterial disease has been practically eradicated in the United States, with annual fatalities falling into the double digits.

Now, new research from The University of Texas at Austin could aid in improving whooping cough vaccines to once again push this disease toward eradication by targeting two key weaknesses in the infection.

But the disease has made a troubling comeback in recent years as vaccine coverage declined after the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2024, several outbreaks left public health officials and hospitals scrambling to accommodate a sudden influx of patients, primarily infants, who are often too young to be vaccinated and suffer the most severe symptoms.

Against this backdrop, a team of researchers, including members of UT's McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering and Department of Molecular Biosciences, has made significant strides in understanding and enhancing pertussis immunity. *ANI*



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)

16 India Post

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April 11, 2025

World Health Day: PM Modi urges nation to fight obesity, calls fitness key to Viksit Bharat

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of World Health Day on 7 April, urged Indians to adopt a healthier lifestyle and work towards a life free from obesity.

He emphasized that maintaining personal fitness would be a significant contribution to India's goal of becoming a developed nation -- Viksit Bharat.

Taking to X, PM Modi posted, "On World Health Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to building a healthier world. Our Government will keep focusing on healthcare and invest in different aspects of people's well-being. Good health is the foundation of every thriving society!"

In a video message shared on the platform, the Prime Minister stressed the age-old adage that "health is the ultimate fortune and the ultimate wealth" while sounding an alarm over India's growing obesity crisis.

"You all know that today, our

lifestyle is becoming a big threat to our health. Recently, a report has come on the problem of obe-

usage, is not just a personal decision but a social responsibility.

He called for immediate action



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

sity. This report says that by 2050, more than 44 crore Indians will suffer from obesity. This is scary. How big a crisis can this be?" he said.

In his message, PM Modi reiterated that adopting healthier eating habits, such as reducing oil

to prevent such a scenario and proposed a simple change: "I want to take a promise from you today that we all should reduce our cooking oil by 10 percent. This will be a big step towards reducing obesity."

He further encouraged people

to incorporate regular physical activity into their daily routines.

"Apart from this, we have to make exercise a part of our life. If we keep ourselves fit, then it will be a big contribution to the journey of a Viksit Bharat," he added.

The Prime Minister has been consistent in his advocacy against obesity and lifestyle-related ailments.

In an episode of his monthly radio program 'Mann Ki Baat', he praised India's strides in the global sports arena while underlining the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

During the address, he cited a troubling health trend, referencing WHO data that highlights the rising tide of obesity in India.

"One in every eight people in India is affected by obesity," he said, noting that the prevalence has doubled in recent years and that childhood obesity has surged fourfold.

The Prime Minister cautioned that obesity can lead to severe health issues such as heart disease, diabetes, and hypertension. However, he maintained that small but meaningful changes in lifestyle choices could help mitigate the risks.

In a bid to further the message, PM Modi invited ten prominent personalities to join a nationwide campaign to raise awareness about obesity and encourage healthy eating.

The individuals included Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, industrialist Anand Mahindra, actor-politician Dinesh Lal Yadav alias Nirahua, Olympic medalists Manu Bhaker and Mirabai Chanu, actors Mohanlal and R. Madhavan, singer Shreya Ghoshal, philanthropist and Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murthy, and Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani. *IANS*

India to support cancer care; set up a CoE for traditional medicine in BIMSTEC countries: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: India will support cancer care, as well as set up a Centre of Excellence for traditional medicine in BIMSTEC countries, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

PM Modi said this even as he presented a comprehensive 21-point action plan during the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit held in Bangkok, laying out an ambitious road map for cooperation across diverse sectors.

"Public health is a vital pillar of our collective social develop-

ment. I am pleased to announce that India will extend support for training and capacity building in cancer care across BIMSTEC countries," PM Modi said.

"In line with our holistic ap-

"Public health is a vital pillar of our collective social development. I am pleased to announce that India will extend support for training and capacity building in cancer care across BIMSTEC countries," PM Modi

proach to health, a Centre of Excellence will also be established to promote research and dis-

semination of traditional medicine," he added.

It is worth noting that Thailand and India have robust traditional medicine systems with close mutual ties. With this announce-

ment by the Prime Minister, the research and development activity in the area is set to get a sig-

nificant boost.

The two countries have been working together to strengthen, promote, facilitate and develop academic and research collaboration in traditional medicine.

Last year the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, under the Ministry of Ayush and the Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine of the Ministry of Public Health of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish an academic collaboration in ayurveda and Thai traditional medicine. *IANS*

UCLA Health South Asian Heart Program

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of mortality globally, with an increase in reported deaths year after year. Despite constituting only 25 percent of the world's population, South Asians (people from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka) bear the disproportionate burden of more than 50 percent of cardiovascular deaths around the globe.

Established in 2025, the UCLA Health South Asian Heart Program, housed within the Division of Cardiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine, brings together a team of experts to solve big questions in cardiac biology and cardiovascular medicine with the overall mission to prevent heart disease amongst South Asians and other high-risk populations.

Website: www.uclahealth.org/medical-services/heart/south-asian-heart

- Program Highlights
- Our program addresses the unique challenges faced by the South Asian population, setting actionable goals focused on prevention and early diagnosis, and providing culturally sensitive, comprehensive clinical care to improve longevity.
- Long-term Heart Health Education:

- Tailored, individualized health education to promote lasting cardiovascular well-being.
- Multidisciplinary Clinical Care: Collaborative, comprehensive care specifically for patients of South Asian ancestry.
 - Early Diagnosis & Risk Assessment: Advancing early detection and proactive

- assessment to reduce future cardiac risks.
- Heart Disease Detection & Treatment: Providing expert guidance on the management and treatment of known heart conditions.
 - Rapid Evaluation & Subspecialty Re-

ferred: Offering expedited evaluations, advanced imaging, and access to specialized care across Southern California.

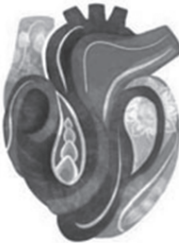
Leadership

Dr. Ravi Dave, M.D. is the Director of UCLA Interventional Cardiology and Fellowship Program, one of the largest academic programs in the country. As a professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine, he specializes in the prevention of heart disease, treatment of complex coronary artery disease, utilization of newer tests for early detection, patient education program development, and community engagement to increase awareness of heart disease. He also serves as a Clinical Chief of UCLA Cardiology.

With immense gratitude to Drs. Vinod and Jayashree Jivrajka for establishing the Jivrajka Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Interventional Cardiology serving as a catalyst for advancing cardiovascular disease prevention for the South Asian community. To learn more please visit:

www.uclahealth.org/news/publication/bolstering-access-populations-risk-heart-disease

Established in 2025, the UCLA Health South Asian Heart Program, housed within the Division of Cardiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine, brings together a team of experts to solve big questions in cardiac biology and cardiovascular medicine with the overall mission to prevent heart disease amongst South Asians and other high-risk populations





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Every 2 min a woman died from pregnancy and childbirth in 2023 globally: UN

NEW DELHI: A woman died almost every two minutes, or more than 700 women died daily from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth in 2023, according to data from the UN and World Health Organization on World Health Day, 7 April.

World Health Day is celebrated on April 7 every year. The theme this year Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures, urges governments and the health community to ramp up efforts to end preventable maternal and newborn deaths and to prioritize women's longer-term health and well-being.

The report titled Trends in maternal mortality shows a 40 percent global decline in maternal mortality ratio (MMR, number of maternal deaths per 100 000 live births) between 2000 and 2023.

It showed that since 2016, the pace of improvement slowed down significantly, and that an estimated 260,000 women died in 2023 due to complications from pregnancy or childbirth.

More than 90 percent of all maternal deaths occurred in low and lower-middle-income countries in 2023, said the report.

"While this report shows glimmers of hope, the data

also highlights how dangerous pregnancy still is in much of the world today despite the fact that solutions exist to prevent and treat the complications that cause the vast majority of maternal deaths," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the WHO.

"In addition to ensuring access to quality maternity care, it will be critical to strengthen the underlying health and reproductive rights of women and girls - factors that underpin their prospects of healthy outcomes during pregnancy and beyond."

Further, the report also provides the first global account of the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on maternal survival.

In 2021, an estimated 40,000 more women died due to pregnancy or childbirth -- increasing to 322,000 from 282,000 in 2020.

Besides the direct complications caused by

Covid infection, the deaths were also due to widespread interruptions to maternity services, the report said.

"This highlights the importance of ensuring such care during pandemics and other emergencies, noting that pregnant women need reliable access to routine services and checks as well as round-the-clock urgent care," said the report. *IANS*



Bird flu: Centre makes registration of poultry farms mandatory, calls for amping up surveillance

NEW DELHI: Amid rising bird flu cases in the country, the Union Government has made registration of poultry farms mandatory and urged the need for increasing surveillance to curb avian influenza.

A high-level meeting in New Delhi, chaired by Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary at the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying set up a three-pronged strategy with stricter biosecurity, surveillance and mandatory registration of poultry farms.

The strategy "encompasses stricter biosecurity measures wherein poultry farms must enhance hygiene practices, control farm access and follow stringent biosecurity protocols to minimize the risk of infection, strengthened surveillance and mandatory registration of poultry farms to enhance disease tracking and control", stated the ministry.

"All poultry farms must register with state animal husbandry departments within a month. The government has urged poultry industry stakeholders to ensure 100 percent

compliance with this directive," it added.

"Protecting our poultry sector is critical for food security and rural livelihoods. Strict biosecurity, scientific surveillance, and responsible industry practices are essential in our fight against bird flu," Upadhyaya said.

In addition, she stated the need for developing a predictive modeling system for early warning and environmental surveillance which would enable proactive disease detection and response, minimizing the risk of outbreaks and protecting the poultry industry.

Avian Influenza is a highly infectious viral disease affecting birds, with occasional transmission to mammals. Since its first detection in India in 2006, outbreaks have been reported annually across multiple states.

Notably, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has since January affected eight states -- Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Bihar.

Currently, six active outbreak zones remain in Jharkhand, Telangana, and Chhattisgarh in the country. *IANS*



Healthcare hiring in India grows 62 pc, creates over 7.5 mn jobs: Report

BENGALURU: India's healthcare sector is emerging as a major employer -- with hiring in the industry growing 62 percent year on year, and creating more than 7.5 million jobs, according to a report on Monday 7 April.

The report by jobs platform foundit (formerly Monster APAC & ME), showed that the healthcare sector has also seen a 7 percent increase in hiring over the past three months, underscoring its rapid expansion and evolving workforce dynamics.



