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Kinjal Dave's Spectacular Garba Night Unites 4,000 in Los Angeles



Crowds went crazy dancing garba



Kinjal Dave swinging with singing garba

PLACENTIA, CA: A wave of music, color, and cultural pride swept across Southern California as nearly 4,000 people gathered on Sunday, August 31, 2025, for the region's first-ever open-air Indian Ethnic Garba. The Baseball Field of Valencia High School was transformed into a dazzling festive arena, adorned with vibrant décor that echoed the joyous spirit of Garba.

The evening's highlight was none other than India's Garba Queen, Kinjal Dave, whose electrifying performance kept the vast crowd on its feet late into the night. Families, youth, and seniors, clad in traditional attire, danced in unison, celebrating heritage and togetherness. Dave's soulful voice and dynamic energy created an atmosphere where no one wanted the night to end.

The event was further enlivened by sponsor showcases. Among them, the Jabsons booth, presented by Nijay International, Inc., stood out for its vibrant pre-

sentation. CEO Jay Parikh personally arranged free Jabsons snack gifts, offering guests an authentic taste of India.

Behind the scenes, organizers Adhir Shah and Varun Gandhi of Eventmor,



L to R: Kush Parikh, Chandrika Parikh, Jay Parikh, Kinjal Dave and Trisha Parikh

along with Kishan Dholiya of Sake Spectacle, worked tirelessly with their teams to ensure seamless coordination for both

performers and attendees. Food partner Saffron Spoon added another layer of festivity with a spread of sumptuous culinary offerings.

A special highlight of the evening came when Jabsons - Jay Parikh, Diamond Sponsor of the event, was honored on stage. He received a Plaque of Honor from Kinjal Dave herself and a Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Artesia, presented by Councilwoman Zeel Ahir, in recognition of his support for the community and cultural preservation.

The night was more than just a concert-it was a cultural milestone. By bringing together thousands under the stars, this Garba celebration not only showcased the richness of Indian tradition but also reinforced the bonds of community pride in Southern California. Attendees departed with unforgettable memories and a collective anticipation for the next grand celebration.



Kinjal Dave singing the famous tunes



Kinjal Dave presenting a Plaque to Artesia City Council Woman Zeel Ahir



Crowds rejoicing



L-R: Bharti Shah, Kinjal Dave and Adhir Shah



C.P. Radhakrishnan elected new VP

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US, SC allows immigration raids in LA

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Divya Khossla enjoyed 'bullying'

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YUDH ABHYAS

Yudh Abhyas 2025: Indian, US soldiers conduct live drills in Alaska to boost defense ties

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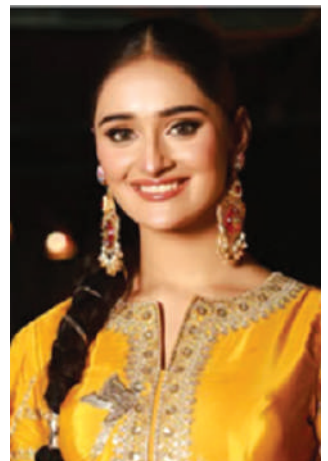
According to the Indian Embassy, recently, during the field training component of the exercise, soldiers from the Indian army and the US army rehearsed various battle drills together.

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DCG, San Francisco visits Los Angeles

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Ayodhya Ramleela: Miss Universe India as Maa Sita

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'Oli's ego has turned to ashes': Nepal residents react after PM's resignation amid protests

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Last week's result

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YES 20% NO 80%

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HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:

Divya Khossla enjoyed 'bullying'



Actor-Director Divya Khossla shared, working with co-actor Neil Nitin Mukesh was more fun on camera as she enjoyed bullying her co-actor on the screen

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Lifestyle:

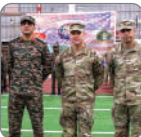
Miss Universe India as Maa Sita

Miss Universe India 2025, Manika Vishwakarma, will be playing the role of Maa Sita in the upcoming annual theatrical event, 'Ayodhya Ramleela'

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YUDH ABHYAS 2025



Reinforcing the growing defense cooperation, the 21st edition of Yudh Abhyas commenced with a grand opening ceremony at Fort Wainwright in Alaska

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DCG SFO visits LA



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Aarti 08:30 pm

Maha Saptami Monday, SEP 29

Morning Puja 08:30 am
Aarti 11:30 am

Evening Puja 05:30 pm
Aarti 06:30 pm

Maha Ashtami Tuesday, SEP 30

Morning Puja 08:30 am
Aarti 11:30 am

Sandhi Puja 05:00 pm

Evening Puja 07:00 pm
Aarti 07:30 pm

Maha Nabami Wednesday, OCT 1

Morning Puja 08:30 am
Kumari Puja 11:00 am
Aarti 12:30 pm

Nabami Ho'm 06:00 pm

Vaidic Yagna

Evening Puja 05:00 pm
Aarti 06:45 pm

Bijoya Dashami Thursday, OCT 2

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Bisharjan
Sindur Khela 10:30 am

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Monday, OCT 6

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YUDH ABHYAS 2025

Yudh Abhyas 2025: Indian, US soldiers conduct live drills in Alaska to boost defense ties

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According to the Indian Embassy, recently, during the field training component of the exercise, soldiers from the Indian



army and the US army rehearsed various battle drills together.

The Indian Army contingent, comprising 450 personnel led by a battalion of the Madras Regiment, arrived in Fairbanks on August 31.

They are training alongside US soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment ("Bobcats"), part of the 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Arctic Wolves), 11th Airborne Division.

The 2025 edition is one of the largest bilateral military exercises for the Indian Army in terms of troops mobilized.

This edition includes mountain and high-altitude operations under sub-arctic conditions, heliborne and air-mobility integration, backed by artillery and aviation assets.

Additionally, it will also focus on elec-

tronic warfare, surveillance, and counter-drone systems, medical evacuation and combat casualty care in field conditions, and live-fire tactical drills to validate seamless interoperability.

Yudh Abhyas currently stands as a flagship, high-complexity Army-to-Army exercise and has become one of the cornerstones of India-US military cooperation. India conducts more military exercises with the US than with any other country, the Indian Embassy mentioned.

"India conducts more military exercises with the US than with any other country. These exercises, including Yudh Abhyas, Malabar, COPE India, Vajra Prahar, Tiger Triumph and several others, are central to building interoperability and forging mutual trust. It demonstrates how our two democracies continue to work towards peace, security and prosperity, including in the Indo-Pacific region," the Embassy added. IANS

US Supreme Court allows immigration raids in LA amid crackdown in Chicago

WASHINGTON: In a major legal victory for the Trump administration, the US Supreme Court on 8 September lifted a lower court injunction that had barred Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from conducting indiscriminate immigration raids in the Los Angeles area.

The 6-3 decision granted an emergency appeal from the Trump administration, allowing agents to resume operations while the case proceeds in the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Supreme Court majority provided no explanation, but Justice Brett Kavanaugh concurred separately, noting that agents could question based on "common sense criteria" such as day labor employment or limited English proficiency.

Kavanaugh also wrote, "The Judiciary does not set immigration policy or decide

enforcement priorities."

Justice Sonia Sotomayor dissented, joined by the two other liberal judges, writing, "We should not have to live in a country where the Government can seize anyone who looks Latino, speaks Spanish, and appears to work a low-wage job."

In July, a US District Judge ruled that the raids likely violated constitutional rights and prohibited stops based on race, ethnicity, or language.

After the 9th Circuit Court declined to block the order in early August, the Trump administration moved to the Supreme Court with an emergency petition.

The ruling comes as the Department of Homeland Security announced that it has started its campaign, called "Operation Midway Blitz," against illegal migrants in Chicago. IANS

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Simulated invasion shows China targeting Taiwan's energy lifelines, says US-based think tank

TAIPEI: A prominent US-based think tank has cautioned Taiwan to urgently address critical weaknesses in its energy infrastructure, warning that its dependence on Qatari liquefied natural gas (LNG) could leave it vulnerable to Chinese geopolitical pressure, as reported by the Taipei Times.

According to the Taipei Times, the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) released a report following a table-top simulation held in July that explored potential Chinese strategies to disrupt Taiwan's energy supplies.

The two-day exercise involved experts from Taiwan, Japan, Australia, and the UK and simulated a cyber-enabled economic warfare (CEEW) campaign aimed at crippling Taiwan's LNG and coal imports.

The FDD warned that China could use

a combination of cyberattacks, diplomatic maneuvers, and military intimidation to interfere with Taiwan's energy lifelines, particularly its LNG shipments from Qatar, which accounts for around 30% of the nation's gas imports. The report argued

The two-day exercise involved experts from Taiwan, Japan, Australia, and the UK and simulated a cyber-enabled economic warfare (CEEW) campaign aimed at crippling Taiwan's LNG and coal imports

that Qatar, despite its long-term energy agreement with Taiwan, could yield to Beijing's influence.

According to the Taipei Times, Taiwan

generates nearly half of its electricity from LNG and relies entirely on imports for both gas and coal. With limited energy storage capacity, any significant disruption could force the government to make tough decisions between sustaining essential ser-

vices and keeping its vital semiconductor industry running.

To reduce risk, the FDD suggested that Taiwan diversify its LNG sources, poten-

tially by securing more imports from the United States, even at higher prices, while also investing in additional storage, renewable energy, and even considering a return to nuclear power. The report also called for stronger grid infrastructure and cyber defense capabilities.

Taiwan phased out its last operational nuclear reactor in May 2024 as part of a longstanding policy shift. However, the think tank argues that reactivating nuclear plants might now be necessary for national security, as highlighted by the Taipei Times.

The FDD urged stronger coordination with global allies. As noted by the Taipei Times, countries like Australia, Japan, and the US could play key roles in safeguarding Taiwan's energy resilience in the event of a crisis. ANI

PoJK PM accused of terror links; Amjad Ayub Mirza slams PoJK govt for promoting terror

LONDON: Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq is facing severe criticism for openly endorsing terrorism and aligning with jihadi organizations.

PoJK activist and political analyst Amjad Ayub Mirza has accused him of using his position to promote radical ideology, warning that his actions pose a direct threat to peace and stability in the region.

Speaking in a strong statement, Mirza alleged that Haq has been inviting extremist organizations to his public meetings and has made open calls for jihad.

"You see, this is no secret that the Prime Minister of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir himself has been inviting all the Jihadi organizations to his public meetings and has been raising slogans of Al-Jihad, Al-Jihad and he has publicly confessed that his government is going to facilitate Jihad in Indian Kashmir," Mirza said.

He questioned why Haq has not been prosecuted by the United Nations for promoting terrorism.

"He is promoting terrorism publicly and there are public statements, his press

statements, he has been quoted in the media but he still remains the Prime Minister of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He has been supporting all the rallies that have been taking place in Muzaffarabad and other places," he added.

Mirza also highlighted the deep-rooted political suppression in the region, describing PoJK as nothing more than a colony under Pakistan's control.

"Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir is a colony of Pakistan and one of the main jobs that has been designated to the so-called Legislative Assembly and the government of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir is to suppress public discontent, to suppress public mobilization against the government and to suppress

the civil rights, economic rights and political rights movement," he asserted.

He pointed to the rise of the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), a growing people's movement in PoJK, which he said has become a legitimate representative of the people's will.

"The Joint Awami Action Committee is the only legitimate representative of the people's will in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. This has never happened in the past 78 years that the masses have agreed to support one entity, and that entity is the Joint Awami Action Committee. Therefore, the Joint Awami Action Committee is looked upon as a threat not only by the Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir government but also by the Pakistani government," Mirza explained. ANI

Northern Alliance in splinters, India deepens pragmatic engagement with Taliban

NEW DELHI: More than four years after the Taliban returned to power in Kabul following the withdrawal of U.S. troops in 2021, Afghanistan's political reality has shifted irreversibly.

Once the most formidable opposition to the Taliban, the Northern Alliance - which held sway in the 1990s and early 2000s from its stronghold in Panjshir Valley - has now all but collapsed, reduced to scattered voices abroad with little to no support at home or internationally.

Ahmad Massoud, son of the legendary anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, has attempted to revive his father's legacy by positioning himself as the de facto leader of a resistance front.

He has reportedly, in the past few months, organized conferences in Western capitals, hoping to galvanize political and financial backing. IANS

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'Oli's ego has turned to ashes': Nepal residents react after PM's resignation amid protests

KATHMANDU: As Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli resigned amid mass protests sweeping across the country, the announcement on Tuesday (9 Sept) was met with mixed emotions - from anger to relief - as citizens accused him of leading a "corrupt" and "oppressive" government and some declared that "Oli's ego has turned into ashes".

IANS spoke to several residents of Nepal, who expressed their reactions to the resignation, calling it inevitable after days of civil unrest and growing youth-led demonstrations.

"This was expected. Prime Minister Oli had no option left but to resign. His government was corrupt and completely detached from the public's needs," a resident said.

"More than 42 cabinet ministers have stepped down. There is no law and order left. I fear the military may soon take over."

Another protestor said: "Oli's resignation was bound to happen. Ministers are resigning one after the other. Let's see what comes next."

Condemning the use of force during

the protests, one resident said: "It's unacceptable that guns were used against protestors. What happened was wrong. But now, Oli has finally stepped down."

Pointing to systemic issues, another citizen said: "Under Oli's government, corruption thrived. The people of Nepal received nothing in return. The youth, especially students and teenagers, took action-and it's commendable."

Another added: "The situation left Oli with no other choice. His ego has now turned to ashes."

Yet another protestor said: "We've burned the Parliament and homes of corrupt parliamentarians. I want to burn down every house of those who betrayed the country."

Highlighting the power shift, another

resident asserted, "Gen Z is awake 24/7. The next government will be under the control of Gen Z. This is just the beginning".

Earlier in the day, Oli resigned from his post. He submitted his resignation letter to President Ram Chandra Poudel, citing the abnormal situation in the country as protests intensified against his rule throughout the country.

In the resignation letter, Oli said he resigned from the post as per Article 77 (1) of the constitution to pave the way for a constitutional resolution of the current situation.

Oli was elected Prime Minister on July 14, 2024, as per a consensus reached with Nepali Congress, the largest party in the parliament. IANS

Earlier in the day, Oli resigned from his post. He submitted his resignation letter to President Ram Chandra Poudel, citing the abnormal situation in the country as protests intensified against his rule throughout the country

Nepal crisis revives fear of ISI using border to push Khalistan, JeM terrorists

NEW DELHI: A volatile situation in Nepal directly has a bearing on the security of India. At least 19 people were killed in Nepal following violent protests that were mostly led by young citizens.

While there are several reasons for the protests, one of the main ones was the ban on social media. The government, however, revoked the ban following the protests.

The situation is largely under control, but it remains volatile and tense. While India is closely watching the developments, it is taking no risk in terms of border security.

The Intelligence agencies have warned that such a situation in Nepal could lead to a spill-over of anti-social elements into India. These elements very often take advantage of such a situation and capitalize on lax security in Nepal to cross over into India.

Recently, there were reports that terrorists belonging to the Jaish-e-Mohammad had crossed over from Nepal into India. IANS

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Mauritius PM Ramgoolam begins 8-day India visit, receives warm welcome in Mumbai

MUMBAI: Mauritian Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam arrived in Mumbai for a State visit to India, to further strengthen the Enhanced Strategic Partnership between the two nations.

