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COURAGE & COMMUNITY: SAAHAS DONOR ENGAGEMENT EVENT BRINGS TOGETHER 140 SUPPORTERS TO CELEBRATE RESILIENCE AND IMPACT



Beverly Hills, CA — Saahas for Cause hosted its 2025 Donor Engagement Event, **"From Prevention to Possibility,"** at Spice Affair in Beverly Hills, bringing together **140 guests** to celebrate prevention, empowerment, and community well-being for the South Asian diaspora. The program, emceed by **Dr. Rohit Kohli** and Saahas Board Member **Aakriti Kundra**, reflected on resilience, compassion, and collective impact.

Founded by Payal Sawhney, Saahas for Cause empowers South Asian immigrants and their families through four pillars—**Youth Engagement, Women's Empowerment, Family Wellness, and Older Adult Well-Being**. Its mission focuses on culturally **responsive care, prevention, and creating belonging across generations**.

The event opened with welcoming remarks from **Board Chair Dr. Seema Arora**, followed by a musical prelude and the ceremonial lamp lighting led by **Dr. K. J. Srinivasa, the inaugural Consul General of India in Los Angeles**. His presence symbolized growing collaboration between Saahas and the Indian Consulate in addressing community needs.

A **heartfelt video** showcased stories of clients, volunteers, and partners whose lives have been transformed through Saahas programs.

A key highlight was the presentation of Saahas's **"family model"**—wraparound, culturally rooted support that empowers individuals at every stage of life.

A short dramatization portrayed a client's journey from victim to survivor, emphasizing that **prevention** is about creating hope before crisis — **because truly, "a stitch in time saves nine."**

The event also spotlighted **Dhaaga**, Saahas's **stitching and rehabilitation initiative** that combines creative expression, healing, and mentorship to foster independence among survivors of violence and new immigrants.

Saahas recognized five leaders for their service and philanthropy:

- **Dr. Bharat Patel** – Bridge Builder of the Year
- **Mr. Ghanshyamsinh Zala** – Philanthropist of the Year
- **Mr. Kevin Parikh** – Entrepreneur of the Year
- **Dr. Amandeep Bhalla** – Physician of the Year
- **Mr. Mohan Ananda** – Lifetime Achievement Award

Payal Sawhney also acknowledged challenges—from **wildfires and immigration fears to funding delays**—but reaffirmed that **Saahas's prevention-first approach** continues to connect families to safety, resources, and support.

Saahas concluded the event by expressing **gratitude to Mr. Navneet Chugh, partners, board members, volunteers, and attendees** for their steadfast support. The event served as a reminder that when communities unite with **courage and compassion**, hope becomes possible for every South Asian family.

(562) 526-2508

www.Saahasforcause.org

Info@saahasforcause.org





Trump on H-1B visas: US needs foreign talent

► Details on page 16

US expresses condolences over Delhi blast

► Details on page 16

HISTORIC A4H MEET

Americans4Hindus hosts Historic "Americans4Hindus Week" in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Americans4Hindus hosts Historic "Americans4Hindus Week" in Washington, D.C., A National Call for Political Engagement and Representation of American Hindus.

Americans4Hindus (A4H), a national organization committed to political empowerment and representation of Hindu Americans, successfully hosted Americans4Hindus Week in Washington, D.C. from November 5-9, 2025. The week included a National Summit, Leadership Retreat, and Multi-Community Engagement Roundtables designed to elevate the voice of Hindu Americans in the American political landscape.



Delegates, presidents, trustees, and Karmayogis from 18 State Chapters traveled from across United States to participate.

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the Capitol at the official Press Podium, delivering a united message to the nation.

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CGISF celebrates State Formation Day

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US 'pretty close' to signing trade deal with India

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This week's question

Can Ukraine hold-on occupied Russian territory?

Last week's result

Will Democrats be able to win the 2028 election?

YES 62% NO 38%

WORLD EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY

World leaders express solidarity with India, offer condolences over Delhi blast



NSG team investigate the spot of the blast in a car near Gate no 1 of the Red Fort Metro station, in Delhi. (ANI Photo) Details on page 7



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HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:
Harshvardhan Rane: I love my career


Actor Harshvardhan Rane, being hailed as the next great romantic hero says, the genre comes naturally to him & from his life experiences

Lifestyle:
Uttarakhand an emerging destination


Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed the statehood silver jubilee celebrations at the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun

Cover Story:
HISTORIC A4H MEET


Americans4Hindus (A4H), a national organization committed to political empowerment and representation of Hindu Americans, successfully hosts Americans4Hindus Week in Washington, D.C.