It showed that the sector is witnessing remarkable growth and transformation fuelled by technological advancements and rising demand for medical services. Further, the demand for AI/ML engineers, data analysts, and product managers is surging, reflecting the sector's digital transformation.

"India's healthcare sector is entering a new era -- where technology and talent are driving transformative change," said V Suresh, CEO, foundit.

"Our latest data highlights a sharp rise in demand for roles across AI, digital health, and informatics, reflecting a sector-wide pivot toward innovation and patient-centric care. What stands out is the dual momentum: strong job creation alongside a growing commitment to gender diversity and inclusion. As we observe World Health Day, this evolution is not just a headline -- it's a powerful story of how healthcare is creating meaningful, future-ready careers that matter," Suresh added.

In addition to metro cities, Pune, Kochi, and Kolkata are also showing strong growth in healthcare hiring, with Pune leading the charge with a 10 percent month-on-month (MoM) growth rate.

Notably, the healthcare sector boasts high female representation (38 percent of the workforce), yet leadership roles remain disproportionately male-dominated, with women holding only 4 percent of these positions.

To address this disparity, healthcare organizations should implement targeted leadership development programs and diversity hiring policies with benchmarks to increase female representation at senior levels. These initiatives can help break down barriers and promote gender equity in leadership and specialized medical fields, the report said. *IANS*

Mom-to-be Kiara Advani to make her **MET GALA DEBUT IN 2025**

MUMBAI: Mom-to-be Kiara Advani is all set to add another feather to her cap as she will be representing India at the prestigious Met Gala this year, marking her debut at the fashion's greatest event.

This moment is a significant milestone in Kiara's personal and professional journey. The Met Gala, known for its celebration of artistry and cultural significance, will now feature Kiara, whose influence continues to expand beyond the Indian film industry.

Her debut is not just about style—it is about rewriting narratives, embracing evolution, and showcasing the undeniable force of a woman in her prime.

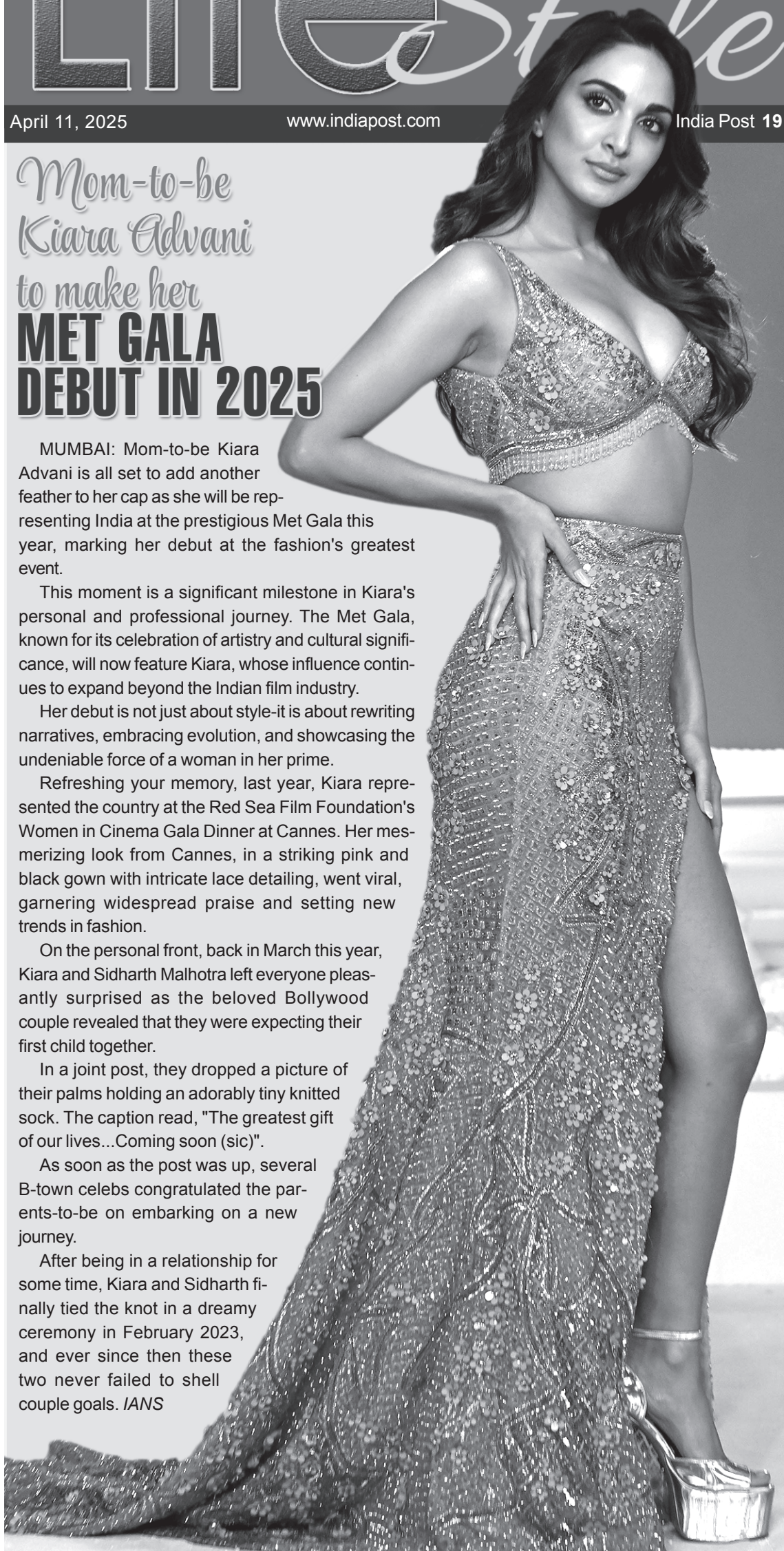
Refreshing your memory, last year, Kiara represented the country at the Red Sea Film Foundation's Women in Cinema Gala Dinner at Cannes. Her mesmerizing look from Cannes, in a striking pink and black gown with intricate lace detailing, went viral, garnering widespread praise and setting new trends in fashion.

On the personal front, back in March this year, Kiara and Sidharth Malhotra left everyone pleasantly surprised as the beloved Bollywood couple revealed that they were expecting their first child together.

In a joint post, they dropped a picture of their palms holding an adorably tiny knitted sock. The caption read, "The greatest gift of our lives...Coming soon (sic)".

As soon as the post was up, several B-town celebs congratulated the parents-to-be on embarking on a new journey.

After being in a relationship for some time, Kiara and Sidharth finally tied the knot in a dreamy ceremony in February 2023, and ever since then these two never failed to shell couple goals. *IANS*



Ethnic Cord Set: The Perfect Blend of Tradition and Modern Style

NEW DELHI: A well-balanced wardrobe is all about having versatile, stylish pieces that effortlessly combine comfort with fashion. One such must-have is an ethnic cord set—a unique fusion of traditional and contemporary styles. Whether you're heading to a family gathering, festive celebration, or simply looking for a statement outfit, an ethnic cord set allows you to embrace culture while staying trendy. With intricate patterns, vibrant colors, and rich fabrics, this outfit is a timeless addition to any woman's collection.

Why Every Woman Needs an Ethnic Cord Set

An ethnic cord set is a stylish and convenient outfit choice for various occasions. It takes the guesswork out of styling by offering a pre-coordinated look that exudes elegance. These sets are available in diverse designs, from hand-embroidered fabrics to printed motifs that celebrate heritage. The beauty of ethnic cord sets lies in their ability to keep you comfortable while making a bold fashion statement, whether for daily wear or special occasions.



Top Reasons to Invest in an Ethnic Cord Set

If you're still unsure about adding an ethnic cord set to your wardrobe, here are some compelling reasons why you should:

* **Cultural Charm with a Modern Twist:** Blending traditional patterns with contemporary cuts, ethnic cord sets offer the perfect balance between heritage and fashion.

* **Instantly Stylish:** No need to mix and match—these sets provide a coordinated look effortlessly.

* **Comfort with Elegance:** Made from premium fabrics like cotton, silk, or linen, ethnic cord sets keep you comfortable without compromising on sophistication.

* **Ideal for All Occasions:** From festive gatherings to casual outings, this outfit transitions seamlessly between events.

* **Seasonal Versatility:** Whether it's a breezy cotton set for summer or a warm wool-blend option for winter, you can find an ethnic cord set that suits every season.

How to Style an Ethnic Cord Set?

One of the best aspects of an ethnic cord set is its versatility in styling. Here's how you can personalize your look for different occasions:

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

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Coast Guard nabbed 1,683 intruders at sea in 10 years

NEW DELHI: While guarding seashores, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has seized 179 boats and arrested 1,683 people over the last 10 years for illegally entering Indian waters, the Parliament was informed recently.

A toll-free number 1554 has also been promulgated for reporting of any eventuality at sea, said Minister of State for Defense Sanjay Seth in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

Replying to a question by Krishna Prasad Tenneti, the MoS said the 179 boats seized by ICG in the past decade were engaged in illegal activities like poaching, narcotics smuggling and illegal immigration.

He said surveillance of coastal areas is also undertaken through the Coastal Surveillance Network (CSN) and investigation by Remote Operating Station (ROS) and Remote Operating Centres (ROCs).

Elaborating on initiatives to strengthen coastal security, MoS Seth said the ICG deploys 18-20 ships, 30-35 crafts and 10-12 aircraft for daily surveillance.

The ICG used Rs 12,201 crore towards acquisition of ships and aircraft and utilized Rs 1,583.8 crore for CSN (Pan India), said the MoS.

"The ICG assets ensure maritime law enforcement to strengthen coastal security and maintain rule-based order at sea. Surveillance efforts also focus on the Offshore Development Area (ODA) and seas adjoining the Island groups (Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep)," he said. *IANs*

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Former Assistant State's Attorney

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Immigration

POST

US to revoke visas for South Sudanese citizens following failure to repatriate nationals

WASHINGTON DC: The United States Department of State has announced immediate measures to revoke all visas held by South Sudanese passport holders and prevent the issuance of new visas, following South Sudan's failure to cooperate in the timely return of its citizens.

"It is time for the Transitional Government of South Sudan to stop taking advantage of the United States. Enforcing our nation's immigration laws is critically important to the national security and public safety of the United States"

In a press statement quoting Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the US State Department said, "It is time for the Transitional Government of South Sudan to stop taking advantage of the United States. Enforcing our nation's immigration laws is critically important to the national security and public safety of the United States. Every country must accept the return of its citizens in a timely manner when another country, including the United States, seeks to remove them."