The Mauritian PM will be in India till September 16. This is his first overseas bilateral visit to India in his present term.

"A visit that will further strengthen the India-Mauritius

Apart from Mumbai, the Mauritian PM is scheduled to travel to Varanasi, Ayodhya and Tirupati.

Varanasi is all decked up for PM Modi and Mauritian PM Ramgoolam's visit on September 11 with elaborate arrangements and decorations.

Earlier, Ramgoolam had visited India in 2014, as the only non-SAARC leader invited to attend the swearing-in ceremony of PM Modi and the Council of Ministers.

In a press release, the MEA stated, "India and Mauritius share a close and special relationship rooted in shared historical, cultural and people-to-people ties. As India's key maritime neighbor in the Indian Ocean Region, Mauritius holds a special place in India's Vision MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Region) and the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and is a key partner in the Global South."

The ministry said that the Mauritian PM's visit to India, following the visit of PM Modi to the East African nation in March 2025, will advance the "strong and enduring bonds" between the two countries.

PM Modi went to Mauritius in March for a two-day State visit at the invitation of Ramgoolam to attend the country's 57th National Day celebrations.

During the visit, he held a bilateral meeting with Ramgoolam and Mauritian President Dharam Gokhool.

Mauritius was one of the handful of important countries with which independent India established diplomatic relations in 1948, even before the independence of Mauritius.

The relationship has been characterized by a high level of trust and mutual understanding at the leadership level and continued high-level political engagement, according to the MEA. *IANS*



Mauritius Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam receives a warm welcome from Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, in Varanasi on September 10. (@MEAIndiaX/ANI Photo)

Enhanced Strategic Partnership. Warm welcome to PM Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam of Mauritius as he arrives in Mumbai on a State Visit to India," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a post on X.

He is scheduled to attend a business event in Mumbai. During his visit to India, Ramgoolam will call on President Droupadi Murmu and hold discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to further the Enhanced Strategic Partnership.

Japan PM and Asia's defense against tariffs

NEW DELHI: On his way to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Tianjin, China, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a two-day official visit to Japan in late August.

In deliberations with the then Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba of Japan, the two premiers appreciated the partnership over the last decade and held discussions on ways to strengthen it.

The two countries adopted a 10-year roadmap to deepen the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. This included Japan committing to double its investment in India to JPY 10 trillion (roughly USD 67 billion).

India and Japan also pledged to work jointly in other areas, including high-speed rail, metro systems, enhancing financial, SME, agri-business, and ICT collaboration etc.

Around the same time, Japan's top trade negotiator Ryosei Akazawa called off his US visit at the last minute. The sudden decision was linked to bilateral issues that still needed to be debated at the administrative level. *IANS*

"Israel and India negotiating with US administration over tariffs now": Israel's Finance Minister

NEW DELHI: Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich expressed optimism about reaching an agreement with the US on tariffs, despite current trade tensions.

Speaking in Delhi with ANI, Smotrich highlighted the long-standing relationships between India, Israel, and the US, noting that differences are natural but can be resolved through dialogue.

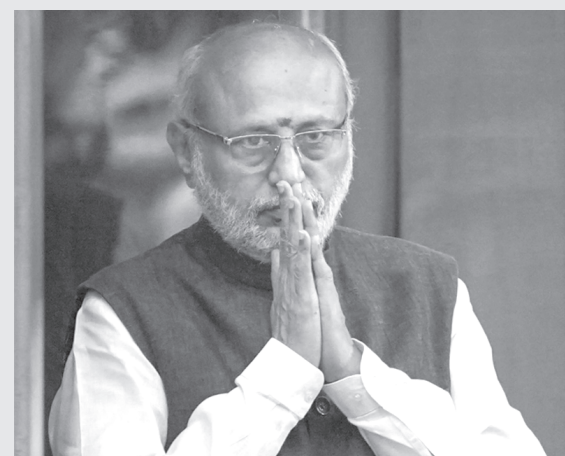
Smotrich praised the strong appreciation between the leaders of the three countries - Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Donald Trump, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He emphasized that Israel and India share common values, friends, enemies, and economic interests, which form a strong foundation for their relationship.

"India and America go back many years. Israel and India go back many years... Each of the bilateral relations goes back many years and it's perfectly okay that there are differences within this relationship. There is a great appreciation between each of the three leaders, Prime Minister Modi, President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu. Both of our countries, Israel and India, are negotiating with the United States administration over tariffs nowadays." *ANI*

C.P. Radhakrishnan elected new Vice President

NEW DELHI: NDA nominee and Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan was on Tuesday 9 September, elected as the new Vice President, securing a comfortable victory in what was billed as a rare 'South vs South' electoral contest.

Announcing the results, Rajya Sabha Secretary-General P.C. Mody said that Radhakrishnan polled 452 first preference votes, defeating opposition nominee and former Supreme Court judge Justice B. Sudarshan Reddy, who received 300 first preference votes.



C.P. Radhakrishnan

The election witnessed a strong turnout with 752 members casting their votes out of the total 782 in the electoral college.

The Vice President is chosen by an electoral college comprising members of both Houses of Parliament - 233 elected and 12 nominated members of the Rajya Sabha (which presently has five vacancies) and 543 members of the Lok Sabha (one vacancy). This year's contest carried symbolic weight as both candidates hailed from the South.

Radhakrishnan, a veteran leader from Tamil Nadu with a long-standing association with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), was pitched by the NDA as a grassroots leader with administrative experience.

Justice Reddy (retd), from Telangana, was projected by the opposition as a distinguished legal mind who could strengthen constitutional values in the second-highest office of the land.

The election was conducted through a secret ballot, following the system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.

Radhakrishnan's victory adds to the NDA's tally of key constitutional positions.

The election was necessitated by the sudden resignation of incumbent Jagdeep Dhankhar, whose term was to last till 2027, in July.

As the Vice President, Radhakrishnan will also function as the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, a role that places him at the heart of parliamentary proceedings, amid the frequent disruptions that have affected the sessions of both houses. *IANS*

India's gold ETFs attract \$233 million in August

NEW DELHI: India's gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) saw net inflows of \$233 million in August 2025, marking a 67 percent jump from the \$139 million reported in July, as per World Gold Council data.

This marks the third straight month of inflows globally, and the fourth month of inflows in India, highlighting steady investor appetite for the yellow metal. Except for March and May, every month of 2025 has seen inflows.



In India, the price of 24-carat gold per gram is at Rs 10,634 on Monday (8 Sept), according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewelers Association (IBJA).

Year-to-date inflows in ETFs stood at \$1.23 billion, just shy of the full-year total of \$1.29 billion for 2024. India's gold ETFs attracted approximately \$310 million in 2023, up from \$33 million in 2022. *IANS*

TechBiz

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September 12, 2025

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India Post 13

Trump's advisor Navarro escalates war of words, launches fresh attack on Musk

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump's Trade Advisor Peter Navarro on Monday launched a sharp attack on Elon Musk's social media platform X and criticized India for buying Russian oil, calling it "blood money".



In a post, Navarro used an expletive and claimed that India did not purchase Russian oil in large quantities before the Ukraine war. "Fact: India didn't buy Russian oil in large quantities before Russia invaded Ukraine. It's blood money and people are dying," he wrote. *IANS*

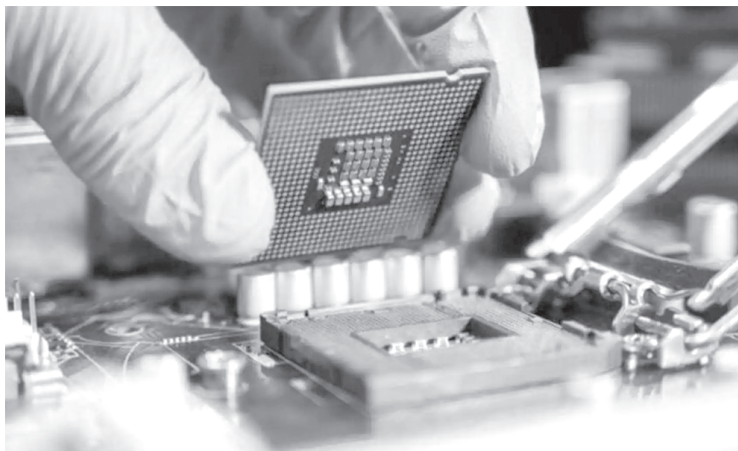
US proposes new annual approval system for Samsung, SK Hynix semiconductor equipment shipments to China

SEOUL: Instead of the previously more flexible regulations, the U.S. Department of Commerce is considering a new system of granting annual approvals for semiconductor equipment shipments to Chinese factories operated by Samsung Electronics Co. and SK Hynix Inc., as per a report by Pulse, the English service of Maeil Business Newspaper Korea.

Although still under review, the permanent comprehensive status applied until now will no longer be available. However, the worst-case scenario, requiring case-by-case approval for every single piece of equipment brought into the Chinese plants, appears to have been avoided.

Citing Bloomberg, the recent report stated that, during discussions with South Korea last week, the U.S. Commerce Department proposed a "site license" system.

Under this arrangement, companies such as Samsung and SK Hynix, which operate semi-



Under this arrangement, companies such as Samsung and SK Hynix, which operate semiconductor fabs in China, would submit detailed annual lists of the equipment, components, and materials

conductor fabs in China, would submit detailed annual lists of the equipment, components, and materials they need, and obtain U.S. government approval on a yearly basis.

The "site license" system is stricter than the Validated End-User (VEU) program, which

granted indefinite comprehensive approval for importing equipment into China.

The Trump administration revoked VEU status for Samsung and SK Hynix after about three years. "While the site license is procedurally more complex than VEU, it is seen as a sec-

ond-best option that allows Korean semiconductor companies to continue running their Chinese plants," the report noted.

The Trump administration has consistently argued that the VEU system, introduced under the previous Biden administration, was a regulatory loophole and has maintained its stance against reinstating it.

As a result, the industry had feared a worst-case scenario of requiring approval for every shipment of equipment.

According to U.S. federal estimates, the two companies could have been forced to seek as many as 1,000 approvals annually. If site licenses are introduced, Korean chipmakers would be spared from having to obtain approval every time they import equipment.

The report, citing Bloomberg, stated that the plan could be viewed as a practical compromise, offering more predictability than case-by-case permits. *ANI*

'Airbnb adds Rs 113 billion to India's GDP, supports 1.11 lakh jobs last year'

NEW DELHI: Hospitality major Airbnb contributed Rs 113 billion to India's economy in 2024, helping support 111,000 jobs while contributing Rs 24 billion in wage income, according to a new report.

New research by Oxford Economics, commissioned by Airbnb, shows that the platform made a significant contribution to India's economy in 2024.

Airbnb-supported tourism helped support approximately 38,000 jobs in transport and storage, 19,600 in food and beverage services, 16,800 in wholesale and retail trade, and 10,700 in manufacturing.

Last year, domestic travellers comprised around 91 percent of Airbnb guests in India, a notable rise from approximately 79 percent in 2019.

According to the report, this was fuelled by a surge in domestic travel, corresponding to stronger demand from younger Indian Airbnb guests, and positioned India as one of Airbnb's fastest growing markets.

Among international guests, the largest inbound sources were the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia. In 2024, Airbnb guest spending in India reached Rs 112 billion, which includes both accommodation and

non accommodation expenses.

The report further mentioned that Airbnb's footprint accounted for 0.5 percent of India's travel and tourism GDP in 2024, and

supported 0.2 percent of tourism-related employment - equivalent to one in every 417 tourism-related jobs.

Beyond front-line tourism

sectors, Airbnb-generated activity injected significant value into the wider economy: contributing Rs 31 billion in transport and storage, Rs 15 billion in agriculture, Rs 13 billion in real estate and Rs 12 billion in manufacturing.

"India's tourism sector is driven by strong demand amongst domestic travellers. From bustling urban cities to tranquil small towns, Indian travellers are exploring the richness and diversity of their own country," said James Lambert, Director of Economic Consulting Asia for Oxford Economics. *IANS*



India, Israel sign Bilateral Investment Agreement to bolster economic ties

NEW DELHI: India and Israel signed a Bilateral Investment Agreement recently to provide greater certainty and protection for investors, to boost the growth of mutual investments between the two countries.

The agreement was signed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Israeli counterpart Bezalel Smotrich.

"The agreement marks a historic milestone in the relations of the two countries. The agreement is expected to boost investments, provide greater certainty and protection for investors, facilitate the growth of trade and mutual investments by ensuring a minimum standard of treatment, and an independent dispute resolution mechanism through arbitration," according to an official statement.

The agreement also includes provisions to safeguard investments against expropriation, ensure transparency, and enable smooth transfers and compensation for losses. At the same time, it carefully balances investor protection with the State's regulatory rights, preserving sufficient policy space for sovereign governance, the statement explained.

The signing of the agreement reflects the shared commitment of both nations towards enhancing economic cooperation and creating a more robust and resilient investment environment. The agreement is expected to pave the way for increased



Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman and Finance Minister of Israel, Bezalel Smotrich, at the Signing ceremony of the Bilateral Investment Agreement between India and Israel, in New Delhi. (@ReuvenAzar X/ANI Photo)

bilateral investments between the two countries, which presently stands at a total of \$800 million, thereby benefiting businesses and economies in both countries.

In this regard, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman mentioned that both sides

should have more business interaction to explore opportunities of investments, to gain benefit from the agreement

She further informed about the series of reforms undertaken by India over last more than 10 years, which has enabled

India to be the fastest growing economy of the world and has created an investment friendly environment in the country.

Finance Minister Sitharaman also expressed her condolences over the loss of innocent lives in the terrorist attack in Israel on Monday (8 Sept). She also mentioned the shared value of the civilizational ethos of the two countries which contributed to global peace. Both ministers acknowledged the threat of terrorism faced by both the countries and expressed solidarity with each other.

The Israeli Finance Minister spoke about the strong common background of the two countries achieving high economic growth despite security challenges. The Finance Minister of Israel emphasized the need for greater collaboration between two nations in the field of cybersecurity, defense, innovation and high-technology sectors.

Both the ministers emphasized their commitment to advancing economic cooperation in the fields of fintech innovation, infrastructure development, financial regulation, and digital payment connectivity.

They agreed to enhance economic and financial cooperation between the two countries and to promote and protect investments on a reciprocal basis.

The Finance Minister of Israel also extended an invitation to Finance Minister Sitharaman to visit Israel. IANS

Scindia launches historic UPI-UPU integration at Universal Postal Congress in Dubai

DUBAI: India's Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the UPI-UPU Integration project at the 28th Universal Postal Congress here, a landmark initiative set to transform cross-border remittances for millions worldwide.

The initiative, developed by the Department of Posts (DoP), NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), and the Universal Postal Union (UPU), integrates India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with the UPU Interconnection Platform (IP), combining the reach of the postal network with the speed and affordability of UPI.

Scindia said, "The reliability of the postal network combined with the speed of UPI means families across borders can send money faster, safer and at much lower cost. It reaffirms that public infrastructure built for citizens can be linked across borders to serve humanity better."



Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia meets with State Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs & Communication, Japan, Masashi Adachi, on the sideline of 28th Universal Postal Congress Summit, in Dubai. (@JM_Scindia X/ANI Photo)

The minister also announced that India would extend financial support to the tune of \$10 million during this cycle to channel technology into innovation, with special focus on e-commerce and digital payments.

Taking forward the motto of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' he said India stands ready with resources, expertise and friendship.

He outlined India's vision for a modern, inclusive postal sector which aims "to connect through seamless data-driven logistics; to include by delivering affordable digital financial services to every migrant and digital enterprise; to modernize with AI, DigiPIN and machine learning; and to co-operate through South-South partnerships with a UPU-backed technical cell." IANS

Textile sector needs incentive cushion as 50% US tariffs too steep to absorb: Report

NEW DELHI: The textile industry in India urgently requires an incentive cushion; as the recently imposed 50 percent tariffs by the United States are too steep for exporters to absorb, according to a recent report by Emkay Research.



The report highlighted that such high tariff levels will lead to erosion of already low margins in the sector, which is struggling to stay competitive in global markets. It stated, "Around 50 percent US tariffs--too steep to absorb--will require incentive cushion." The report noted that the additional 10 percent baseline

tariff imposed by the US on April 2, 2025, has already started impacting margins. In the 90-day window after the fresh duty, the tariff burden was equally shared between exporters and customers in order to protect margins.

However, with cumulative tariffs now at around 50 percent, exporters are finding it difficult to bear the pressure, leading to margin stress and inventory overhang. The report highlighted that government support is crucial, especially for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Unlike large exporters, MSMEs lack balance-sheet strength and are highly vulnerable to disruptions in international trade. While near-term disruption is evident, the report said medium-term cushioning factors such as domestic demand, free trade agreements (FTAs), and structural reforms provide tailwinds. However, it added that the timeline for relief measures will be vital for stability. India's global textile market share stands at around 4 percent, much lower than Bangladesh at 13 percent and Vietnam at 9 percent, with execution challenges slowing FTA gains. ANI

U.S.-India Business Council applauds Trump, Modi positive remarks, urges to conclude trade deal

NEW DELHI: The U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) has welcomed the recent positive remarks made by President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The council in a statement noted that the strong U.S.-India partnership must be safeguarded at a time of global uncertainty. In a social media post the council stated, "U.S.-India Business Council (USIBC) applauds the recent positive remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Modi". USIBC noted that for 50 years, it has worked to promote closer economic ties between the two nations. The council said that this collaboration has been vital in building an environment that supports innovation, job creation, and resilient supply chains. Highlighting the past achievements of the bilateral relationship, USIBC pointed out that through 25 years of partnership, the U.S. and India have shown that disagreements can be resolved through private and mutually respectful discussions. It said that the current impasse should also be handled in the same spirit, as the stakes are too high in the present era of rising geostrategic competition. ANI

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India in touch with Albanese govt, diaspora: MEA

NEW DELHI: India remains in touch with the Australian government and various diaspora organizations over the recent anti-immigrant protests that took place in the country, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said recently.

While addressing a media briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that the Indian High Commission in Australia had shared concerns raised by Indian community members with the Australian government before the protests. The High Commission had received a formal response from the Australian side, where they acknowledged that the protests were of concern for diverse communities in Australia.

When asked about the anti-immigration protests in Australia and singling out of Indians, Jaiswal responded, "We all are aware that anti-immigrant protests happened in several cities in Australia on 31st of August. Our High Commissioner and Consulate Generals in Australia, they were in regular touch with the Australian Government as also with our community members in this regard. As you know that we have a large diaspora in Australia, almost about a million. Before the protests took place, our High Commission conveyed whatever concerns that were shared with them by the Indian community members to the Australian government. In response, we actually received a formal response from the Australian side, where they acknowledged that the protests in Australia may be of concern for Australia's diverse communities."

"At the same time, we would have seen that senior leaders and politicians, both from the Australian government side and also from the opposition side, they have issued statements supporting the multicultural identity of Australia. They've also recognized the role played by the Indian Australian community in the overall progress and development of Australia and they appreciate and acknowledge this role very much. On our side, we continue to firmly believe that diversity is strength. *IANS*

Immigration

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"As a result, these individuals and their immediate family members will be generally ineligible for entry into the United States"



US to restrict visas of Central Americans "acting" on behalf of China: Marco Rubio

WASHINGTON DC: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that United States would restrict visas of Central American Nationals who are "acting" on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to carry out activities that undermine the rule of law in Central America.

The press statement by Marco Rubio announced a new visa restriction policy to allow the US to restrict US visas for "Central American nationals who, while in Central American countries and intentionally acting on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), knowingly direct, authorize, fund, provide significant support to, or carry out activities that undermine the rule of law in Central America."

The statement emphasized that the United States is committed to "countering China's corrupt influence in Central America and stopping its attempts to subvert the rule of law."



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio

New visa restriction policy to allow the US to restrict US visas for "Central American nationals who, while in Central American countries and intentionally acting on behalf of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

It also mentioned that steps are being taken to impose visa restrictions under this new policy

on a number of Central American nationals who have previously engaged in such activities.

"As a result, these individuals and their immediate family members will be generally ineligible for entry into the United States," the statement read.

Secretary Rubio said that these actions reaffirm President Trump's commitment to protect America's economic prosperity and national security interests in our region.

"We continue to promote accountability for Central American nationals who intentionally work with the CCP in Central America and destabilize our hemisphere," he said.

"We continue to use all available tools to promote safety and security of our region", the statement concluded.

The Secretary of State is on a visit to Ecuador and held a meeting with President Daniel Noboa Azin. He also interacted with the US Embassy "to fight organized crime and end illegal immigration." *ANI*

"Encourage you to LEGALLY bring very smart people": Trump after ICE raid in Georgia

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump gave a call to foreign companies to bring in talent to the United States through legitimate channels after a raid by the Immigration Enforcement Operation (ICE) on Hyundai's plant in Georgia detained over 400 people.

In a post on Truth Social, the US President said that while investments are welcome in the US, he encouraged bringing in talent legally, alongside hiring and training American workers.

"Following the Immigration Enforcement Operation on the Hyundai Battery Plant in Georgia,

I am hereby calling on all Foreign Companies investing in the United States to please respect our Nation's Immigration Laws. Your Investments are wel-

What we ask in return is that you hire and train American Workers. Together, we will all work hard to make our Nation not only productive, but closer in unity than ever before

come, and we encourage you to LEGALLY bring your very smart people, with great technical talent, to build World Class products, and we will make it quickly and legally possible for you to do

so. What we ask in return is that you hire and train American Workers. Together, we will all work hard to make our Nation not only productive, but closer in

unity than ever before. Thank you for your attention to this matter!"

The raid at the Hyundai Metaplant in Ellabell, Georgia, houses an electric vehicle battery plant jointly operated by

South Korea-based companies Hyundai and LG Energy Solution, as reported by CNN.

Of the 475 people detained, about 300 of them were South Korean, officials said as cited by CNN.

The raid is being seen as one of the most extensive immigration raids in recent American history.

CNN reported that the South Korean government has been actively working along with the Korean Embassy in Washington DC and the Consulate General in Atlanta for securing a release of the workers. *ANI*

"Bullying the small": China criticizes US over Central America visa restrictions

BEIJING: China has criticized United States of America for imposing visa restrictions on Central American nationals and for accusing the region's exchanges with China, calling it "yet another example of the US-style diplomacy of "bullying the small."

A statement by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) spokesperson read, "China deplores the US' groundless attacks, coercive diplomacy, and interference in China's relations with these countries."

The spokesperson further added, "Weaponizing visas will not scare off the sober-minded. Nor will it hold back the flourishing ties between China and Central American

countries. We will continue to enhance cooperation with Central American countries, contribute to local prosperity, and deliver more tangible benefits to their peoples."

When asked for comments on Trump's executive order to place an additional 25 percent tariff on India for its purchases of Russian oil, he said, "China's opposition to the abuse of tariffs was consistent and clear."

"China opposed the US politicizing tech and trade issues and using them as weapons to maliciously blockade and go after China. The US should earnestly protect the legitimate and lawful rights and interests of Chinese nationals," he added.

Trump's order drew criticism from within the country as House Foreign Affairs Committee Dems warned that Trump's actions risked the carefully developed US-India relationship.

In a post on X, House Foreign Affairs Committee

Dems said, "RM Gregory Meeks: Trump's latest tariff tantrum risked years of careful work to build a stronger US-India partnership. We have deep strategic, economic, and people-to-people ties. Concerns should be addressed in a mutually respectful way consistent with our democratic values." ANI

countries. We will continue to enhance cooperation with Central American countries, contribute to local prosperity, and deliver more tangible benefits to their peoples."

Last month, China had similarly voiced its opposition to the US announcement of tariffs against India. The Spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guo

'Chipocalypse Now': Trump warns of immigration action

WASHINGTON, DC: United States President Donald Trump has made a cryptic comment, hinting at a large-scale immigration enforcement operation in Chicago.

"I love the smell of deportation in the morning... Chicago about to find out why it's called the Department of War," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social account.

He also posted a dramatic AI-generated image of him in military attire with a fire in the background, which is based on poster of 1979 war action movie "Apocalypse Now".

The poster shared by Trump reads, "Chipocalypse Now".

Earlier this week, Trump signed an Executive Order, which reverted the Department of Defense's name to the Department of War.

According to ABC News, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker confirmed that federal immigration enforcement could intensify in Chicago this weekend.

At a press conference earlier this week, Pritzker said US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would be ramping up operations, with as many as 300 agents expected to be deployed.

The New York Times also reported that Department of Homeland Security officials would arrive at Chicago's Naval Station Great Lakes this week, with enforcement expected to continue for at least 30 days in the wider Chicago area.

Earlier this week, Trump signed an Executive Order, which reverted the Department of Defense's name to the Department of War

The latest move follows repeated attacks by Trump on Chicago's Democratic leadership, crime levels, and handling of immigration. He has previously described the city as a "mess."

Earlier this year, Trump dispatched federal agents and troops to Los Angeles and Washington, saying that the step was necessary to tackle crime and enforce immigration law, according to NYT.

According to The New York Times, Chicago is home to 2.7 million residents, has an estimated 150,000 undocumented immigrants, nearly 8 percent of the city's households. The scale

of the planned enforcement has raised concerns among migrant families, community groups, and local leaders, many of whom fear mass detentions and deportations.

Hundreds of residents and immigrant rights groups have pledged to mobilize in downtown Chicago at the first signs of ICE raids. ANI

"We are deeply concerned over arrest of our nationals": South Korean FM

SEOUL: The South Korean government has expressed "deep concern" after 300 of its nationals were arrested by US immigration authorities at Hyundai manufacturing site in Georgia, Yonhap News reported.

This comes only weeks after Washington and Seoul announced a major trade agreement in July. Last month, speaking to reporters at White House, Trump also called the trade deal with South Korea "historic".

South Korea's Foreign Minister Cho Hyun recently chaired an emergency meeting in Seoul, where he confirmed that out of 457 people taken into custody, over 300 were South Koreans, as per Yonhap News.

"We are deeply concerned and feel a heavy sense of responsibility over the arrests of our nationals," Cho said, adding that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had activated its Overseas Citizens Protection Task Force.

He stressed that the economic activities of South Korean companies investing in the United States should not be "unjustly infringed" upon during law enforcement operations. Cho also instructed officials to provide active consular support for those detained.

During the meeting, Cho said he might personally travel to Washington to raise the issue.

"We will discuss sending a senior foreign ministry official to the site without delay, and, if necessary, I will personally travel to Washington to hold consultations with the U.S. administration," he said, as per Yonhap News.

According to Yonhap news, First Vice Minister of South Korea, Park Yoon-joo spoke with Allison Hooker, US Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs. Park conveyed Seoul's regret over the arrests and the public disclosure of footage showing South Korean nationals being detained. Hooker assured that the US State Department was "closely monitoring" the situation.

American authorities have described the arrests as part of a criminal probe into alleged violations of immigration and employment rules. Homeland Security officials said those detained included individuals who overstayed visas or entered through visa waiver programs that prohibited them from working. Most of them are now being held at a detention facility in Folkston, Georgia, Yonhap News further mentioned. ANI

"We will discuss sending a senior foreign ministry official to the site without delay, and, if necessary, I will personally travel to Washington to hold consultations with the U.S. administration"

WHO says mpox no longer a global public health emergency

GENEVA: The World Health Organization (WHO) has said that the spread of mpox (monkeypox) in Africa no longer represents a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

WHO's Emergency Committee has met every three months to evaluate the outbreak of mpox, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Yesterday, they met again and advised me that in their view, the situation no longer represents an international health emergency. I have accepted that advice," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in the media briefing last week Friday.

"This decision is based on sustained declines in cases and deaths in Congo, and in other affected countries, including Burundi, Sierra Leone, and Uganda," Tedros said.

"We also have a better understanding of the drivers of transmission, the risk factors for severity, and the most affected countries have developed a sustained response capacity," he added.

However, the WHO also said that lifting the emergency declaration does not mean the threat is over, "nor that our response will stop, and we note the Africa CDC's decision yesterday that mpox remains a continental emergency." *IANS*

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

Sri Atmananda (1883 - 1959)

18 India Post

www.indiapost.com

September 12, 2025

US Health Secretary grilled in Senate on vaccine stance, CDC shake-up

WASHINGTON: US Health Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr. faced tough grilling from the Senate Finance Committee over his decision to fire Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Director Susan Monarez and his views on vaccines.

In the three-hour-long hearing held last week, Kennedy faced bipartisan fury -- with many Republican lawmakers joining hands with Democrats to target him.

On the firing of CDC Director Monarez last week, Kennedy said that she was untrustworthy.

Monarez wrote an article in the Wall Street Journal accusing Kennedy of making a "deliberate effort to weaken America's public-health system and vaccine protections".

Kennedy rejected those allegations.

"By the way, a month ago, you were voting against her because you thought she was either incompetent, ineligible, or unsuited to the task. Now I agree with

you," the US Health Secretary told Democratic Senator Elizabeth Warren.

On Covid-19 vaccines, War-

ner asked Kennedy whether he agreed that "a million Americans died from Covid", Kennedy Jr. responded: "I don't know how

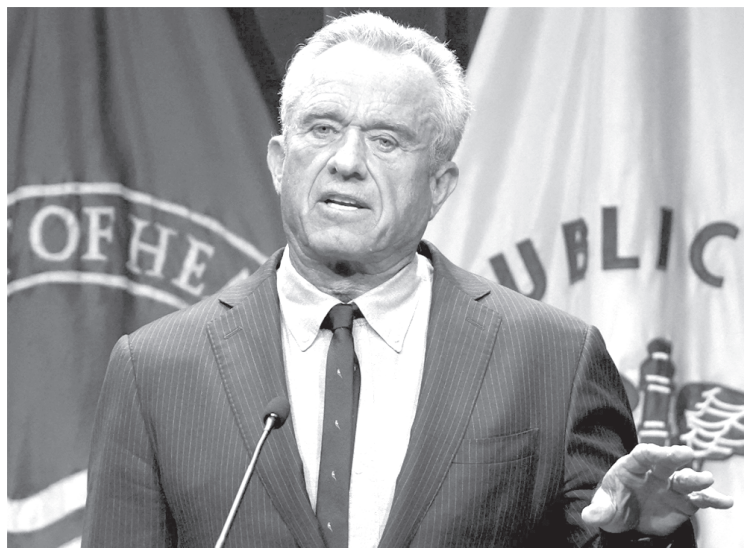
guidelines.