Techbiz:
Tata Motors' demerger


Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran has said the demerger of Tata Motors' commercial and passenger vehicle businesses marks a major milestone

Community:
India's State Formation Day

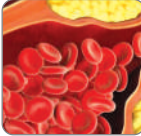

The Consulate General of India, SFO event brought together representatives from various Indian states who showcased their unique cultural traditions

Travel
Jaisalmer


Often referred to as the "Golden City," Jaisalmer captivates visitors with its sandstone architecture, picturesque landscapes, and rich cultural heritage

Immigration:
Indians repatriated from Thailand


Indian Embassy in Thailand says 197 Indian nationals were repatriated to India by two special flights by the Indian Air Force (IAF)

Wellness:
Australia leads first human trial


Researchers in Australia have led a first-in-human trial for a breakthrough gene-editing therapy that halves bad cholesterol and triglycerides in people

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HISTORIC A4H MEET

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"American Hindus are ready to participate and contribute to the political arena and governance just as we have contrib-

uted to IT, medicine, business, education, and other leading sectors. We are prepared to participate from school boards to the Presidency, empowering democracy with our Hindu values. At present, our democracy seems to be in doldrums." Said Dr. Romesh Japra, Founder & Chairman, Americans4Hindus

The press event highlighted that Hindu Americans are the highest per-capita in-

tership of civic participation. "If we want representation that respects our community, we must show up, organize, and lead."

National Unity of Indian American Organizations

A special strategic meeting was held to unite a broad coalition of Indian American associations across the nation cultural, religious, social, professional, busi-

ness, economic, political, and educational groups.

Leadership Retreat & Strategic Roadmap

A transformative Leadership Retreat was held at the Art of Living Center in Washington, D.C. Participants brainstormed bold ideas and committed to scaling major national initiatives, including:

- Hindu Rajneeti Academy
 - Hindu Voter Guide
 - Hindu-Buddhist-Sikh-Jain Congressional Caucus (HBSJ Caucus)
 - Alliance Wings (women, youth, professional, business, interfaith, etc.)
 - Rakshak (Protection) Wing for Civil Rights Advocacy
- Delegates pledged to invest their time, talent, treasure, and technology to advance these initiatives nationwide.

Cont'd on page 16



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World leaders express solidarity with India, offer condolences over Delhi blast

TOKYO/KATHMANDU: Several world leaders have expressed solidarity with India and offered condolences following the deadly car blast near Delhi's Red Fort that has claimed several lives and injured many.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi offered condolences to the families of the victims of the Delhi car blast and prayed for the speedy recovery of injured people.

"I am in deep sorrow to learn that many precious lives were lost in the explosion that occurred in Delhi, India. On behalf of the Government and people of Japan, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the victims and their bereaved families. I also offer my sincere prayers for the swift recovery of the injured," Takaichi posted on X.

The blast occurred on Monday (10 Nov.) evening when a Haryana-registered car, a Hyundai i20, exploded near the Red Fort Metro Station.

Nepal Prime Minister Sushila Karki also expressed sadness over the tragic Delhi blast, emphasizing that Kathmandu



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets the injured in the Red Fort car blast, at Lok Nayak Hospital in Delhi. (DPR PMO/ANI Photo)

stands in solidarity with India.

In a statement shared on X, Karki stated, "I am shocked and saddened by the tragic Delhi explosion last evening. Deepest condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured. Nepal stands in solidarity with India in this hour of grief."

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim expressed sadness over the explosion that occurred in Delhi.

In a post on X, Ibrahim wrote, "I am deeply saddened by the explosion near the Red Fort in Delhi on Monday evening,

which has claimed several lives and injured many others. My heartfelt condolences go to the victims' families and to the people of India as they mourn this senseless tragedy."

"If confirmed to be an act of terror, it deserves the strongest condemnation. There can be no justification for violence that targets innocent lives and sows fear among ordinary people. I also pay tribute to the first responders and to the authorities working to determine the cause of the blast and to bring those responsible to justice. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are affected," he added.

Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake expressed solidarity with the people of India. He wrote on X, "Saddened by news of the explosion in Delhi last evening. Sri Lanka stands in solidarity with the people of India. Our thoughts are with all those affected."

Israel Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar offered condolences to the people of India, including the families of the victims killed in the blast in Delhi. He expressed Israel's support to India in its fight against terror. IANS



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India's quota for Haj 2026 to be 1,75,025: Kiren Rijiju

NEW DELHI: India's quota for Haj 2026 will be 1,75,025, Union Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju informed after a bilateral meeting with Saudi Arabia's Hajj and Umrah Minister Dr Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al Rabiah to review preparations and confirm the number of pilgrims.

In a message on X, Rijiju said: "A significant step in deepening the India-Saudi Arabia ties. Held a Bilateral Meeting & signed the Bilateral Haj Agreement with H.E. Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, Minister of Hajj & Umrah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Haj Quota of 1,75,025 has been secured for Indian Pilgrims for 2026".

The review meeting was part of Rijiju's official visit to the Kingdom from November 7 to 9 during which he was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including the MEA's Additional Secretary, Gulf, Aseem R. Mahajan, and the Minority Affairs Ministry's Joint Secretary, Haj, Ram Singh. IANS

Covered California's open enrollment 2026

SACRAMENTO, Calif.: Covered California is kicking off its open-enrollment period for 2026 coverage on Nov. 1 amid uncertainty surrounding the enhanced premium tax credits that have delivered greater affordability and record enrollment across the nation.

This marks the 13th open-enrollment period under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which since its inception has helped tens of millions of Americans access health insurance, including a record nearly 2 million Californians heading into 2026.

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COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

8 India Post

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November 14, 2025

Consulate General of India, San Francisco, celebrates State Formation Day with vibrant cultural showcase



VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: The Consulate General of India, San Francisco (CGISF), in collaboration with community organizations across the Bay Area, proudly organized a grand celebration marking State Formation Day, honoring the rich heritage, diversity, and unity of India's states on Nov 9 at India community center, Milpitas.

The event brought together representatives from various Indian states who showcased their



unique cultural traditions through captivating performances, colorful state booths, traditional décor. The displays vividly reflected India's cultural mosaic and the spirit of "Unity in Diversity."

Consul General Dr Srikar Reddy commended the community's active participation and creativity, noting that the event



highlighted the enduring connection between the Indian diaspora and their home states. "The enthusiasm and pride displayed by every group today truly represent the essence of India-diverse, vibrant, and united," he remarked.

The celebration featured classical and folk dances, music performances, and engaging exhibits by associations representing states such as Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Haryana. Each group contributed to the event's



success with authentic décor and artistic displays that transported attendees across India's region.

The State Formation Day celebration reaffirmed CGISF's ongoing commitment to promoting India's cultural heritage and strengthening bonds within the Indian American community across the western United States.



Sameer Khan shines at the premiere of Size Queen

LOS ANGELES: October 5, the glamour of Hollywood lit up the London Hotel on Sunset Boulevard as the short film Size Queen premiered to a packed audience of film enthusiasts and industry insiders. Among the evening's standout moments was the appearance of Sameer Khan, who delivered a commanding performance as one of the film's principal cast members.

Produced and directed by Ken Fierro, Size Queen follows a young American man grappling with the challenges of corporate life while coming to terms with his sexuality. Sameer Khan portrays Vikram Singh - the film's charismatic anti-hero - a sharp, domineering executive whose complex personality anchors the narrative.



Sameer Khan

The film received an enthusiastic response, with attendees praising its nuanced storytelling and compelling performances.

An actor of Indian origin with a distinguished background in English theatre, Khan expressed his optimism about the evolving landscape of Hollywood. "2025 has been a challenging year for the industry," he said, "but seeing more South Asian actors being cast in unconventional roles

is definitely encouraging." This year marks a milestone in Khan's career. His film Cowboys and Hindus continues to garner acclaim on the international festival circuit, while his stage performance in Bismillah earned widespread critical praise. He recently wrapped filming on his next project, Miles to Go, slated for release in 2026. With artists like Sameer Khan pushing boundaries and redefining representation, the future of South Asian talent in Hollywood looks not only promising - but long overdue for the recognition it deserves.