"As South Sudan's transitional

government has failed to fully respect this principle, effective immediately, the United States Department of State is taking actions to revoke all visas held by South Sudanese passport holders and prevent further issuance to prevent entry into the United States by South Sudanese passport holders. We will be prepared

to review these actions when South Sudan is in full cooperation," the statement added.

Earlier in March, the US announced a new visa restriction

policy targeting foreign government officials involved in the forced return of Uyghurs and other vulnerable ethnic or religious groups to China.

Secretary Rubio stated in a statement that the policy would apply to both current and former officials responsible for, or complicit in, such actions, emphasizing the US commitment to countering China's ongoing efforts to pressure governments into deporting individuals who face persecution upon return.

Rubio highlighted that those sent back are at risk of enforced disappearances and torture, a longstanding concern regarding China's treatment of Uyghurs and other minority groups.

The US government has repeatedly condemned such actions, citing well-documented

Rubio highlighted that those sent back are at risk of enforced disappearances and torture, a longstanding concern regarding China's treatment of Uyghurs and other minority groups

human rights violations, including what it has classified as genocide and crimes against humanity.

US Secretary of State reiterated that China has engaged in



Secretary of State Marco Rubio

systematic persecution of Uyghurs, and the United States is urging governments worldwide to refrain from forcibly returning individuals to China under any circumstances. *ANI*

Pakistan continues to forcibly deport thousands of Afghan refugees

ISLAMABAD: Thousands of Afghan refugees are being forcibly repatriated from Pakistan as the country intensified the deportation process with the end of the March 31 deadline.

Over 944 Afghan families, comprising 6,700 individuals, were deported from Pakistan since April 1, according to local media reports.

The most significant transfer took place in the Punjab province, where 5,111 other Afghan nationals were transported to the transit camps or holding centers across the province for repatriation, including 2,301 children and 1,120 women.

From Karachi, over 300 Afghans were deported from Pakistan to their home country.

Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon said that those deported from Karachi included 79 children, 37 women, and 191 men.

In addition to the deportations, a police crackdown in Rawalpindi

Over 944 Afghan families, comprising 6,700 individuals, were deported from Pakistan since April 1, according to local media reports

continued targeting Afghan nationals residing in the country.

The law enforcement agencies in Rawalpindi recently rounded up 736 Afghan nationals,

including 140 women and 164 children, and shifted them to the Afghan refugee camp near Golra Mor. Of the 736 people, 179 were deported to Afghanistan.

The security agencies had identified 100,000 Afghans living in over 150 'Afghan Colonies' across Punjab only, an official told the country's leading daily, Dawn.

Many Afghans at Pakistan's Hassan Abdal expressed dissatisfaction with the "sudden implementation" of the deportation orders. They said that they sold all their belongings at throwaway prices and packed up their businesses in haste, which left them with huge losses.

All party delegation to meet HM Amit Shah on Naga political, Indo-Myanmar border issues

KOHIMA: An all-party delegation led by Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio would soon meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss the decades-old Naga political issue and concerns about the border fencing and Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the India-Myanmar border, a minister said here recently.

A senior Nagaland minister said that in the last Assembly session (March 3 to 8), the Chief Minister had suggested that an all-party delegation would meet the Union Home Minister to apprise him about the contentious Naga Political issues, which always dominate politics in the state.

"Chief Minister has already sought a suitable time from Home Minister regarding the all-party delegation meeting with him in New Delhi," the minister said, refusing to be named.

He said that besides the Naga political issue, FMR and

to cancel the FMR between India and Myanmar.

Participating in the discussion on the issue, the Chief Minister had told the house that the border movement restriction would affect the long-standing historical, ethnic, social, cultural, traditional and economic ties of Nagas living on both sides of the India-Myanmar border.

The delegation would apprise the Home Minister about the concerns and unanimity of the house, which adopted unanimous resolutions passed on March 1, 2024, and the state cabinet decisions of February 8, 2024, and January 6, 2025.

The Nagaland and Mizoram governments and a large number of political parties and civil societies in the two northeastern states have been opposing both border fencing and the FMR.

Four northeastern states -- Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, and Mizoram -- share a 1,643-km unfenced border with Myanmar.

The MHA had earlier decided to erect fencing on the entire porous border, known for the smuggling of arms, ammunition, narcotics and various other contrabands, at a cost of Rs 31,000 crore.

Meanwhile, officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the top leaders of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) held a meeting in Dimapur on February 21 and decided to hold fresh formal talks between the government and the dominant Naga group soon.

According to a Nagaland government official, the MHA's advisor, North East, A.K. Mishra, during his visit to Nagaland in February, held a meeting with NSCN-IM's General Secretary and chief negotiator Thuingaleng Muivah and discussed various aspects of the Naga political issue.

"Both sides decided to hold formal talks at the earliest to take forward the long-pending Naga political issue," the official had said on condition of anonymity. *IAN S*

The delegation would apprise the Home Minister about the concerns and unanimity of the house, which adopted unanimous resolutions passed on March 1, 2024, and the state cabinet decisions of February 8, 2024, and January 6, 2025

border fencing along the India-Myanmar border are the other vital issues to be discussed with the Union Home Minister.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) last year announced that the FMR, which allows people residing along the India-Myanmar border to travel 16 km into each other's territory without a visa, would be scrapped soon.

Instead, the MHA decided to replace the FMR to adopt a new scheme to issue a pass to the border residents of both India and Myanmar living within 10 km on either side of the frontier to regulate cross-border movements.

The Nagaland Assembly on March 7 unanimously decided that an all-party delegation would meet the Union Home Minister to explain to him the "sentiment and resentment of the Naga people" against the MHA's decision

Pakistan continues to forcibly deport thousands of Afghan refugees

Cont'd from Page 20

Meanwhile, forcibly deported individuals stated that they were arrested by Pakistani police while at work and deported to Afghanistan, leaving behind their businesses and family members.

"I ran a small hotel business at the fruit market. The police raided me, detained me in Haji Camp in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for four nights, and now deported me via Torkham," reports Afghan media outlet TOLO News quoting a deportee, Gul Mohammad.

Some other deportees say that although Pakistan demands visas, it does not provide a proper system for extending them. Instead, visas are sold at high prices on the

black market, making them unaffordable.

"They arrested us while we were working. Whatever money we had, they took it. They brought us to the police station and treated us harshly. They don't see us as good neighbors," another deportee, Aqakhan, stated.

Pakistan's deportation policy has come under scrutiny, with several international organizations condemning the act. They have raised concern over the grave risks faced by the refugees upon their return amid uncertainties in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani government had dismissed concerns raised by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other agencies regarding the mass repatriation of Afghan refugees. *IAN S*

US mistakenly asks Ukrainian refugees to leave

WASHINGTON: In an administrative error, the US government mistakenly issued an email to several Ukrainian refugees, notifying them that their provisional legal status would be terminated in 7 days and ordering them to leave the country.

The notice received by the Ukrainians who sought refuge in the US following the war with Russia caused panic among the immigrants this week.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) acknowledged the error last Friday.

"A message was sent in error to some Ukrainians who entered the United States under the Uniting for Ukraine program," said DHS spokeswoman Tricia McLaughlin in a statement.

The email, sent on April 3, read, "DHS is now exercising its discretion to terminate your parole," referring to the temporary legal status that the Biden administration granted to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians.

"Unless it expires sooner, your parole will terminate 7 days from the date of this notice," it stated.

The agency also took the step of withdrawing the email, sending a follow-up message to the recipients, American broadcaster CBS reported.

"You may have received an email notification titled 'Notice of Termination of Parole.' The DHS sent this email to you in error. No action will be taken with respect to your parole," it read.

Last month, addressing reporters in the Oval Office, US President Donald Trump said the White House has not come to a decision yet regarding the legal status of 240,000 Ukrainian refugees currently living in the country.

Trump said that he had not made a decision on the matter yet, but planned to do so "pretty soon". He also claimed that his administration did not want to hurt refugees from Ukraine.

"We're not looking to hurt anybody, and we're certainly not looking to hurt them," Trump added.

"And I'm looking at that, and there were some people that think that's appropriate, and some people don't, and I'll be making a decision pretty soon," Trump added that Ukrainians had "gone through a lot."

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt pushed back on the report at the time, saying no decision had been made.

The Biden administration announced in January before leaving office that it was extending temporary protected status for Ukrainians until October 2026 "due to armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions in Ukraine that prevent individuals from safely returning."

The revocation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Ukrainians would be in line with the Trump administration's broader approach to cracking down on legal pathways to enter the US amid a widespread crackdown on immigration. *IAN S*

MMNA celebrates Rangeelo Gangaur Festival

RITU MAHESHWARI
India Post News Service

NEWARK, CA: A vibrant celebration of the festival, Gangaur Utsav was experienced on Sunday, April 6th, 2025 at Oasis Palace in Newark. This cultural event by Maheshwari Mahasabha of North America (MMNA)- West coast north chapter took all to down the memory lane of childhood memories from India. The event was full packed with Musical drama - a blend of skit, singing and dancing - 'Tyohaar Wahi, Soch Nayi' with more than 60 performers.

Details on page 24

Reimagining the School Day

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

Ethnic Minority Media (EMS) invited three education experts on April 4th to discuss optimizing the current classroom settings. For over a century the basic structure of the school day and week has been organized around 6 or 7 periods a day, five days a week, with each period lasting 40-60 minutes.

Details on page 26

COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

22 India Post

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April 11, 2025



Radio Zindagi Group announces the launch of Suno 87.7 FM

The ultimate Bollywood radio experience for the Bay Area!



India Post News Service

FREMONT: The Group behind Radio Zindagi is thrilled to announce the launch of its brand-new radio station, Suno 87.7 FM, dedicated to bringing the best of the best Bollywood music and entertainment to the South East Asian community in the Bay Area. With a fresh outlook and a commitment to delivering a premium listening experience, Suno FM is set to become the go-to station for music lovers and entertainment seekers alike.

Suno 87.7 FM will feature a carefully curated selection of Bollywood's greatest hits, alongside engaging shows, interactive segments, and thrilling content tailored to the tastes of our diverse audience. Whether you're



looking for the latest chartbusters, timeless classics, or dynamic talk shows, Suno FM has something for everyone.

Taresh Anand, CEO of Radio Zindagi Group, expressed his excitement about the new launch, stating, "We are incredibly happy to introduce

Suno 87.7 FM to the Bay Area. This new venture is truly a feather in the cap for our network, and we are excited to bring fresh, engaging, and thrilling content to our listeners. With Suno FM, we are redefining the way Bollywood music and entertainment are

experienced in this region."

As part of the renowned Radio Zindagi Group, Suno 87.7 FM carries forward a legacy of excellence in South Asian radio programming from the West to the East Coast. Listeners can expect high-quality sound, top-tier content, and a vibrant lineup of shows that celebrate the rich musical and cultural heritage of Bollywood.