Since assuming office, Kennedy has introduced several contentious shifts in US vaccine policy -- restricting eligibility for Covid-19 shots and dismissing all 17 members of the CDC's vaccine advisory panel, replacing some with allies from the anti-vaccine movement.

The hearing comes a day after Florida announced that it plans to become the first US state to end all vaccine mandates, including for diseases like chicken pox, measles, polio and mumps.

The American Medical Association criticized the move, warning, "this unprecedented rollback would undermine decades of public health progress and place children and communities at increased risk".

Covid-19 was the third leading cause of death in the US in 2020 and 2021, fourth in 2022 and 10th in 2023, according to data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *IANS*



US Health Secretary Robert Kennedy Jr.

ren also accused Kennedy of restricting access to the booster shot.

Kennedy shot back, saying, "It's not recommended for healthy people."

Democratic Senator Mark

many died."

Republican Senator Bill Cassidy also challenged Kennedy, noting that his constituents are struggling to access Covid-19 booster shots amid confusion created by the revised

Cipla launches India's first non-antibiotic drug for recurrent UTI

NEW DELHI: Cipla recently announced the launch of Methenamine Hippurate, a non-antibiotic treatment for patients suffering from recurrent Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs), under the brand name HUENA.

UTIs are the second-most common reason for antibiotic use in India, with infection cases doubling over the last 30 years.

"Women are more susceptible to UTI, which accounts for 15 percent of overall antibiotic prescriptions," the company said.

According to the drug maker, Methenamine Hippurate offers an ef-

fective, non-antibiotic alternative for preventing UTIs by targeting bacteria in the bladder and urinary tract.

Studies have shown it is as effective as long-term, low-dose antibiotic therapy for UTI prevention, with lower costs and no risk of antibiotic resistance.

"The launch of HUENA reflects our strong commitment to antimicrobial stewardship and addressing the growing challenge of Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR). We believe this innovation will notably improve patient outcomes, while reducing reliance on antibiotics. *IANS*

S. Korea aims to double bio exports by 2030 to enter global top 5

SEOUL: South Korea has outlined a plan to help the biohealth industry double its exports by 2030 and join the world's top five.

Under the "K-Bio Leap Strategy" unveiled at a seminar in Songdo, west of Seoul, the government outlined new targets for the industry, which also include the fostering of three new blockbuster drugs and ranking third globally in clinical trials by 2030.

South Korea is competitive in contract development and manufacturing (CDMO) services and biosimilars, ranking around 10th globally with biopharmaceutical exports of US\$5.8 billion last year, reports Yonhap news agency.

The country aims to double its exports in the field in the next five years.

To speed market entry, the government plans to shorten the review period for

biosimilars from 406 days to 295 days, and cut the time for reimbursement listing under the national health insurance program from 330 days to 150 days.

The global pharmaceutical market reached \$1.74 trillion last year -- about three times the size of the semiconductor market -- and is growing at an average annual rate of 4.7 percent, according to government data. *IANS*

GST on 33 cancer drugs, rare disease medicines slashed to 0 from 12 pc: FM Sitharaman

NEW DELHI: In a historic move, the Union government has slashed the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates for 33 cancer drugs and rare medicines -- from 12 to zero percent.

The decision taken by the GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, recently, rationalized the indirect tax structure, cutting the current four slabs down to two -- scrapping the 12 percent and 28 percent rates, while retaining the 5 percent and 18 percent slabs.

"GST on 33 life-saving drugs and medicines has come down from 12 percent to zero," Finance Minister Sitharaman said.

The Union government also slashed GST rates for other life-saving drugs.

As per the revision, life-saving drugs, health-related products, and some medical devices will see a rate cut from 12 percent/18 percent to 5 percent or nil.

"From 5 to 0 and 3 life-saving drugs and medicines used for the treatment of cancer, rare diseases and other severe chronic diseases," the Finance Minister added.

"There are several drugs and medicines coming down

to 5 percent from 12 percent. Similarly, spectacles and goggles for correcting vision are also coming down to 5 percent from 28 percent," she said.

The changes in GST rates on services will be implemented from September 22.

The GST revision will also slash rates for health insurance, medical oxygen, and diagnostic kits.

GST on individual health and life insurance premiums has been reduced to nil (which currently stands at 18 percent).

The Finance Minister said the move will make insurance more affordable for the common man and help expand coverage across the country.

The GST rates have been

slashed from 18 percent to 5 percent on various medical apparatus and devices used for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary usage or for physical or chemical analysis

The GST rates have been reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent on various medical equipment and supplies devices such as wadding gauze, bandages, diagnostic kits and reagents, blood glucose monitoring system (Glucometer) medical devices, etc. *ANS*



Why lowering BP threshold to less than 120/80 mm Hg may be good for Indians

NEW DELHI: With cases of hypertension or high blood pressure rising significantly in India, particularly among young adults, lowering the BP threshold to less than 120/80 mm Hg by the American Heart Association (AHA) may help raise awareness and push for earlier interventions in the country, said health experts.

Hypertension is one of the most important modifiable factors in preventing heart disease, stroke, and death.

For the first time since 2017, the AHA recently updated its guidelines for people with high blood pressure. The guidelines revamped BP readings: from a 130/90 mm Hg threshold for diagnosis earlier, the AHA now defines normal blood pressure as less than 120/80 mm Hg.

"The updated BP guidelines by the AHA are highly relevant for the Indian population due to India's rapidly growing rates of hypertension," Dr Mukesh Goel, Senior Consultant, Cardiothoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Heart and Lung Transplant Surgery, from a leading city-based hospital, told *ANS*.

"For India, these changes are significant: With nearly 200 million individuals estimated to have hypertension, lowering the BP threshold for diagnosis means a much larger segment of the population is now classified as hypertensive, raising awareness and pushing for earlier interventions," he added. *ANS*



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STOCKTON, CA: The Greater San Francisco Bay Area was graced with a spiritual upliftment as over 1,200 devotees from across North America gathered at San Joaquin Delta College for the Nirankari Spiritual Congregation Event, held in the divine presence of Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji. The four-hour event, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., offered a profound experience of spiritual wisdom, soulful music, and the message of universal love.

This year's congregation carried the theme "Being Boundless", which inspired both young and senior participants alike. The event began with a vibrant exhibition where youth from the Sant Nirankari Mission (SNM) showcased creative models and exhibits reflecting the theme. Young volunteers proudly stood by their displays, engaging with visitors and answering questions, creating an atmosphere of curiosity and reflection.

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Expanding Surveillance of Immigrants - At What Cost?

Details on page 23

COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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FOG Telugu float wins at Fog Parade

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Deputy Counsul General San Francisco Rakesh Adlakha in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES: Southern California, where so many Indian Americans call it their home for more than 40+ years gathered for Luncheon. Actually every Indian American can be looked upon as true Ambassadors of India. Yes, Indian Americans are highly educated, successful entrepreneurs, friendly & family oriented and can build India's image.

Many leading Indian American Association's executives gathered for lunch at lovely The Cake Korner Banquet in Artesia. All we're excited to welcome our friendly & approachable Indian Consulate San Francisco, Deputy CG Rakesh Adlakha who oversees the Southern California area.



From L to R: Gaurav Bhargava, Sunil Agrawal, Falguniba & Kanak Sinh Zala, Dy CG Adlakha, Rajendra Vora and P.K. Naik

He gave updates of Visa services. Both CG & Dy CG are in constant touch with the community and are helping 24/7 for visa matters.

Now Indian Consulate LA has signed their office lease and getting ready to provide services too; attendees said we would miss seeing Dy CG Adlakha in

Los Angeles, as the newly appointed CG of Los Angeles will be arriving in LA very soon.

Artesia City's young Councilwoman Zeal Ahir presented the proclamation to Mr Adlakha. A joint proclamation was also handed over to Mr Adlakha by all the Associations.

Dy CG Adlakha thanked everyone and for the luncheon, that was hosted by Falguniba & Kanaksinh Zala, Sunil Agarwal & Gaurav Bhargav.



Malabar Gold & Diamonds to launch 48 showrooms globally; 27 new & 21 revamped showrooms to be opened by December 2025

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the fifth largest jewelry retailer globally with over 400 showrooms across 13 countries, announced a landmark phase in its global growth strategy. The brand is set to launch 48 showrooms - 27 new showrooms & 21 revamped showrooms by December 2025, further reinforcing its position as one of the most trusted and expansive jewelry retail chains in the world. The expansion is geographically

diverse, with 14 new showrooms in India, 3 showrooms in the UAE & the USA, 2 showrooms in the UK, and 1 showroom each in Australia, KSA, Canada, and Ma-

laysia.

The brand is also set to launch its inaugural showroom in New Zealand, marking its entry into the 14th country of operation.

This expansion is part of the brand's target to drive an exponential increase in revenue to USD 8.85 Billion and to open 60 showrooms expanding its pres-

ence to 15 countries and 22 States and 3 Union Territories in India the current FY.

Cont'd on page 25



Sonar Bharat-Unfolding the Golden Treasures of India

Book Review

RIYAZ KHAN
India Post News Service

Kamini Khare, born and raised in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, comes from a family deeply rooted in education. Holding a master's degree in economics, with her thesis dedicated to the development of India, she has long nurtured a passion for history and cultural heritage. Living in the United States, Ms. Khare became increasingly aware that many young people of Indian origin were only partially familiar with India's historical legacy. This awareness led her to reflect upon the need to illuminate India's past-not only as a record of struggle and sacrifice but also as a testimony to resilience and achievement.

Her recently published book, Sonar Bharat, represents this endeavor. The book highlights India's journey since its independence 75 years ago, celebrating its resilience and growth. Drawing upon historical texts, archival materials, and digital resources, Ms. Khare revisits India's civilizational journey from the era of Chandragupta Maurya, often described as India's "Golden Age," through the succession of rulers who made the subcontinent known as the "Sone Ki Chidiya" (Golden Bird) of Asia. She also examines the profound impact of successive invasions that transformed India's cultural and economic landscape, while underscoring the nation's enduring vitality and capacity for renewal.

In narrating India's struggle under colonial rule, Ms. Khare does not overlook its darkest chapters. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre of April 13, 1919-when hundreds of unarmed civilians were killed under the command of General R.E.H. Dyer-stands as a stark reminder of the brutality of imperial oppression. Equally, the Bengal famine of 1943, which claimed the lives of millions, revealed the devastating consequences of exploitative policies that left the populace vulnerable and destitute. These episodes, alongside the countless sacrifices of freedom fighters, form the backdrop against which India's independence was finally realized in 1947.

Sonar Bharat is more than a historical survey; it is a cultural meditation on India's post-independence trajectory. Seventy-five years after freedom from colonial rule, Ms. Khare emphasizes the necessity of recognizing both the intellectual and material contributions of India's leaders and citizens in shaping a modern nation. Equally, she urges renewed attention to rural development, which she regards as the backbone of India's future. In this respect, her work aligns with the vision of Mahatma Gandhi, who

declared in Young India (October 1921): "If the village perishes, India will perish too." Ms. Khare identifies three essential components for sustainable rural development: small-scale industries, accessible secondary education, and reliable healthcare.

Published by the Indian Association of Southern California (IASC), Sonar Bharat reflects a collaborative spirit, enriched by community dialogue and constructive



Kamini Khare

critique. It aspires not only to preserve memory but also to provoke reflection on the pathways of cultural continuity and social transformation in India.

Copies of the book are currently available through the author. Interested readers may contact

Sonar Bharat a book- Published by Ms. Kamini Khare

Ms. Kamini Khare at 714-280-3774 or via email at kaminikhare7@gmail.com.



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PERSONAL PROFILE

An experienced CPA and a Chartered Accountant. I have worked with many big 100 Fortune Companies in diversified industries at various management levels. I have extensive experience in Tax Filings and Tax related matters and practicing in Los Angeles and S.F. Valley since 2006.

FIELD OF EXPERTISE

1. Tax Return preparation and Tax planning for:-

- Individuals.
- Partnership Firms.
- S Corp.
- C Corp.
- Tax Exempt Charitable and Sports organizations u/s 501(C)(3).
- Others.

2. Accounting and Book keeping services:-

- Maintaining Books of Accounts on a monthly or annual basis.
- Preparation and compilation of Financial statements and schedules.
- Preparation of Budgets and Forecasts.
- Accounting system set-up and implementation services.
- Business tax i.e. sales & use tax and property .

3. Payroll services:-

- Payroll checks, direct deposits.
- Electronic Tax Payments.
- Standard Payroll reports.
- Quarterly/Yearly Payroll Tax returns.

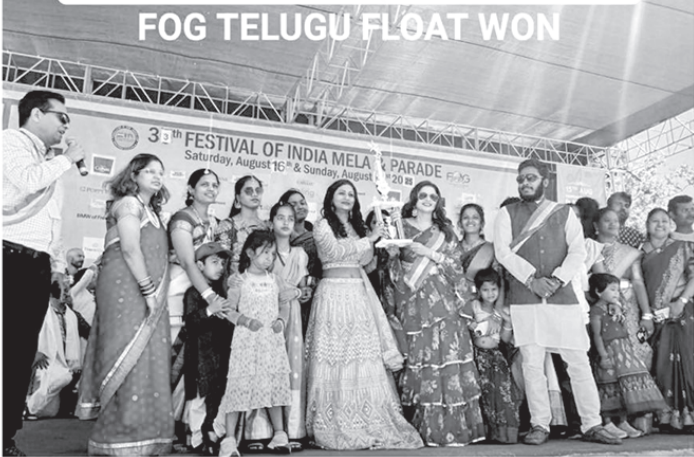
4. Management Services & other Services :-

- Financial management and planning.
- Inventory control and management.
- Formation of Partnerships and Corporations.
- Other advisory services.

FOG Telugu float wins at Fog Parade



FOG TELUGU FLOAT WON "FIRST TIME BEST BIG FLOAT" AWARD (24 FT TRUCK) AT FOG INDIA DAY PARADE - FOG FOUNDER DR. ROMESH JAPRA BOLLYWOOD ACTRESS BHAGYASREE WITH JO SHARMA (FOG CHAIR CULTURAL/ ACTRESS



JO SHARMA
India Post News Service

The extravaganza FOG India day parade held on a Sunday full of patriotism and pride, led by Grand marshal Bhagyasree (Bollywood actress) with FOG Founder Dr. Romesh Japra, President Rajesh Verma and Actress Jo Sharma/FOG Chair Cultural/FOG Telugu Chairperson was sitting on an open car as delegate along with Raj Salwan Mayor of Fremont and Chandru Bhambhra.

Jo Sharma helped with FOG Telugu float and FOG Goa float.

