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Article on Page 17

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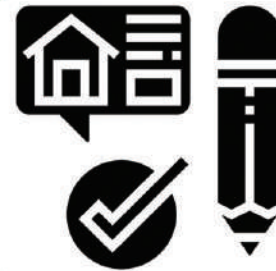
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**UCLA launches South Asian Heart Program**

► Details on page 22

**World's largest container ship at Vizhinjam**

► Details on page 14



**Kajol introduces her unique friends**

► Details on page 36

**INDIA POST**  
SURVEY  
survey@indiapost.com

**This week's question**

Can Trump withstand Musk's assault?

**Last week's result**

Are countries that support Pakistan terrorists equally guilty?

**YES 42%** **NO 58%**

# AIR INDIA CRASHED

*Ahmedabad flight disaster: Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani declared dead*



Firefighting operation underway at the site

**Developing story time of printing....  
One survivor believed to be safe**

AHMEDABAD: Senior BJP leader and former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani died in the Air India flight crash in Ahmedabad on Thursday, authorities said. He was 68.

Rupani was onboard Air India flight AI171, which was headed to London's Gatwick Airport when it crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad. He was reportedly seated in business class seat 2D.

A seasoned politician, Rupani served as the 16th Chief Minister of Gujarat from August 2016 to September 2021. Known for his composed demeanor and firm administrative style, Rupani steered Gujarat through a critical phase of industrial growth and post-Covid recovery.

His governance emphasized investment, infrastructure, and social welfare schemes.

Born on August 2, 1956, in Rangoon (now Yangon) in then Burma, Rupani and his family migrated to Gujarat's Rajkot during the political turmoil in the Southeast Asian country. He completed his B.A. and L.L.B. from Saurashtra University, later becoming actively involved in the RSS and student politics through its student wing, the ABVP. Rupani began his political journey as a municipal corporator in Rajkot in 1987.

Details on page 9



The site where an Air India plane B787 Aircraft VT-ANB, while operating flight AI-171 from Ahmedabad to Gatwick, has crashed immediately after takeoff with 242 passengers onboard, in Ahmedabad on Thursday.  
(Viral Photo/ANI Photo)



**National Guard order: California sues Trump**

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**Pelling: Little princess of Nature's kingdom**

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**India's population reaches 1.46 billion**

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:

Kajol introduces her friends



Actress Kajol decided to introduce the netizens to her unconventional best friends this National Bestfriend Day (8 June).

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Lifestyle:

Lifestyle announces biggest sale

Lifestyle, one of India's leading fashion destinations, is rolling out its much-awaited End of Season Sale (EOSS), offering shoppers up to 50%

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Cover Story:

AIR INDIA CRASHED



At least 169 Indians and 53 British nationals were travelling in Air India's flight AI171 from Ahmedabad to London's Gatwick airport

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Techbiz:

Bold vision now in motion

Karan Adani, MD of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, proud to welcome MSC Irina, world's largest container ship to Vizhinjam Seaport

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Community:

Landmark South Asian Heart Program



UCLA is proud to announce the official launch of the South Asian Heart Program-Jivrajka Initiative (SAHP-JI), a pioneering endeavor

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Travel

Pelling

Pelling is amongst the most popular tourist destinations in Sikkim, known for breathtaking views of the Himalayas and the famous Kanchenjunga peak, third-highest mountain in the world

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Immigration:

No restrictions on Indians



Reports about any bar on Indians travelling to Saudi Arabia are incorrect. The Saudi Government has not issued any notification on this matter

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Wellness:

India imposes anti-dumping duties

India's Ministry of Finance, in a notification issued the anti-dumping duties for a period of five years unless it is cancelled or revised

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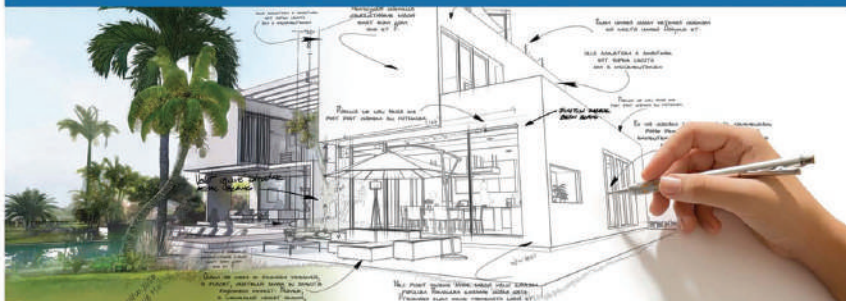


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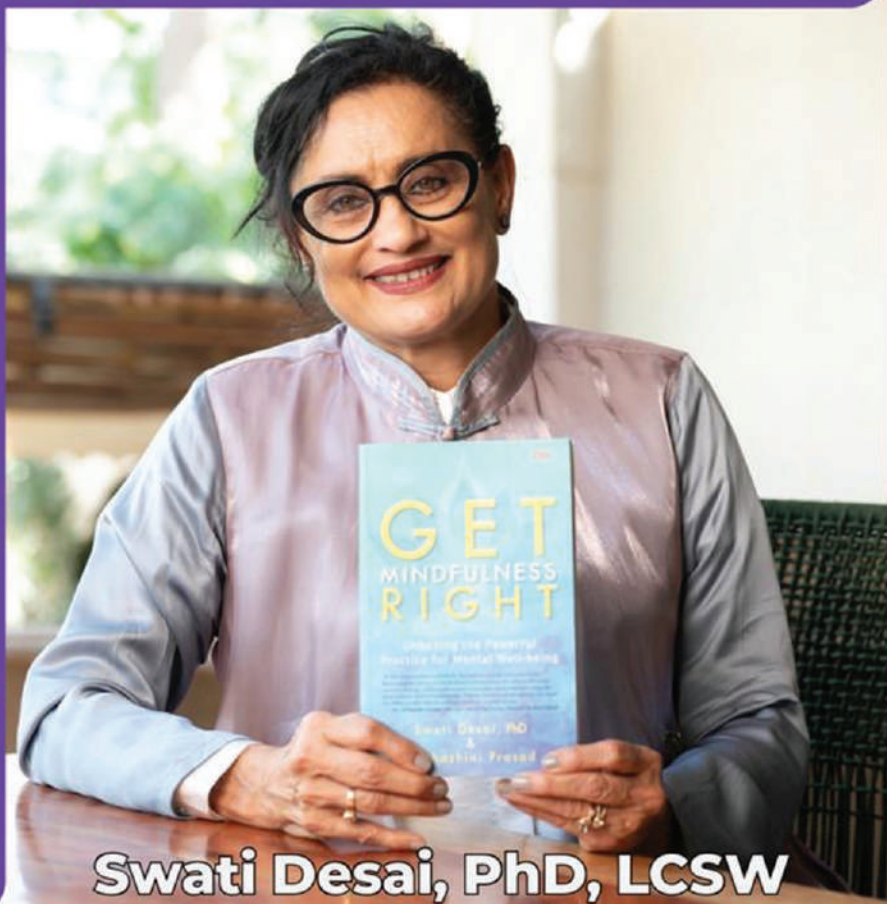
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# AIR INDIA CRASHED

Ahmedabad flight disaster: Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani declared dead

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student politics through its student wing, the ABVP. Rupani began his political journey as a municipal corporator in Rajkot in 1987.

He served as Mayor of Rajkot from 1996 to 1997 and was elected to the Gujarat Assembly multiple times. His loyalty to the BJP and clean image made him

a key figure in Gujarat politics, and in August 2016, he was chosen as the successor to Chief Minister Anandiben Patel, who had stepped down. IANS

## World leaders express grief over Ahmedabad plane crash

MOSCOW/NEW DELHI: Condolences from leaders across the world continue to pour in for the people affected after an Air India flight bound for London, carrying over 240 passengers, crashed shortly after taking off from the Ahmedabad airport on Thursday afternoon. The incident occurred near the Meghaninagar area of the city, triggering a massive emergency response.

At least 169 Indians and 53 British nationals were travelling in Air India's flight AI171 from Ahmedabad to London's Gatwick airport.

Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a message of condolences to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the passenger plane crash in Ahmedabad..

"Please accept the deepest condolences over the tragic consequences of a passenger plane crash in Ahmedabad. Kindly convey the words of sincere sympathy and support to the families and near ones of the victims, as well as wishes for a speedy recovery to all those injured in this catastrophe," said Putin. IANS

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- Formation of Partnerships and Corporations
- Other advisory services



# "If they are deep in Pakistan, we will go deep into Pakistan"

BRUSSELS: Nearly three weeks after the end of a brief but intense conflict between India and Pakistan, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has issued a stern warning against future terrorist provocations, reiterating that India will not hesitate to strike back regardless of location.

"If they are deep in Pakistan, we will go deep into Pakistan," Jaishankar said in an interview with POLITICO during his official visit to Brussels for high-level trade talks with the European Union. The remarks reflect one of the Indian government's strongest stances on cross-border terrorism in recent months.



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in a group picture with Members of European Parliament, Angelika Niebler, Urmaz Paet, Winkler Gyula, Vladimir Prebilic and Pilar del Castillo, in Brussels. (DrSJaishankar X/ANI Photo)

"It [Pakistan] is a country very steeped in its use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy. That is the whole issue," Jaishankar told POLITICO. When asked whether the conditions that triggered last month's hostilities still existed, he said, "If you call the commitment to terrorism a source of tension, absolutely, it is."

The conflict erupted in early May following a deadly terrorist attack in an Indian-administered region that claimed the lives of 26 civilians, mainly Hindus. India blamed Paki-

stan for sponsoring the attack, a charge Islamabad has denied. The clash saw days of missile exchanges and aerial strikes between the two nuclear-armed neighbors, culminating in a ceasefire declared on May 10.

While both countries claimed victory, their versions of events varied. India initially rejected Pakistan's claims of downing several Indian fighter jets. However, a senior Indian military official later acknowledged aircraft losses without providing specific details. Images circulating online suggested that at least one Mirage and one Rafale -- both French-made -- had been downed. According to POLITICO, U.S. and French officials indicated Pakistani forces used Chinese technology to take down one of the jets.

Pressed on the aircraft losses, Jaishankar did not confirm specific details but said the matter would be addressed by the appropriate authorities at the right time.

Jaishankar emphasized that Indian air strikes had severely degraded Pakistan's military infrastructure. "As far as I'm concerned, how effective the Rafale was or frankly, how effective other systems were -- to me, the proof of the pudding is the destroyed and

disabled airfields on the Pakistani side," he told POLITICO.

"The fighting stopped on the 10th for one reason and one reason only, which was that on the 10th morning we hit these eight Pakistani airfields, the main eight Pakistani airfields and disabled them," he said. "And don't take my word for it, these are images which are available in Google. You can look at those runways and those hangars, which have taken the hit." ANI

## Zardari blames US exit for terror surge, highlights Pakistan's struggles with leftover Afghan arms

WASHINGTON: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, currently visiting Washington, has reignited diplomatic tensions with pointed remarks on Afghanistan and terrorism, indirectly holding the United States and regional dynamics responsible for Pakistan's internal security challenges.

Zardari claimed that Pakistan has suffered due to the manner in which the US withdrew from Afghanistan and left behind military equipment that, he alleged, has now fallen into the hands of terrorist groups.

"We talk about terror, we talk about Afghanistan, we talk about other things. That's what we've spent the last couple of decades of this relationship discussing about," he said, underlining that these themes continue to dominate Pakistan's engagement with the United States.

The PPP chairman further pressed for greater regional

and international cooperation to counter terrorism--without acknowledging Pakistan's own widely alleged role in fostering extremist elements in its neighborhood over the years.

"We need more cooperation, regional, international, on what are we going to do now that post-Kabul to deal with the remnants, with the terrorism that's left over. As far as the weapons are concerned, you'd be astonished to hear, sometimes when we're fighting these terrorist groups within Pakistani territory, the weapons that they have procured for the black market that were left behind in Afghanistan are more advanced than the policemen that they're fighting against," he said.

While the Islamic Emirate is yet to respond to Zardari's remarks, it has in the past cautioned Islamabad against making inflammatory accusations that could destabilize already fragile bilateral ties. ANI

## IAF asks Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla to 'touch the sky with glory'

NEW DELHI: Ahead of the Axiom Space Mission 4, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has wished Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, to 'touch the sky with glory'.

With the success of the flight, Shukla will become the first Indian to set foot on the International Space Station (ISS). He will also be the second to go to space after Rakesh Sharma flew to space station Salyut 7 in 1984.

The US-based Axiom Space is scheduled to carry Shukla along with three others, to the ISS from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on June 11 at 8 a.m. ET (5.30 p.m. IST). The mission was initially scheduled for launch on May 29, but was later deferred to June 8 and then June 10.

"As Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla prepares to embark on the Axiom-4 space mission tomorrow, the Chief of the Air Staff and all Air Warriors of IAF wish him and the entire crew of Axiom-4 all the best for a safe and successful trip to the International Space Station," the Indian Air Force - Media Co-ordination Centre, shared in a post on social media platform X.

"This will add a new chapter to the Indian Space Odyssey. Touch the sky with glory!" the post added.

Shukla will pilot the mission alongside Commander Peggy Whitson from the US. Other crew members include mission specialists Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski (Poland), and Tibor Kapu (Hungary).

Air Vice Marshal Sanjay Bhatnagar VM VSM (Retd) called Shukla an inspiration.

The IAF officer is the youngest astronaut-designate under India's Gaganyaan mission -- the country's first human spaceflight mission.

"Highly inspiring story of IAF Gp Capt Shubanshu Shukla, Mission Pilot for Axiom 4," Bhatnagar wrote on X.

Ahead of his much-awaited lift-off, his family called it a moment of "immense pride" for the nation as well as for his loved ones.

"We are definitely feeling proud; our son has done something that brings pride in itself...", Shukla's mother told IANS from Lucknow.

Shukla's hometown is also celebrating with posters and car stickers. Cutouts are also being displayed proudly at his residence.

"From the land of Lord Shri Ram to space! Heartiest congratulations to Uttar Pradesh's son, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is now going to create history - he will set out on a journey to space carrying the dreams of India. This is a proud moment for every Indian and every family of Uttar Pradesh," Yogi Adityanath, UP Chief Minister said earlier on X.

After reaching the ISS, the Group Captain is expected to conduct exclusive food and nutrition-related experiments.

The experiments -- developed under a collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), with support from NASA -- aim to pioneer space nutrition and self-sustaining life support systems vital for future long-duration space travel. IANS



# California sues Trump over 'unlawful' National Guard order

SACRAMENTO: The US state of California sued the Trump administration for deploying the state's National Guard in Los Angeles amid protests against federal immigration raids, calling the move "an unmistakable step toward authoritarianism."

California Governor Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta announced Monday (9 June) they filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration to end the "illegal and unnecessary takeover" of

*California Governor Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta announced Monday (9 June) they filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration to end the "illegal and unnecessary takeover" of the state's National Guard, which they said "has needlessly escalated chaos and violence in the Los Angeles region."*

the state's National Guard, which they said "has needlessly escalated chaos and violence in the Los Angeles region."

The lawsuit, which names President Donald Trump, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, and the Department of Defense, claimed that the takeover violates the US Constitution and exceeds the president's Title 10 authority, not only because the

takeover occurred without the consent or input of the governor, as federal law requires, but also because it was unwarranted, according to a news release from the governor's office on 9 June, Xinhua news agency reported.