Tune in to Suno 87.7 FM and be part of an exciting new journey in radio entertainment! Stay connected, stay entertained, and most importantly, Suno!

For media inquiries, interviews, or partnership opportunities, please contact: neeraj@radiozindagi.com and sehba@radiozindagi.com

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Capt. Aparna Hande's vision and mission for peace

Founders of Peace Center - Dr. Gunvant and Ilaben Mehta Emphasize the Mission & Vision of the Peace Center



India Post News Service

The event began with an inspiring keynote address by Captain Aparna Hande, who introduced the theme of the gathering. She highlighted how diversity is a blessing rather than an obstacle and emphasized the importance of embracing differences to foster global peace and understanding. Captain Hande set the tone for the event, underscoring the significance of non-violence and harmony across all faiths, which resonated throughout the subsequent speeches.

Distinguished Speakers Representing Various Faiths

The event featured enlightening talks from nine distinguished speakers, each representing a different religious tradition. They shared the timeless teachings of their faiths that guide humanity toward peace:



Hinduism: Prof. Keshav Patel emphasized the principle of Ahimsa (non-violence) as a fundamental teaching for cultivating harmony and compassion.

Christianity: Rev. Robert Wright highlighted the Christian message of love, compassion, and service as foundational elements for building a just and peaceful society.

Zoroastrianism: Mr. Maneck Bhujwala spoke on the importance of justice and ethical values in preserving peace and harmony.

Judaism: Cantor Jenna Sagan discussed Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and the role of dialogue in bridging differences and fostering understanding.

Islam: Mr. Munir Shaikh focused on the Islamic teachings of brotherhood and mu-

tual respect to promote unity and peace.

Bahá'í Faith: Mr. Mark Currie reflected on the Bahá'í belief in unity in diversity as a powerful path to global peace.

Dr. Sukrit Mukherjee: Dr. Mukherjee de-

livered a thought-provoking talk on how to create lasting peace on a global scale.

Each speaker eloquently conveyed how their respective faiths advocate for peace, compassion, and non-violence-values that

are essential for building a harmonious world.

Cultural Program Celebrating Religious Unity

Cont'd on page 23



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MMNA celebrates Rangeelo Gangaur Festival



RITU MAHESHWARI
India Post News Service

NEWARK, CA: A vibrant celebration of the festival, Gangaur Utsav was experienced on Sunday, April 6th, 2025 at Oasis Palace in Newark. This cultural event by Maheshwari Mahasabha of North America (MMNA)- West coast north chapter took all to down the memory lane of childhood memories from India. The event was full packed with Musical drama - a blend of skit, singing and dancing - 'Tyohaar Wahi, Soch Nayi' with more than 60 performers. The idea of kids' involvement with Seva activity was like icing on the cake. 200 care packets with essential items were

packed for homeless by more than 25 children.

This splendid celebration from Swagat to Gangaur Jhanki was a great team work by the new committee of the Bay Area chapter under the leadership of President Sachin Dhoot - and the Committee members Vice President- Shailja Maroo, Secretary- Puja Kasat, Treasurer- Akshay Soni, Cultural head - Shruti Soni, Public Relation - Pratik Kabra, Youth Coordinator- Pankaj Chechani, Joint Secretary - Priyanka Inani. Any event is not successful without the volunteers. The fleet of volunteers from registration desk to tear down needs a big accolade.



A lovely morning-afternoon well spent with culture, art, sumptuous food of Oasis Palace, entertainment and community with its vision.



Aria University School of Medicine receives \$1 Million grant

India Post News Service

Aria University School of Medicine received a \$1 million grant from The Ravi and Naina Patel Foundation to support the establishment of the School of Medicine to educate and train physicians who will serve the Medically Underserved Area of the San Joaquin Valley.

The Ravi and Naina Patel Foundation was founded by Dr. Ravi Patel, an on-

cologist, and Dr. Naina Patel, a cardiac anesthesiologist. In 1998, Dr. Patel and the young physician group built the Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center, which provided state-of-the-art cancer care in Bakersfield, CA. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Patels has been involved in many philanthropic projects for local cancer patients, the Kern County community in general, and the world at large.



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We're proud to announce the upcoming worldwide release of two inspiring children's books: Proud to be a Kaur and Proud to be a Singh-launching Vaisakhi 2025! Join us for a first look at Booth #1 during the Vaisakhi Celebration at the LA Convention Center on April 20th. Written by Sandip Sodhi and illustrated by Pardeep Singh, these vibrant books are perfect for Punjabi schools and families seeking to instill Sikh pride from a young age. Also great for non-Sikhs interested in learning about the values be-

hind the Sikh names Kaur and Singh. For global orders, email: info@sikhLens.com for school outreach, contact the author: sandip@sandipsodhi.com Coming soon: an animated film based on these stories! Stay tuned and follow SikhLens social media for updates. #SikhKids #ProudToBeAKaur #ProudToBeASingh #SikhLens Publishing #Vaisakhi2025 #SikhBooks #Punjabi Schools #Representation Matters #LearnAbout Sikhs #AnimatedSikhStories

Capt. Aparna Hande's vision and mission for peace

Cont'd from page 23

The cultural program, coordinated by Surekha Modi and her dedicated team, beautifully highlighted the theme of religious harmony in diversity. The vibrant performances brought the message of unity to life: Ganesh Vandana: Performed by Priya Kumar, invoking divine blessings for peace and prosperity. Garba Dance Performance: A lively and synchronized performance by Surekha

was expertly handled by Arvind Bhai Patel and Subhash Tolia. Call to Action and Community Engagement Bani Mukherjeet, Founder of Social Channel, inspired the audience with a powerful message that encouraged ongoing support for the Peace Center. Her passionate appeal resonated deeply, urging attendees to actively contribute to the Center's mission of promoting peace and unity. Culinary Delight and Closing Reflections



Modi's volunteer group, captivating the audience with its energy and grace. This cultural segment reinforced the event's theme, showcasing the beauty of various cultural traditions that unite communities. Event Coordination and Seamless Execution The event was meticulously organized with the tireless efforts of Co-Chairs Rani Kuusto, Smita Kumar, Nila Parikh, and a team of volunteers, who ensured smooth registration and attendance. Radhika Patel managed vendor arrangements, while the venue decorations- featuring symbols of diverse faiths- elegantly embodied the event's spirit of peace. The sound system

Attendees were treated to a delicious vegetarian meal that symbolized the spirit of unity and togetherness. The event concluded with closing remarks by Ilaben Mehta, Founder of the Peace Center, who expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all participants, volunteers, and contributors for making the event a tremendous success. The Peace Center of Los Angeles remains steadfast in its mission to foster dialogue, build trust, and create lasting harmony among diverse communities. Events like these continue to strengthen the foundation of interfaith collaboration, paving the way for a future where diversity is celebrated, and peace becomes our collective aspiration.



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Reimagining the School Day

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

Ethnic Minority Media (EMS) invited three education experts on April 4th to discuss optimizing the current classroom settings. For over a century the basic structure of the school day and week has been organized around 6 or 7 periods a day, five days a week, with each period lasting 40-60 minutes. But a growing number of educators are rethinking how to restructure the school day to make schools more rewarding for students whose learning styles don't always match the division of learning into hourly bites. The need to rethink the basic structure of the school day is receiving bipartisan support.

Shalonda Gregory, Principal of MidWest High in Oakland, CA., which is implementing a model to create innovative learning environments developed by Big Picture Learning said that students will go out on campus for internships two days a week, that is, every Tuesday and Thursday. Internships help them acquire the skills they need in the workplace to be successful in their future careers. Some high school students even get job offers during

their internships. She believes that schools should be places where students feel happy. In daily teaching, understand

Shalonda Gregory, Principal of MidWest High in Oakland, CA., which is implementing a model to create innovative learning environments developed by Big Picture Learning said that students will go out on campus for internships two days a week, that is, every Tuesday and Thursday

students' future career ideals, connect their career aspirations with classroom knowledge, and encourage them to work hard to pursue their dreams and achieve career goals.

Louis Freedberg, a long-time education journalist and former Editor of EdSource who is now Executive Producer of Sparking Equity, a podcast tracking education reforms, analyzed that the current classroom mechanism is not suitable for everyone. He said that each child's learning pace is inconsistent and they learn at different speeds. Such a uniform classroom arrangement is not suitable for everyone. He said that during the three years of the

epidemic, physical classes were not possible, which made many children want to resume classes as soon as possible.

However, in the first year when physical classes resumed after the epidemic, students' scores hit a record low, and they

have only gradually improved in the past year. This shows that the current classroom system arrangements need to be improved.

Louis Freedberg introduced the concept of Carnegie Unit, also known as effective credit unit (credit unit), which refers to the length of time students actually study a course in school. Generally speaking, students need 120 hours of class time per year. Louis Freedberg said that current education needs to improve efficiency. In addition to book knowledge, children should be given key skills for future work, including critical thinking, teamwork, and the ability to study alone.

India's swift aid in Myanmar quake crisis earns praise from locals, diaspora

YANGON: In the wake of the devastating earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28, India has emerged as a steadfast ally, swiftly deploying extensive relief and rescue operations under Operation Brahma, earning widespread appreciation from the Indian diaspora and local communities alike.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indian Army medical teams, and substantial humanitarian aid—including 625 metric tons of relief goods—have bolstered Myanmar's recovery efforts, particularly in hard-hit Mandalay, showcasing India's role as a first responder in the region.

Rajul Goenka, President of the Myanmar-India Business Chamber, highlighted the collaborative spirit, stating that both Indian and Myanmar communities work hand in hand "during both prosperous times and even these difficult times".

"The Indian community is working hand in hand with the Myanmar community during both prosperous times and even these difficult times, which Myanmar is facing. We are helping the community by providing relief goods, medicines and manpower to support the relief effort happening in Mandalay," Goenka said.

Parthipan, Secretary of Sanatan Dharma Swayam Sewak Sangh, praised India's prompt action and credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for support and boosting morale during such times.

"At this time, India has taken action immediately. We have been here for 3 generations. In such a matter, India extended a helping hand immediately. The action of PM Modi gave us a lot of strength," he said.

Ravindra Jain, President of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), who has lived in Myanmar for 16 years, lauded India's unique contribution.

"The way our (Indian) government has extended a helping hand to Myanmar, the people here keep praising our government

and telling us that India is doing good work. India is the only country from where doctors have come here... Everyone here recognizes India's work as the best," Jain told ANI, emphasizing the deployment of medical teams as a standout feature of India's aid.