FOG Telugu float won the "First Time Best Big Float" award (24 Ft truck) at FOG India Day Parade

FOG Telugu Chairperson Jo Sharma designed and conceptualized FOG Telugu float with 24 feet truck along with FOG Telugu Vice President Anu and her husband Sridhar Bojja and FOG Telugu Directors Jyothi, Srini Gotte, Raghu, Dr. Harsha, Priyanka M, Mangala, Priyanka G, Dimple, Sunita, Jaya decorated the float with Hindu Gods festivals of South India and Telugu states, with all families ladies and teenagers wearing traditional pattu sarees and half sarees dancing along with men and kids walking with the float.

Festive colors feast to the eye with 100s of FOG Telugu volunteers walked the parade led by FOG Telugu Chairperson Jo Sharma, President Abhilash, Vice President Anu getting 40 ppl, FOG Telugu Directors Swathi from Lathrop came with 20 ppl, over all 100s of Telugu people representing Telugu culture walked the parade.

FOG Telugu float was sponsored by Vin for Congress (Vinay Kruttiventi), SYNERGY BAD-MINTON ACADEMY, Super 8 Motel Hayward,

M4M (Motive for Murder) Movie team.

FOG Telugu float represented most celebrated festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi, Dasara, Deepavali and sankranthi which shows our unique traditions, values, beliefs, that define our cultural heritage.

Parade walk involves a community gathering where participants walk a specific route to celebrate nation's independence featuring festive floats, marching bands, vintage cars, dance troops, and spectators lining the streets. The parade was supported by Fremont police department and volunteers to create a memorable experience.

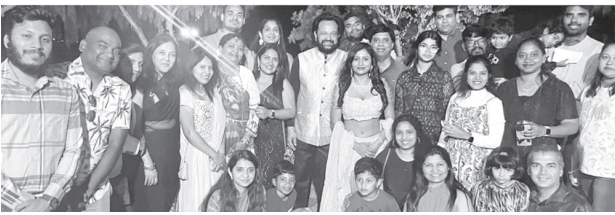
Traditional Float display held in parade representing India's diversity with displays from different states and



their culture.

Thanks to all FOG Telugu Volunteers.

Haasini, Aahana, Hamsita, Sahasra, Sanvitha, Sristi, Mandar, Mayura, Swathi, David, Kashyap, Yugal, Mangesh, K PS, Sunil, Jitendra, Nitin, Mohit, Gajanand, Ameya, Sricheta, Deepti, Durga, Ketki, Mukta, Preeti, Jaya, Nidhi, Swati, Aarya, Anvi, Sara, Anay, Riyaan, Aavyaan, Karthi, Maha, Manas, Dhaatri, Nyra, Krish, Riyansh, Kiaan and Freya.



Expanding Surveillance of Immigrants - At What Cost?

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

The U.S. government has steadily expanded its use of surveillance tools, often under the banner of fighting fraud, stopping crime, or detecting undocumented immigrants. But those same tools, from DMV database access and facial recognition to cell phone tracking and data broker contracts, are now building a vast infrastructure that reaches far beyond immigration enforcement. This digital dragnet has the potential to place every American under unprecedented scrutiny. By compiling and cross-linking personal information, the state increases the risk of political targeting, identity theft, and massive data breaches. Panelists at the ACom conference examined these developments, highlighting the most recent trends under this administration, and what safeguards are needed to protect democracy and civil liberties.

The IRS has already shared the residential addresses of more than 40,000 foreigners with immigration authorities, who are seeking to have the confidential information of at least 1 million more people incorporated directly into their database. The information was taken from the 1040,

can Progress said that recent reports have revealed that the administration is using sensitive personal data such as taxpayers, medical care and immigration to build a rapidly expanding surveillance network. For example, she said that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Immigra-

The IRS has already shared the residential addresses of more than 40,000 foreigners with immigration authorities, who are seeking to have the confidential information of at least 1 million more people incorporated directly into their database

W2 and 1099 income tax return forms filed by taxpayers, "which are now sent directly to ICE's immigrant database.

Nicole Alvarez, Senior Policy Analyst for Technology Policy at the Center for Ameri-

tion and Customs Enforcement (ICE) signed a memorandum of cooperation to allow the sharing of taxpayer information for the purpose of targeting and deporting immigrants. This move has seriously de-

viated from the principle that the data must be used only for its original purpose.

Alvarez warned that the government is promoting cross-departmental data centralization and integrating tax, social security and other information into a single database.

Emerald Tse, Associate at Georgetown's Center on Privacy & Technology said immigrant communities have long been under the pressure of digital surveillance. A report released by the center in 2022 revealed that ICE has extensive access to databases such as water and electricity companies, vehicle management agencies, etc., and monitors the daily life of the majority of the U.S. population. In 2024, another report revealed that the Department of Homeland Security collects immigrants' DNA on a large scale and incorporates it into the national criminal investigation database CODIS for "predictive monitoring" of future crimes. She emphasized that these data collections often have nothing to do with crime, and even involve children and people who have not been prosecuted.

Sophia Cope, Senior Staff Attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation reminded that the current administration required visa and ESTA visa-free applicants to provide social media accounts for the past five years as early as its first term. "This not only affects the applicants, but also their friends and relatives in the United States may be implicated due to online interactions, leading to a chilling effect on speech." She added that the current government has even announced that it will expand "continuous review" and conduct long-term social media monitoring of various visa holders in the country. Cope reminded that although U.S. citizens cannot be refused entry, if they refuse to unlock the device, they may still be detained for several hours or even have the device confiscated. For green card holders and visa holders, the risk is higher, which may result in the revocation of status or direct denial of entry.

California state transportation calls for applicants to the interagency Equity Advisory Committee

SACRAMENTO: California state transportation announced an open call for applicants to serve on the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee, which advises the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), the California Transportation Commission (Commission), and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). First convened in 2023, the 15-member Equity Advisory Committee advises on how to achieve meaningful outcomes in transportation, environmental justice and equitable economic opportunities, especially in transportation planning and programming. The application period is open from September 8, and closes Sunday, October 19.

"The Equity Advisory Committee is a vital partner in our mission to build a transportation system that truly serves all Californians," said CalSTA Secretary Toks Omishakin. "Equity is not only a goal, but a guiding principle in every decision we make. I encourage passionate community leaders and advocates to apply to the committee and help us continue this transformative work."

"Equity Advisory Committee members continue to help shape billions of dollars in transportation investments," said Commission Chair Darnell Grisby. "We encourage Californians from all backgrounds and all parts of the state to apply to join us in advancing this critical work to address historic inequities and elevate community voices in our decision-making."

"Caltrans is committed to strengthening our partnerships, amplifying community voices, and supporting safe and reliable transportation both on and off the state highway system. The Equity Advisory Committee continues to be central to this mission. I encourage Californians from all walks of life to learn more about the Committee and consider contributing to this important work," said Caltrans Director Dina El-Tawansy.

Members of the Equity Advisory Committee review, advise and make recommendations on transportation related plans, programs and policies to CalSTA, the Commission and Caltrans. Committee members serve two-year terms, of which there are, three vacancies for the 2026-2028 term. Committee members are eligible for a \$100 per diem for their service. Members must be a resident of California and clearly demonstrate a history of equity-centered personal or professional experience or community leadership, or be actively engaged in transportation equity, policy, programming, advocacy or related fields such as health, air quality, climate, housing, community development or socio-economic development. Priority will be given to candidates who have demonstrated experience developing and implementing community-derived policies in partnership with government or similar institutions.

The Committee currently includes a

range of perspectives and expertise representing tribal and indigenous communities and community-based organizations including climate and air quality, housing and environmental justice and equity, and transportation and mobility rights organizations. Committee expertise also includes individuals and organizations offering perspectives regarding accessibility and the needs of older adults and people with disabilities and reflects different geographic areas of the state, especially rural areas.

To apply for the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee, please visit the following website: <https://forms.office.com/g/qJ4QktySmr>

For more information on the Equity Advisory Committee, please visit: <https://catc.ca.gov/programs/interagency-equity-advisory-committee>

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Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji's message of universal love inspires devotees across the Bay Area

PRAFULL LANDE



STOCKTON, CA: The Greater San Francisco Bay Area was graced with a spiritual upliftment as over 1,200 devotees from across North America gathered at San Joaquin Delta College for the Nirankari Spiritual Congregation Event, held in the divine presence of Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji. The four-hour event, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., offered a profound experience of spiritual wisdom, soulful music, and the message of universal love.

This year's congregation carried the theme "Being Boundless", which inspired both young and senior participants alike. The event began with a vibrant exhibition where youth from the Sant Nirankari Mission (SNM) showcased creative models and exhibits reflecting the theme. Young volunteers proudly stood by their displays, engaging with visitors and answering questions, creating an atmosphere of curiosity and reflection.

The congregation featured heartfelt speeches from saints representing various SNM branches, sharing personal ex-



periences and perspectives on living a boundless life. Devotional hymns and thought-provoking poems filled the hall, elevating the audience's spirits and fostering a sense of divine connection.

Several dignitaries graced the event, including the Deputy Consul General from the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, a member of the San Joaquin County Board

of Supervisors, and representatives from the Chiropractic College. In recognition of the Mission's contributions to society, SNM received certificates of recognition from the Mayors of Tracy and Stockton, as well as from the San Joaquin County Supervisor. Dr. Romesh Japra and Ritu Maheshwari from the Festival of Globe also extended their warm wishes to

Rajpita Ramit Ji.

In his concluding discourse, Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji delivered a deeply moving message, urging everyone to rediscover their inner peace through divine love. Illustrating his point with the timeless story of Laila and Majnu, he reminded devotees that the true beloved lies within and that real love transcends all limitations. "Love is our true essence," he said, encouraging everyone to connect with the one formless God and live a life of peace and spiritual awareness.

The Sant Nirankari Mission, a global spiritual organization, continues to emphasize self-realization, devotion to God, and service to humanity. Its initiatives transcend religious boundaries, promoting unity, harmony, and compassion among diverse communities. Through spiritual gatherings, social service projects, and educational programs, SNM aims to inspire individuals to live lives of moral integrity and purpose.

For more information, visit www.nirankari.org.

AAPI's first ever nationwide stem cell donor drive for Indian American community receives overwhelming responses across the US

In a groundbreaking initiative, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) has launched the first-ever nationwide campaign to expand the stem cell donor pool among Indians. This effort addresses a critical gap in cancer treatment options for patients of Indian descent, who face significant challenges in finding compatible donors due to ethnicity-specific Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) matching. This noble initiative was launched in 2024 under leadership of AAPI's immediate past President. Dr. Sathesh Kathula.

The Urgency Behind the Mission
Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, AAPI President

expressed deep gratitude to the many AAPI members and students across the nation, who have been part of these initiatives. "Stem cell transplants are a vital

treatment for blood cancers such as leukemia and lymphoma HLA markers, which determine donor compatibility, are inherited and vary by ethnicity. I'm thankful to

our local AAPI Chapter leaders, members and volunteers across the nation who have initiated and are spearheading the Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Registration across the nation, joining hands with the national AAPI in our efforts in creating awareness and enrolling more youth and adults to be part of this noble mission."

Patients of Indian ethnicity are more likely to match with Indian donors-but the existing donor pool is alarmingly small. Until now, families have had to organize donor drives independently, while also coping with the emotional and medical toll of a cancer diagnosis.

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



Malabar Gold & Diamonds to launch 48 showrooms globally; 27 new & 21 revamped showrooms to be opened by December 2025

Cont'd from page 20

In addition to the new showrooms, the brand will also launch revamped showrooms across India, UAE, KSA, Oman, and Malaysia, offering customers a re-freshed, luxury-driven shopping experience. The expansion aligns with the brand's long-term strategy to scale responsibly, strengthen core markets, and enter or deepen presence in high-potential regions through thoughtfully curated product lines and world-class services.

Commenting on the expansion, Mr. M.P. Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group, said: "The launch of 48 showrooms is a significant milestone in our journey to become the world's no 1 jewelry retailer. But for us, growth is not just about numbers-it's about setting new benchmarks in responsible business. Each new showroom embodies our commitment to ethical sourcing, sustainability, and giving back to society. We will continue to ensure that every aspect of our business benefits not just our customers and stakeholders, but also the communities we serve. Our values of trust, transparency, and quality are at the heart of everything we do."

Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice-Chairman of Malabar Group commented: "This latest expansion phase reaffirms our position as a global jewelry powerhouse, blending scale with sustainability, and tradition with technology. Through a continuously evolving product line that reflects both global fashion trends and timeless traditions, customer-first initiatives that deliver an unmatched retail experience, and digital innovations that enhance convenience and accessibility, we have positioned Malabar Gold & Diamonds as a truly future-ready organization."

Mr. Asher O, Managing Director - India Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds: "While Malabar Gold & Diamonds is taking great leaps in the international jewelry arena, India continues to remain our biggest opportunity. The 14 new showrooms in addition to the 10 revamped showroom launches in India have been meticulously charted to strengthen our presence in both mature & emerging markets. The locations have been carefully selected to meet the growing appetite for fine jewelry across diverse consumer segments and the unparalleled design portfolio that we have arranged across each of these showrooms is sure to resonate with all sections of jewelry lovers".

Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds said: "The crown jewel in this phase of our

expansion will be our entry into New Zealand, a major milestone marking our entry into the 14th country of operation. Being the biggest proponent of 'Make in India; Market to the World' initiative in the global jewelry arena, the success of our brand is the success of centuries old Indian craftsmanship, and we are proud to take this legacy forward in a sustainable and responsible manner".

Malabar Gold & Diamonds is guided by its set of 'Malabar Promises', which include 100% value on gold and diamond ex-

change, transparent pricing, certified diamonds and gemstones, assured lifetime maintenance, and ethically sourced jewelry. These promises further reinforce Malabar Gold & Diamonds' vision of becoming the world's most preferred jeweler, blending traditional artistry with modern innovation to deliver an elevated, luxurious shopping experience for every customer.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) initiative has been the primary commitment of Malabar Group since its inception in 1993, with 5% of net profits set aside towards such initiatives in each country of operations. Malabar Group has pledged USD 17 Million towards social welfare schemes across for the current financial year. The key focus is in the areas of Health, Hunger Free World, Housing, Education, Women Empowerment & Environment

As part of the group's Hunger Free World initiative, over 70,000 meals are distributed daily across 170 locations, including 3 schools in the African country of Zambia.

In India alone, the group has established 716 micro learning centers, enrolling more than 32,000 underprivileged children, many of whom transition into formal schooling. Additionally, Malabar Group has awarded more than 115,000 scholarships to female students, supporting their academic journey and empowering the next generation of women leaders.

The company also runs the "Grandma Home" project, providing accommodation for needy and destitute women. With several such initiatives already in place, the company's long-term goal is to ensure its global success benefits local communities

wherever it operates.

The ESG goals of the organization are periodically strengthened to remain a socially conscious and responsible organization.

About Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Malabar Gold & Diamonds was established in 1993 and is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading diversified Indian business conglomerate.

With an annual turnover of \$7.36 billion, the company currently ranks as the 5th largest jewelry retailer globally and today has a strong retail network of over 400

showrooms spread across 13 countries in addition to multiple offices, design centers, wholesale units, and factories spread across India, Middle East, Far East, the USA, the UK, Canada & Australia. The

SANTA CLARA NOTARY SERVICE SIMPLIFIES INDIA PASSPORT AND OCI CARD APPLICATIONS

A Santa Clara-based notary service has launched comprehensive assistance for individuals navigating the intricate process of obtaining India passports and Overseas Citizen of India cards, addressing a growing need in the community for expert guidance through these complex government procedures.