The protests initially began in response to immigration enforcement operations. In recent days, administration officials have focused their efforts on major Democratic-led cities, including Los Angeles, Chicago

and New York. Tensions between protesters and law enforcement escalated last Friday, as some demonstrators threw objects and police responded with pepper balls and flash-bang devices. In response, Trump ordered the deployment of 2,000 National Guard members on Saturday. The protests intensified further

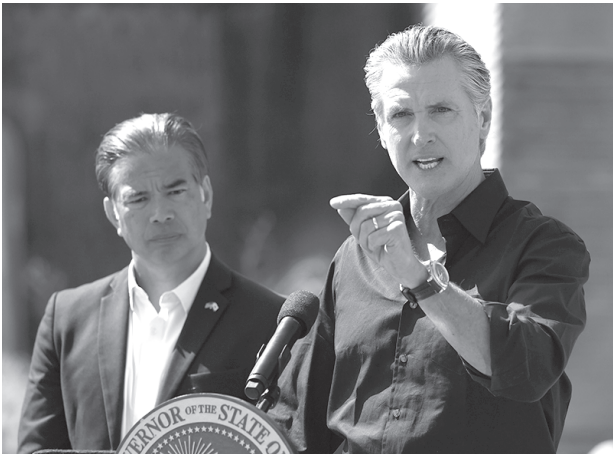
next day, with growing crowds and heightened confrontations between demonstrators and law enforcement officers.

"President Trump's order calling federalized National Guard troops into Los Angeles - over the objections of the Governor and local law enforcement - is unnecessary and counterproductive," said Bonta in a statement on 9 June.

"The President is trying to manufacture chaos and crisis on the ground for his own political ends. Federalizing the California National Guard is an abuse of the President's authority under the law - and not one we take lightly. We're asking a court to put a stop to the unlawful, unprecedented order," Bonta said.

Newsom said the deployment of National Guard is "a manufactured crisis," accusing Trump of "intentionally causing chaos, terrorizing communities, and endangering the principles of our great democracy."

"It is an unmistakable step toward authoritarianism. We will not let this



Gov. Gavin Newsom (right) speaks as Attorney General Rob Bonta looks on (Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

stand," said the governor. Following the announcement of the lawsuit, Trump posted on social media that his administration would "hit" back if protesters "spit" at National Guard members. "I promise you they will be hit harder than they have ever been hit before," he wrote. "Such disrespect will not be tolerated!" /ANS

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# En route to Canada for G7, PM Modi's stopover in Cyprus being planned: Sources

NICOSIA/NEW DELHI: In yet another sign of India's growing outreach to the countries in the Mediterranean region, especially those in the neighborhood of Turkey, Prime Minister Narendra Modi could make a brief stopover in Cyprus en route to Canada for participation in the G7 Summit, sources indicated.

The Summit of the Group of Seven (G7) countries is scheduled in Alberta from



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

June 15-17 and Cyprus is being strongly considered as a refueling stopover, cited top officials. PM Modi could also hold bilateral discussions with the top leadership of the country during his short stay, they revealed.

The region remains engulfed in conflict as Greece and Cyprus have repeatedly called out Ankara's "provocative actions" and accused Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of making expansionist moves which have incensed many more

countries in the continent and beyond. Turkey has been slammed for expanding its oil and gas exploration plans in Greece's territorial waters and carrying out drilling activities in Cyprus's maritime economic zones.

India-Cyprus relations have strengthened over the past 10 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has stated that both countries share rich legacies of ancient civilizations which have influenced each other through millennia. India has also maintained its principled position on the Cyprus Issue, reiterating several times its commitment for a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation based on UN Resolutions

*India-Cyprus relations have strengthened over the past 10 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has stated that both countries share rich legacies of ancient civilizations which have influenced each other through millennia*

as a solution.

"In modern times, our relationship goes back to the pre-independence era, when our founding fathers supported the freedom struggle of Cyprus. And, Cyprus too has always reciprocated with its warmth and friendship. India has always stood by Cyprus on all crucial issues. In 1974, India took a firm stand in support of the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. India has contributed personnel to the UN Peacekeeping Force

in Cyprus. Three force commanders from India served in this capacity, and it is heartening for me to know that all of them are fondly remembered in Cyprus," PM Modi said during the State Visit of the President of Cyprus to India in April 2017.

Nicosia, which shares with New Delhi the common objective of bringing about an early reform of the United Nations, has been backing India's claim for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council.

In December 2022, during his visit to Nicosia, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that the Mediterranean will see more of India in the future and the

relationship with Cyprus will be an anchor in India's endeavors.

After signing three significant bilateral agreements in Nicosia, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defense and military cooperation, Jaishankar had listed seven key areas in which Cyprus and India should work forward.

It included finance, shipping, tourism, knowledge economy, mobility flows, third-country projects and Mediterranean collaboration. *IANS*

## UN hopes India could influence parties in Myanmar conflict to negotiate: Senior official

UNITED NATIONS: The world organization hopes that India could use its influence to get the Myanmar military regime, the National Unity Government and the ethnic groups to negotiate a peaceful solution to the conflict there, according to a senior UN official.

"India is a nation of influence" in Myanmar, the official said recently, adding that the situation in the country is "diabolical" with the earthquake adding to the already dire political and insurgency crises.

"The challenge with this conflict is that it's multifaceted, it's not one side and an opposition: There is the Myanmar military and numerous ethnic

armed organizations, people's defense forces, and, also a more organized opposition through the former NLD" [the National Liberal Democracy Party, whose civilian government was overthrown by the military junta].

The official said only negotiations among the various parties to the conflict can bring peace to Myanmar, but every side believes in a military solution.

The sides in the conflicts have a "zero-sum mentality" expecting a total military solution to the problem and it favors them, the official said.

Failing that, they expect that the more territory they capture, the more influence they will have in the negotia-

tions, the official added.

"I'm hoping that India can be part of the cohort of neighbors that bring some sense to this senseless conflict", the official said.

According to the official, the UN was disappointed by the hardline stance India has taken with regard to the Rohingya who are leaving Myanmar and seeking refugee status elsewhere.

However, the official added, the UN was hoping "to continue to engage closely with India to see if there are some constructive things we can do with India in relation to humanitarian support and treatment of Rohingya". *IANS*

## India's population reaches 1.46 billion, sees decline in fertility rate: UN

NEW DELHI: While India continues to be the most populous country, with an estimated 1.46 billion people in 2025, the country's total fertility rate has fallen to 1.9, below the replacement level of 2.1, according to the latest report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) released 10 June.

The 2025 State of World Population (SOWP) report underscores that the real crisis lies not in population size, but in the widespread challenges to support individuals' right to decide freely and responsibly if, when, and how many children to have.

The UN report estimates "India's population at present at 1,463.9 million".

"India is now the world's most populous nation, with nearly 1.5 billion people -- a number expected to grow to about 1.7 billion before it begins falling," the report said.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in India is currently 2.0 children per woman. This means that on average, a woman in India would be expected to have 2 children during her childbearing years (typically ages 15-49). This rate has remained constant since 2020, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS) report for 2021.

However, the new report showed it has declined to 1.9 births per woman, which means that, on average, Indian women are having fewer children than needed to maintain the population size from one generation to the next, without migration.

Despite the slowing birth rate, India's youth population remains significant, with 24 percent in the age bracket of 0-14, 17 percent in 10-19, and 26 percent in 10-24.

While 68 percent of the population accounts for the 15-64 age bracket, the elderly population (65 and older) stands at seven percent.

As of 2025, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 71 years for men and 74 years for women.

The UN report also placed India in a group of middle-income countries undergoing rapid demographic change, with the population doubling time now estimated at 79 years. *IANS*



# German envoy highlights surge in Indian students in Germany, urges direct applications to universities

NEW DELHI: German Ambassador to India, Philipp Ackermann, emphasized Germany's commitment as a long-standing partner for Indian students and encouraged prospective applicants to explore the country's higher education opportunities directly rather than through agents.

Ackermann said, "Germany has been a very reliable partner for decades for Indian students. We have seen the numbers grow over the last couple of years exponentially. Now we have 50 thousand Indians in Germany. What we want to make clear is that we are a reliable partner on whom you can count, and we are really looking for talent. We are looking for the smartest, the brightest ones, the ones who maybe had an idea to go elsewhere to study. We say to them that there is a first-class education in Germany. There is English-taught education in Germany, mainly in the STEM area. So if you are not sure where to go, look at German universities, look at what they have to offer and do it individually and not through agents."

Philipp Ackermann also encouraged Indian students to explore state-owned and state-run universities in Germany, which offer better quality education at a lower cost.

Germany is positioning itself as a global hub for higher education, focusing on attracting Indian students and professionals. With 50,000 Indian students already studying in Germany, the country is keen

*"Germany has been a very reliable partner for decades for Indian students. We have seen the numbers grow over the last couple of years exponentially. Now we have 50 thousand Indians in Germany. What we want to make clear is that we are a reliable partner on whom you can count, and we are really looking for talent"*

to increase this number, particularly in top universities. The ambassador highlighted the benefits of studying in Germany, including low fees, high-quality education, and a welcoming environment for skilled labor.

These universities offer top-class education at a lower cost than private institutions. He also warned against private colleges that may not provide the same quality of education.

Speaking exclusively with ANI, Ackermann highlighted the country's liberal laws for skilled labor immigration and its excellent experience with Indian students.

"We have very liberal laws when it comes to skilled labor immigration. I feel that in skilled labor, we are very good and performing. What is of interest to us is that when it comes to higher education, we have 50,000 Indian students in Ger-

many, the biggest non-German group at German universities. We want to increase this number; we want to increase it specifically in one area, namely, in the top universities area. Now, our experience with Indian students is excellent. We have had a very, very good experience with the ambitious, industrious, and very courageous bunch of people from this country who made it after graduation and had an opportunity to get jobs after graduation. Now, when you see what happens in the world, you see the US being much more difficult, and so easily, you see, people's background being checked in the US. I can state only very firmly that these ambitious, smart, and industrious students are very welcome in Germany," said the German envoy.

Germany is emerging as a premier destination for Indian students seeking top-class education and skill development, and it offers high-quality education, particularly in technical and STEM subjects, at a lower cost compared to countries like the US. ANI

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## India saw massive infra boost under PM Modi in last 11 years: NSE CEO

MUMBAI: Ashish Kumar Chauhan, Managing Director and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), said on 8 June that there has been a huge infrastructural transformation in the country in the last 11 years under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, adding that the respect of Indians in foreign nations has also grown multifold due to the overall development at the domestic level.

Speaking to IANS, the NSE chief said, "During PM Modi's tenure, the country's infrastructure, like ports, roads and airports etc., has taken a new dimension, which has helped drive the overall development of the country."

"When we go abroad, we get better respect now," he mentioned.

Describing PM Modi's tenure as historic, Chauhan said that the last 11 years under PM Modi have been a significant period in the history of independent India.

"Hundred years from now, people will say the era of PM Modi was the greatest one, and I am sure that the Prime Minister will be able to serve the country easily for the next 10-20 years," the NSE CEO told IANS.

On the National Stock Exchange (NSE) IPO, Chauhan said the exchange has sought a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) from the capital markets regulator. *IANS Interview*

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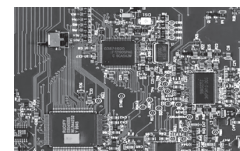
14 India Post

www.indiapost.com

June 13, 2025

## SEZ reforms: Micron to invest Rs 13,000 crore in Gujarat for chip, component manufacturing

NEW DELHI: Micron Semiconductor Technology India Pvt Ltd (MSTI) would invest an estimated Rs 13,000 crore to establish its SEZ facility in Sanand, Gujarat over an area of 37.64 hectare for manufacturing of semiconductors and electronic components, the government informed recently. Hubballi Durable Goods Cluster (Aequis Group) will also establish its SEZ in Dharwad, Karnataka over an area of 11.55 hectare to manufacture electronics components with an estimated investment of Rs. 100 crore. *IANS*



## Bold vision now in motion: Karan Adani welcomes world's largest container ship at Vizhinjam

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Karan Adani, Managing Director of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), said he is proud to welcome MSC Irina, the world's largest container ship with a capacity of 24,346 TEUs (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units), to the Adani Group's Vizhinjam International Seaport.

In a historic feat, MSC IRINA

tainer ship with a capacity of 24,346 TEUs, to our Vizhinjam Port," Karan Adani said in a post on the X social media platform.

"This marks the vessel's maiden visit to South Asian shores, making it a milestone not just for Vizhinjam but for India's emergence as a key player in global transshipment. A bold vision now in motion," the Adani

FIFA-designated football field. Designed specifically to facilitate the transportation of large volumes of containers between Asia and Europe, the MSC IRINA is pivotal in enhancing trade routes and logistics efficiency.

The monumental arrival marks a significant milestone for the seaport, which was dedicated to the nation by Prime Min-

under the Liberian flag and is engineered to stack containers up to 26 tiers high, offering unparalleled capacity in container stacking.

Meanwhile, Adani Ports handled 450 million metric tons (MMT) of cargo in FY 2024-25, marking a 7 percent year-on-year growth. Mundra, APSEZ's flagship port, achieved a historic feat by surpassing the 200 MMT cargo mark in a single fiscal, a first for any Indian port.



World's largest container vessel, MSC IRINA, reaches Vizhinjam International Seaport, in Thiruvananthapuram. (Adani Group/ANI Photo)

has arrived at the Seaport, which will be berthed till Tuesday, 10 June.

"Proud to welcome MSC Irina, the world's largest con-

Ports Managing Director noted.

With a length of 399.9 meters and a width of 61.3 meters, the vessel is approximately four times longer than a standard

ister Narendra Modi on May 2.

The MSC IRINA was launched in March 2023 and embarked on its maiden voyage in April of the same year. It sails

APSEZ aims to become the world's largest port operator by 2030, achieve carbon neutrality by 2025, and attain net-zero emissions by 2040. *IANS*

## India big winner in 2025 as global smartphone manufacturing output declines: Report

NEW DELHI: As global smartphone manufacturing output declines, India is set to be the big winner in 2025, with output growing in double-digit percentages to reach a record 20 percent share of worldwide output, fuelled by export demand from Apple and Samsung, a recent report showed.

Global smartphone manufacturing output is expected to slip 1 percent (on-year) in

2025 due to tariff impacts and a broader industry slowdown, following a 4 percent rise in 2024, according to Counterpoint Research's latest global smartphone manufacturing allocation tracker.

China, India, and Vietnam were responsible for more than 90 percent of the global manufacturing output in 2024, with India leading in terms of growth.

However, in 2025, manufacturing outputs from different countries are expected to show mixed performances. China will feel the impact of tariffs in



2025, which will result in declining output coupled with forecast domestic underperformance.

The global smartphone manufacturing shift has been accelerating after the Covid-19 pandemic, but the tariffs have hurt industry players at every level - from upstream component suppliers to downstream importers and distributors, brands to manufacturers.

"Consequently, brand owners

have no choice but to move out of China and allocate more production capacity and output in other countries," said Counterpoint Research Senior Analyst, Ivan Lam.

The main winners are India, which has significant growth potential, and Vietnam, which is relatively closer to China and has a mature contract manufacturing and export sector for consumer electronics, Lam noted. *IANS*



# India's hospitality sector expected to clock 8 pc growth in FY26: Report

NEW DELHI: India's hospitality sector is expected to post a revenue growth of 6-8 percent in FY2026 on the high base recorded after three years of double-digit revenue expansion seen by the industry over FY2023 to FY2025, according to an ICRA report released on Monday (9 June).