Take active part in endeavors to realize shared prosperity of India, Angola: President Murmu to Indian diaspora

LUANDA: President Droupadi Murmu addressed the members of the Indian Community at a Reception hosted by the Ambassador of India to Angola at Luanda recently. The accompanying Minister of State for Jal Shakti and Railways, V. Somanna and Members of Parliament, Parbhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava and D. K. Aruna, were present on the occasion.

Addressing the enthusiastic gathering of Indian community members, the President said that India greatly values its relationship with its African partners, particularly Angola. This partnership is rooted in equality, mutual trust, and shared aspirations for progress. She stated that India's engagement with Africa has evolved under the framework of the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS). She said that India looked forward to hosting the next IAFS Summit soon. The President said that Angola is an important partner in India's energy security, and India, in turn, is one of Angola's top trade partners. She was happy to note that last year, India-Angola bilateral trade crossed the historic mark of 5 billion US dollars. IANS

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Grand Chhath Puja observed in Los Angeles

ASHUTOSH SINGH



It was an evening to perfuse in divine observance at the Newport Dunes Waterfront resort, as hundreds of members of Indian diaspora gathered to honor the Sun God and Chhathi Maiya.

The event was the annual Chhath Puja Mahaparv organized by enthusiastic members of Bihar Jharkhand Bandhu Association, a Non profit Organization working to pull off a historic gala. Hundreds of devotees offering arghya to the Sun God at the same time (Sunset on 10/27, and Sunrise on 10/28) chanting the same mantras was a sight to behold, and an inspiration for the entire community.

Chhath Puja is an ancient Hindu festival dedicated to the worship of Surya Dev (the Sun God) and Chhathi Maiya, who is believed to be the goddess of energy, fertility, and wellbeing. Celebrated mainly in Bihar, Jharkhand, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, and Nepal, the tradition has gained immense significance among devotees across the globe, symbolizing gratitude, purity, and devotion. It is considered one of the most eco-friendly observances, as all rituals are performed with natural offerings and deep reverence for the environment.

The ceremony spans four days of spiritual discipline and self-control, each carrying deep symbolic meaning.

The first day, Nahay Khay, marks the beginning of purification when devotees take a holy dip, clean their homes, and consume only satvik (pure) food.

The second day, Kharna, involves a day-long fast, which is broken in the evening after preparing prasad - typically kheer and chapati - offered to the deities and shared with family.

The third day, Sandhya Arghya, is the

most spectacular, when devotees gather at riverbanks or ghats to offer prayers and arghya to the setting sun, expressing gratitude for life and prosperity.

The final morning, Usha Arghya, marks the offering to the rising sun, symbolizing renewal, hope, and forgiveness.

Throughout Chhath Puja, devotees maintain purity, observe strict fasting, and often stand for long hours in water to demonstrate unwavering devotion. The festivity beautifully blends faith, discipline, nature worship, and family unity, embodying the essence of harmony between humankind and nature.

"The lovely banana tree stumps lining the entrance corridor and the red carpet felt so welcoming and set the beautiful tone for the events planned", says Vratee Parul Priya who has been a patron and has been observing this festival for 4 years now.

While the event is mostly funded by volunteer donations, but this time there were multiple sponsors who joined in to support the organization to plan and prepare for this celebration of age old tradition. PODI DOSA was the Surya sponsor (Platinum) for the event. Kavita Ji, the owner manager says she felt the divine connection as

soon as the members of the organization walked her through the traditional significance of this festival. And that's where she decided to associate with the grand event.

A total of 10 vratees participated in the event, joined by hundreds of friends and family, and well-wishers, creating an awe-inspiring sight at the fest. "This was my first time observing this grand ritual, however with as many people from the community to support, it never felt away from home", says Subodh Singh - a first time vratee.

Harsh Arora a well known elite who joined the event, and Gold sponsor, said while this is the first time he is attending this traditional gala, and is in awe after knowing the various rituals and their significance. Seema Arora, a sociable member, and a promoter of the event, known for her community service engagements, adds "This festival looks so much of a community bonding, I would want to join in this kind of event year after year !"