Akshata Notary Services now offers end-to-end support for applicants dealing with the multi-step documentation requirements mandated by the Indian government and its consular services partner, VFS Global. The new service encompasses everything from initial form completion to final submission preparation.

The expansion comes as many individuals struggle with the detailed requirements involved in these applications. The process typically involves organizing extensive documentation, meeting specific criteria, and understanding various government agency requirements. The company's new program provides personalized guidance throughout each stage of the application journey.

"We understand that applying for an India passport or an OCI card can be a complex and time-consuming task," said Akshata Yarabandi, founder of Akshata Notary Services. "Our goal is to leverage our expertise to provide a service that not only helps clients complete the application correctly but also gives them peace of mind. We are excited to expand our services and continue our mission of providing reliable and convenient

group, owned by more than 4,000 shareholders, has more than 25,000 professionals from over 26 countries working towards its continued success. Malabar Gold & Diamonds also features an online store **www.malabargoldanddiamonds.com** providing customers the opportunity to purchase their favorite jewelry at any time and on any day from the comfort of their homes.

The group also operates MGD - Lifestyle Jewelry, a retail concept offering trendy and lightweight jewelry that represents the independent and the modern woman through its designs and collections.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) has been the primary commitment of the group since its inception. The key ESG focus areas of Malabar Group are Health, Housing, Hunger Free World, Education, Environment and Women empowerment. Integrating the principles of responsibility and sustainability into its core business, Malabar Group periodically strengthens its ESG goals to remain a socially conscious and responsible organization. The group contributes 5% of its profit to such initiatives in the same country of operation.

solutions to our community."

The decision to add these services stemmed directly from client feedback and recognition of increasing demand for professional assistance in this specialized area. The Santa Clara notary service has established a strong reputation in the community, with 84 five-star reviews on Google and 14 five-star reviews on Yelp reflecting its commitment to client satisfaction.

The team has developed expertise in current requirements and procedures for both passport and OCI applications, ensuring clients receive accurate and timely information. This knowledge base allows them to guide applicants through potential pitfalls and help avoid common mistakes that can delay processing.

The service includes assistance with completing application forms accurately, organizing required documents in the proper format, and ensuring all submissions meet government specifications. This comprehensive approach aims to reduce the stress and uncertainty often associated with international documentation processes.

For individuals seeking assistance with India passport or OCI card applications, consultations can be scheduled through the company's website (**AkshataNotaryServices.com**) or by calling **669-252-0446**. The service represents an expansion of the company's existing notarial offerings, maintaining its focus on professional service and community support.



ED seizes Rs 100 crore assets in Noida's Aranya housing project

LUCKNOW: The ED provisionally attached assets worth Rs 100.06 crore in The Aranya Project in Noida over diversion of funds collected from home buyers and investors by the project's parent company, promoted by Anil Mithas, an official said.

The project faced action from the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Lucknow Zonal Office, as its company, Unnati Fortune Holdings Limited (UFHL), belonging to Anil Mithas HUF, misappropriated funds of homebuyers/investors, causing huge loss to the financial institutions and homebuyers and wrongful gain to its Directors and Promoters.

The ED said these diversions/siphoning of the funds of UFHL have been prejudicial to the project, causing non-completion of the projects and misappropriation of the funds of homebuyers/investors.

The Aranya Project is being developed by UFHL, belonging to Anil Mithas HUF, and its Promoters/Directors have faced ED action under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The federal probe agency has initiated an investigation against the developer on the basis of various FIRs registered by UP Police under various sections of IPC, 1860, against UFHL, Anil

Real Estate POST

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September 12, 2025

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana brings dignified living to Chamoli's poor

CHAMOLI: In the remote hilly district of Chamoli, Uttarakhand, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has turned the dream of owning a home into a reality for thousands of low-income families. Under this central government scheme aimed at providing "Housing for All," a total of 1,818 people applied from nine urban local bodies of the district, out of which 1,536 houses have already been completed. *IANIS*



India has 106-mn sq. ft. of real estate development potential within transit nodes: Report

NEW DELHI: India has an opportunity to develop over 106 million square feet of real estate within major transit nodes, such as Metro stations, train stations, and inter-state bus terminals, across the country's top eight cities, a recent report said.

"The Delhi-NCR region demonstrates the highest potential for transit-oriented real estate development, estimated at 32 million square feet (sq. ft.)," CBRE, a real estate consulting firm, said in its report.

This significant capacity is attributed to the region's expanding Metro system, ISBTs, and city railway stations.

Mumbai holds the second-highest potential at 20 million sq. ft., followed by Chennai with an estimated 13 million sq. ft., according to the report.

Other key cities such as Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Pune are also seeing transit-oriented development (TOD)-linked real estate activity, though at different scales, as mass transit networks



expand.

TOD includes both commercial and residential projects, alongside dedicated spaces for activities such as walking and cycling, and spots offering multi-modal transport integration designed around major transport hubs, the report stated.

Transit-oriented development corridors are also accelerating the rise of mixed-use ecosystems, integrating residential, of-

fice, retail, and leisure spaces, reducing commute times and supporting compact, connected growth.

"TOD paves the way for vibrant, mixed-use communities that are not only commercially viable but also sustainable and livable. As Metro networks and transport hubs continue to expand across urban India, transit-oriented development will play a pivotal role in shaping inclusive,

accessible, and future-ready cities," said Anshuman Magazine, Chairman and CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East and Africa, CBRE.

As per the report, in Delhi-NCR, planned projects such as Dwarka ISBT, Aerocity ISBT, and Jewar International Airport, and existing hubs such as Sarai Rohilla and Hindon Airport, offer high potential for transit-oriented development.

In Mumbai, these places include railway stations like Bandra, Dadar, Mumbai CST and the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport.

Moreover, hubs such as Chennai Airport, Maduravoyal Expressway and Chennai Peripheral Ring Road can unlock potential transit-oriented real estate, the report noted.

"Transit-Oriented Development is fast emerging as a game-changer for India's urban growth story. Developers are increasingly aligning with TOD principles to design integrated, live-work-play ecosystems that cater to the evolving needs of urban professionals," said Ram Chandnani, Managing Director, Leasing Services, CBRE India. *IANIS*

India's serviced residence trend emerges beyond Tier-I cities to tourist destinations: Report

NEW DELHI: India's real estate sector is undergoing a paradigm shift as serviced residences evolve from a niche concept into a mainstream investment class, as per recent report.

"Beyond Tier-I cities, a new wave of serviced residence growth is taking shape in tourism-centric destinations. Locations such as Goa, Rishikesh, and Kasauli are witnessing heightened demand," Colliers stated in its report.

According to the report, this

development is fuelled by various factors such as rising preference for long-stay and experiential stays, the growth of remote and flexible work culture, and shifting

traveller mindset from regular hotels to branded, professionally managed residences.

Increasing appeal among second-home buyers seeking rental

visibility and Return On Investment (ROI) alongside lifestyle benefits is also an emerging reason behind the shift.

In Tier-I cities, branded serviced residences associated with national or international hotel brands command an average sale price of around Rs 22,000 per square feet (sq. ft.)

In Delhi, the sale price is around Rs 22,00 per sq. ft., in Bengaluru it is Rs 19,500 per sq. ft, and in Mumbai it is Rs 25,000 per sq. ft. *IANIS*



Agami Realty strengthens Mumbai presence with two landmark Bandra projects

MUMBAI: Agami Realty, a leading real estate developer with a legacy of over five decades in MMR, has marked its foray into Mumbai's luxury residential market with two significant redevelopment projects in Bandra, together valued at an estimated Rs 950 crore. The company, acknowledged for its boutique developments blending sustainability, technology, and design excellence, has already received a strong response to its Bandra offering.

Agami Eternity, which recently received OC (Occupancy Certificate) located in Bandra East, is the firm's first completed premium redevelopment project in Mumbai. Designed by internationally acclaimed architect Reza Kabul, the project embraces his design ethos that "spaces should be liberated, not enclosed". With its efficient layout and premium location, Agami Eternity has achieved a complete sell-out, with apartments scheduled to be handed over in Sep'25-around 19 months prior to RERA scheduled completion date. As part of its tribute to the cultural fabric of Kalanagar, Agami has collaborated with celebrated sculptor Arzan Khambatta to create a signature installation at the development's entrance, along with curated artworks for its lobbies.

Agami Realty would also shortly launch its second marquee development that pays homage to the MIG Cricket Club, one of Mumbai's most iconic sporting institutions. It is going to be a joint redevelopment initiative at Bandra East and has been designed as an ultra-luxury project that promises residents lifetime views of the historic cricket ground.

Financing for both projects has been secured through

leading banking institutions.

Speaking on the company's foray into premium developments Mr. Prashant Khandelwal, Joint Secretary CREDAI-MCHI and CEO of Agami Realty said, "Our vision at Agami is about creating developments that reflect the cultural legacy of each neighborhood while targeting new benchmarks in design, sustainability, and customer experience. Bandra is a vibrant and historic locality of Mumbai, and through our projects here we aim to offer residents luxury homes, but also thoughtfully crafted living spaces that they will endure for generations."

Agami Realty's story began in Boisar, where the company has constructed over a million square feet of mixed-use and residential opportunities, creating communities that now house 2,000 plus families across a host of its landmark projects such as Rajas Apartment, Sushil Nagar, Agami Sapphire, Agami Emerald and more. The successful launch of its Bandra projects has reinforced Agami's five-decade commitment to delivering integrity-driven, innovative, and sustainable housing solutions in Mumbai's most

aspirational markets.

About - Agami Realty is a forward-thinking, Mumbai-based real estate firm dedicated to crafting meaningful living experiences, with a strong emphasis on smart technology and sustainability.

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Rs 90 lakh-Rs 1.5 crore segment emerges as 'most preferred' among 36 pc Indian homebuyers

NEW DELHI: More than 36 percent of potential homebuyers in India chose the Rs 90 lakh to Rs 1.5 crore segment as their "most preferred" option in the first half of 2025, suggesting a greater trend towards premium and luxury real estate, a recent report said.

Meanwhile, 25 percent prefer homes priced between Rs 45 lakh and Rs 90 lakh, ANAROCK said in its report.

According to the report, more than 65 percent of the prospective buyers are entering the market as end-users, with investors appearing to be taking a measured pause.

"Among all cities, Bengaluru has the largest share (43 percent) of buyers seeking property specifically for investment; the remaining 57 percent are end-users," the report noted.

The report highlights that Delhi-NCR has the lowest share of investors at 26 percent, with 74 percent seeking to buy as end-users.

Around 63 percent of buyers consider real estate as the 'most preferred' investment asset class -- a 4 percent increase over the previous year.

The report also stated that 62 percent of aspiring buyers of affordable housing are dissatisfied with the current available options in the market, with 92 percent of these being unhappy with the project locations.

As much as 90 percent of buyers stated that these projects are of low construction quality and are 'poorly designed', whereas 77 percent of respondents find the unit sizes too small to be of utility and interest, the report highlighted. IANS



M-Sanvi Real Estate Rolls Out Comprehensive Portfolio Covering Residential, Commercial & Industrial Spaces in Delhi/NCR

NEW DELHI: M-Sanvi Real Estate Pvt. Ltd., one of Delhi/NCR's most trusted names in affordable and quality housing, has announced the expansion of its property portfolio to include residential, commercial, and industrial spaces. With this strategic development, the company reinforces its commitment to serving the evolving needs of homebuyers, investors, and businesses under one umbrella.

From luxury apartments and affordable housing projects to independent homes, ready-to-move-in flats, office spaces, and industrial properties, M-Sanvi is now positioned as a comprehensive real estate solutions provider. This move not only strengthens the company's foothold in Delhi/NCR but also reflects its vision of building vibrant communities and supporting business growth.

"At M-Sanvi, our goal has always been to go beyond building homes; we build opportunities and lasting relationships. With the launch of our expanded portfolio, we are ensuring that whether someone is looking for their dream home, a modern office, or an industrial unit, they will find the right property with us. This step not only strengthens our offerings but also moves us

closer to becoming one of the most respected and trusted names in real estate across the country," said Mr. Mukesh Kumar, Founder & Director, M-Sanvi Real Estate Pvt. Ltd.

With the launch of our expanded portfolio, we are ensuring that whether someone is looking for their dream home, a modern office, or an industrial unit, they will find the right property with us

This expansion also underscores M-Sanvi's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and customer-centric growth. By integrating eco-friendly solutions and embracing new technologies, the company aims to deliver projects that not only meet current market needs but also anticipate the future demands of clients across Delhi/NCR and beyond.

About M-Sanvi Real Estate Pvt. Ltd.

Founded by Mr. Mukesh Kumar a motivational speaker, business coach, and visionary leader from a humble background M-Sanvi Real Estate Pvt. Ltd. has quickly become a leading name in Delhi/NCR's real estate market. Guided by the motto "Ghar Sahi Milega Yahi" (You will find your home right here), the company has earned the trust of over 5,000 clients by delivering luxury apartments, affordable housing, independent homes, ready-to-move-in units, and now commercial and industrial properties.

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AYODHYA: Miss Universe India 2025, Manika Vishwakarma, will be seen playing the role of Maa Sita in the upcoming annual theatrical event, 'Ayodhya Ramleela.'

'Ayodhya Ramleela' is regarded as the world's biggest Ramleela.

Organizers Subhash Malik (Bobby), the founder-president, and Shubham Malik, the founder-general secretary, shared that this year's Ramleela is set to bring together well-known names

2025, said she feels blessed to perform this role.

In a video shared by the team, Manika, while expressing her excitement, says, "I had been thinking of visiting Ayodhya for a long time, but it kept getting delayed for some reason. Now, with the blessings of Shri Ram, I am finally going to Ayodhya as Sita, which makes me very happy. This year is very special for me in many ways. With Lord Shri Ram's blessings, I have received the opportunity to play Maa Sita



MISS UNIVERSE INDIA 2025

Manika Vishwakarma to play Maa Sita in 'Ayodhya Ramleela'

from the film and entertainment industry.

Manika Vishwakarma, who hails from Rajasthan and will represent India at Miss Universe

in the world's biggest Ramleela, and I am very excited."

The star-studded lineup also includes Puneet Issar as Parshuram, Manoj Tiwari as

Bali, Ravi Kishan as Kevat, and Rajesh Puri as Hanumanji. Actor Manish Sharma will play Ravan for the third time, while Rahul

Gucchar will take on the role of Ram. Meghanad will be played by Raza Murad, Raja Janak by Avtar Gill, Vibhishan by Rakesh Bedi, and

Lakshman by Rajan Modi.

The Ramleela will take place at Ram Katha Park in Ayodhya from September 22 to October 2. ANI



HUMA QURESHI: FROM THE HEART OF INDIA TO THE RED CARPET IN TORONTO

MUMBAI: Bollywood Actress Huma Qureshi, who is currently attending the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), shared a note about celebrating the spirit of cinema, courage and storytelling.

Taking to Instagram, Huma shared a series of pictures from the red carpet and the picturesque lanes of Toronto, flaunting her stunning blue outfit.