ICRA estimates pan-India premium hotel occupancy to hold at 72-74 percent in FY2026, slightly higher than the 70-72 percent levels witnessed in FY2024 and FY2025. The average room rates (ARRs) for premium hotels are projected to rise to Rs 8,200-8,500 in FY2026, after a healthy Rs 8,000-8,200 in FY2025 amid lagging supply additions and several hotels undergoing renovation, refurbishment, and upgradation.

Jitin Makkar, Senior Vice President ICRA Limited, said: "After three years of strong demand, driven by favorable domestic leisure travel, demand from meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions (MICE), including weddings, and business travel, the growth in the Indian hospitality sector is forecast to normalize at 6-8 percent year-on-year in FY2026."

"While the terror attacks in April 2025 and consequent heightened uncertainties

in North and West India in May 2025 had led to a surge in cancellation of travel/MICE, the impact has been largely temporary and localized. In recent weeks, there



has been a healthy recovery in sentiments following the abatement of the conflict," he added.

Foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) to India are expected to remain muted in the next few months in the aftermath of the terror attacks, but are estimated to witness a

gradual recovery thereafter. However, domestic tourism has been the prime demand driver so far and is likely to remain so in the near term, the report states.

Factors like improvement in infrastructure and air connectivity, favorable demographics, and anticipated growth in large-scale MICE events, with the opening of multiple new convention centers in the last few years, among others, shall support the growth over the medium term, according

to the report.

ICRA's sample set, comprising 13 large hotel companies, is likely to report range-bound operating margins of 34-36 percent for FY2026, despite a lower revenue growth. The margins will remain supported by factors like cost rationalization measures and asset-light expansions in recent periods.

However, within the sample, it is likely to be a mixed bag, depending on renovations and an increase in employee expenses amidst growing demand. De-leveraging of balance sheets has led to lower interest costs and is likely to support net margins, as well as improvement in credit metrics, the report observes.

"The demand uptick over recent years led to an increase in supply announcements and resumption of deferred projects in the past 24-30 months. However, supply growth is expected to lag demand over the next 12-18 months." IANS

## India working with EV makers towards steady flow of rare earth magnets: Crisil

NEW DELHI: As diversification of supply sources is being actively explored, aligned with policy efforts, the situation continues to evolve for the Indian automotive players in their quest to have a steady flow of rare earth magnets amid China's export restrictions, a Crisil report recently showed.

Rare earth magnets, low in cost but critical in function, could emerge as a key supply-side risk for the India's automotive sector if China's export restrictions and delays in shipment clearances persist.

A disruption lasting beyond a month can impact electric vehicle (EV) launches, affect production and weigh on the sector's growth momentum, said the Crisil Ratings report.

Recognizing the risk, the government and automakers are taking action on two fronts.

In the short term, the focus is on build-

ing strategic inventories, tapping alternative suppliers and accelerating domestic assembly under Production Linked Incentive schemes.

For the long term, reducing import de-



pendency will hinge on fast-tracking rare earth exploration, building local production capacity and investing in recycling infrastructure.

"Despite contributing less than 5 per-

cent of a vehicle's cost, these magnets are indispensable for EV motors and electric steering systems. Automakers are actively engaging with alternative suppliers in countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Japan, Australia, and the US, while also optimizing existing inventories," said Poonam Upadhyay, Director, Crisil Ratings.

In a constrained supply scenario, magnets may also get diverted to ICE models, which require fewer units, potentially impacting EV growth, she added.

Rare earth magnets are integral to permanent magnet synchronous motors (PMSMs) used in EVs for their high torque, energy efficiency and compact size.

Hybrids also depend on them for efficient propulsion. In internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, the use of rare earth magnets is largely limited to electric power steering and other motorized systems. IANS

### Piyush Goyal rolls out red carpet for Swiss firms to invest in India

NEW DELHI: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has invited Swiss companies to expand their footprint in India and take advantage of the country's dynamic and rapidly growing market.

The minister held a meeting in Bern with the leadership from several premier Swiss companies across diverse sectors and urged them to see India as a strategic hub for manufacturing, talent, and innovation.

The discussions focused on enhancing synergies between Indian and Swiss enterprises, with a special emphasis on innovation, technology transfer, and sustainable manufacturing, according to an official statement issued 10 June.

Goyal assured the business leaders of India's unwavering commitment, to fostering a conducive business environment, through transparent regulatory processes, a robust Intellectual Property regime, and pro-investment policy frameworks.

Following these strategic discussions, the Minister chaired two focused roundtables with sectorial leaders from the Swiss industry -covering biotech and pharma, healthcare, and precision engineering, Defense, and Emerging Technologies. IANS



No slum will be demolished without providing proper housing: Delhi CM

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday refuted the rumors regarding slum demolitions and said that no slum would be demolished without first providing permanent housing to its residents.

FIRs will be filed, and strict action will be taken against those spreading false information about demolitions, she added.

She inaugurated and inspected various development projects in Nehru Camp in Haiderpur, Ekta Camp in Pitampura, and the area near U and V Blocks of JJ Cluster in the Shalimar Bagh Assembly constituency.

The Chief Minister also reviewed key works, such as laying pipelines and constructing new roads in these areas. She also announced that a clean and safe park with swings would be developed, especially for the children of slum areas.

CM Rekha Gupta said, "No slum will be demolished without first providing permanent housing to its residents. FIRs will be filed, and strict action will be taken against those spreading false information about demolitions. ANI

How much will your home loan EMI drop after RBI's 50 basis points repo rate cut?

NEW DELHI: If you have a home loan, your EMI is set to reduce by over Rs 1,500 a month thanks to the Reserve Bank of India's latest move.

With the central bank cutting the repo rate by 50 basis points -- from 6 percent to 5.5 percent -- banks are expected to lower interest rates on loans.

For a Rs 50 lakh home loan over 20 years, this could mean monthly savings of Rs 1,569 and annual savings of nearly Rs 19,000, offering much-needed relief to borrowers amid high living costs. IANS

Indian real estate market ready to meet global workspace demand: Report

MUMBAI: As global firms recalibrate their footprints, India is braced for intensified demand - not just for space, but for future-ready, flexible environments that can deliver performance, resilience, and purposeful design in equal measure, a new report says.

Global corporates are targeting over 100 million square feet of new workspace as disruption drives new wave of real estate demand.

As many as 63 percent of the corporate real estate leaders surveyed, expressed concern about economic and geopolitical volatility. But instead of freezing decision-making, companies are taking action by building optionality into their space strategies, including shorter leases, more flexible formats, and locations that align with risk diversification and talent access, said

the report by Knight Frank.

"In India, this shift is already underway. Office leasing in the country reached 71.9 mn sq ft in 2024 - a 21 percent YoY growth - while 2025 has started on a

and fast-evolving work styles - all against a backdrop of compressed timelines and cost discipline. The CRE function is no longer reacting from the sidelines but is being repositioned at

Twenty-seven companies are expecting to expand by over 20 percent -- creating up to 49 million sq ft of demand from those firms alone, the findings showed. "Occupiers are cutting loose



strong footing, clocking 28.2 mn sq ft in Q1 alone, up 74 percent YoY," said Shishir Bajjal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India.

"Corporate real estate complexities today are being shaped by a convergence of strategic alignment, operational volatility,

the center of enterprise transformation," Bajjal added.

Far from pulling back, many corporates are accelerating change. About 50 percent of respondents expect their total footprint to grow over the next three to five years, the equivalent of 104 million sq ft of space.

from legacy portfolios, but they're not abandoning space, they're moving to better space and -- in many cases -- into more locations as they regionalize their portfolios," said Dr Lee Elliott, Partner and Head of Global Occupier Research at Knight Frank. IANS

Bhumika Realty begins a new chapter with bold expansion plans in Gurugram

GURUGRAM: Bhumika Realty marked its formal entry into Gurugram's property market, strengthening its footprint in the NCR region. The milestone was commemorated with a spiritual puja ceremony at its site office in Sector 16, MG Road, Gurugram, which drew over 250 channel partners, key stakeholders, and real estate community members. The event underlined Bhumika's visionary expansion in one of North India's most dynamic and opportunity-rich real estate corridors.

With a rich legacy spanning more than 60 years and landmark developments such as Urban Square Mall in Udaipur, Bhumika Realty is set to estab-

lish a new standard of excellence in Gurugram. In a strategic move last year, the company acquired

use development featuring meticulously designed office spaces, vibrant retail areas, and



a land parcel on MG Road, Gurugram, earmarked for a commercial project. Soon, the group will introduce a boutique mixed-

curated F&B zones; crafted to cater to the evolving lifestyle and business needs of modern urban India.

Uddhav Poddar, CMD, Bhumika Group, said, "As we step into Gurugram, we do so with gratitude, determination, and a clear vision. Gurugram is India's premium real estate hub known for strong connectivity, infrastructure, and investor interest; a market that demands excellence and innovation, and we're here to deliver both. We are proud to bring our legacy of over 60 years to this thriving city and contribute meaningfully to its urban landscape. Our upcoming projects will stand for quality, community, and character; hallmarks of what our brand has always stood for and will continue to uphold here."

Siddharth Katyal, CEO,

Bhumika Group, said, "As we continue to shape Gurugram's retail landscape, our developments represent a significant milestone in our journey. Each development is designed to stand out, creating exceptional experiences for our stakeholders and further cementing our position as a leader in the industry."

The event reflects the group's long-term commitment to delivering innovative developments that resonate with both businesses and end-users.

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## RIYAZ KHAN

India Post News Service

**S**uren Sapkota's remarkable journey begins in the tranquil foot hills of the majestic Himalayas in Nepal and stretches all the way to the vibrant and competitive real estate markets of Hollywood and Southern California. His story is one of perseverance, adaptability, and a relentless pursuit of the American Dream.

With over 11 years of dedicated experience in real estate, Suren has built a stellar reputation serving a diverse clientele across Southern California. His passion for real estate, rooted in a deep desire to help others find a sense of home and opportunity, has driven him to excel in various sectors, including residential, commercial, Business sales & purchase & leasing, property acquisitions, and investment sales.

Specializing in cities such as Artesia, Cerritos, Los Angeles, Irvine and South Orange County and surrounding areas, Suren has successfully assisted hundreds of families, entrepreneurs, and investors-many of them newly arrived immigrants-navigate the complexities of the American real estate market. His goal has always been more than just closing



Suren Sapkota

deals; it is about helping people plant roots, build wealth, and thrive in their new environment.

"My motto is simple," says Sapkota. "Be honest with your clients, offer seamless service with diligence, care, and integrity, and give 100% in fulfilling their

dreams. I believe in long-term strategies built on trust and relationships. Most of my business comes from referrals, which is the greatest compliment one can receive."

Suren's deep cultural sensitivity and multilingual skills have made him a go-to agent for a wide range of communities,

on Pioneer Boulevard in Artesia, CA, Suren leads a dedicated team of professionals under the banner of Sapkota Realty. His firm is known for its comprehensive real estate solutions, Full Real Estate Services - from market analysis and property management to investment consulting and relocation services.

*With over 11 years of dedicated experience in real estate, Suren has built a stellar reputation serving a diverse clientele across Southern California. His passion for real estate, rooted in a deep desire to help others find a sense of home and opportunity*

particularly those from South Asia. Whether you are a first-time homebuyer, a business owner seeking the perfect location, or an investor looking for promising opportunities, Suren brings unmatched local expertise and a personalized approach to every transaction.

Operating from his full-service office

Suren Sapkota can be reached at (714) 709-1586 or by email at [Suren@Sapkotarealty.com](mailto:Suren@Sapkotarealty.com). His journey from the Himalayas to Hollywood is not just a tale of success-it's a testament to what can be achieved through passion, integrity, and a heart committed to service.

## Repo rate cut fuels real estate resurgence; developers see renewed buyer confidence

DELHI NCR: At a time of global economic uncertainty, the RBI has delivered a decisive signal with a 50 basis point cut in the repo rate, bringing it down to 5.5%. This marks the third consecutive reduction, underscoring the RBI's commitment to stimulate domestic demand, ease credit conditions, and propel investment cycles across key sectors. Among the immediate beneficiaries of this policy shift is the real estate sector. With consumer sentiment already on an upward curve, developers believe the lowered borrowing cost will catalyze housing demand, improve affordability for first-time buyers, and inject fresh liquidity into project development.

Deepak Kapoor, Director, Gulshan Group, says, "A big news indeed. The decision to reduce the repo rate by 50 bps or 0.5% takes the total decrease in the repo rate by 1% in a short span of 6 months. The move also signals the central bank's confidence in the growing resilience of the country's economy, which is increasingly exhibiting signs of certainty in the dynamically evolving global economic order. For the real estate sector, it will translate into an increase in new homeownership numbers."

Sandeep Chhillar, Founder and Chairman, Landmark Group, says, "The RBI's decision to lower the repo rate by 50 basis points sends a strong pro-growth signal and undoubtedly benefits the real estate sector. Amidst the positive sentiments prevailing in the real estate sector, the decision will make the home-buying process for first-

the real estate sector. Lower interest rates would likely spur greater demand for retail loans, encouraging businesses to expand and boost end-user consumption. Hence, we expect a significant uptick in leasing activity and new project launches, reflecting strong investor and occupier confidence."

Dr. Amish Bhutani, MD, Group 108,

economic growth, this rate cut would act as a timely catalyst, which would help attain the same."

Sanjay Sharma, Director, SKA Group, says, "The third consecutive repo rate cut brings a wave of optimism in the Indian real estate market. 50 bps cut reflects RBI's clear intent to stimu-



time homebuyers increasingly accessible. This move is expected to further propel the demand, sustain buyer interest, and create a favorable environment for continued growth across the housing market."

Harinder Singh Hora, Founder Chairman, Reach Group, says, "The RBI's decision to cut the repo rate by 50 bps and bring it to 6% comes as a timely boost for

says, "RBI's third consecutive repo rate cut by 50bps signals continued confidence in India's economic growth story. This decisive move is set to unlock greater capital inflows, especially into high-impact sectors like real estate. Wherein, the commercial segment stands to benefit the most from easier financing. At a time when the country seeks robust

late economic activity, which will not only give relief to homebuyers but will also boost demand across the real estate sector.

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*"A big news indeed. The decision to reduce the repo rate by 50 bps or 0.5% takes the total decrease in the repo rate by 1% in a short span of 6 months. The move also signals the central bank's confidence in the growing resilience of the country's economy"*



## Ayushman Bharat scheme led to historic development

NEW DELHI: The flagship Ayushman Bharat-Jan Arogya scheme has led to historic development in the health sector in the last 11 years, said Union Health Minister JP Nadda recently.

In a post shared on social media platform X, Nadda elucidated the progress made by the country in various fields under the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led



JP Nadda

govern-  
ment over  
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cade.

"In the  
last 11  
years,  
there has  
been his-  
toric devel-

opment in all areas including education, health, transport, infrastructure, and defense," Nadda said.

The Union Minister noted how every section of the society has been uplifted due to unprecedented initiatives such as the "Ayushman Bharat - Jan Arogya" by the government.

As of May 30, more than 41.02 crore Ayushman Cards have been created in 33 States and Union Territories.