Rajeev Kumar, whose family has been observing this tradition since decades, is especially excited about this sacred observance every year, because of the simplistic nature and a greater message for nature.

Cont'd on page 15



St. Jude Imagine Academy Helps Care for the Whole Child

School Program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Celebrates 25 Years of helping patients keep up with their academic development while receiving treatment

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital leads the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. While treating children for catastrophic diseases like cancer and sickle cell disease, St. Jude strives to care for the whole child. For 25 years, the St. Jude school program has helped patients continue their education while undergoing treatment. Known today as St. Jude Imagine Academy by Chili's, the program provides both instruction and school advocacy, ensuring that learning remains a part of each child's journey.

Families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food, so they can focus on helping their child live, regardless of the duration of care. Education is an important part of a child's life, and Imagine Academy is part of the child's care team. Patients are encouraged to get back to school as soon as possible because it's a normal childhood activity that increases their sense of well-being and reassures them about the future.

"Part of advancing long-term health and

well-being is ensuring that patients are able to continue to grow academically while undergoing treatment at St. Jude. We know that education is a cornerstone of a healthy future and we want all of our students to be able to fulfill their dreams," said Alli Leslie, School Program Head at Imagine Academy at St. Jude.



Accredited by the nonprofit Cognia as a Special Purpose School, Imagine Academy does not grant academic credits or diplomas. Instead, students remain enrolled in their community schools while receiving instruction and advocacy support tailored to their needs. Every new patient

at St. Jude is offered a consultation to assess their educational situation and determine the best level of support.

The 23 full-time employees of the Academy see up to 150 patients per day. Imagine Academy also has a lot of additional support from volunteers. There are 16 community-based volunteers who support



students in Imagine Academy on a weekly basis. In addition, over 90 St. Jude employees from other departments serve as lab helpers in the STEM lab throughout the school year. Instruction is offered three times a week for K-12 students and twice a week for preschoolers. Beyond the

classroom, the school coordinator team helps families navigate their children's educational needs, working directly with schools when necessary to ensure appropriate accommodations.

"The ultimate goal with our school coordination work is to empower students to tell their story and advocate for their classroom needs, so when they get back to school and ultimately transition to college, work or other postsecondary environments, they feel better prepared to ask for those accommodations," said Leslie.

For many students, the relationships built at Imagine Academy last well beyond their time at St. Jude. Teachers often hear from former students who return to visit, grateful for the support they received.

"The school program is amazing," said St. Jude cancer survivor Archie. "They give you one-on-one time. When I went back to school, I was still up-to-date, and actually ahead in some ways. I thank St. Jude for that because I got to graduate on time."

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

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INDIA AI Impact Summit 2026: Pre-Event briefing session for US Congressmen and Tech CEOs hosted in Seattle



SEATTLE: In the run up to India-AI Impact Summit 2026 to be held in New Delhi next year, Consulate General of India in Seattle hosted today a Pre-Event Curtain Raiser focusing on the three pillars of India's AI Impact Summit: People, Planet and Progress.

The Roundtable featured expert presentations by leading Tech CEOs from Greater Seattle area and covered themes like the usage of AI in Agri-Tech and the potential of Data Centers and Digital In-

frastructure in India.

Participants also briefed US Congressman Adam Smith, Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee, and Congressman Michael Baumgartner, Member of the House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs Committees about India's progress in AI and highlighted the Seven Chakras, or Themes for Global Cooperation centered around (i) Safe and Trusted AI (ii) Human Capital (iii) Science (iv) Resilience, Innovation and

Efficiency (v) Inclusion and Social Empowerment (vi) Democratizing AI Resources and (vii) Economic Growth and Social Good.

Today's briefing at the new Chancery premises of the Indian Consulate in Seattle, was the first such curtain raiser, in a series of such sessions that are being planned in the run up to the AI India Impact Summit. Subsequent, workshops and briefing sessions are being planned in leading US Universities in the US Pacific

Northwest, as well with leading Tech and AI industry stakeholders in January 2026.

The India-AI Impact Summit 2026 will be held from 19-20 February 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, as the first global-scale AI summit hosted in the Global South. It will bring together governments, industry, academia, and startups from global capitals with an aim to translate AI's potential into tangible outcomes for People, Planet, and Progress and reaffirm India's vision of "AI for All."