The actress wrote: "A night that celebrates cinema, courage, and couture as well. From the heart of India to the red carpet in Toronto to the stories we bring to life, may we always stand tall, fierce, and free."

The actress' thriller "Bayaan" has been officially selected for the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2025.

Directed by Bikas Ranjan Mishra, "Bayaan" stood out as the sole Indian entry in the Discovery section at TIFF—a category known for introducing big names like Christopher Nolan, Alfonso Cuarón, and Barry Jenkins.

The film features a stellar cast, including veteran actors Chandrachur Singh and Sachin

Khedekar, along with Paritosh Sand, Avijit Dutt, Vibhore Mayank, Sampa Mandal, Swati Das, Aditi Kanchan Singh, and Perry Chhabra. The investigative police procedural drama "Bayaan" is by Bikas Mishra. She will be seen playing the role of a police officer named Roohi Kartar in the upcoming movie. IANS

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Philosophy

GOKULMUTHU

I had to stay a night in a popular hotel. In the morning, I wanted to make some tea. I found that the electric kettle was not turning on. I informed the housekeeping people. They came and tried. They could not fix it.

Finally, they exchanged it with the one in an unoccupied room. I got to make my tea. All along, I helped them to test the kettle, etc. If I had chosen to take a position of "I vs You", I would have jumped up and down, yelled, insulted with words, slandered on social media, etc. None of these would have helped solve the problem. I chose the position of "We have a problem to solve". I helped them solve the problem. I got my tea in time.

In several situations in life, we tend to take an "I vs You" approach. That never helps solve the problem. We would actually be putting more hurdles and discouraging the very people who are trying to solve the problem for us. Every time



Gokulmuthu Narayanaswamy

other participants. Same is the case even when competing in the market. Collaborate with the system to get all the vendors their deserving customers, including yourself.

Another question is, "If the other person is holding on to 'I vs You' with me, how do I get that person to think 'We'?" We all take positions about situations. The positions may often be conflicting. If we dig deeper into the actual interests and goals that we want to get fulfilled, in most of the cases, the goals will not be conflicting.

So, if a person is taking a "I vs You" position against us, we need to keep aside our interests for a while, empathize with the person, and try to understand what exactly that person wants to achieve and why. When we have a clear understanding of the interests and goals of that person, we will be able to find a way to help that person achieve the goal, without conflicting with our goal.

For example, if two people are waiting for a long time for a cab and finally a cab

Always collaborate and never compete

Step back and see if you are operating from "I vs You" or "We" position

you are interacting with people - spouse, children, parents, students, teachers, vendors, customers, government, neighbours, friends, relatives, employees, employer - everywhere take one step back and see if you are operating from "I vs You" or "We" position.

Consciously switch to "We", if you are not already in that position. Also, help the other person to switch to "We". See how easily problems get solved. It would be almost like magic. And it would make life so much more peaceful and enjoyable.

Always collaborate instead of competing. You may ask, "Is it always possible? For example, when appearing for a competitive examination, shouldn't I compete?" Even this can be converted into a collaboration. Collaborate with the Test Agency and the other participants to find where each participant stands.

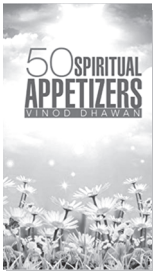
The objective is to truly calibrate and measure the competency of all participants. Your duty is to do your best. If you did not put your best, you are not collaborating. And, you have no ill-will against the

comes that way, both might want to take it. If they discuss about where they want to go and for what reason, they may be able to find that both can share the cab to a place where another cab can be easily got.

Excerpted from practicalphilosophy.in. Gokulmuthu Narayanaswamy is a seeker of Truth at the core and a Software Engineer by profession. He holds M.A in Philosophy, Religion and Culture from Annamalai University.

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

Vinod Dhawan



"It's a lovely book. It feels energetically clear and light. It's easy to read, dip in and out and most importantly it offers information without fluff! Blessings on this project."

Jac O'Keeffe
Spirituality teacher based in USA.

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Bangladesh's justice on trial:
When victims become criminals

M A HOSSAIN

When it comes to democratic dysfunction, the fiasco of the 'Mancha 1971' meeting in Dhaka on August 28, 2025 deserves a place among the most ruinous acts of self-sabotage. The facts are as troubling as they are revealing: a group of self-styled "July Fighters" stormed a discussion commemorating the Liberation War, heckled the speakers, confined participants, and vandalized banners. Their targets were not radicals plotting insurrection in secret but freedom fighters, intellectuals, and even a former Awami League minister, Latif Siddique.

One would expect the state to act as an arbiter of law, restraining the aggressors and protecting the right to free assembly. Instead, the opposite occurred. The police, far from dispersing the disruptors, detained the victims. Sixteen participants, including Siddique, now face charges under the Anti-Terrorism Act, with allegations that they sought to destabilize the state and launch

mob grows bolder than the last, and the line between dissent and disorder collapses. A fragile democracy cannot survive when its police force acts less like guardians of law and more like errand boys for whichever group shouts the loudest.

The Lie of "Terrorism"

The charges filed against the detainees deserve not only dismissal but outright ridicule. To allege that Latif Siddique—an aging politician with a record of blunt speech but no credible history of militancy—was plotting armed insurrection is to stretch the imagination into the realm of farce. It is a state-sponsored lie, reminiscent of the discredited practices under the Awami League government, when opposition rallies were broken up with fabricated cases and dissenters were labeled enemies of the state.

The Anti-Terrorism Act, designed to confront real threats to national security, is being wielded as a cudgel against political expression. By doing so, the government de-

values the law itself. When everything becomes "terrorism," nothing is. This is not only an affront to due process but also a strategic blunder. It blurs the distinction between genuine extremists, who

One would expect the state to act as an arbiter of law, restraining the aggressors and protecting the right to free assembly. Instead, the opposite occurred. The police, far from dispersing the disruptors, detained the victims. Sixteen participants, including Siddique, now face charges under the Anti-Terrorism Act

an armed struggle against the interim government. Courts have compounded the absurdity by denying bail, treating a peaceful discussion on the Constitution and the Liberation War as if it were a jihadist cell plotting insurrection.

This is not justice. It is a parody of justice.

Mob Rule, Institutionalized

The decision to arrest the organizers rather than the attackers is more than a bureaucratic misstep. It is a dangerous signal. It tells the "July Fighters"—or any other mob—that their violence will be tolerated, even rewarded, if it serves political convenience. It legitimizes the heckler's veto: shout loudly enough, disrupt forcefully enough, and the state will not only look the other way but hand over your opponents to the police.

This, in turn, creates a vicious cycle. Each disruption emboldens the next, each

deserve the full weight of the law, and political critics, who deserve protection. The result: the state weakens its own credibility and erodes public trust.

Echoes of the Past

Bangladesh has been here before. Under the ousted regime, fraudulent cases were the norm; the magistrates were pliant, the police complicit, and dissent criminalized. The current government, by repeating the same tactics, undermines its claim to represent a break from the past. What, after all, is the substantive difference between yesterday's suppression of BNP gatherings and today's crackdown on the 'Mancha 1971'.

(The author is a political and strategic analyst based in Dhaka, Bangladesh) South Asia Monitor

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

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US tariffs, remittances and regional ripples: India's external balance management being closely watched

SAHASRANSHU DASH

The United States' decision to impose a 50 per cent tariff on a wide range of Indian exports is more than a bilateral trade dispute-it is a stress test for India's external sector with implications for the broader South Asian economy. Exports to the US constitute a major source of foreign currency, while remittances-totalling USD 137.7 billion in 2024-remain a life-line for millions of households. Any major disruption in either could ripple across regional supply chains, reduce employment-linked inflows, and shift trade advantages toward competitors like Bangladesh.

External Pressure, Not Crisis

First, the good news. Despite these headwinds, India is far from a balance-of-payments crisis.

First, the good news. Despite these headwinds, India is far from a balance-of-payments crisis. Foreign exchange reserves of roughly USD 690 billion cover more than ten months of imports, significantly exceeding short-term external debt obligations

sis. Foreign exchange reserves of roughly USD 690 billion cover more than ten months of imports, significantly exceeding short-term external debt obligations. The external debt-to-GDP ratio remains moderate by emerging market standards, and the rupee's flexible exchange rate provides room to absorb shocks.

Historical context helps explain why India is better positioned than in the past. In 1991, India faced a severe payments crisis, forcing emergency loans from the IMF. Similarly, the 2013 "taper tantrum" exposed emerging markets to sudden capital outflows, but India's reserves and macroprudential tools helped contain instability. Today, structural inflows from services ex-

ports and foreign direct investment provide an additional layer of stability.

Yet vulnerabilities persist. A sharp contraction in export revenues, slowed remittances, or negative portfolio flows could still put pressure on the current account and the rupee. While reserves provide a buffer, they are not a panacea for systemic shocks.

Partial Capital Account Convertibility as a Stabilizer

India's relative insulation from external volatility owes much to its partial capital account openness under the Foreign Exchange Management Act. Partial convertibility, which allows controlled flows of capital in and out of the country, has acted as an effective stabilizer during

shocks. Individuals face annual outward remittance limits under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme, corporates must comply with reporting and hedging requirements, and portfolio investors navigate quantitative caps and route-based entry conditions.

This framework has proven stabilizing during periods of stress. During the 2008 global financial crisis and the 2013 "taper tantrum," India avoided severe capital flight thanks to constrained cross-border flows, ample reserves, and macroprudential tools, allowing policymakers to focus on domestic liquidity and credit support. Yet, rising protectionism worldwide raises a pressing

question: are these arrangements sufficient to withstand simultaneous disruptions in trade and remittances, particularly when regional economies are also exposed to similar shocks?

Short-Term Measures to Cushion Shocks

Partial convertibility, if used proactively, can serve as an immediate buffer. The Reserve Bank of India has tools to intervene in foreign exchange markets without threatening reserve adequacy. Historical instruments such as the 2013 swap facility for non-resident deposits, which attracted over USD 30 billion, could be revived.

Other tactical measures include incentivizing NRI deposits through temporary rate adjustments, issuing diaspora bonds, and expanding access for global investors in government securities. Digital corridors for remittance flows and rupee-based trade settlement can reduce transaction costs and slow the outflow of foreign currency. While these measures provide breathing room, they remain tactical responses rather than a substitute for a long-term strategic framework.

Lessons from Global Comparisons

Singapore and South Korea offer useful insights for India. Singapore maintains one of the most open financial systems globally but stabilizes through a transparent, exchange-rate-centered monetary policy and deep domestic savings mobilized through institutions like the Central Provident Fund and sovereign wealth funds.

(The author is an economist and research partner at South Asia Institute of Research and Development, Kathmandu, Nepal) South Asia Monitor

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INDIA POST

INDIA NEEDS TO TURBOCHARGE

The way things are going for India, in relation to Trump's slapping of 50% tariff, India really needs to turbocharge its economy. As per several leading experts, as also India's Foreign Minister, S Jaishankar, who stated that seeking protection for an international trading system is fair, just and non-discriminatory, the world requires constructive and cooperative approaches to promote trade that is sustainable. Neither increasing barriers and complicating transactions, nor linking of trade measures to non-trade matters would be helpful, he said while addressing the BRICS virtual summit, convened by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Calling for fair economic practices, Jaishankar focused on the need for BRICS to address global conflicts, work towards reforms of global institutions and, help member states reduce trade deficits that's important in context of India's own trade with China and Russia. While PM Narendra Modi didn't participate in the meeting, the Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping joined the summit that saw Lula calling for more trade and financial integration among Brics nations to beat, what he described, without naming US, as 'tariff blackmail'.

"International trading system is based on the foundational principles of open, fair, transparent, non-discriminatory, inclusive, equitable and a rules-based approach with special and, differential treatment for developing countries. India believes this should be protected and nurtured," Jaishankar said. He said while the world as a collective is seeking a stable and predictable environment for trade and investment, it is imperative that economic practices are fair, transparent and to everyone's benefit.

India's Sherpa, Amitabh Kant at a recent CII summit said, when there are multiple disruptions our objective should be to proof it against such shocks. That means creating reliable redundant short-term supply chains. It is also essential to democratize manufacturing and production and encourage their growth in different geographies. Kant felt that this economic growth is possible only if the country fires on all cylinders and not just depend on the services segment. This would require higher output from the manufacturing front and better productivity in the agriculture sector. He added, India needs to off-load government run Public Sector Units and help private sector to take over industries to boost growth. For India to maintain 7.8% growth, it needs to create better and efficient power supply to the industries. India also needs to reform labor laws and create more jobs in several sectors such as tourism and hospitality.

Even though India's infrastructure has seen major growth, it needs to enhance the logistics sector to boost movement of goods at a much faster rate in the present scenario. What Trump has done may be a short term set back to India and several Global South countries. But this may be the wakeup call for BRICS countries to unite and share their common wealth and knowledge to restructure their economies.

What Trump fails to see is, in the long-term US might lose the leadership position it holds on trade and economies of the world. And if the US dollar loses its sheen the biggest loser will be none other but America.



Divyanka Tripathi: 'Too many pictures to decide from?'

Popular television actress Divyanka Tripathi has given a tip on what to do when there are too many pictures "to decide from."

Divyanka took to Instagram, where she shared a video montage featuring pictures of her dressed in a beautiful chikankari saree. For the background score, the actress used the track "Jutti meri" sung by Neha Bhasin.

"They say, "when God gives you lemon, you make lemonade"... and when you have too many pictures to decide from, make a trending reel! (Reeled the trend Thumak Thumak)," she wrote as the caption.

Talking about Divyanka, she is known for playing the double roles of Vidya Pratapsingh and Divya Shukla in Banoo Main Teri Dulhann and Dr. Ishita Bhalla in Yeh Hai Mohabbatein.

In 2017, participated in the dance reality show Nach Baliye 8 and emerged as the winner. In 2021, she participated at Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 11 as a contestant where she emerged as the runner-up.

The actress is married to actor Vivek Dahiya. The two met on the sets of their show "Yeh Hai Mohabbatein" and fell in love. They got engaged in January 2016. A few months later in the same year the couple got married in Bhopal.

Vivek has been seen in shows like Yeh Hai Mohabbatein and Qayamat Ki Raat. He emerged as winner of the reality series Nach Baliye 8 in 2017. *IANS*

DIVYA KHOSSLA ENJOYED 'BULLYING' NEIL NITIN MUKESH

Actor-Director Divya Khosla, gearing up for her upcoming film 'Ek Chatur Naar', has shared that working with co-actor Neil Nitin Mukesh was more fun on camera than off the camera. It went on to the extent that she enjoyed bullying her co-actor on the screen.

The actress-director spoke with IANS in the Andheri area of Mumbai ahead of the film's release, and said, "On the camera, it was a lot more fun. Off the camera, it was serious, because, you know, we both are very hardworking into our work. And we don't take our minds around here and there".

She told IANS, "It's always work, work, work. But on screen, it was very fun because it was about the snake and the mongoose. And I had the most fun time of my life, bullying him".

'Ek Chatur Naar' is a black comedy thriller film written by Himanshu Tripathi and directed by Umesh Shukla. It is set against the backdrop of a quirky small-town Indian landscape; the story follows a seemingly charming woman with a naivety that masks her razor-sharp wit. Ambitious and cunning, she effortlessly outsmarts everyone around her.