The AB-PMJAY has emerged as one of the world's largest publicly funded health insurance scheme. *IANS*

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

*Sri Atmananda (1883 - 1959)*

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June 13, 2025

## Govt imposes anti-dumping duties on vitamin A, rubber chemical imports from China, Japan, EU

NEW DELHI: The Union government has imposed anti-dumping duties on imports of Vitamin-A Palmitate and insoluble sulphur -- a crucial rubber additive -- on China, Japan, Switzerland, and the European Union (EU).

The Ministry of Finance, in a notification on June 6, issued the anti-dumping duties for a period of five years unless it is cancelled or revised.

It aims to protect domestic manufacturers from low-priced imports that affect the local industry.

The move follows an investigation by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) which revealed that the price of Vitamin-A Palmitate imported by these countries was lower than the normal value.

The DGTR also noted "material injury" to domestic producers of Vitamin-A Palmitate due to large-scale dumping from China,

the EU, and Switzerland.

The compound, commonly used in small quantities, remains heavily import-dependent in India.



*The DGTR also noted "material injury" to domestic producers of Vitamin-A Palmitate due to large-scale dumping from China, the EU, and Switzerland*

While Vitamin-A Palmitate is used in pharmaceuticals, food, and cosmetics, insoluble sulphur plays

a key role in the rubber industry, majorly in tire manufacturing.

The anti-dumping duties, effective immediately must be paid

in Indian rupees based on the exchange rate. It is expected to prevent unfair trade practices

and protect local industries.

According to the notification, the duties for Vitamin-A Palmitate range from \$0.87 to \$20.87 per kg; the highest duty has been imposed on Chinese exporters other than Shangyu NHU BioChem, which will face a lower rate of \$14.95/kg. Swiss producer DSM Nutritional Products will attract a duty of \$0.87/kg, while other Swiss exporters will face \$8.2/kg. A flat rate of \$11.09/kg will apply to imports from the EU, the notification stated.

Further, depending on the exporter, the duties on insoluble sulphur will range from \$259 to \$358 per metric ton.

Chinese imports will face a flat duty of \$307/MT. Among Japanese companies, Shikoku Chemicals will be charged \$259/MT, while all other Japanese exporters will face the maximum rate of \$358/MT, the notification said. *IANS*

NEW DELHI: Love to consume legumes and pulses? Fermenting them can help raise their antioxidant levels, as well as raise their ability to fight diabetes, according to a study.

Food scientists at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, US, identified the optimal fermentation conditions for pulses --the dried edible seeds of legumes -- that increased their antioxidant and antidiabetic properties and their soluble protein content.

In the study, the team fermented pulses obtained from varying concentrations of black beans, black-eyed peas, green split peas, red lentils, and pinto bean flour. The fermentation was done using the bacteria

## Fermenting legumes, pulses can boost antioxidant, antidiabetic properties: Study

*Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* 299v as microorganisms.

The results showed that antioxidant activity increased by up to 83 percent and their capacity to

amount of soluble protein in these food items.

Red lentils and green split peas showed the greatest improvements in antioxidant scav-

engines that improve insulin metabolism.

Lp299v is a probiotic strain "containing microorganisms that support gut health," ex-

"After fermentation, it remains in the digestive process. It will not only preserve the fermented product that you're consuming, but it will also produce these peptides or amino acids that are more easily absorbed than the intact protein in the pulses," Valdés-Alvarado said.

Further, Lp299v is also known to reduce inflammation, boost immunity, and enhance iron absorption, the team said, in the paper published in the journal *Antioxidants*. *IANS*



regulate Type 2 diabetes markers increased by 70 percent. Fermentation also increased the

enging activity and protein solubility. These also demonstrated the greatest modulation of two

plained first author Andrea Jimena Valdés-Alvarado, a graduate student at the varsity.



# Depression, bipolar disorder after 40 may signal dementia risk: Study

NEW DELHI: Mood disorders like depression, bipolar disorder, or mania after the age of 40 may not be just mental health conditions but can precede motor or cognitive symptoms in various neurodegenerative diseases, according to a study.

Growing evidence suggests these late-life mood disorders (LLMDs) could be early warning signs of neurodegenerative diseases like dementia, even when they appear years before memory loss or other cognitive symptoms become apparent, said researchers from the National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology (QST), Japan.

The study, published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association* explored the presence of abnormal tau protein -- a hallmark of several neurodegenerative diseases -- in the brains of 52 participants with LLMDs and 47 healthy controls.

The researchers used advanced brain imaging techniques to examine 52 participants with LLMDs and 47 healthy controls. They employed a positron emission to-



*They found that about 50 per cent of participants with LLMDs showed tau accumulation in their brains, compared to only about 15 percent of healthy controls*

mography (PET) scan using two different tracers, which can detect various forms of tau protein and amyloid beta accumulation

and analyzed brain tissue samples from 208 autopsy cases to examine the relationship between late-life mood symptoms

and the subsequent development of neurodegenerative diseases.

They found that about 50 per cent of participants with LLMDs showed tau accumulation in their brains, compared to only about 15 percent of healthy controls.

Similarly, nearly 29 percent of participants with LLMDs had detectable amyloid deposits versus just 2 per cent of controls. The autopsy findings further supported these results, showing a significantly higher prevalence of diverse tau protein-related pathologies in individuals who had experienced late-life mania or depression.

"Because most of the participants with LLMDs in our study had no or mild cognitive decline, these results support the evidence that neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's and non-Alzheimer's tau-related pathologies, can initially manifest as psychiatric symptoms," said Dr. Shin Kurose from QST.

Further, many participants also had tau accumulation in the frontal regions of the brain -- crucial for emotional regulation and cognitive function. *IANS*



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## Antibiotics during pregnancy may reduce preterm births in women with HIV: Study

NEW DELHI: A daily dose of a commonly used, safe, and inexpensive antibiotic may help reduce preterm births (born at 37 weeks' gestation or before), in women with HIV, according to a study of almost 1,000 pregnant women in Zimbabwe.

An international group of researchers, from the UK and Zimbabwe, found that women living with HIV who took the antibiotic trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole during their pregnancy had larger babies who were less likely to be preterm.

Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole is a broad-spectrum antimicrobial agent with anti-inflammatory properties that are widely used in sub-Saharan Africa.

The study showed that for babies born to a small group of 131 women with HIV, the reduction in premature births was especially marked, with only 2 percent of births in the trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole group preterm, as compared with 14 percent in the placebo group.

"Our findings suggest that a low-cost, daily antibiotic, in a setting where infections like HIV are common, might reduce the risk of preterm births. We desperately need new strategies to prevent preterm births, which are the leading cause of under-5 child mortality," said Andrew Prendergast, Professor of Pediatric Infection and Immunology at Queen Mary University of London.

"If we can confirm in other trials that trimethoprim-

sulfamethoxazole reduces the risk of babies being born too soon, it would be a promising new approach to help newborns survive and thrive," he added.

One in four live-born infants worldwide is preterm, is small for gestational age, or has a low birth weight.

The mortality rate for these small and vulnerable newborns is high, with prematurity now the leading cause of death among children younger than 5 years of age.

Maternal infections and inflammation during pregnancy are linked to adverse birth outcomes, particularly for babies born to mothers living with HIV, who have a greater risk of being born too small or too soon.

The randomized controlled trial included 993 pregnant women from three antenatal clinics in central Zimbabwe, and gave them either 960 mg of the drug or a placebo daily.

The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, found that although birth weight did not differ significantly between the two groups, the trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole group showed a 40 percent reduction in the

proportion of preterm births, compared to the placebo group.

Overall, 6.9 percent of mothers receiving the drug had babies born preterm, compared to 11.5 percent of mothers receiving the placebo, and no women receiving antibiotics had babies born before 28 weeks. *IANS*

## Healthy lifestyle can boost metabolic health even without weight loss: Study

JERUSALEM: People can improve their health through dietary and lifestyle changes even if they do not lose weight, according to an international study.

The research, conducted by the universities of Ben-Gurion (Israel), Harvard (US), and Leipzig (Germany), focused on individuals described as "weight loss resistant" -- those who adopt healthy habits but struggle to shed pounds, Xinhua news agency reported.

"We have been conditioned to equate weight loss with health, and weight loss-resistant individuals are often labeled as failures," said lead author Anat Yaskolka Meir, postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Epidemiology at Harvard Chan School.

"Our findings reframe how we define clinical success. People who do not lose weight can improve their metabolism and reduce their long-term risk for disease. That's a message of hope, not failure," Meir added.

Published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, the study challenges the long-standing belief that weight loss is the primary sign of a successful diet. Researchers found that even participants who did not lose weight showed measurable improvements in key health indicators.

The study tracked 761 adults between 18 to 24 months. All participants followed lifestyle changes without taking supplements or medications and were assigned to healthy diets.

Participants also received free gym access and exercise guidance.

By the end of the trial, approximately one-third of the participants had not lost weight, despite closely following the program.

However, they showed improvements in metabolic health, including higher levels of "good" HDL cholesterol, lower levels of leptin (a hormone primarily produced by fat cells), and reductions in abdominal fat, confirmed through MRI scans. *IANS*



## Scientists find gene mutation that links iron deficiency with Crohn's disease

NEW YORK: Biomedical scientists have discovered that a genetic mutation associated with Crohn's disease can worsen iron deficiency and anemia - one of the most common complications experienced by patients with inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD.

The study led by scientists at the University of California, Riverside School of Medicine in the US - performed on serum samples from IBD patients - reported that patients carrying a loss-of-function mutation in the gene PTPN2 (protein tyrosine phosphatase non-receptor type 2) exhibit significant disruption in blood proteins that regulate iron levels.

This mutation is found in 14-16 percent of the general population and 19-20 percent of the IBD population. A loss-of-function mutation is a genetic change that reduces or eliminates the normal function of a gene or its product, a protein.

While IBD primarily affects the intestines, it can have effects beyond the gut. Iron deficient anemia is the most prevalent of these effects, contributing to chronic fatigue and reduced quality of life, particularly during disease flare-ups, said the study published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences.

"This discovery sheds light on a critical mechanism that links a patient's genetics to their ability to absorb and regulate iron, which is essential for maintaining healthy blood and energy levels," said Declan McCole, a professor of biomedical sciences at UCR who led the study.

"Our findings offer an explanation for why some IBD patients remain iron-deficient despite oral supplementation."

When the researchers deleted the PTPN2 gene in mice, the animals developed anemia and were unable to absorb iron effectively.

The team found this was due to reduced levels of a key iron-absorbing protein located in the intestinal epithelial cells - the cells responsible for taking up dietary nutrients.

"The only way the body can obtain iron is through intestinal absorption from food, making this discovery particularly significant," said first author Hillmin Lei, a doctoral student in McCole's lab.

Disruption of this pathway by genetic variants like those in PTPN2 could help explain why some IBD patients fail to respond to oral iron therapy, a commonly prescribed treatment for anemia, Lei added.

The study is a vital step toward understanding how genetic risk factors for IBD can compound patient symptoms by interfering with nutrient absorption. *IANS*

*"This discovery sheds light on a critical mechanism that links a patient's genetics to their ability to absorb and regulate iron, which is essential for maintaining healthy blood and energy levels"*





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## Desi News

### Indian diaspora in UK applauds PM Modi gov't's 11-year milestone

LONDON: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi marks 11 transformative years at the helm of the Union government, members of the Indian diaspora in the United Kingdom (UK) are coming forward to express their admiration and pride in the nation's progress under his leadership.

From professionals in London to community leaders in Slough town in Berkshire, a shared sentiment resonates among them: India's global stature has risen to unprecedented heights.

They attribute this progress to PM Modi's commitment to stable governance, the uplift of millions from extreme poverty, advancements in India's Defense capabilities, and the positioning of the nation as a leading economic and cultural force on the world stage.

Speaking to IANS, Indian-origin cancer scientist Vishal said, "In the last 11 years, extreme poverty has fallen significantly, and India has become the fourth-largest economy. That's a powerful testament to growth and governance.

The changes are palpable; people now see us with respect. There are countless benefits that come with becoming the fourth-largest economy. Extreme poverty in India has dropped remarkably from 27.1 percent in 2011-12 to just 5.3 percent in 2022-23, paving the way for good job opportunities. IANS

## Americans4Hindus leads fund raiser for Santa Clara District Attorney Jeff Rosen

RITU MAHESHWARI  
India Post News Service

SARATOGA, CA: On June 8th, 2025 Americans4Hindus, a Super PAC focused on empowering, uniting and elevating Hindu values and voice in American Politics, organized a Fund Raiser along with several Hindu and Pro Hindu leaders to reelect District Attorney Jeff Rosen as Santa Clara District Attorney in upcoming 2026 elections.

Details on page 24

# COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

22 India Post

www.indiapost.com

June 13, 2025



L-R: Dr. Dave Dr. Hsue and Dr. Jivrajka

## UCLA launches landmark South Asian Heart Program with support from the Jivrajka Family Foundation

India Post News Service

LOS ANGELES: UCLA is proud to announce the official launch of the South Asian Heart Program-Jivrajka Initiative (SAHP-JI), a pioneering endeavor aimed at addressing the disproportionately high rates of cardiovascular disease within the South Asian community. The launch event, held at UCLA's Luskin Conference Center, brought together more than 150 guests united by a shared commitment to improving heart health outcomes for this at-risk population, which faces up to four times the risk of heart disease compared to the general population.

Dr. Ravi Dave, Director of SAHP-JI and keynote speaker at the event, highlighted the program's critical mission:

"The South Asian community faces unique cardiovascular challenges, and this initiative is essential to developing targeted, culturally-informed solutions. We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary support and look forward to building a healthier future for generations to come."

The program's establishment has been made possible through a transformative \$2 million pledge from Drs. Jayashree and Vinod Jivrajka, through the Jivrajka Family Foundation.

"We founded the Jivrajka Family Foundation Chair to empower a dedicated faculty leader committed to enhancing the health of our community," said Dr. Vinod Jivrajka. "It is profoundly fulfilling to see this vision come to fruition. We are energized by the growing momentum behind Dr. Dave's work to improve heart health in the South Asian population."

During the launch celebration, the Jivrajka family, joined by their grandchildren, partici-



L-R: Vinod and Jayshree Jivrajka, Hemali and Ravi Dave

pated in a ceremonial ribbon-tying-symbolizing the enduring partnership between UCLA Health and the South Asian community.

The event featured a stirring address by tennis icon and humanitarian Vijay Amritraj, who called on South Asians across the globe to take proactive

steps toward heart health. In addition, pre recorded remarks from U.S. Representatives Raja Krishnamoorthi (IL-8) and Ro Khanna (CA-17) emphasized the urgent national need for culturally specific healthcare programs like SAHP-JI.

Prominent UCLA leaders also lent their voices in support of the

initiative, including Dr. Priscilla Hsue, Chief of Cardiology, and Dr. Eve Glazier, President of the UCLA Faculty Practice Group.

For more information or to support the South Asian Heart Program-Jivrajka Initiative, please visit: <https://giving.ucla.edu/southasianheart.com>



Audience with Vijay Amritraj tennis legend



# Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils 2nd showroom in Canada at Surrey, British Columbia

India Post News Service

**M**alabar Gold & Diamonds, the 5th largest jewelry retailer globally with 402 showrooms across 13 countries, has launched their 2nd showroom in Canada at Surrey, British Columbia. The new showroom was inaugurated by Ms. Niki Sharma, Deputy Premier and Attorney General of British Columbia. In attendance were Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Faisal A.K, Head of Manufacturing at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Sakkeer P, Head of Merchandising & SCM at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Joseph Eapen, Regional Head-North America, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Sharfaz N.K, Canada Business Head-Malabar Gold & Diamonds, other senior management team members, customers & well-wishers.