Court orders release of Masuma Khan, reuniting her with family and Altadena community

Ruling allows 64-year-old resident to return home and access critical medical care while her immigration case continues

LOS ANGELES: Masuma Khan, who has been in the United States for nearly three decades, was released from ICE detention on Wednesday, after enduring a month in which she was repeatedly denied necessary medical care. A U.S. District Court judge granted a preliminary injunction ordering her immediate release, preventing her re-detention without due process, and barring her immediate deportation to any country where she fears for her safety—all of which ensures that the 64-year-old can remain at home while her immigration case proceeds.

A team of legal counsel and advocates, including Public Counsel, South Asian Network, and Hoq Law APC, came together to push for the release of Khan, who is a pillar of her community. Masuma is known for supporting family, friends, and neighbors when they are ill

or otherwise in need.

Khan, an Altadena resident who survived the fires earlier this year, was detained for nearly a month at the California City Detention Facility, which has developed a reputation for inhumane living conditions. During her detainment, Khan was denied critical medications and basic medical care for her chronic asthma, high blood pressure, glaucoma, and other serious conditions.

"I'm so happy to reunite with my mom and know that she can now breathe fresh air and get the medical care she needs to survive. We are thankful to the judge who understood the gravity of our case, applied the law, and allowed my mom to be released with dignity," said Riya Khan, daughter of Masuma.

In court, a federal judge ruled there was no reason for Masuma to remain in cus-

tody without the government explaining why her detention is necessary, given they had released her five years ago and allowed her to remain with her family while her immigration case proceeds.

The following statement can be attributed to the legal team:

"We are grateful that the court upheld the rule of law and ordered Masuma Khan's release, recognizing her right to return home and access life-saving medical care. This outcome was only possible thanks to the incredible collaboration between Masuma's family, community advocates, and our legal team - all working together to ensure justice prevailed. Masuma is a pillar of her family and her community, and we are honored to stand alongside her in this ongoing fight."

Khan and her family plan to continue pursuing her pending application for immi-

gration relief.

Public Counsel - Public Counsel is a nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to advancing civil rights and racial and economic justice, as well as to amplifying the power of our clients through comprehensive legal advocacy. Founded on and strengthened by a pro bono legal service model, our staff and volunteers seek justice through direct legal services, promote healthy and resilient communities through education and outreach, and support community-led efforts to transform unjust systems through litigation and policy advocacy in and beyond Los Angeles.

Laboni Hoq, Hoq Law APC

South Asian Network - South Asian Network (SAN) is a community based organization advancing the health, emotional and mental well-being, and civil rights of South Asians in Southern California.

Covered California's open enrollment 2026:

Here to help connect Californians to care despite uncertainty around federal tax credits

SACRAMENTO, Calif.: Covered California is kicking off its open-enrollment period for 2026 coverage on Nov. 1 amid uncertainty surrounding the enhanced premium tax credits that have delivered greater affordability and record enrollment across the nation.

This marks the 13th open-enrollment period under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which since its inception has helped tens of millions of Americans access health insurance, including a record nearly 2 million Californians heading into 2026. Today, more than 24 million Americans are insured through a marketplace plan.

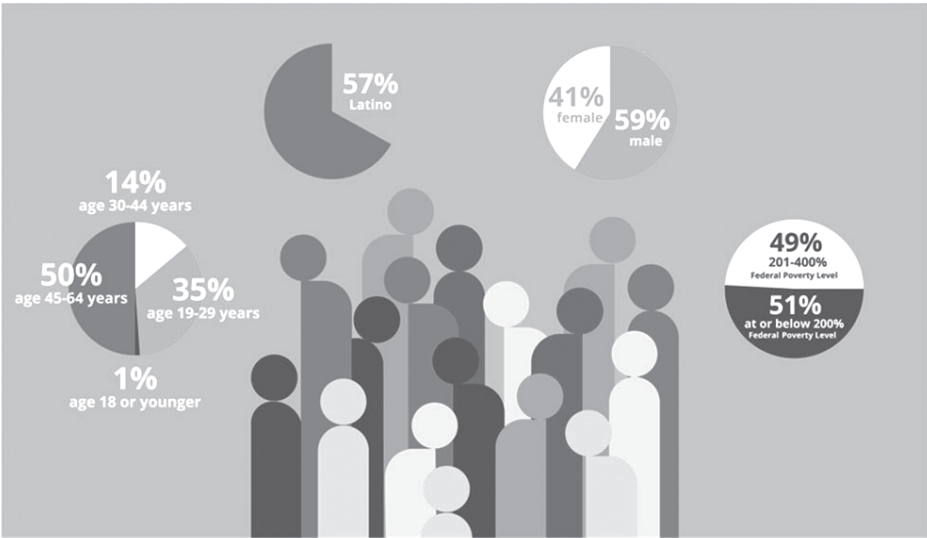
Open enrollment, which runs through Jan. 31, 2026, is when Californians can sign up for, renew or shop for a new health insurance plan. This year's campaign, "Connectors to Coverage," emphasizes the broad network of experts, enrollers and other guidance Covered California offers to help consumers navigate the path to affordable, high-quality health insurance.