- **'EK CHATUR NAAR' IS A BLACK COMEDY THRILLER FILM**
- **WRITTEN BY HIMANSHU TRIPATHI AND DIRECTED BY UMESH**
- **SHUKLA. IT IS SET AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF A QUIRKY**
- **SMALL-TOWN INDIAN LANDSCAPE**

Earlier, the actress had shared that she always wanted to try her hands at comedy as she has got a comic bone in her. The actress-director had said that the film gave her a chance to test her skills in comedy as an actor.

She earlier told IANS, "I have always, I don't know why, but I have felt that comedy is my genre. And I have always longed, wished and prayed that I get to work in a comedy film. So when this came, I was like, finally, I'm getting to do what I wanted to do. Maybe people don't know that side of me, because in real life also, I have that comic bone in me". *IANS*



TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

- 1 Saiyaara: **Saiyaara**
- 2 Barbaad: **Saiyaara**
- 3 Dhun: **Saiyaara**
- 4 Qayde Se: **Metro ... In Dino**
- 5 Zamaana Lage: **Metro ... In Dino**
- 6 Aur Mohabbat Kitni Karoon: **Metro ... In Dino**
- 7 Laal Pari: **Housefull 5**
- 8 Tum Ho Toh: **Saiyaara**
- 9 Tu Hain Toh Main Hoon: **Sky Force**
- 10 Pardesiya: **Param Sundari**



GAUAHAR KHAN MINUTES BEFORE HER SECOND BABY

Actress Gauahar Khan and her husband Zaid Darbar embraced parenthood for the second time on the 1st of September this year.

Recently, Zaid Darbar gave a cute sneak peek into what went into the hospital room, right before the then mommy-to-be Gauahar "popped". Gauahar, in her hospital outfit along with the father-to-be, Zaid, was seen dancing her heart out.

The couple danced to the hit song "Don't you wish your girlfriend was hot like me" by The Pussycat Dolls. Gauahar Khan and Zaid Darbar, who have become parents for the second time, shared

the happy news with a joint post on social media. The post read, "Zehaan is overjoyed to graciously share his kingdom with his new baby brother born on September 1, 2025. *IANS*

KAJAL AGGARWAL ON RUMORS OF HER DEATH

The rumors of Bollywood and Telugu actress Kajal Aggarwal having passed away shook the nation on the 8th of September. The actress who is all hale and hearty took to her social media account to share a statement on the same and put all the rumors to rest.

The actress wrote, "I have come across some baseless news claiming I was in an accident (and no longer around!) And honestly, it's quite amusing because it's absolutely untrue. By the grace of God, I want to assure you all that I am perfectly fine, safe, and doing very well." She further stated, "I kindly request



you not to believe or spread such false news. Let's keep our focus on positivity and truth instead."

The news of her passing away spread like wildfire, and a few even started to pour condolence messages on social media. It was rumored that Kajal Aggarwal had met with an accident, and even some "fake" videos of her accident were being circulated on social media. But now with the reality coming from the

"I have come across some baseless news claiming I was in an accident (and no longer around!) And honestly, it's quite amusing because it's absolutely untrue"

horse's mouth itself, it seems that the rumors would now die a quick death. Talking about Kajal Aggarwal, the actress is a popular face in the South Indian film industry. The actress made her Bollywood debut with Ajay Devgn starrer "Singham".

She received great reviews for her performance in the movie that was directed by Rohit Shetty. Kajal Aggarwal has a huge fan base in Sri Lanka. IANS

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Soha Ali Khan`s eco-immersion of Ganpati Bappa

Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan, along with her actor husband Kunal Khemmu, performed the Ganpati Visarjan with a lot of love and in an extremely traditional yet eco-friendly way.

Soha and Kunal, along with their little daughter, Inaaya Naumi Khemmu, bid adieu to Lord Bappa with utmost spiritual fervor on the 6th of September. Taking to her social media account, Soha shared a beautiful video from the Ganpati Visarjan ceremony at her house.

The video opens with her little girl, Inaaya, making a Ganpati Bappa idol with clay and painting it with environmentally friendly colors. Later, the idols are seen being immersed in a bucket full of clean water and flower petals. The idol that got dissolved in the water was later seen putting the same holy water on the plants on their balcony at home.

She captioned it as, "From the earth back to the earth, with love - the full circle of faith #ganpativisarjan." In another video shared by Soha on the 7th of September, little Inaaya, along with her grandfather, was seen making multiple Ganpati Bappa idols and was later seen performing the Pooja of the idols made. As soon as Soha shared the video, fans and industry celebs flooded the comments section to appreciate Soha Ali Khan and Kunal Khemmu for their thought process. Fans also lauded the couple for raising their daughter with the right kind of values and awareness.

Talking about Soha Ali Khan, the actress always keeps her social media account filled with realistic videos that resonate with viewers very well. From sharing an insight into her fitness regime to herself trying out trending experiments and giving honest reviews, Soha Ali Khan's videos are loved for being raw and real. *IANS*



VAHBIZ DORABJEE ON HER RELATIONSHIP STATUS

Actress and influencer Vahbiz Dorabjee opened up about her relationship status during an exclusive interaction with IANS.

When asked if she was single, the 'Bahu Hamari Rajni Kant' actress confirmed that she was indeed not seeing anyone at the moment.

Speaking to IANS, Vahbiz said: "I'm focusing on myself, my lane, my growth. I'm very old-school when it comes to relationships. I believe in the 90s kind of love-loyalty, emotional availability, togetherness."

She added that today's swipe culture feels very scary to her.

"I want someone who adds value to my life, who is my equal, ambitious yet family-oriented," Vahbiz added. Reflecting on her acting journey, she revealed that her ride has been a long one.

Vahbiz shared: "My first launch was in Pyaar Ki Ek Kahani. I don't even remember the year exactly—it was around 2011. As an actor, I've grown a lot since then. The funny thing is, I never wanted to become an actor." *IANS*

Ankita Lokhande pens EMOTIONAL NOTE for BFF Neha Swami

Television superstar Ankita Lokhande has always nurtured her relations with utmost love and care. Her friends mean the world to her, and one such friendship that Ankita has always been vocal about is that with Neha Swami.

Neha Swami, who is television star Arjun Bijlani's wife, is extremely close to Ankita, and the girls share a beautiful bond. Ankita Lokhande shared a series of pictures with BFF Neha Swami that speaks volumes about the love, warmth, and beautiful bond that the girls share. Ankita, sharing the candid pictures, captioned it as, "We are all born into relationships, but the one we choose is friendship. And when life blesses you with a partner who is not just a friend but your true soulmate and a partner in every crime, there is nothing more magical, more powerful, and more beautiful than that. Because love is not just found; it's created—hand in hand, heart to heart." @arjunbijlani this song is specially for u ... we miss you, #kuchdostzarorihotehai #wechoseeachother."

Ankita chose the beautiful title track of the Bollywood movie "Yaadein" as the background score for her carousel post. Ankita Lokhande, along with her husband Vicky Jain, and Arjun Bijlani

along with his wife Neha Swami, stay in the same residential complex and often hang out with each other. Arjun Bijlani, along with Ankita Lokhande and Vicky Jain, was a part of the cooking show "The Laughter Chefs". *IANS*



Dhanashree's subtle dig at Yuzi Chahal about mutual respect

Dhanashree Verma, who recently made headlines for her divorce from cricketer husband, Yuzvendra Chahal, is now seen as one of the contestants on the much-discussed reality show, "Rise & Fall."

Adding to the drama in "Rise and Fall", Dhanashree decided to finally speak her truth about her marriage. Making an emotional revelation, the actress admitted that even after facing constant disrespect, she consciously chose not to retaliate.

"When you are in marriage, then you are responsible ki dusre person ka bhi respect aapke haath mein hota hai. Chah kar main bhi disrespect kar sakti thi. (When you are in marriage, then you are responsible that the respect of the other person is also in your hands. I could have also disrespected if I wanted to). You think I don't have things to say as a woman, but he was my husband. I respected even when I was married and I have to respect it now that I was married to him," Dhanashree said. *IANS*

Deepika Singh feels blessed to shoot Ganpati Visarjan

Popular television actress Deepika Singh, who is seen as the lead in the show "Mangal Lakshmi" felt blessed to shoot the Ganpati Visarjan sequence for the drama on the last day of Ganesh Chaturthi.

Expressing the hardships of shooting such an elaborate sequence on a daily show, Deepika revealed that she worked from 1 PM to 6: 15 PM without any break in heavy makeup and a Navvari saree.

Deepika wrote on her IG: "Grateful to the universe that in spite of weather forecast of heavy Rains we were able to shoot and finish this sequence. I personally didn't even took a bio break from 1 pm to 6:15 pm as I was wearing a Navvari saree and vanity was far. It wasn't that someone has told me to do so. Here I'm expressing that whole unit even an actor especially when you're a protagonist goes to a lot of stress when these kinds of sequences needs to shoot in an ongoing show which comes on air every day (sic)."

She also dropped a behind-the-scenes clip from the shoot of the Ganpati Visarjan sequence for "Mangal Lakshmi" with the "Sadda Dil Vi Tu" track from the movie "ABCD - Any Body Can Dance".

Deepika revealed that the day they were filming the sequence also happened to be the last day of Visarjan, and they ended up shooting the sequence amidst actual Ganpati visarjans going on with devotees chanting 'Ganpati Bappa Morya'.

"But everything feels so great when we are able to perform the way it's expected and able to finish it on time. Magically or coincidentally we were shooting this on the last day of visarjan so actual Ganpati visarjan were also going on. *IANS*



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A princely state for a princely stay, in the north west of India, lies the district of Bundi, in the Hadoti region of the royal state of Rajasthan. In ancient times, the area around Bundi was apparently inhabited by various local tribes.

Bundi was previously called 'Bunda-Ka-Nal'; Nal meaning 'narrow ways'. It is said to derive its name from a former Meena tribe man called Bunda Meena. Later the region was governed by Rao Deva Hada who took over Bundi from Jaita Meena in 1342 and established a princely state Bundi renaming the surrounding area called Hadoti the land of great Hada Rajputs. Bundi is home to some of the most magnificent palaces, majestic forts, its baolis (meaning water wells or step wells), haves, temples and chhatris with carved pillars.

It is of great historical significance as it has been a witness to many battles and legendary tales of valor. Bundi is blessed with a plethora of nature along with a beautiful pattern of rivers and lakes and some enchanted waterfalls. The lushy lands of this area are host to a huge variety of flora and fauna. The picturesque sceneries of Bundi have inspired a lot of writers and artists. Situated at a distance of 210 km from Jaipur and 35 km from Kota surrounded by the Aravalli Range on three sides, this city lies near a narrow gorge. A substantial wall with four gateways encircles the city.

PLACES TO VISIT IN BUNDI

Taragarh Fort: Constructed in the year 1354, the Taragarh Fort is one of the most impressive structures in Bundi. The state of Bundi was founded in this year by Rao Deva, and this was when the construction of this massive square began. Popularly known as the 'Star Fort', the attraction is located on a steep hill and offers a panoramic view of the entire city of Bundi situated in the Nagpahari of Aravalli ranges. The fort was described by the famous author Rudyard Kipling as "more the work of Goblins than of men". Sadly, time took its toll on this magnificent structure, and most of the majestic and fascinating architecture of the fort is now in ruins.

Moti Mahal: Bundi is a small town in the Hadoti region of Rajasthan, which lies 250 km away from the capital city of Rajasthan and 39 km from Kota. The town is famous for its picturesque forts, steep-wells (baolis), palaces, lakes, and reservoirs. Moti Mahal is one of the unmatched attractions of the town. Along with the his-

toric beauty of the Moti Mahal Palace, you can also enjoy the panoramic view of the arid Aravali hills in the backdrop along with the view of the ancient Nagal Sagar Lake.

Badal Mahal: The Badal Mahal is located in the premises of the Taragarh Fort. The walls of this majestic palace are covered with exquisite paintings. These paintings are interesting since they depict an influence of Chinese culture.

Garh Palace: The Garh palace has a number of petite palaces built encircling the central majestic residence. The various rulers of the city built these small palaces. The palace has many tales attached to it.

Sukh Mahal: Sukh Mahal, which is located on the periphery of the lake Jait Sagar was built during Umed Singh's regime. It is a universal belief that the old palace and Sukh Mahal are connected by means of an underground tunnel.

Chaurasi Khambon ki Chattri: For all those who are enthusiastic about historical sites and structures, this one is a delight for you. It is a marquee supported by 84 pillars. The marquee was built in 1683 by Rao Anirudh Singh to honor the services of Deva, who was a nurse.

Bhoraji-ka-Kund: Bhoraji-ka-Kund is surely a must see spot and will impress you by its beauty. Built in the 16th century, such water bodies were constructed in the olden days as a source of water for the drought hit areas of Bundi.

Nawal Sagar Lake: Nawal Sagar Lake is a huge, man made lake that can be seen from the Talagarh Fort. This lake has more than a few small islands. This lake is located in the middle of the city, and hence, one can get to see the reflection of the entire city in this lake.

Chhattra Mahal: Among all the palaces around the Taragarh Fort, the Chatar Mahal is possibly the best. It was built in the year 1660 by Chatar Sal, and bears a strong proof of the state of independence that the Rajput rulers enjoyed from Mughal power.

Hathi Pol: The Hathi Pol is an entrance into the Garh Palace of Bundi. Two enormous gates are seen at the end of a steep climb to this palace. Pol, which literally means Door, The Hathi Pol is a massive entrance that has two trumpeting elephants that form an arc.

HOW TO REACH BUNDI

If you are travelling within the state of Rajasthan, then reaching Bundi becomes easy as it well connected by both state-run and private buses to several cities in Rajasthan like Jaipur, Ajmer, Kota, etc., as well as cities of other Indian states like Uttar Pradesh, Delhi etc.

If you want to reach Bundi by air, the nearest airport is the Jaipur airport, which is at a distance of around 150 km. You can make use of the taxi service up till Bundi.

www.holidify.com

BUNDI

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GARBA NIGHT 2025 BRINGS TRADITION AND TOGETHERNESS TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Southern California will soon experience the vibrant spirit of Garba as **JEWEL ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS GARBA NIGHT 2025 ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 @ 6:30PM**, featuring the renowned singer Aishwarya Majumdar. The event, hosted at Cerritos College, is presented by Dr. Rakesh Patel, Kaushik Patel, and Alejandro Flores, and promises an evening of cultural celebration, music, and community connection.

"Garba is more than a dance—it is a spiritual and emotional bond," said Dr. Rakesh Patel. "By bringing this tradition here, families can feel closer to their roots while creating new memories together."

Kaushik Patel highlighted the event's inclusive appeal: "Garba Night blends tradition with modern entertainment.

It is encouraging to see people from all communities come together to celebrate."

Alejandro Flores added a message for attendees: "Come with open hearts and open minds. Whether you are dancing for the first time or continuing a lifelong tradition, this night is for everyone. It demonstrates the unifying power of culture."

Garba Night 2025 is expected to draw attendees from across the region, offering a meaningful reminder of the strength of cultural heritage in fostering unity and joy.



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