Located at Payal Business Center in Surrey, British Columbia, the showroom showcases an exclusively curated collection of over 20,000 jewelry designs in 18K, 21K & 22K Gold and diamond jewelry across over 25+ exclusive brands & collections from Malabar Gold & Diamonds. The design portfolio also presents an extensive array of bridal jewelry, alongside a wide range of options for occasional wear, daily wear & office wear. Other amenities such as, the customized jewelry design-



Malabar Gold & Diamonds has launched their 2nd showroom in Canada at Surrey, British Columbia. Located at Payal Business Center, the new showroom was inaugurated by Ms. Niki Sharma, Deputy Premier and Attorney General of British Columbia. In attendance were Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Faisal A.K, Head of Manufacturing at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Sakkeer P, Head of Merchandising & SCM at Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Joseph Eapen, Regional Head-North America, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. Sharfaz N.K, Canada Business Head-Malabar Gold & Diamonds, other senior management team members, customers & well-wishers.

ing facility and ample parking is also available for shoppers.

"Continuing our journey of success in the international jewelry sector, Malabar Gold & Diamonds is proud to expand our presence in Canada with the launch of our 2nd showroom in Surrey. Our dedication

to delivering an exceptional jewelry shopping experience, encompassing top-quality products and exemplary service, has been the driving force behind our ascent as one of the most premier international jewelry retailer and we are reinforcing our commitment to be the preferred shopping

destination for jewelry lovers in Canada. As Malabar Gold & Diamonds inches steadily towards our goal of being the world's no 1 jewelry retailer, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our customers and well-wishers for trusting in our vision," commented Mr. M.P Ahammed, Chairman of Malabar Group.

As part of the showroom's inaugural offers, customers can enjoy zero deduction on exchange of their old 22K (916) gold jewelry purchased from anywhere for the latest designs from Malabar Gold & Diamonds. The limited period offer is valid until 30th June 2025, giving customers a golden opportunity to own responsibly sourced, exquisite jewelry.

"We launched our first showroom in Canada at Mississauga, Ontario in 2023, and since then, Malabar Gold & Diamonds has rapidly established itself as a key player in the country's jewelry landscape. With an exquisite collection that reflects world-class artistry and craftsmanship, our new showroom brings us closer to our customers and makes it easier than ever for them to celebrate life's special moments with timeless elegance. We are confident that this showroom will be received with the same enthusiasm and trust that was given to our first showroom.

Cont'd on page **27**

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- Even without the consent of the other party
- For those who are illegally staying in the U.S.



# Americans4Hindus leads fund raiser for Santa Clara District Attorney Jeff Rosen



Jeff Rosen



**RITU MAHESHWARI**  
India Post News Service

SARATOGA, CA: On June 8th, 2025 Americans4Hindus, a Super PAC focused on empowering, uniting and elevating Hindu values and voice in American Politics, organized a Fund Raiser along with several Hindu and Pro Hindu leaders to re-elect District Attorney Jeff Rosen as Santa



Clara District Attorney in upcoming 2026 elections. Representatives from over 15 Hindu groups attended the event.

Dr. Romesh Japra, founder and chairman Americans4Hindus lauded the work

done by DA Rosen and the strong advocacy he provided to support and protect Hindus in the county, state and national level.

DA Rosen during his remarks said that

his values, priorities and goals are closely aligned with that of Hindu community and he stands steadfast in protecting them from hate crimes, Hindu phobia and attacks that target Hindus and Indians.



Dr. Romesh Japra

## 11 years under PM Modi's government 'nothing short of historic': Indian diaspora

NEW DELHI: Prominent members of the Indian diaspora have recently hailed the overall development during the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in the

last 11 years, saying the country's transformation has been "nothing short of historic" for the Indian diaspora.

Sammy Kotwani, President of the Indian Business Alliance in Russia, told IANS that from being seen as a developing nation to now standing shoulder to shoulder with global powers, India's transformation under Prime Minister Modi has been nothing short of historic.

"For the Indian diaspora, this isn't just about economics; it's about reclaiming our civilizational confidence," he stressed.

On the completion of 11 years of the BJP-led NDA government, another member of the Indian diaspora said that "we, who have been living here for 50 years, and our elders, who have been here for 150-200 years, feel immense pride today".

"PM Modi has greatly enhanced our respect as Indians, and we are very proud of this achievement," said another prominent member of the diaspora.

In January this year, PM Modi called for documenting the history of the Indian diaspora. "The history of the Indian diaspora across the globe, their journeys to various countries, and their remarkable stories of success form a unique part of India's heritage," said the Prime Minister while addressing Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD)-2025 celebration in Bhubaneswar.

"There are many interesting and inspiring stories which deserve to be told, shown, and documented. They represent our shared legacies and cultural heritage," the Prime Minister added.

PM Modi also praised Indian diaspora, saying they add social values to other countries' societies.

"India is not just the mother of democracy. Democracy is woven into the fabric of our lives and is a way of life for us. Diversity is not something we are taught-it is something that naturally defines how we live," he said. IANS

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# Taxing remittances

**VIDYA SETHURAMAN**  
India Post News Service

Tucked into the thousand plus pages of President Trump's "big, beautiful" spending package which passed the House last month is a proposal to impose a 3.5% tax on remittances. In 2024, US residents sent more than \$220 billion to families and friends in other countries: more than half went to Latin America. Mexico is the largest recipient of US remittances, while India is the top recipient of remittances from around the world. Experts at the EMS briefing warned the tax would harm economies abroad, especially in lower income countries where remittances account for up to 30% of GDP. Immigrant advocates argue the proposal represents a form of double taxation as senders including millions of undocumented immigrants already pay income tax on their earnings.

Helen Dempster, Policy Fellow and Assistant Director for the Migration, Dis-

placement, and Humanitarian Policy Program at the Center for Global Development pointed out that if the tax increases the cost of remittances by 3.5%, global remittance flows may decrease by 5.6%. In terms of absolute losses. She emphasized: "For many countries, remittances have long sur-

*"This move involves requiring financial institutions to confirm whether the remitter is a US citizen or legal resident, which will violate privacy and increase the risk of identity theft." He warned that the increase in transaction costs will force some people to turn to unauthorized remittance channels"*

passed foreign aid and become the largest source of funds."

Dr. Manuel Orozco of the Harvard University Development Center further pointed out that there are major challenges in the implementation of the tax.

"This move involves requiring financial institutions to confirm whether the remitter is a US citizen or legal resident, which will violate privacy and increase the risk of identity theft." He warned that the increase in transaction costs will force some people to turn to unauthorized remittance channels, thereby facili-

down in the long term, but it may eventually force some families to choose to immigrate because they lose their economic pillars. He warned: "This will offset the Trump administration's policy goal of trying to curb illegal immigration." He added that immigrants may turn to informal or illegal channels to send remittances, increasing personal risks and money laundering risks.

Ana Valdez, President and CEO of the Latino Donors Association, criticized the bill from an internal U.S. perspective, saying it "punishes immigrants for their American dream." She said, "This money has been taxed once or even twice, and now it has to be taxed again, which is really unfair." She also revealed that banks have recently observed a large number of immigrants withdrawing their deposits, and they are expected to evade taxes by carrying cash or sending money on their behalf, which will undermine the stability of the financial system.

## "In touch with local authorities": Indian Consulate in US on video claiming Indian facing difficulties

NEW YORK: The Indian Consulate General in New York issued a message regarding the difficulties being faced by an Indian national at the Newark Liberty International Airport.

In a post on X, the Indian Consulate said that it came across social media posts that claimed that an Indian national was facing difficulties at the Newark Liberty International Airport.

The consulate said that it is in touch with local authorities in this regard and remains committed to the welfare of Indian nationals.

It was written on X, "We have come across social media posts claiming that an Indian national is facing difficulties at Newark Liberty International Airport. We are in touch with local authorities in this regard. The Consulate remains ever committed to the welfare of Indian Nationals."

A viral video purportedly showed a person being held on the ground by two individuals. However, it was not clear what nationality they belonged to.

On May 29, the Ministry of External Affairs in its press briefing informed that India has close cooperation with the United States on migration issues, particularly the

deportation of Indian nationals with illegal status.

It added that, since January 2025, approximately 1080 Indians have been deported from the United States, with around 62 percent returning on commercial flights.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that, "We have close cooperation between India and the United States on migration issues, on deportation of Indian nationals who are either in illegal status

there or who travel illegally; we take them back once we receive details about them."

"The update on the numbers is that since January of 2025, we have some 1080 Indians who have come back or who have been deported from the United States.

Of these, around 62 percent have come on commercial flights," he added.

Jaiswal also noted that India has seen reports suggesting the US government's updated guidance regarding Student and Exchange Visitor visa applicants.

In response, MEA highlighted that the welfare of Indian students abroad remains of "utmost priority" to the Government of India and India will "continue" to follow further developments in this regard. ANI

## Indian diaspora in UAE credits India's stature rising globally to PM Modi's 11-year tenure

DUBAI: On completion of 11 years by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA government, Indian expatriates in Dubai say that India's stature as a country has risen manifold across the world during the last 11 years since Prime Minister Modi assumed charge of leading the country in 2014.

While speaking to IANS, the Indian diaspora living in the Middle Eastern country also praised PM Modi's leadership and his last 11 years of governance.

Tarun, a non-resident Indian (NRI) living in Dubai, said, "I am a Canadian passport holder, currently living in Dubai. Prime Minister Modi's 11-year tenure has been excellent. The Prime

Minister has increased the respect of Indians in foreign countries a lot. Wherever PM Modi has gone, India's respect has increased a lot there. PM Modi is about to come to Canada again (this time for the upcoming G7 Summit); many NRIs like me are eagerly waiting for him. I will also be arriving in Canada with my own special program."

Talking about India's robust development under PM Modi's leadership since the last 11 years, he said, "PM Modi's

popularity has increased globally too because he has brought the country forward in the whole world. PM Modi has done commendable work in the digital world. He has worked for every section of the society irrespective of their religion, race or community. He has brought a lot of respect to India at the international level."

Another diaspora member Gopal said, "PM Modi held a public meeting in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This is the first time in the history of UAE in the last 52 years that I have seen any Prime Minister holding a meeting. Even the local leaders here did not hold any meeting. During PM Modi's public meeting, it felt like a fair. The local people were surprised

as to who had come here and why there was such a huge crowd gathering."

Another Indian diaspora member Shekhar Bhatia said, "I have been living in Dubai for the last 35 years. Since the last 11 years, India's prestige has increased a lot in the UAE. PM Modi's visit to the UAE was historic. The way India is viewed abroad has improved a lot. The Narendra Modi government has a very commendable role in the growth of our economy." IANS

*The Prime Minister has increased the respect of Indians in foreign countries a lot. Wherever PM Modi has gone, India's respect has increased a lot there*



# Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) praises ITServe's support for STEM education and professional development programs at Columbus chapter meeting

India Post News Service

Information technology is essential to the modern workforce," said Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio), during his keynote address at ITServe Alliance Columbus Chapter's Monthly meeting at Sonesta Columbus Downtown, Columbus, OH on May 28, 2025.

Sen. Husted, who was the chief guest at the event, while lauding the many initiatives and the mission of ITServe Alliance, said, "ITServe's support for STEM education and professional development programs enhances companies' abilities to succeed." On his official website, it is posted that Sen. Jon Husted "met with ITServe's Columbus chapter. ITServe is the largest association of IT services in the nation."

Anju Vallabhaneni, President of ITServe Alliance said, "It is encouraging to see that the dedicated efforts of our ITServe PAC and CPAC teams over the past few years along with the support of Monte are now yielding visible results. We were honored to host Senator Jon Husted, the influential Republican leader filling the Senate seat vacated by Vice President JD Vance."

Vallabhaneni, while expressing his appreciation and gratitude to the Sen. Husted, who serves on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the Special Committee on Aging, said, "We truly appreciate the time he spent with us and the valuable insights he shared. His perspectives on current affairs and the evolving role of IT and AI in the industry were both timely and thought-provoking."

"ITServe Alliance, the largest association of IT companies with nearly 2,500 member companies from across the nation has been consistently working to pro-



tect the needs of its members," said Siva Moopanar, President-Elect of ITServe. "To that end, ITServe Alliance has been consistently working with the Lawmakers on behalf of its members on Capitol Hill and

cacy Committee (PAC) & Immigration said, "The Capitol Hill Day planned to be organized by ITServe Alliance in Washington, DC on June 11, 2025 offers us a unique and powerful way to advocate for

ing part of this critical event, where we have the opportunity to meet in person with US Representatives and Senators, including influential committee chairs and members, whose decisions impact our



with the US Administration."

While urging the ITServe members to come and actively participate at the upcoming Capitol Hill Day, Sateesh Nagilla, Director of ITServe Alliance Policy Advo-

policies and legislation that impact the small and medium size IT industries in the United States. We are encouraged by the overwhelming support from our members, who have expressed keen interest in be-

businesses."

Capitol Hill Day is a vital part of ITServe Alliance, which was born out of the necessity to be the voice of IT companies in the United States, advocating for our rights, with the objective of educating lawmakers working toward meaningful changes that will benefit the IT industry and the larger society across the nation.

The fundamental pillars of ITServe PAC are: Education, Advocacy, and, Strategic Legal Initiatives. The Capitol Hill Day is part of the overall mission of ITServe Alliance in making the lawmakers and the larger American community aware about the need for favorable immigration programs to businesses by meeting, collaborating, and advocating with Congressmen and Senators to work together and help write and amend laws that are helpful to ITServe community.

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





# Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils 2nd showroom in Canada at Surrey, British Columbia

Cont'd from page 23

We have charted an aggressive expansion plan for Canada, with work underway to launch our 3rd showroom in Ajax. More showroom openings are planned in Calgary, Vancouver, and Montreal as well in the near future," commented Mr. ShamlalAhamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

Ethical & responsible sourcing has been a key tenant of Malabar Gold & Diamonds' entire operations. With the exclusive usage of 100% traceable raw materials in their jewelry, the brand ensures strict compliance with international standards for transparent gold & diamond-sourcing set by globally recognized organizations such as LBMA (London Bullion Market Association) and World Gold Council. The principles of sustainability and responsibility are incorporated into its core business through practices such as zero tolerance on compliance to the rule of law, Anti-money Laundering (AML) & Combatting the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), usage of FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) wood for packaging, LEED Gold certified offices and outlets.

"The launch of our 2nd showroom in Canada solidifies Malabar Gold & Diamonds' stature as a truly global enterprise with an expansive outreach across boundaries. With 100% transparent business practice being a hallmark of our entire operations and our stringent commitment to

ensuring ethical & responsible sourcing at all levels of our supply chain, we aspire to be a model organization in the global jewelry sector that safeguards the auspicious nature of jewelry", commented Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice-Chairman of Malabar Group.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) initiatives have 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. The key focus is in the areas of Health, Hunger Free World, Housing, Education, Women Empowerment & Environment.