"Since 2014, Covered California has helped more than 6 million Californians connect to quality health insurance at an affordable price," said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman. "Despite uncertainty in Washington, our mission remains the same. We are here to help Californians get comprehensive health insurance, including free preventive care, to keep themselves and their families healthy in 2026."

Since 2021, the federal government has helped millions of Americans afford health insurance through enhanced premium tax credits that reduce the cost of monthly premiums. The federal government made premium tax credits for lower-income enrollees more generous and provided tax credits to middle income consumers for the first time, putting money directly back in the pockets of consumers. Those enhanced tax credits are set to expire at the end of this year without Congressional action and have been the key point of debate in the ongoing federal government shutdown.

Without an extension of the enhanced premium tax credits, monthly premiums are projected to rise by 97 percent on average for more than 1.7 million Californians enrolled and receiving financial assistance through Covered California. This includes more than 160,000 middle-income consumers who currently receive the federal enhanced premium tax credits but would lose eligibility in 2026. Faced with the full premium cost of coverage without financial help, they would be at risk

Figure 1: Uninsured Californians Make Up Diverse Population



of dropping health insurance.

"While President Trump and Republicans work to strip away health coverage for millions of Americans, California continues to lead the nation in expanding access to affordable health care," said Gov. Gavin Newsom. "Our health insurance marketplace, Covered California, is open and here to help every Californian get connected to the quality health insurance they deserve for themselves and their families. We will continue to fight to make sure health insurance is affordable and attainable for every single family in California."

Despite market uncertainties surrounding federal tax subsidies, Covered California maintains a strong marketplace and engages in active negotiations with health insurance companies to ensure consumers are receiving the best value possible.

Through Covered California, Californians have access to brand-name health plans offered by 11 health insurance companies. Every plan provides access to leading doctors, hospitals and specialists across California and includes essential health benefits - from preventive care and maternity care to mental health services and emergency coverage.

Connecting With the Remaining 1.2 Million Uninsured Californians

As open enrollment for 2026 begins, Californians continue to enroll in health insurance at a historic rate. Statewide enrollment has increased nearly 24 percent over the past four years, following the introduction of enhanced premium tax credits.

Despite this record enrollment, there remains federal uncertainty around enhanced premium tax credits. Covered

California is committed to our mission of supporting our current enrollees in understanding their options and staying covered, while connecting the remaining uninsured to health insurance.

New data from the California Simulation of Insurance Markets (CalSIM) model, developed by the University of California, Los Angeles's Center for Health Policy Research, estimates that nearly 1.2 million Californians who either qualify for subsidies through Covered California (508,000) or low-cost or no-cost Medi-Cal (682,000) remain uninsured and eligible for coverage in 2026.

Further, this data from CalSIM shows that certain groups are disproportionately represented among the uninsured. Among the 508,000 uninsured Californians eligible for Covered California coverage, 57 percent are Latino and 50 percent are between 45-64 years old and they reside all over the state.

For example, in Southern California, there are 604,000 uninsured Californians who are eligible for Covered California subsidies (246,000) or no-cost Medi-Cal coverage (358,000).