Dr Ram Niwas, a social worker and professor of Sanskrit and Pali language, pointed to the deep

historical ties underpinning this support.

"There are ancient ties between the two nations. Buddhism has contributed to that bond in the modern era. India's rapid response is definitely a milestone," he said, framing the effort as a continuation of a centuries-old connection.

The operation reflects India's commitment to being a first responder in the region, providing essential search and rescue, medical aid, and disaster relief in the wake of the March 28 earthquake. The Indian Army has also set up a Field Hospital, providing medical support to the people. ANI

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'Trump tariff' on India misguided: Democrat Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi

WASHINGTON: Democrat Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi said that President Donald Trump's tariffs on India are "misguided" and are likely to place an unnecessary strain on the US relationship with the world's largest democracy.

"President Trump's latest blanket tariffs on India are not only misguided but also profoundly damaging to the economic, diplomatic, and security interests of the US. At a time when our partnership with India is more crucial than ever to our shared prosperity and coordinated efforts to counter the military aggression and economic coercion of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), these tariffs place an unnecessary strain on our relationship with the world's largest democracy," the Congressman said.

The Congressman is one of five Indian-descent members of the House of Representatives. The others are Ro Khanna, Ami Bera, Shri Thanedar and Pramila Jayapal. Krishnamoorthi.



Democrat Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi

The Congressman said that while the friendship between the US and India will remain strong, these new tariffs will increase costs for American families and

place additional burdens on both American and Indian businesses.

"I strongly urge President Trump to reverse his harmful new tariffs, including those on Indian imports, and instead prioritize the well-being of American families, the strength of the US-India partnership, and our collective economic and national security in the face of authoritarian threats," he said.

Last week President Trump rolled out a reciprocal tariff system that seeks to levy higher tariffs on trading partner countries that levy high duties on imports from the US or have huge trade surpluses over the US.

There is a baseline rate of 10 percent that has been levied on all imports into the US. A large group of countries have been brought under individualized rates. Imports from India will be tariffed at 26 percent. Imports from China will be levied at 34 percent, 20 percent for imports from the EU and so on and so forth. *IANS*

PM Modi thanks Indian diaspora in Thailand, calls Thai Ramayana 'enriching experience'

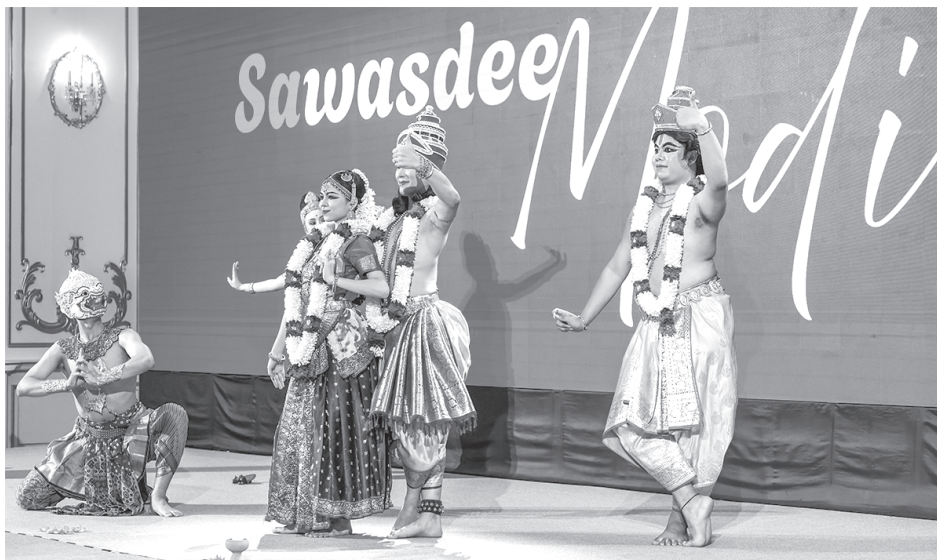
BANGKOK: Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed gratitude to the Indian diaspora in Thailand for their "warm welcome" and described watching Ramakien, the Thai adaptation of the Ramayana, as an "enriching experience."

Soon after his arrival in Bangkok for the BIMSTEC Summit, PM Modi witnessed a performance of Ramakien, a cultural spectacle that reflects the deep historical and civilizational ties between India and Thailand. Upon reaching his hotel, he was greeted with a vibrant Garba performance, a folk dance from his home state of Gujarat.

Large crowds of the Indian diaspora, dressed in traditional attire, gathered to welcome him, including members from the Sikh, Garhwali, and Gujarati communities.

Taking to X, PM Modi posted, "Grateful for the warm welcome by the Indian community in Bangkok. India and Thailand share a deep-rooted cultural bond that continues to flourish through our people. Heartening to see this connection reflected so strongly here."

The Prime Minister also lauded the Ramakien performance, calling it "a cul-



Artists perform the Thai version of the Ramayana, Ramakien during Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit, at a hotel in Bangkok. (ANI Photo)

tural connect like no other!"

"Witnessed a captivating performance of the Thai Ramayana, Ramakien. It was a truly enriching experience that beautifully showcased the shared cultural and civilizational ties between India and Thailand," he wrote on X.

"The Ramayana truly continues to connect hearts and traditions across so many parts of Asia," he added.

PM Modi was welcomed at the Bangkok airport by Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit and other senior officials. The Indian diaspora cheered his arrival with chants of "Modi Modi" and "Vande Mataram," underscoring the strong people-to-people ties between the two nations.

The Prime Minister is in Thailand to attend the 6th BIMSTEC Summit, where

he will engage with regional leaders on key areas of cooperation between the Bay of Bengal countries. He is also scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra to further strengthen India-Thailand relations.

India plays a crucial role in the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), acting as a key driver of regional integration. PM Modi's presence at the summit is expected to further enhance India's leadership within the framework, reinforcing its commitment to regional progress.

BIMSTEC is a regional grouping of seven member states -- five from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka) and two from Southeast Asia (Myanmar and Thailand). It serves as an essential link between the two regions, with India being its largest and most influential member, actively shaping the group's agenda and fostering collaboration.

Following his engagements in Thailand, PM Modi will travel to Sri Lanka for the second leg of his tour. *IANS*

Philosophy

SWAMI RAMDAS

To control the mind, the best and easiest method is to repeat constantly God's Name. Concentration is attained by fixing the attention on the sound of the Name. As the mind is concentrated there must follow meditation upon the glorious attributes of God.

Continuous practice of utterance of the Name and meditation stops the restlessness of the mind and merges it into the blissful, eternal and universal Self. God-remembrance is not possible unless you have an intense longing to realise Him.

This intense desire is called bhakti. This longing must so seize your mind that you should feel a sensation of acute pain when you forget God on account of selfish desires. Your actions should also go to purify your mind, i.e. they should be done in a spirit of nishkama (selfless). Purity of mind means freedom from lust, wrath and greed. For, a pure mind alone can see God.

By the repetition of the Divine Name

warm and unsteady, our remembrance of the Name will correspondingly become unsteady and broken.

In order to attain this supreme goal, the aspirant must concentrate all the faculties of his heart and mind and all the powers of his senses and body for breaking down the walls of ignorance that obstruct him from attaining the vision of his true, eternal and divine nature.

Life has to be totally dedicated to this lofty purpose. Luke-warm devotion and an interrupted course of discipline and a broken stream of meditation cannot enable the struggling soul to capture and possess the Truth. God-realisation is not an easy-going path.

A steadfast faith, unshakable determination and resolute endeavour can alone make him progress towards it and enable him to come face to face with God. No sacrifice should be considered too great to attain this supreme goal. Therefore, it is truly said that heroes alone are fit to walk on this path-that aspirants of undaunted spirit can alone enter upon this adventure.



Swami Ramdas

*Intense longing for God is called bhakti
It is truly said that heroes alone are fit to walk this path*

your mind is not only purged of all its impure thoughts and desires but is also lifted to the loftiest state of consciousness in which you realise your union and oneness with God. Of all the disciplines for controlling the restless mind there is none so easy and efficacious as the taking of the Divine Name.

But there is a way in the repetition of it and that is, it must be uttered with full faith and love; then only you will feel that the Lord's Name is very, very sweet. The difficulty with some is that they cannot repeat the Name continuously although they desire to do so.

The reason for this is that their love for the Name is not greater than their love for the perishable objects of the world. It is a psychological truth that our mind thinks most of the object which we love most, because, our concentrated love inevitably influences the mind to remember that object.

So also, if our mind is fired with an intense love for the Name, this love will automatically enable us to remember the Name constantly. When this love is luke-

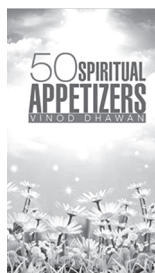
Perseverance and an unflagging endeavour are the qualities of a true aspirant or seeker of Truth. Lassitude, idleness and heedlessness are the enemies of spiritual progress. Awareness, watchfulness and effort are the true qualities of a Sadhaka.

It is not easy to put down the ego. A lukewarm attempt and emotional outbursts cannot wipe it out.

Excerpted from 'In the Vision of God'. The 141st birth anniversary of Swami Ramdas is observed on April 10.

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

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Time is running out: Bangladesh must intensify diplomatic engagement on Rohingya repatriation

IBRAHIM KHALIL AHASAN

A promising development has emerged in the ongoing efforts to repatriate the Rohingyas. In the first phase, authorities have identified 180,000 Rohingyas-out of the nearly 800,000 who have sought refuge in Bangladesh-as eligible to return to Myanmar. Myanmar has assured Bangladesh of its cooperation, and final verification of an additional 70,000 individuals is currently underway. Bangladesh submitted these lists to Myanmar in six phases between 2018 and 2020. Most recently, during the sixth BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok on April 4, Myanmar's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister conveyed the update to Dr. Khalilur Rahman, High Representative of the Chief Adviser to Bangladesh.

Although bilateral and multilateral negotiations have been attempted several times over the years, meaningful progress has been elusive-until now. This is the first instance of Myanmar officially acknowledging returnees from a verified list, sparking renewed hope for tangible progress.

Repatriating the Rohingyas is inherently a long and complex process. The Bangladesh government's initial move-internationalizing the issue-was pivotal. Now, with Myanmar recognizing 180,000 individuals as eligible for return, Dhaka must seize the momentum and sustain pressure to convert these assurances into action

Myanmar authorities have also committed to expediting verification of the remaining 550,000 names.

Repatriating the Rohingyas is inherently a long and complex process. The Bangladesh government's initial move-internationalizing the issue-was pivotal. Now, with Myanmar recognizing 180,000 individuals as eligible for return, Dhaka must seize the momentum and sustain pressure to convert these assurances into action. This recognition is not just symbolic; it represents a significant diplomatic achievement.