Additionally, Malabar Group has also established 716 micro learning centers across India to provide basic education to impoverished children and facilitate their transition into formal schooling. So far 32,049 children have been enrolled in these centers, where they receive one year of foundational education to help them return to or begin formal education. Children who graduate high school will re-

*The launch of our 2nd showroom in Canada solidifies Malabar Gold & Diamonds' stature as a truly global enterprise with an expansive outreach across boundaries. With 100% transparent business practice being a hallmark of our entire operations and our stringent commitment*

ceive support for higher studies on campuses across various states, with additional scholarships available to girls as part of the Group's commitment to women's empowerment.

The 'Grandma Home' is another project by Malabar Group, which provides free accommodation to needy and destitute women. Currently, homes have been set up in Bengaluru and Hyderabad, with plans to establish similar facilities in

Kerala, Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi, and Mumbai.

The ESG goals of Malabar Group 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 \$7.5 billion, the company currently ranks as the 5th largest jewelry retailer globally and today has a strong retail network of 402 show-

rooms 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 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](http://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.

## EAM Jaishankar interacts with Indian community in Belgium, Luxembourg

BRUSSELS: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar interacted with members of the Indian community in Belgium and Luxembourg, discussing the steady progress of India-Belgium ties and its engagement with the European Union.

During the interaction, Jaishankar apprised the community of India's efforts to counter terrorism and promote the country's progress and prosperity.

Sharing the pictures of the interaction, Jaishankar wrote, "Great to interact with members of the Indian community of Belgium and Luxembourg. Discussed with them the steady progress of India-Belgium ties and engagement with the EU. Also apprised them of our efforts at countering terrorism and ensuring the progress & prosperity of India."

Notably, Jaishankar began his visit to

Belgium by meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot. The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation and combatting terrorism.

He appreciated Belgium's support in combating terrorism, welcomed their solidarity, and emphasized the strong momentum in the India-EU partnership, highlighting the potential for collaboration in clean energy, mobility, and pharmaceuticals.

Jaishankar's visit to Brussels comes three months after Princess Astrid of Belgium led a 300-member economic mission to India. The recent visit by Princess Astrid, who met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jaishankar, discussed key areas such as labor migration, pharmaceuticals, defense, diamonds, space exploration, and green energy. ANI

## CEC Gyanesh Kumar to deliver keynote address at International IDEA Conference in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, Gyanesh Kumar, who is currently on a visit to Sweden, will deliver the inaugural keynote address at the International IDEA Stockholm Conference on Electoral Integrity, which begins on June 10.

Organized from June 10-12, the conference brings together heads of Election Management Bodies (EMBs), policymakers, and institutional leaders to deliberate on pressing challenges to electoral integrity, including disinformation, digital disruption, election security, climate-related risks, and the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in elections.

Ahead of the conference, CEC Gyanesh Kumar held a warm interaction with the Indian diaspora in Sweden. He reiterated the Election Commission of India's commitment to inclusive electoral partici-

pation and civic engagement among Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs).

He also highlighted key initiatives such as the Online Voter Registration System and the Electronic Transmission of Postal Ballot Management System (ETPBMS), aimed at facilitating greater participation of overseas voters.

CEC Kumar's keynote address will underline India's global leadership in election management, particularly the scale and complexity of its electoral processes – widely seen as a model among democracies.

His address is expected to draw attention from EMBs worldwide, as over 100 participants representing around 50 countries are attending the conference. The event is being jointly hosted by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) IANS



## Lifestyle announces its BIGGEST SALE OF THE SEASON WITH TAMANNAAH BHATIA featured in the new campaign

BENGALURU: Lifestyle, one of India's leading fashion destinations, is rolling out its much-awaited End of Season Sale (EOSS), offering shoppers up to 50% off across a wide range of fashion-forward products. Additionally, there is a special offer for HDFC credit card holders, who get an instant 10%\* discount. \* T&C Apply.

Adding even more excitement to the season, Lifestyle has partnered with Tamannaah Bhatia exclusively for this campaign. Known for her effortless charm and pan-India appeal, Tamannaah brings her unique blend of glamour and relatability to the new campaign.

With an extensive selection of the latest trends and fashion choices from leading national and international brands, the Lifestyle Sale offers fashion-conscious shoppers access to a wide range of wardrobe upgrades at unmatched value.

This season's collection blends fresh, summer-ready designs with classic pieces, offering something for every shopper whether looking for premium style or everyday fashion. What makes this sale even more relevant is Lifestyle is transforming the fashion landscape by making premium and high-fashion products more accessible, creating a space where value and style go hand in hand.

Furthermore, the brand's new campaign film featuring Tamannaah Bhatia is a vibrant, high-on-style showcase of looks from some of Lifestyle's most loved brands. The concept highlights her versatility--whether it's a chic all-black outfit or a festive ethnic ensemble, Tamannaah effortlessly makes each look her own. The film captures the spirit of the season, blending trend-forward fashion with her signature charm.

Ritesh Mishra, President - Deputy CEO at Lifestyle, said, "Our campaign invites shoppers to explore the latest fashion trends through Lifestyle's End of Season Sale. With a collection that blends style and accessibility, Tamannaah brings the campaign to life, inspiring everyone to express their unique style with confidence."

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

TAMANNAAH BHATIA, INDIAN ACTRESS, SAID, "I BELIEVE THAT FASHION IS NOT JUST ABOUT TRENDS, BUT ABOUT EXPRESSING WHO YOU ARE. WHAT I LOVE ABOUT LIFESTYLE'S SALE IS THAT IT MAKES PREMIUM, ON-TREND FASHION ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE, EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO EMBRACE THEIR INDIVIDUALITY WITH CONFIDENCE."

## Global Fashion Turns to India: National Mission Committee Launched to Champion Sustainable Textiles

NEW DELHI: In a landmark move toward positioning India as the Responsible Fashion Business Capital of the World by 2030, the International Fashion Business Exchange Council (IFBEC) officially launched its National Mission Committee (NMC) today at the World Trade Center, Mumbai, commemorating World Environment Day with a renewed commitment to sustainable fashion and circular economy leadership.

The inaugural ceremony witnessed the presence of Roop Rashi Mahapatra, CEO, KVIC. Also present were top executives and veterans from leading industry powerhouses including Reliance Industries, Bestsellers, WTC, United Way Mumbai, IDH and numerous change makers across fashion, academia, Government and civil society.

The National Mission Committee (NMC) will serve as the strategic body for the IFBEC initiative, driving national and international collaboration to align India's fashion industry with global sustainability goals. With representation from policy makers, trade leaders, green innovators and grassroots champions, the NMC will guide critical initiatives on:

- \* Circular fashion and green textile innovation
- \* International trade alignment for sustainable growth
- \* SME and artisan empowerment for global market access
- \* Institutional finance and regulatory frameworks for responsible production

"India, by its very culture, is inherently circular. It is time we reclaim that narrative. Textile waste is not waste -- it is a resource waiting to be transformed. But true impact lies beyond policy papers and seminar halls; it begins on the ground, with people. Let us first spark a movement -- only then will meaningful regulation follow," said Smt. Roop Rashi Mahapatra, CEO, KVIC

"The formation of the National Mission Committee marks a decisive step toward measurable action in textile sustainability and circularity. More than just a committee, it is a call to unite industry, institutions, and innovators under a common vision. It affirms that sustainability is a shared responsibility--and our collective commitment to ensure Indian textiles not only inspire through craftsmanship, but also endure responsibly in harmony with the planet," said Neha Gupta, Founder, IFBEC

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**Trump signs proclamation banning travel from 12 nations**

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation imposing a travel ban on 12 countries and restricting the entry of seven others to the US, citing national security concerns.

According to the proclamation, the 12 countries that were banned include Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen.

Additionally, the order partially restricts and limits the entry of nationals of the following seven countries -- Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela.

The announcement of the ban followed a recent violent terror attack in Boulder, Colorado, on participants of a peaceful rally calling for the safe return of Israeli hostages from Hamas captivity.

"The recent terror attack in Boulder, Colorado, has underscored the extreme dangers posed to our country by the entry of foreign nationals who are not properly vetted, as well as those who come here as temporary visitors and overstay their visas. We don't want them," Trump said in a video statement released by the White House last week.

Meanwhile, US Homeland Security officials said that the terror attack perpetrator in Colorado, Mohammed Sabry Solima, was allowed entry into the country under the former Biden Administration and overstayed his visa. *IANS*

# Immigration

## POST

30 India Post

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June 13, 2025

*Sharing updates from the ground, Consul General Fahad Suri extended greetings in a video message and confirmed that all Indian pilgrims had arrived safely in Arafat*

## No restrictions on Indian travellers to Saudi Arabia; temporary visa curbs only for Hajj season: Sources

NEW DELHI: Reports about any bar on Indians travelling to Saudi Arabia are incorrect. The Saudi Government has not issued any notification on this matter, sources confirmed.

As clarified by official sources, during the Hajj season, temporary restrictions on short-term visas are implemented to regulate the flow of pilgrims and avoid overcrowding- a standard measure that ends with the conclusion of Hajj.

Meanwhile, reflecting on the success of the Hajj pilgrimage arrangements, UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan extended his congratulations to King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for the smooth and safe conduct of this year's pilgrimage, acknowledging the efforts that enabled millions to perform their rituals peacefully.

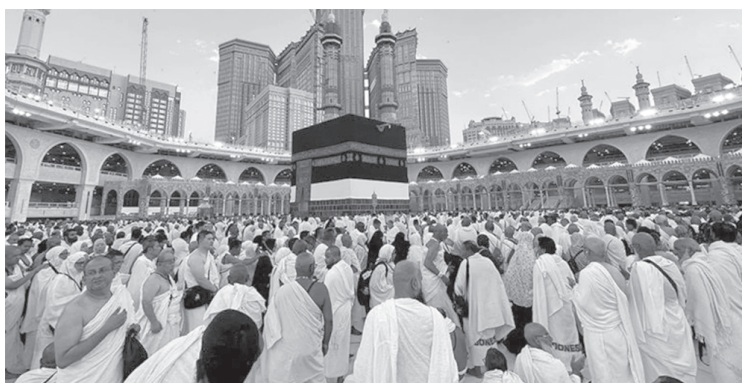
He acknowledged the gracious care of the Saudi leadership and its institutions, attributing the success of the Hajj season to their commitment to providing a spiritually fulfilling and secure experience for all worshippers.

Extending similar greetings, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime

Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of

Riyadh shared recently.

Reinforcing this, the Indian Embassy wrote on X, "Indian pilgrims join millions of other pil-



*As clarified by official sources, during the Hajj season, temporary restrictions on short-term visas are implemented to regulate the flow of pilgrims and avoid overcrowding- a standard measure that ends with the conclusion of Hajj*

the Presidential Court, also conveyed their congratulations to the Saudi monarch.

In this context of international goodwill and regional cooperation, Indian pilgrims also participated in the sacred rituals, joining millions in performing Wuquf-e-Arafat, the spiritual climax of the Hajj; the Embassy of India in

grims today at Arafat to perform Wuquf-e-Arafat, the core ritual of Hajj."

Sharing updates from the ground, Consul General Fahad Suri extended greetings in a video message and confirmed that all Indian pilgrims had arrived safely in Arafat, highlighting the coordinated efforts between the

Indian Hajj Mission and Saudi authorities to ensure safe and smooth travel, stay, and onward movements of pilgrims.

He appreciated the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah and associated service providers for their tireless support and extended wishes for a blessed Eid-ul-Adha and a successful Hajj for all pilgrims.

These developments reflect the strong India-Saudi Arabia bilateral relations, grounded in centuries-old economic and cultural ties. The annual Hajj pilgrimage serves as a key aspect of this deep-rooted connection.

Earlier this year, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Saudi Arabia, the Indian side had expressed gratitude for the Kingdom's care towards the 2.7 million Indian nationals residing there, underlining the people-to-people bonds shared between the two nations.

The Indian government also commended Saudi Arabia for the successful organization of the 2024 Hajj and acknowledged the excellent bilateral coordination in facilitating Indian Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. *ANI*

## Delhi Police deported 71 illegally staying foreign nationals, including 47 Bangladeshi, in May

NEW DELHI: The Dwarka District Police has deported 71 illegally staying foreign nationals, including 47 Bangladeshis, 17 Rohingyas from Myanmar, and 7 Nigerians, in May.

According to DCP Dwarka Ankit Singh, "The foreign nationals were found overstaying in India without valid visas. They were apprehended by various teams of the Dwarka District Police, including Special Staff, PS Uttam Nagar, Anti-Narcotics Cell, PS Chhawla, and AATS.

The apprehended foreign nationals have been sent to a detention center after being produced before the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), which ordered their deportation.

Earlier on June 2, the North-West district police of Delhi apprehended 18 Bangladeshi nationals found illegally residing in the city. The arrests were made during a special operation conducted on last week in the Bharat Nagar police station area by the

Foreigner Cell unit.

The operation was launched based on specific intelligence inputs indicating that three families who had migrated from Haryana were now hiding in the Wazirpur JJ Colony, frequently changing locations to avoid detection.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) North-West Delhi Bhisham Singh stated that over 36 footpaths and 45 alleyways were searched in a thorough combing effort during the operation. *ANI*

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## US President Donald Trump deploys National Guard to end LA immigration protests, defying California governor

LOS ANGELES: President Donald Trump ordered the deployment of 2,000 National Guard troops to Los Angeles to control immigration protests, overriding California Governor Gavin Newsom's objections in a rare move. According to CNN, this invocation of presidential power without the governor's consent is "extremely rare" and marks a significant escalation.

The deployment follows protests triggered by federal immigration raids arresting at least 44 people. Law enforcement used tear gas and flashbang grenades to disperse protesters over the weekend. Trump accused local officials of failing to control unrest, pledging federal inter-

posefully inflammatory" and warned it would escalate tensions and erode public trust.

About 300 National Guard troops arrived in Los Angeles last Sunday following protests over immigration enforcement actions. LA Mayor Karen Bass clarified that troops were not yet deployed within the city earlier Sunday.

The League of United Latin American Citizens condemned Trump's order as a troubling escalation, with Democratic Rep. Nanette Barragan stating the state did not request the help and warning it would worsen tensions.

*About 300 National Guard troops arrived in Los Angeles last Sunday following protests over immigration enforcement actions. LA Mayor Karen Bass clarified that troops were not yet deployed within the city earlier*



vention to "solve the problem, RIOTS & LOOTERS, the way it should be solved!!!" on his Truth Social platform.

Trump signed a presidential memorandum deploying the National Guard under Title 10 of the United States Code to protect ICE and federal personnel and property. This allows the National Guard to report directly to the president, bypassing the governor.

This is the first federalization of National Guard troops by a US president since 1992 during the Los Angeles riots. Unlike then, Trump's deployment was made without Governor Newsom's consent, who called the move "pur-

Protesters blocked Los Angeles freeways and streets, disrupting traffic. The LAPD declared the gathering unlawful and made arrests as authorities worked to reopen the freeway.

According to CNN, experts say presidential deployment without a governor's request is without modern precedent, last seen in 1965 under President Lyndon B. Johnson to protect civil rights demonstrators.

CNN quoted Juliette Kayyem, senior national security analyst, who called Trump's response an "extreme over-reaction" and "not rational given the threat." ANI

## "These are the acts of a dictator, not a President," says California Governor Newsom on National Guard deployment

LOS ANGELES: California Governor Gavin Newsom denounced the deployment of National Guard troops to Los Angeles as "purposefully inflammatory," saying President Donald Trump's order undermined state authority. "These are the acts of a dictator, not a President," he posted on X.

California National Guard troops were deployed in Los Angeles to help contain escalating protests over President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown, Reuters reported.