However, such recognition must not remain confined to paper. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has recently urged Myanmar to ensure the safe and sustainable return of the Rohingyas-an appreciated intervention. It is hoped that the UN can now play a more assertive role in ensuring progress on the ground.

Despite the positive signals, the path

ahead remains fraught with challenges. The security situation in Rakhine, the Rohingyas' homeland, is vastly different today. Control of the region has largely shifted to the Arakan Army, leaving the Myanmar junta with little authority. This emerging reality adds a new layer of complexity to the repatriation process and must be addressed proactively.

Strategic Path Forward

To navigate these complexities, Bangladesh must now adopt a multi-pronged strategy:

Sustain Domestic and International Focus: The Rohingya issue must continue to be framed as a critical national priority at home and a pressing humanitarian issue abroad.

Manage Regional Relationships: Bangladesh should strategically balance its ties with both the Myanmar junta and the Arakan Army, recognizing the evolving ground realities in Rakhine.

Strengthen Diplomatic Alliances: Greater engagement with China, ASEAN nations-especially Malaysia and Indone-

sia-and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will be essential. Follow-up diplomatic initiatives on repatriation must begin without delay.

During his recent visit to

China, Chief Adviser Dr. Muhammad Yunus urged Beijing to take a more proactive stance on Rohingya repatriation. In response, President Xi Jinping assured that China would raise the issue with Myanmar. Days later, Myanmar's announcement signaled the potential influence of international stakeholders. The more pressure China exerts, the more likely Myanmar will cooperate. If Bangladesh's interim government can advance the repatriation agenda, it will significantly ease the burden on the next administration.

A Race Against Time

Nonetheless, the key question remains: will repatriation be implemented smoothly? Clashes between the Arakan Army and junta forces are intensifying.

(The author is a Dhaka-based independent columnist specializing in South Asian affairs) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

KTR condemns plans to shift Hyderabad Central University to 'Fourth City'

HYDERABAD: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao has said that the fight to save 400-acre Kancha Gachibowli forest is not yet over and condemned plans to shift Hyderabad Central University to the proposed 'Fourth City'.

He issued a heartfelt open letter to students, environmental enthusiasts and people of Telangana condemning the Congress-led Telangana government's alleged defamation campaign and intimidation tactics against Hyderabad Central University (HCU) students.

KTR, as the BRS leader is popularly known, criticized the government for belittling a genuine environmental movement by spreading false narratives, including plans to relocate the university and the proposal to build an "Eco Park" in its place. He called these attempts a "deliberate conspiracy" to divert public attention and suppress a righteous struggle.

"Movements born out of selflessness always succeed," KTR wrote, expressing gratitude to HCU students, environmental activists, public figures, media, and the larger community for standing up for nature. *IANS*

Real Estate POST

30 India Post

www.indiapost.com

April 11, 2025

Institutional investments in Indian real estate up 31 pc at \$1.3 billion in Q1

NEW DELHI: Institutional investments in India's real estate sector saw a strong start to 2025, with total inflows reaching \$1.3 billion in the first quarter, as per recent report.

This marks a 31 percent increase compared to the same period last year, driven largely by domestic investors, according to the report by Colliers India.

Domestic investments played a significant role in this growth, contributing \$0.8 billion, which is a 75 percent rise on a year-on-year (YoY) basis. *IANS*

Foreign capital makes strong comeback in Indian real estate sector in FY25



MUMBAI: Foreign capital made a strong comeback in the Indian real estate sector in FY25, with cumulative investments at 3.1 billion, compared to \$2.6 billion in FY24, a recent report showed.

The surge in foreign investments has led to an increased share of foreign investors in Indian real estate -- accounting for 84 percent of total investment in FY25, up from 68 percent in FY24.

This revival highlights a renewed global investor interest in India's real estate story despite persistent macro volatility, according to a report by Anarock Capital.

Logistics and warehousing sector emerged as the clear frontrunner in India last fiscal, attracting 48 percent of private equity (PE) funding, the highest in five years.

This marks a sharp pivot from

the 8-21 percent range seen by the sector from FY21 to FY24, according to a report by Anarock Capital.

The Indian real estate sector continues to navigate a rapidly evolving investment landscape, with overall private equity (PE) investments continuing to soften in FY25.

Average deal size surged to 94 million in FY25, from \$75 million in FY24. Last fiscal saw ap-

proximately \$3.7 billion in PE funding.

The concentration of capital in fewer, larger transactions has increased significantly.

In FY25, the top 10 deals accounted for 81 percent of total PE investment value, up from 69 percent in FY24.

Aashiesh Agarwaal, senior vice president and investment advisor, Anarock Capital, said the spike in average deal size - from \$75 million to \$94 million -- highlights a more focused and strategic deployment of capital.

In FY25, pan-India/multi-city transactions accounted for 52 percent of all deal value - up from 47 percent in FY24 and just 25 percent in FY23.

"Barring the Covid year, pan-India and multi-city transactions have been rising steadily - increasing from 14 percent in FY19 to 52 percent in FY25. This underscores our view of a greater sector formalization and a shift toward large, diversified portfolios," Agarwaal added.

With capital consolidating around quality assets, and global investors re-engaging, Indian real estate is poised for a new chapter of strategic growth. *IANS*

'Now no one can rob lands in name of Waqf Board'

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, while lauding the passing of the Waqf Amendment Bill said now "no one can rob lands in the name of Waqf Board," with public property being used to build schools, colleges, hospitals, or housing for the poor.

"Now, no one can rob lands in the name of the Waqf Board... Public property and revenue lands will now be used to build schools, colleges, hospitals, or housing for the poor," Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said.

CM Adityanath thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for ensuring the passage of the bill, saying how in Uttar Pradesh Waqf board had become a means to "illegally occupy land."

"I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah for this because, in Uttar Pradesh, too, lakhs of acres

of land had been illegally occupied in the name of the Waqf Board. It had become a means of loot for some people. Now, this looting will be curbed."

Following the passing of the Bill by the Lok Sabha (288 in favor) and the Rajya Sabha (128 in favor), multiple Opposition parties have launched their protests and objections to it, with Congress and AIMIM challenging it in the Supreme Court.

Earlier, Bihar Governor Arif Mohammed Khan highlighted his experience of overseeing land disputes regarding Waqf.

"When I served as a minister in UP, I handled the Waqf department for some time. All the time, I had to meet people who had property cases going on because it is a property case. What is Waqf? One says that it is not their property but Allah's property. *ANI*



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

Office retrofitting a Rs 45,000 cr investment opportunity for better rentals in India

MUMBAI: The office market across top seven cities in India offers an estimated Rs 45,000 crore (approximately \$5.3 billion) opportunity in retrofitting (improving the existing building design and engineering, integrating new technology, enhancing user experience, and incorporating climate-adaptive features and capabilities) and upgrading existing buildings, according to a recent report.

Approximately 62 percent of India's Grade A office stock across top seven cities, equivalent to 530.8 million



square feet (sq ft), requires upgrades - spanning from light to moderate to deep interventions.

The Silicon Valley of India leads in office retrofitting opportunities offering the largest potential among major Indian cities, with 155.9 million sq ft of Grade A stock, requiring an estimated Rs 14,410 crore in upgrade spends.

This presents both a challenge and an unprecedented opportunity for stakeholders across the industry, said the JLL report.

The focus of this transformation opportunity is primarily headlined by four key markets - Bengaluru, Delhi NCR, Mumbai, and Hyderabad - which account for about 81 percent of the total capex spend.

These four markets also represent about 75 percent of occupier activity in the country and, thus, need critical developer and investor interventions to keep office assets 'relevant'.

"Around 32 percent of India's office stock was built earlier than or in the first decade of the new millennium. Even assets built later but prior to 2020 need to look at upgradation considering what tenants need today, given the changing dynamics around the need for offices to become 'experiential', fulfilling the twin objective of being modern (agile, tech-driven, amenity-rich) and sustainable/low-carbon," explained Dr Samantak Das, Chief Economist and Head of Research and REIS, India, JLL.

Post-retrofit rental premiums offer tangible returns, while improved occupancy rates and longer lease terms further enhance the per-square-foot value of assets.

"By investing in these retrofits, property owners can expect rental premiums of 15-30 percent, with some prime locations seeing increases of up to 50 percent," said Das. *IANS*

Understanding Home Loans in India: The Ultimate Guide

NEW DELHI: A home loan facilitates individuals to buy or build a house. Banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies provide home loans in India. With rising real estate rates, getting the appropriate home loan is important for potential homeowners. Understanding the different types of home loans, eligibility criteria, interest rates, and repayment structures are crucial in making an informed decision. This guide provides a detailed overview of home loans in India, helping borrowers navigate the process with clarity.

Types of Home Loans in India

The following are the main types of home loans in India:

- 1. Home Purchase Loan**
This is a popular home loan taken to purchase a new or resale housing property. The amount of the loan varies based on the value of the property, the borrower's income, and repayment ability.
- 2. Home Construction Loan**
People who intend to build a house on their property can access this loan. The payment made in phases depending on the progress of the construction to ensure that capital is utilized effectively.
- 3. Home Renovation/Extension Loan**
This loan assists homeowners in funding repairs, remodeling or structural additions to a current property. It

potentially helps improve the home's value and functionality.

- 4. Land Purchase Loan**
This loan is for those who want to buy a piece of land for construction in the future. A combined loan for home-construction and buying-land is provided by some lenders.

Eligibility Criteria for Home Loans

To be eligible for a home loan, the candidates need to satisfy certain eligibility criteria defined by the lenders. The primary requirements are:

- Age:** The applicants generally need to be between 21 and 65 years old.
- Income Stability:** Salaried as well as self-employed candidates need to prove stable sources of income.
- Credit Score:** A minimum credit score of 750 may provide better chances for loan approval.
- Employment Type:** Salaried employees, business owners, and professionals can apply, provided they have a stable income.
- Property Valuation:** The property must be compliant with the lender's valuation and legal standards.

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

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



Jigar (JR) Shah

California real estate market: Trends and Insights from Industry Veteran JR Shah

RIYAZ KHAN

Mr. JR Shah, a seasoned real estate broker with over 30 years of experience in the industry, shares his insights on the current trends in the California real estate market. Despite concerns such as the recent fires in Los Angeles, interest rates, and tariffs imposed by the new administration, Shah remains highly optimistic about the market's future.

While residential buyers are showing some caution, he notes that when properties are priced correctly, multiple offers can still be expected. The demand for residential real estate remains strong, with interest rates having a minimal impact on buying and selling activities.