The third day of demonstrations saw federal agents clashing with protesters across the city, as tensions flared over ICE raids and detentions.

According to Reuters, the deployment--ordered by the White House--has triggered sharp backlash from California officials, who have called it unlawful and politically motivated.

Federal security agents confronted demonstrators in areas including Paramount, Compton, and downtown Los Angeles. Protesters, many waving Mexican flags, chanted slogans such as "ICE out of L.A.!"

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Marines at Camp Pendleton were on "high alert" and warned



California Governor Gavin Newsom

that active-duty troops could be mobilized if violence escalated.

Though the Trump administration cited Title 10 of the U.S. Code to justify the deployment, legal scholars and state officials questioned whether the federal government could bypass the governor's authority. The administration has not yet invoked the Insurrection Act, but said the Guard's role was limited to protecting federal buildings and personnel.

Los Angeles police declared several protests "unlawful assemblies," reporting that some demonstrators threw bottles and concrete at officers. The FBI offered a \$50,000 reward after a federal officer was injured in Paramount.

Mayor Karen Bass accused the Trump administration of deliberately inciting tensions, while also condemning violence from a small group of protesters.

The Department of Homeland Security reported around 1,000 "rioters" last Friday, though Reuters could not independently verify that figure. Immigration advocates said the enforcement operation also swept up legal residents and green card holders. Angelica Salas of CHIRLA said lawyers were denied access to those detained. ANI

## "Radicalism, illegal immigration biggest threat to world": all party delegation member Samik Bhattacharya in Belgium

BRUSSELS: Bharatiya Janata Party MP, Samik Bhattacharya, who is part of the all-party delegation led by BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the biggest threat facing the world are radicalization and illegal immigration, which is happening in India from Bangladesh and could happen in Europe too.

The delegation is currently in Germany after departing from Belgium as part of the diplomatic outreach to meet with various officials and put forward India's stance against terrorism. During their visit to Brussels, they held meetings with members of the European Parliament.

"The threat facing the whole world is radicalism, illegal immigration, which is happening in India because of Bangladesh...What is happening in India today can happen in Europe tomorrow. If the European Union is looking at itself as a multicultural society and acting, they should also understand that India also has a

multicultural society, and what is Bangladesh doing?" Bhattacharya told ANI.

Hitting out at Pakistan, he said that terrorism is their "state doctrine," making terrorism and Pakistan synonymous with each other.

"You cannot separate Pakistan from terrorism. Terrorism and Pakistan are synonymous; the world should be free from this, and Europe should be free from this. It is the EU's responsibility to stand with India and at least raise their voice against fundamentalism, terrorism," he added.

Criticizing the Pakistani army further, the delegation member claimed that the Pakistani Army's chief, General Asim Munir, believes that Hindus and Muslims cannot coexist.

"The line of General Munir is that Hindus and Muslims cannot coexist together, our aspirations are different, our goals are different, and we want to achieve something different. Looking at this, the whole European Union should stand united against terror," he said.

Earlier, AIADMK leader M Thambidurai highlighted that it is accepted in the United Nations that Pakistan has at least 52 terror camps, which not only terrorize India but the whole world.

"UN also has accepted that 52 terrorist camps are there (in Pakistan), which are used not only to terrorize India but also to kill innocent people, it is also happening in other parts of the world." ANI



## Philosophy

GANGAJI (TONI ROBERSON)

When the body is in deep sleep, and there are no reference points, no sense impressions, no perception of body or any object whether mental, emotional, or physical, still there is awareness aware of itself, and this is bliss. This is the bliss of deep sleep.

When the body awakens and objects come back into view, still you know that there has been deep, objectless experience. You don't have any sense impressions of it, but you know it because the awareness of itself is still present. As objects appear, our conditioning is to fixate on the objects and to overlook the deep nourishment that is always present.

Vigilance is the awareness of what does not disappear even when objects appear. Whether those objects are exquisite, horrible, or mundane, always there is awareness aware of itself. Whether those objects are emotional, mental, or physical, always there is awareness aware of itself. Pure vigi-

idea that vigilance is a burden comes from the concept of spiritual practice. You are admonished to practice. You have to keep your practice. I don't know what the word practice is translated from, but it is a bad translation, because in English practice means some kind of preparation for a real event.

You practice for the football game.

You practice for your recital. You cannot practice for life. Life is right now. So I don't use the word practice in terms of vigilance. I am talking about being vigilance. You are that already. Recognize yourself as that, and be vigilant to your true nature. Then see. Without looking for any-

thing, see.

In Western culture, particularly in America, we are trained to know what is going to be ahead and to attempt to make it be what we want it to be. This is why there is so much suffering; trying to force life to be something based on a particular concept.

Then we search for agreement with that concept and fight any disagree-



Gangaji  
(Toni Roberson)

## Vigilance of Awareness is not doing something

*Suffering is trying to force life to fit into a concept*

lance must be an ease of recognition, otherwise there is doing vigilance, and this is already not vigilant.

When you hear this thought, Now I am going to do vigilance, ask yourself who is doing vigilance. This is direct self-inquiry. You will see that there is no one there, there is only vigilance. Then you will see it is quite natural to be aware of passing objects, as well as aware of what is aware of both passing objects and itself. Rest in vigilance and see. See what the destiny of the body is. See what the momentum of the life-time is.

There will be objects passing by the altar of vigilance. Let them pass like clouds. Clouds are no problem, certainly no problem from the sky's point of view. You are the sky. You are not an entity looking up at the sky. You are the sky looking at the appearance of entity. It is a mistaken understanding that implies vigilance to be a burden.

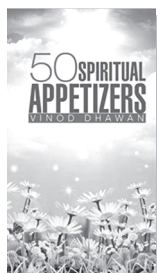
The real burden is the denial of your beingness as awareness itself. The

ment with that concept. Even if we are victorious in our fight, we are left unsatisfied, unfulfilled. "Wait and see" doesn't necessarily mean you sit on your couch and never move. It also doesn't necessarily mean that you get off your couch and move. It is much deeper than that. An active life can be lived as vigilance, and an inactive life can be lived as vigilance.

*Excerpted from 'Freedom & Resolve - The Living Edge of Surrender'. The 83rd birth anniversary of Gangaji was observed on June 11*

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## Is Bangladesh slipping toward a praetorian state?

PROF. BAWA SINGH AND JAY KOCHÉ

Bangladesh's ongoing crisis-sparked by student protests and deepened by military intervention-marks one of the country's most significant democratic regressions toward a praetorian state since the 1980s. The student protests of July 2024, triggered by a 30% job quota for descendants of 1971 freedom fighters-seen by many as favoritism towards Awami League loyalists-ignited widespread unrest. Authoritarian governance only added fuel to the fire, leading to mass protests, injuries, and deaths.

In this context, the military forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and go into exile. In August 2024, an interim government under Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus was installed-signaling Bangladesh's slide toward praetorianism, where the military holds disproportionate sway over civilian affairs.

Now, not just political parties, but civil society, teachers, students, and notably

tory became clearer with Sheikh Hasina's resignation and exile on August 5, 2024.

Parliament Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury reportedly advised Prime Minister Hasina to step down due to rising threats to her safety amid protests. However, Hasina and her party leaders resisted. According to India Today and The Economic Times, army officials confronted her, demanding resignation, to which she defiantly responded, "Shoot me and bury me in Bangabhaban (President's House)."

The interim government that followed was engineered by the military under General Waker-uz-Zaman, with Muhammad Yunus appointed as its advisor through negotiations involving military officers, student leaders, and the president-an arrangement that underlined the military's central role.

Bangladesh's political history is replete with similar episodes of military intervention. It began with the 1975 coup that as-

sassinated Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and continued with the 1981 assassination of President Ziaur Rahman and General Hussain Muhammad Ershad's bloodless coup in 1982. A military-backed care-

*In this context, the military forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and go into exile. In August 2024, an interim government under Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus was installed-signaling Bangladesh's slide toward praetorianism, where the military holds disproportionate sway over civilian affairs*

taker government in 2007 was formed in response to political gridlock and unrest between the Awami League (AL) and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), leading to credible elections in 2008.

Even in 2012, a foiled coup attempt-rooted in opposition to the government's secular and India-friendly stance-highlighted lingering military ambitions. The Guardian reported that this plan was thwarted before execution and lacked widespread support within the army. In short, military interventions have been a recurring theme whenever civilian governance falters.

### The Praetorian Slide

The current crisis is not an isolated episode but part of an ongoing pattern, suggesting that Bangladesh may be veering toward militarized governance. This trajec-

taker government in 2007 was formed in response to political gridlock and unrest between the Awami League (AL) and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), leading to credible elections in 2008.

Even in 2012, a foiled coup attempt-rooted in opposition to the government's secular and India-friendly stance-highlighted lingering military ambitions. The Guardian reported that this plan was thwarted before execution and lacked widespread support within the army. In short, military interventions have been a recurring theme whenever civilian governance falters.

(Prof. Bawa Singh is with the Department of South and Central Asian Studies, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. Jay Koche is a Ph.D. scholar in the same department) South Asia Monitor

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

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# The Third Eye: Is analyzing Trump's Presidency challenge for strategic observers?

DC PATHAK

**U**S President Donald Trump in his second term is beginning to attract criticism on three counts—his pursuit of the idea of 'America First' was pushing the US towards 'isolationism', his focus on tariffs was adding to his image as a 'business leader' rather than a 'statesman' and his Presidency was getting marked for 'anti-liberalism' that ran counter to the historical American legacy.

Does President Trump have the intellectual brilliance of a kind that enabled a leader to give the impression of his being 'unpredictable', 'arbitrary' and even terse to the point of sounding 'offensive' whereas in reality there was a 'method in his madness' as he towed a singular path for rectifying governance, controlling financial

America, is seen in his engagement in an astonishingly wide range of international crises and negotiations in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

In his time the White House



US President Donald Trump

is pivoting many crucial diplomatic initiatives. He is catalyzing many negotiations and has not done too badly in sorting out things because of his willingness to do a course cor-

not be faulted for taking interest in the matter of India-Pak military confrontation after a desperate Pakistan had approached it in the wake of damage inflicted by India on several Pak air bases during the escalating situation.

India's acceptance of a plea for ceasefire, made by Pak at DGMO level, can also not be interpreted as a sign of weakness of any sort. Operation Sindoor was meant to make punitive strikes at as many as nine terrorist bases beyond LoC and inside Pakistan identified by our Intelligence. A failed attempt of the Pak army subsequently, to make a drone attack on India invited a deadlier missile strike on the leading air bases of Pakistan, pushing the Pakistan army into a situation where it was driven to call for a halt on the military operations.

The response from India can be said to have added to our credentials as a responsible peace-loving nation. Modi government's claim that Operation Sindoor was a success stands to reason—the political slugfest resulting from it at home can be seen, to an extent, as a manifestation of our domestic politics.

Trump's approach to foreign policy seems to be flawed for the reason that it did not get all its components right. 'Making America Great Again' (MAGA) depended as much on the military and technological might of the US together with its economic power gained largely through trade, as on the 'patterns of interdependence' that strengthened America. Trump has apparently given total attention to the first two at the cost of the last prerequisite of US strength being sustained by its links with the democracies of Europe and Asia.

(The writer is a former Director Intelligence Bureau) IANS

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*In his innate desire to take credit for finding geopolitical solutions he even talked of mediating between India and Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir but quickly realized that the suggestion was going to create a huge problem for India-US relations*

profligacy and not letting the world take the US for granted? Trump certainly would not like the US to lose the tag of being the first superpower. He has shrewdly identified the world problems that came in the way of American supremacy and has unwaveringly gone tough on them. These are Islamic Terrorism, a determined China trying to get the better of other countries through investment and trade to take the economic route to becoming the second superpower and the undue advantage friendly countries took of the US while projecting the latter as the leader of the Free World.

That, President Donald Trump is willing to put all his energy into revolutionizing

reaction if the move ran into a dead end. Some of this was evident after he advanced the claim that he had brought about a ceasefire between India and Pakistan when the two countries were in the midst of a military confrontation following the terrorist attack at Pahalgam.

In his innate desire to take credit for finding geopolitical solutions he even talked of mediating between India and Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir but quickly realized that the suggestion was going to create a huge problem for India-US relations. He therefore lost no time in stating that the two countries should talk to each other directly.

Trump Administration can-



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## ERA OF AI & DRONES

**A** recent attack on Russia by Ukraine's "Spider Web" operation is believed to have struck forty-one planes with the help of drones, which is a third of the bombers Russia uses as strategic cruise-missile carriers. Experts believe this could negatively affect Russia's ability to continue its launch of cruise missiles against Ukrainian targets. The Russian Defense Ministry has acknowledged the attack and damage to several of its aircraft, but it disputed the extent of the assault.

However, Operation Spider Web has left a ripple effect that is still being felt in the attack's aftermath. Here is why these drone strikes were so remarkable, and how they could affect the future of conflict. The operation used commercial transportation, such as trucks, to smuggle large numbers of one-way attack drones, for launch close to airfields across Russia, from the country's western border with Ukraine all the way to Siberia. It is believed the drones were smuggled into Russia inside wooden cabins mounted on the back of Lorries and concealed below remotely operated detachable roofs.

The attack came as a surprise. Russia apparently had no idea it was coming, and the strikes once again demonstrated Ukraine's ability to be at the cutting edge of technology and tactics. Ukraine has consistently and successfully leveraged and integrated everything from old military technology and, off-the-shelf commercial systems to artificial intelligence (AI) for its military operations. This has made a difference in the war, since its early days, giving Ukraine new and unexpected vectors to attack Russia. Ukraine's devastating attack demonstrates that the world has entered an era of remote precision in war. The combination of AI and autonomous weapons, precision guidance and, commercial manufacturing mean that low-cost precision strikes are now also accessible to almost any state or militant group.

Whereas in India, on 22 April, Pakistan based terrorist group "The Resistance Front" (TRF) perpetrated a devastating attack in Kashmir, India. In this attack 26 innocent tourists were killed in cold blood after segregating them based on their religion. TRF is an offshoot of the well known Pakistan backed terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba. Post attack, TRF claimed the responsibility for this attack not once but twice within a few hours. Pakistan's subsequent refusal to acknowledge or curb these terrorist networks compelled India to take a responsible but resolute action. In response, on the night of 7-8 May 2025, India executed "Operation Sindoor." The response was non escalatory, precise and targeted terrorist training camps at nine different locations within Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. No military targets were engaged.

However, in the early hours of 8 May, Pakistan, in an escalated response launched coordinated drone and missile strikes targeting over a dozen Indian military installations across the Northern and Western theatres, including Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Bathinda and Bhuj. India's robust Integrated Counter-drone Grid and layered Air Defense systems intercepted these attacks; the recovering debris conclusively traced to Pakistani origin.

What do both these scenarios mean for the future of global warfare? It clearly supports what defense experts have been saying for the past few years, that all future wars will witness use of more and more AI, drones and robots.

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



## TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

- 1 Tu Hain Toh Main Hoon: **Sky Force**
- 2 Aaj Ki Raat : **Stree 2**
- 3 Tainu Khabar Nahi: **Munjya**
- 4 Jaane Tu: **Chhaava**
- 5 Ishq Hai: **Mismatched - Season 3**
- 6 Millionaire: **GLORY**
- 7 Aayi Nai: **Stree 2**
- 8 Uyi Amma: **Azaad**
- 9 Tumhare Hi Rahenge Hum: **Stree 2**
- 10 Maniac - Bonus Track: **Glory**

### Yami Gautam reveals her most reliable face cleanser

**A**ctress Yami Gautam known for her natural beauty revealed her most reliable face cleanser - Haldi.

Sharing what has worked wonders for her, Yami penned on her official handle, "My most reliable face cleanser or natural remedy, in simple terms. Washing face or using as a facepack with some haldi along with water or curd or raw milk, has always worked wonders for my skin, which is super sensitive BTW."