Retail sales have been slightly affected, and some office spaces remain vacant. However, larger industrial buildings face more significant challenges. On the other hand, office buildings are seeing a positive trend as businesses gradually return to in-person operations.

The demand for residential real estate remains strong, with interest rates having a minimal impact on buying and selling activities

"I had a great year in 2024," says Shah. "Interest rates do influence overall sales activity, but with the right strategy and approach, success is always possible."

His firm specializes in the sale of residential homes, apartment complexes, shopping centers, commercial and industrial properties, as well as mergers and acquisitions.

For further information, please contact JR Shah at (714) 335-9048.

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

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The Third eye: Trump's quick fix for administrative reforms

D.C. PATHAK

US President Donald Trump has in his second term, made reforms in federal governance a key component of his MAGA drive. He has established a new department- the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)- under his closest confidant Elon Musk and given him a free hand in downsizing the various wings of the federal government.

The President is validating decisions of Musk by issuing Executive Orders on a running basis. DOGE has evidently discovered systemic corruption on a large scale and found legitimate grounds for enforcing cost-effectiveness.

Efficiency, by definition, is a measure of output per unit of resource- money and manpower

the quick-fix style of working of the new department under Elon Musk, that has created a stir leading to many orders being challenged in the District Courts. The Trump Administration was not deterred by any of this- it seemed to be confident about pushing the judicial process through the Court of Appeals and even the Supreme Court.

Education and Health are the two basic concerns of the national government in a democratic dispensation for they laid the foundation for producing the right kind of electorate - apart from meeting the obligation of 'welfarism' that had to be discharged by a democratic state.

These two wings of the government are interestingly, the first among the segments tar-

League schools, Columbia and Harvard, over alleged harassment of Jewish students. The Trump Administration has suspended several dozen federally funded research grants to Princeton University as part of its investigation into campus anti-Semitic activity.

Unsurprisingly, Civil Rights groups saw all of this as a policy going against principles of equality and equability and warned of the return of civil rights violations in schools. Established in 1979 the Department of Education oversees funding for public schools, monitors student loans and runs programs that help low-income group students.

Trump has accused the department of 'indoctrinating young people with racial and political material'. He thought it was not the business of Education to handle loans and assigned this function to the Treasury. Trump has also curtailed USAID funding because of his basic aversion to civil society groups promoting left-liberalism in the name of human rights.

Robert F Kennedy Jr, Secretary Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced major changes at HHS bringing down the divisions from 28 to 15 through internal mergers, indicating that mass layoffs were in the offing to reduce the full-time HHS workforce of 82,000 by about 25 percent -saving 1.8 billion a year -and contended that the department 'will do more with less'. Kennedy went on record to say that in one instance 'defiant bureaucrats' impeded his office's effort to access the closely guarded database that might reveal the 'dangers of certain drugs'.

(The writer is a former Director Intelligence Bureau) IANS

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

The President is validating decisions of Musk by issuing Executive Orders on a running basis. DOGE has evidently discovered systemic corruption on a large scale and found legitimate grounds for enforcing cost-effectiveness

in this case- and it is enhanced if the number of employees doing a job is reduced to the optimal minimum and likewise, if procedures are pruned to ensure that a task was completed in the minimal number of operational steps.

India has had a history of Administrative Reforms Commissions (ARCs) producing voluminous reports that only added to the size of bureaucracy and left behind no lasting impressions. It is interesting to note that Prime Minister Modi's call for 'minimum government maximum governance' for India is what seemingly was being implemented by DOGE in America.

However, it is the large-scale lay-offs ordered at one go and

geted by DOGE for downsizing through lay-offs.

Trump signed an executive order dismantling the Department of Education on March 20 but even before that on March 12 nearly 50 percent of the department's workforce had been laid off.

Trump said he wanted to 'return education back to the states', derided the department as 'wasteful and polluted by liberal ideology' and in a strong comment declared that 'the experiment of controlling American education through federal programs and dollars has failed our children, our teachers and our families'.

Federal actions have already been initiated against Ivy



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FIGHTING WAR WITH TARIFFS

Tump's war on fighting global tariffs regime started this April, targeting several fronts including his peace initiatives with Russia and Hamas. Despite ongoing concerns about potential shifts in US allies toward China, Trump expressed confidence in his strategy, pointing to recent examples like the European Union's reduction of car tariffs to 2.5%. Trump, who has previously called India "tariff king" and "tariff abuser," is looking to make a significant shift in trade relations. Both countries have begun negotiations toward finalizing an early trade deal to resolve the ongoing tariff standoff.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt also highlighted several unfair trade practices in India's tariff system, including the 100% tariff India imposes on US agricultural products. She pointed to similar tariffs imposed by other nations such as the European Union (50% on American dairy), Japan (700% on American rice), and Canada (300% on American butter and cheese), all of which hinder US exports and contribute to significant trade imbalances.

Ahead of the tariff deadline, the US criticized India's trade policies, including restrictions on dairy imports, agricultural surcharges, and the "Make in India" program. The 2025 National Trade Estimate (NTE) report also raised concerns over India's patent rules, digital trade barriers, and unpredictable import restrictions.

President Trump also threatened Iran with "possible bombing" as well as, the imposition of secondary tariffs on the Islamic Republic if they do not comply with the nuclear deal proposed by the US. Trump warned that Iran could face bombing and secondary tariffs if it does not come to an agreement over nuclear negotiations in the coming days, as per news agency Reuters. Iran's officials are talking but did not elaborate on the details. This is his first reaction since Iran rejected Washington's proposal for direct negotiations. He added, "If they don't make a deal, there will be bombing. It will be bombing the likes of which they have never seen before," Trump was quoted as saying.

In regards to Russia-Ukraine war, Trump told reporters he was disappointed with Putin on the peace deal, but added: "I think we are making progress, step by step." Trump said he could impose the new trade measures within a month. "That would be, that if you buy oil from Russia, you can't do business in the United States," Trump said. "There will be a 25% tariff on all oil, a 25 to 50-point tariff on all oil." There was no immediate reaction from Moscow.

Russia has called numerous Western sanctions and restrictions "illegal" and designed for the West to take economic advantage in its rivalry with Russia. He had already sanctioned tariffs on countries buying Venezuelan oil.

Where does India stand in this entire game of tariffs? In the past India was able to buy Russian crude at much lower prices and process them in India, when US sanctioned Russia on oil exports. Now the tariffs seem to cover much larger scope. In the past sanctions and tariffs did not seem to have much effect. Rather, countries were able to negotiate and form new alliances.

In a complex and interdependent global trade, Trump may find it difficult to implement such actions.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

Ameesha Patel defends Fawad Khan: 'India's culture doesn't differentiate art'

Bollywood actress Ameesha Patel has come out in support of Pakistani actor Fawad Khan, emphasizing that India's rich cultural heritage doesn't discriminate against art based on nationality.

Addressing the ongoing debate, Ameesha highlighted that the country has always celebrated talent, regardless of its origin, and that art transcends borders. When asked about Fawad's comeback in Bollywood facing opposition, Patel told IANS, "I used to like Fawad Khan before also. We welcome every actor and every musician. This is the culture of India. So art is art; I don't differentiate. International artists are welcome; all around the world, artists are welcome. In any field, painters, musicians, actors, directors, anything."

Pakistani actor Fawad Khan's return to Indian cinema in the upcoming romantic comedy "Abir Gulaal" has ignited significant political and industry controversy, reigniting ongoing tensions over the involvement of Pakistani artists in Bollywood.

Veteran filmmaker and President of the Indian Film and Television Directors' Association (IFTDA), Ashoke Pandit had earlier strongly opposed Fawad's casting. IANS



Shruti Haasan stresses on self-care importance

On World Health Day, Shruti Haasan reminded us that healing comes in many forms.

Revisiting a heartfelt video from the 'Saalar' actress' YouTube channel, Shruti's perspective on self-care is as unique as her artistic identity. Her message stands out as a powerful reminder that self-care is personal - not prescriptive. Whether through music, movement, or just taking a pause, Shruti believes in carving your own path to wellness.

In her own words, "Self-care is very important, and you should do it in whatever way makes you happy. People often tell me, 'You should really meditate,' but I don't know how to sit and blank my mind. I've found different ways to do it - like this thing called 'breath of fire,' where I channel into my third eye - but I do it with heavy metal because that's what centers me. Playing the piano is my meditation. Watching Love Is Blind is my meditation. It doesn't matter what it is - whatever feels like meditation to you, in terms of loving yourself and giving yourself the room to breathe and just be - I think that's where real self-care lies." IANS

TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

- 1 Aaj Ki Raat : **Stree 2**
- 2 Tu Hain Toh Main Hoon: **Sky Force**
- 3 Ishq Hai: **Mismatched - Season 3**
- 4 Jo Tum Mere Ho : **Jo Tum Mere Ho**
- 5 Sajni: **Laapataa Ladies**
- 6 Millionaire: **GLORY**
- 7 Khoobsurat: **Stree 2**
- 8 Ishq: **Ishq**
- 9 Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam: **Bad Newz**
- 10 Taras: **Munjya**

Samantha on debut as producer: We're incredibly grateful...

Actress Samantha, who has turned producer recently with the film 'Subham', defined the unit of the film as a "small team with big dreams" and expressed gratitude for the journey of producing and creating this film along with her team.

Taking to X to share the teaser of her first film, 'Subham', Samantha wrote, "Presenting to you our little labour of love. A small team with big dreams! We're incredibly grateful for this journey and what we've created together. We truly hope you enjoy our film... and may this be the start of something truly special! #Subham @TralalaPictures."

The teaser of the film, which was released almost a week ago on the occasion of the festival of Ugadi, begins with a newly married couple having a conversation on their wedding night. The bridegroom tries to present himself as a tough alpha male and dispel the perception that has been fed to his wife of him being an innocent simpleton. IANS





Deepika-Ranveer seen together first-time after Dua's birth

One of the most adored couples in Bollywood, Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh decided to share screen space for the first time after the birth of their baby girl, Dua Padukone Singh.

Deepika and Ranveer appeared in an advertisement together for an air conditioner. Sharing the advertisement with the netizens, the brand wrote, "Good looks, good looks & good looks!"

The ad showed Ranveer talking about how guests at their party were enjoying their air conditioners instead of Deepika's food or stories. As Deepika gets upset, Ranveer wins her over saying that he did in fact buy the AC only for her. The clip ends with Ranveer getting a kiss from his ladylove.

Deepika and Ranveer were last seen together on screen in Rohit Shetty's cop drama, 'Singham Again'. The film showed Deepika as Shakti Shetty, aka Lady Singham, whereas Ranveer reprised his role of Simmba from the Rohit Shetty cop universe. The movie also starred Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, Kareena Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor and Jackie Shroff.

Prior to this, these two were seen together in the movies - 'Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-Leela' (2013), 'Bajirao Mastani' (2015), 'Padmaavat' (2018), and '83' (2021), where their chemistry was highly appreciated by movie buffs.

Not just that, these two also made cameo appearances in each other's movies 'Finding Fanny' (2014), and 'Cirkus' (2023).

After being in a relationship for some time, Deepika and Ranveer finally tied the knot in 2018 in a grand ceremony.

The couple welcomed their first child, a daughter on September 8, 2024. During Diwali last year, they introduced their daughter to the world. **IANS**

Tara Sutaria enjoys 'Seafood Saturday'

Bollywood actress Tara Sutaria enjoyed 'Seafood Saturday' in the comfort of her home.

The menu for the weekend included a lamb served on a bed of pulao with zereshk berries, buttery garlic crab and prawn cocktail, a strawberry, walnut, rocket/arugula salad with a honey balsamic dressing, and prawn spaghetti with cherry tomatoes, lemon, garlic, spicy anchovy paste.

Increasing our appetite with some mouth-watering photos, Tara penned on her Instagram handle, "Seafood Saturday at home I cooked lots of buttery garlic crab and prawn cocktail (not pictured because we devoured it before anyone could manage a photograph!) A strawberry, walnut, rocket/arugula salad with a honey balsamic dressing.

IANS



Rashmika's 'Dear Diary' entry on birthday filled with love

As promised, actress Rashmika Mandanna posted her birthday diary entry on social media.

The 'Animal' actress was seen channeling her inner child by the beach side as she adorably sang "Happy Birthday to Rashi" for herself.

Rashmika was looking as adorable as ever in a blue printed dress and messy hair.

Her diary entry started like this, "05/04/2025....Dear Diary...Hmm.. where do I begin.. Wait let me start with a quote-No achievement is small so celebrate every little wins..you've gotten a year older - celebrate, You've gotten a small pocket money - celebrate, You've gotten married - celebrate, The doctor gives you a clearance to start running again after an injury - celebrate, (although I can't wait for this to happen) You've written your exam and passed - hell ya!! celebrate!! Celebrate everything - every little wins.. because nothing is small..."

Rashmika went on to describe what her birthday looked like. Her special day was made even more memorable with a surprise breakfast and dinner, and a relaxing massage, which made the diva pass out.

The 'Pushpa' actress continued her diary entry saying, "Hmm so today I woke up. Worked out. (Got in a good quick leg workout) Had a breakky that the @anantarasalalah guys surprised me with...Got in a massage where I passsssed out. **IANS**



Mouni Roy full throttle with her stunts in 'The Bhootnii'

Mouni Roy will play the nerve-chilling ghost named 'Mohabbat', in the upcoming horror action-comedy "The Bhootnii".

Sharing a thrilling behind-the-scenes detail, Mouni revealed that she has performed all her stunts for "The Bhootnii"



herself without any body double.

Speaking about the same, the diva revealed, "I have performed all my stunts myself in the film. I am thankfully trained and have become used to wearing harnesses and doing stunts, thanks to my previous work. So it was a rather easy process. I think stunts are a form of choreography and I consider myself a decent dancer and a quick learner. And, shooting for 2 full seasons of a supernatural TV show (Naagin) and an entire fantasy fiction film (Brahmastra) gave me all the training needed for The Bhootnii. Not to mention, the film had an amazing stunt team, and my co-stars were great."

The highly-awaited drama enjoys a unique star cast, featuring Sanjay Dutt, Mouni Roy, Sunny Singh, PalaK Tiwari, Beyounick, and Aasif Khan.

Sanjay Dutt, who will essay the role of a

ghostbuster revealed what drew him towards the character.

The 'Munna Bhai M.B.B.S.' actor disclosed, "I love comedies. The Bhootnii is a film that is a good mix of horror and comedy. In fact, horror comedy is one of the toughest genres to crack. But, when I heard the script, I felt that it had the potential to entertain the audience. I was attracted to my role. IANS

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Priyanka Chopra NOT IN ALLU ARJUN AND ATLEE'S NEXT

For the past few days, there have been multiple news reports about Priyanka Chopra being roped in as the leading lady in Allu Arjun and Atlee's next. However, IANS has learnt that these speculations are false.

A source close to the project confirmed to IANS, "Atlee's directorial starring Allu Arjun is a huge scale film, and the anticipation is immense. Since the project became public knowledge, many names have been rumored to be attached to it. Priyanka Chopra Jonas was among those mentioned, but she has never been part of this film. Any reports suggesting otherwise are purely speculative."

It would be exciting to see who ends up being paired opposite Allu Arjun in this highly-anticipated drama.

If the reports are to be believed, this yet-to-be-titled film will have Allu Arjun playing a dual role, contrary to the earlier buzz of the movie having two heroes. AA's team has confirmed that the project will only have Allu Arjun in the lead role.

Being in the initial stages, further details regarding the cast, crew, and plot of the untitled flick have been kept under wraps for now.

Allu Arjun was last seen in 'Pushpa-2' which went to become massive success and broke many box office reports. IANS



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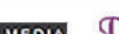
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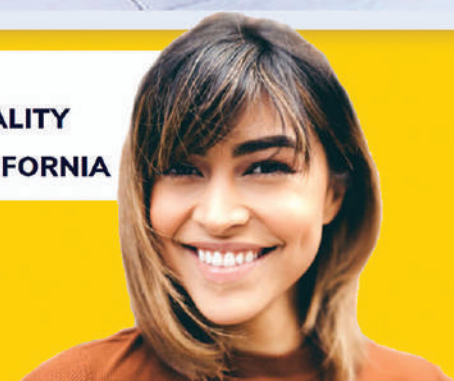
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NAINITAL

"City of Lakes"

Nainital, a picturesque hill station in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, is known for its serene lakes, lush green hills, and pleasant climate. Located approximately 300 kilometers from Delhi, Nainital town is centered on the emerald-green Naini Lake, which offers boating opportunities against the majestic Himalayas. Visitors are drawn to Nainital for its scenic vistas, adventure activities, and charming colonial architecture. Being closer to Dehradun & Delhi, Nainital is a perfect weekend getaway.

The key attractions of Nainital include the Naina Devi Temple, situated on the northern shore of Naini Lake, and the Snow View Point, accessible via a scenic cable car ride, offering panoramic views of the snow-clad peaks. The Mall Road, parallel to the lake, is perfect for strolls, shopping, and dining. For nature enthusiasts, a trek to Tiffin Top provides stunning views of the surrounding landscape. Nainital is also home to several other smaller lakes like Bhimtal, Sattal, and Naukuchiatal, each with its own unique charm. The town's pleasant

weather makes it a year-round destination, but the period from March to June is especially popular among tourists.

Nainital was founded by the British in 1841. It served as a summer retreat for British colonial officers. The legacy of the British era is evident in the town's architecture, with buildings like the Raj Bhawan, St. John in the Wilderness Church, and various old bungalows adding to its charm. Nainital also offers a delightful culinary experience, with local eateries serving Kumaoni delicacies like Bhatt ki Churkani, Aloo ke Gutke, and Bal Mithai, as well as various Indian and international cuisines.

For adventure seekers, Nainital provides ample opportunities for trekking, rock climbing, and paragliding. The nearby Naina Peak, the highest point in Nainital, offers an exhilarating trek with breathtaking views of the Himalayas. Wildlife enthusiasts can visit the Nainital Zoo, home to a variety of Himalayan species, or explore the Jim Corbett National Park, located about 65 kilometers away, for a chance to spot tigers and other wildlife. Pangot and Sattal villages near Nainital are a birdwatcher's haven.

PLACES TO VISIT IN NAINITAL

Nainital Lake: Situated in the center of Nainital, Naini Lake (short for Nainital Lake) is a beautiful natural fresh body lake. The lake is in crescent or kidney shape and is one of the most famous lakes of the Kumaon region. Bounded by Naini Peak on North West, Tiffin Point on the South West and snow-capped peaks on the north, the Nainital Lake offers a breathtaking view, especially during early morning and sunset. It is most famous for boating, picnic and evening walk.

Snow View Point: Snow View Point in Nainital stands at a dizzying altitude of 2270 meters above sea level and is one of the most attractive tourist spots of the area. As the name suggests, Snow View Point offers a panoramic view of the mighty Himalayas draped in a blanket of milky-white snow. One can see a picturesque view of all three important peaks- Nanda Devi, Trishul and Nanda Kot peaks together from this point.

Cont'd on page 41



Nainital: City of Lakes

Cont'd from page 40

The Mall Road: The Mall Road of Nainital, which runs parallel to the Naini Lake, connecting the two ends of the hill town (Mallital and Tallital), is the prime shopping, food and cultural center of



the wonder that is Nainital. Whether it is digging into some luscious food or shopping for the cutest local woolens that are to be found, Mall Road is your go-to for it all.

Eco Cave Gardens: Famous for its interconnected rocky caves, hanging gardens and the musical fountain, the Eco Garden are a set of six small caves in the

shape of various animals. Located in the Mallital area of Nainital, you need to crawl your way in. In the evenings, you can see the spectacle of the musical fountain with various audio video effects.

Nainital Zoo: Established in 1984, Pt. G.B. Pant High Altitude Zoo or Nainital Zoo is situated on the Sher ka Danda hill in Tallital, Nainital. Perched at a height of 2100 metres and spread over an area of 4.6 hectares makes it the only one of its kind. The zoo is home to several endangered species and is a popular tourist spot.

China Peak: Naina Peak is the highest peak of Nainital at a height

of 2615 metres. A major tourist attraction in the city, the peak remains covered with snow throughout the year, and the blanket of trees over it projects a picturesque view. Due to the high altitude and scenic trails, the peak is very popular among hikers and trekkers. Also known as China Peak, it is renowned among tourists and locals for its romantic sunrise and sunset.

BEST TIME TO VISIT NAINITAL

The best time to visit Nainital is May-June, which is also the peak season. Nainital has a pleasant climate

throughout the year, making it a year-round destination. The average temperature from April to July ranges around 23 degrees Celsius.

HOW TO REACH NAINITAL

It is not recommended to travel to Nainital by flight, as the nearest airport is 70km away in Pantnagar. The nearest convenient airport to travel to Nainital is



the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi. If travelling by flight, arrive at Delhi Airport and opt for a taxi or overnight bus to reach Nainital.

Alternatively, travel to Pantnagar airport by flight from Delhi Airport. Hire a taxi or bus from Pantnagar to Nainital. However, this is an inconvenient option. www.holidify.com



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