Pointing out the various benefits of the magical spice, the 'Vicky Donar' actress added, "Haldi is one of the most diverse spices & a gift from India to the world."

Back in March this year, Yami revealed that she has turned down a big-budget film. However, she did not take any names.

Talking about IANS, the diva stated that she has always prioritized content-driven cinema. Revealing her decision-making process, Yami said, "Every decision is a conscious one. Both personally and professionally, I value the time I get to spend on projects that truly resonate with me."

Yami went on to explain, "I rely on my instincts. I make a conscious effort not to get too comfortable with what I've previously done or what I consider my strengths. I don't overanalyze. The first feeling I get after reading a script-whether it excites me or challenges me-guides my decision. IANS

## Kajol introduces UNIQUE FRIENDS

**A**ctress Kajol decided to introduce the netizens to her unconventional best friends this National Bestfriend Day (8 June).

Kajol revealed that her friends- her coffee, her crochet, and her books have a hard time understanding social media, and hence she could not upload a photo with them.

"I couldn't get any pictures coz I was spending time with my best friends, and they really don't get social media....my coffee, my crochet, and my books! #NationalBestfriendDay." Kajol penned on social media.

On more than one occasion, Kajol has been seen kitting and reading books whenever she gets a chance.

Recently, Kajol revealed who is the biggest prankster between her and her husband, Ajay Devgn.

The stunner will next be seen leading the drama "Maa". Last week the makers shared a video of Kajol and R Madhavan talking about the film on YouTube.

During their chat, Madhavan told Kajol, "Everyone knows that you're a big prankster." Bashing his claim, Kajol corrected him saying, "No, you're mistaking me for

Ajay Devgn. Not at all."

During the interaction, Madhavan asked her if she "ever scared a director out of your kindness and humility by completely memorizing all your lines and all the other characters' lines, going completely prepared and sitting there stoically and waiting for the shot?"

To this, Kajol replied, "Never would I do that to myself. I never do it to myself. If you want to scare the director, there are many other things to scare him. But, no."

"Maa" has been helmed by Vishal Furia, who is credited for his work in movies like "Chhorii" and "Chorii-2." Backed by Ajay Devgn and Jyoti Deshpande, the core cast of the flick will also have Ronit Roy, Indraneil Sengupta, Jitin Gulati, Gopal Singh, Surjyasikha Das, Yaaneeta Bharadwaj, Roopkatha Chakraborty, and Kherin Sharma in pivotal roles, along with others. IANS





# Pooja Hegde reveals favorite homesick remedy



Being an actor means staying away from home for long periods of time, and everyone ends up inventing their own way of overcoming their feeling of being homesick. Through her latest Instagram post, actress Pooja Hegde shared that one of her favorite homesick remedies is to enjoy a hot cup of tea with some yummy Parle-G biscuits. The 'Retro' actress dropped a clip

on her Instagram handle, where she was seen enjoying this beloved combo. She was heard saying in the background, "Simple joys to make me feel like I am at home". Taking out one of the biscuits from the pack, she said, "Dubaoing (dipping) this in my chai" After treating herself to this soul food, Pooja proclaimed at last, "Oh my God! This is some dangerous stuff." Her post further included the caption, "Nothing screams home like parle g in my chai...Homesick remedies."

On the work front, Pooja is busy with her next "Hain Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hain," which is being made under the direction of David Dhawan. With Varun Dhawan as the protagonist, the highly-anticipated drama enjoys a stellar cast including Mrunal Thakur, Mouni Roy, Chunkey Panday, Maniesh Paul, Jimmy Shergill, Rakesh Bedi, Ali Asgar, Kubbra Sait, Rohit Saraf, Rajeev Khandelwal, Nitish Nirmal, and Sreeleela, along with others. IANS

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## Pooja Bedi on embracing PEACE OVER PERFECTION

Actress and wellness advocate Pooja Bedi has shared a deeply introspective post that challenges society's obsession with perfection.

Reflecting on the relentless demands of looking flawless, Bedi expressed her view about evolving perspective on what truly nourishes the soul. In her heartfelt note, she wrote about how perfection often pressures individuals to be everything, everywhere, all at once—with airbrushed mornings, flawless routines, and a calm exterior. But instead of subscribing to these expectations, Pooja Bedi is now learning to prioritize what feels essential and authentic.

The actress took to Instagram recently and shared a powerful, introspective message about choosing inner peace over the constant pressure to appear perfect. The Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikander actress reflected on how society often expects individuals to be "everything, everywhere, all at once"—with perfect skin, perfectly curated routines, and a calm demeanor through it all.

Pooja Bedi wrote, "Perfection tells us to be everything, everywhere, all at once—with flawless skin, a precise and impressively executed reality, and with unwavering grace and calm breaths. But I'm learning to choose what's essential, not just what looks impressive. It is about giving your 100% to whatever you set your heart out to do, but I don't need to journal in gold ink, green-juice my soul, or look airbrushed by sunrise to be doing life right. If it must be a choice, I'd choose to honor energy over aesthetics, purpose over performance. It's not about chaos vs. control—it's about conscious choice. Perfection is a moving target. Priorities are a compass. What nourishes me matters more than what impresses them." **IAN S**

## WHEN NANA PATEKAR REVEALED WHY HE SETTLED IN HIS VILLAGE

Veteran actor Nana Patekar, who was last seen in the theatrical film 'Vanvaas', once shared the reason behind him going back to his village, and why he chose to stay away from the entertainment capital of the country.

During an episode of the quiz based reality television show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', Nana Patekar took the hot seat, and spoke with the show host, veteran megastar Amitabh Bachchan, and shared why he chose to go back to his native.

Amitabh Bachchan asked him during the show, "Why did you leave everything and go to the village after achieving so much in life?"

Nana said, "I am not from the industry. I come here, work here and then go back. I have never been to the party or gone to the village. I don't like it there. I am from the village and I will stay there. And I like it there".

"I have got many times more than I wanted from my mother. It is very easy to be limited in needs. There is no AC. I enjoy it a lot. Just like there are walls in the city, there are mountains in my house. Mountains come from this side and I live nestled between the mountains. It is very nice", he added.

During the same episode, the actor also heaped praise on Madhuri Dixit as he shared his experience of working with her.

During the episode, an audience member asked Nana Patekar about his experience working with Madhuri Dixit in 'Wajood'.

Responding to the same, Nana Patekar said, "It was a great experience. She is an exceptional actress—beautiful, an incredible dancer, and as an actress, she had everything one could ask for. Besides that, she is a wonderful person, and I admire her a lot".

Further, the audience asked about the poem, 'Kaise batau mai tumhe', which Nana had recited for Madhuri in the movie.

The actor said, "That poem was written by Javed Akhtar Sahab and even after 30-35 years of that film, it is etched in my memory because of Madhuri. I recited it for her, and that's why it's unforgettable. Even today, it feels like it's running in my blood. Whenever someone asks about it, it brings back so many memories".

Nana Patekar had attended the show along with Utkarsh Sharma, Simrat Kaur, and writer-director Anil Sharma. **IAN S**





# Akshay Kumar turns reporter for audience reactions



Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar recently took a unique approach to connect with people by stepping out in a 'killer mask' to personally experience audience reactions to his film "Housefull 5." Taking to Instagram recently, the 'Airlift' actor shared a video in which he can be seen wearing a 'killer mask' outside a cinema hall. In the clip, he interacts with moviegoers, asking them if they liked "Housefull 5." The audience, unaware of his identity, did not recognize the actor behind the mask and candidly shared their reactions. Many praised the film, saying they thoroughly enjoyed "Housefull 5," not knowing they were speaking to its lead star.

Sharing the video, Kumar wrote, "Bas yun hi I decided to wear the killer mask and interview people coming out of the Housefull5 show at Bandra today. Pakda jaane wala tha end mein but bhaag gaya us se pehle. Mast experience."

Reacting to the clip, one netizen commented, "Koi pehchan bhi nhi paa raha. Crazy paaji." Another wrote, "Was waiting for him to take off the mask like Robert Downey Jr."

A few days ago, the 'Kesari Chapter 2' actor shared a throwback video from the sets of "Housefull 5." Reflecting on the experience, he said that the past year was filled with laughter, chaos, and unforgettable memories with his "mad bunch" of co-stars - including Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, and Dino Morea. The actor has been regularly posting behind-the-scenes glimpses from the comedy. *IANS*

## Puja Sharma's comeback after 7 Years with 'Jhanak'

Actress Puja Sharma is all ready for a powerful comeback after a long gap of 7 years with the show "Jhanak". She will be seen in a new gray avatar as Kanka in Star Plus' latest outing.

Following a leap in "Jhanak" we are introduced to Kanka - a powerful force within a tribal community, who does not trust outsiders one bit. However, she holds a soft spot for the head of the tribe- a glimpse into her emotional side in an otherwise fierce personality.

Speaking about her character, she shared, "Kanka doesn't play nice - and I love that about her." Puja added that it was the kind of role she was waiting for.

Sharing how her latest role is different from her previous characters, Puja stated, "I've played positive leads before, but Kanka is raw, volatile, and emotionally layered." *IANS*



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**P**elling is a small town located in the West district of Sikkim, at an altitude of 2,150 meters (7,200 feet) above sea level. It is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Sikkim, known for its breathtaking views of the Himalayas and the famous Kanchenjunga peak, the third-highest mountain in the world. Formerly covered by a dense wild forest that was a haven for many native wild creatures, this destination has evolved into a place loved by adventure enthusiasts and nature lovers and has become the second biggest tourist hotspot in Sikkim after Gangtok.

Pelling is a base for various treks in the region. Its surrounding areas are still a virgin territory that offers alpine vegetation and numerous waterfalls lining the hillside and is occasionally covered in a thick blanket of snow during winter. Pelling also offers adventure activities such as mountain biking, rock climbing, village tours, meditation, and trekking, making it an ideal holiday destination for adventure enthusiasts and nature lovers. Moreover, the town is also home to several ancient Buddhist monasteries and temples, including the famous Pemayangtse Monastery.

Other popular tourist attractions in Pelling include the

Khecheopalri Lake, considered a sacred lake by the locals and surrounded by dense forests and hills, and the Rabdentse Ruins, which was once the capital of the former Kingdom of Sikkim. Pelling also hosts the Khangchendzonga Festival every year, named after Sikkim's guardian deity. In

get-friendly hotels to luxurious resorts catering to all budgets. The best time to visit Pelling is during the summer, from March to May, and the autumn months, from September to November, when the weather is mild and pleasant.



## PELLING

"LITTLE PRINCESS OF NATURE'S KINGDOM IN SIKKIM"

addition to its scenic beauty and cultural festivals, the town has several local eateries and restaurants serving the authentic traditional cuisine of Sikkim, a blend of Tibetan, Nepalese, and Bhutanese cuisine.

Pelling has various accommodation options, from bud-

get-friendly hotels to luxurious resorts catering to all budgets. The best time to visit Pelling is during the summer, from March to May, and the autumn months, from September to November, when the weather is mild and pleasant.

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### PLACES TO VISIT IN PELLING

#### **Pemayangtse Monastery:**

Pemayangtse Monastery is a highly revered Buddhist Monastery situated at Pemayangtse, in the Pelling region of Sikkim. One of the oldest monasteries of the state, it stands tall on a hilltop overlooking the historical Rabdentse ruins, the former capital of the Kingdom of Sikkim. Pemayangtse translates to 'perfect, sublime lotus' and is said to represent one of the four networks of nerves (vessels) in the human body. Dedicated to Padmasambhava (Guru Rinpoche who revived Buddhism in Tibet), the striking feature of this monastery are the statues of him and his consorts.

**Rabdentse Ruins:** On the lower hill-ock, South-East of Pemayangtse Monastery in Pelling, Sikkim, lies the old ruins of the Old Rabdentse Palace. Rabdentse was the second capital of Sikkim till 1814 AD. The old palace and the monastery are in complete ruins now and the Archeological survey of India is currently maintaining and undertaking work for its restoration.



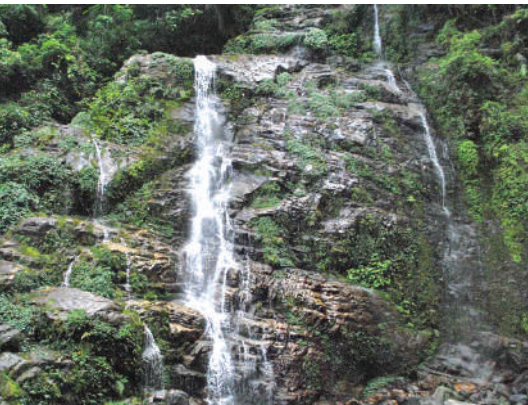


# Pelling: "Little princess of Nature's kingdom in Sikkim"

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**Khecheopalri Lake:** Located at an altitude of 1700 m above sea level, Khecheopalri Lake is a sacred place for both Buddhists and Hindus which is a part of the famous Buddhist pilgrimage circuit. It is situated in the Khecheopalri Village in the West Sikkim district. The name of the lake, Khecheopalri, was originally known as, 'Kha-Chot-Palri', which refers to the heaven of Lord Padmasambhava. Popularly considered as a 'wish fulfilling lake', many people visit it from around the globe in the hope of getting their wishes fulfilled.

**Kanchenjunga Falls:** Kanchenjunga Falls, located in the West Sikkim district of the In-



dian state of Sikkim, is a breathtaking natural attraction nestled amidst the lush greenery of the Himalayan foothills. Named after the majestic Kanchenjunga mountain range, the third-highest peak in the world, these falls are renowned for their scenic beauty, pristine surroundings, and cascading waters that create a mesmerizing spectacle.

**Glass Skywalk:** The Glass Skywalk is India's first ever skywalk, set in the picturesque town of Pelling in Northeast Sikkim. Built at an astounding height of

7200 feet, this colossal structure allows tourists to look down several thousand feet in the air, from the peak to the very bottom of mountains. The Glass Skywalk is not for the fainthearted, or for people with vertigo as walking on transparent glass at such heights can be spine-chilling!

**Rimbi Waterfalls:** Located just 5 km from Darap Village and 12 km from Pelling, Rimbi Waterfalls stands as a picturesque gem near Pelling. Situated close to Darap Village, it holds a prominent position among the famous waterfalls in Pelling, captivating visitors with its natural beauty. Cascading over the Rimbi River on the route to Khecheopalri Lake and Yuksam, Rimbi Waterfalls

showcases its spectacular charm during the summer months, attracting numerous tourists.

### BEST TIME TO VISIT PELLING

The best time to visit Pelling is from March to May and from

September to November, which are respectively spring and autumn seasons. During these months, the weather is pleasant, with clear skies, making it an ideal destination for sightseeing and outdoor activities.

### HOW TO REACH PELLING

The nearest airport from Pelling is Bagdogra Airport in West Bengal which is around 160 kilometers from it. This airport offers regular flights to and from several major cities of India such as Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata. [www.holidify.com](http://www.holidify.com)



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