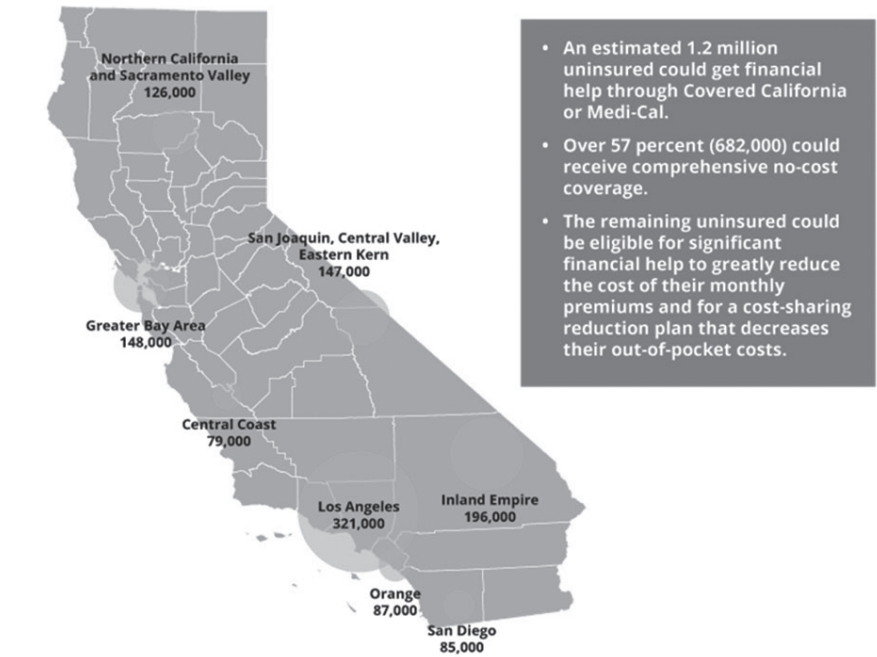
"Whether you work full-time, part-time, are a gig worker, or are temporarily unemployed, we believe every Californian deserves quality coverage at a price they can afford," said Altman. "Even in this unpredictable federal environment, we are doing everything possible to ensure Californians can get connected to high-quality health insurance at the lowest price possible. That starts with Congress extending the enhanced premium tax credits."

California Is Taking Steps to Protect the Most Vulnerable From Increasing Costs

In 2025, Gov. Newsom and the California Legislature increased state funding available for the enhanced cost-sharing reduction program, appropriating \$165 million to expand eligibility. This allowed Californians with incomes above 200 percent of the federal poverty level to enroll in an Enhanced Silver 73 plan with no deductibles and reduced out-of-pocket costs.

This year - if the enhanced premium tax credits sunset - California is continuing to take proactive steps to protect its lowest-income enrollees from the steepest rate increases and reduce costs for consumers should the enhanced tax credits expire. For 2026, the state has allocated \$190 million to provide state-funded tax credits for individuals earning up to 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

Figure 2: Nearly 1.2 Million Uninsured Californians Are Eligible for Financial Help



Sangam: An interfaith, multicultural Diwali celebration at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, LA

CHINO HILLS/LOS ANGELES, CA: November 2025 - In a vibrant celebration of unity and cultural harmony, BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Los Angeles

interfaith prayers, cultural reflections, and a traditional vegetarian meal served in thalis.

The program opened with remarks

Paramtattvadas Swami of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, London (Neasden Temple). He reflected on BAPS' global interfaith initiatives and urged continued collaboration as Los Angeles prepares to host the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"When faith communities come together," he shared, "we illuminate the world far beyond our own walls."

Attendees included representatives from the Consulates of India, Armenia, El Salvador, Switzerland, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Lithuania, and Myanmar, as well as members of LA28 Cultural Olympiad Committee, local universities, and community organizations such as

ALAPIO, Smart Village Movement, and LA Knightriders Major League Cricket Team.

As guests departed, they expressed



hosted Sangam, an interfaith and multicultural Diwali celebration that brought together diplomats, interfaith leaders, academics, business executives, and community representatives from across Southern California.

The evening embodied Diwali's universal message - the triumph of light over darkness and unity over division - while strengthening ties between India, the Indian diaspora, and the broader Los Angeles community.

Guests were welcomed with traditional hospitality in the Mandir's Haveli before touring the intricately carved temple and learning about its spiritual and architectural significance. The celebration continued outdoors with a Diwali gala under the Mandir's illuminated backdrop, featuring

from Dr. K. J. Srinivasa, the inaugural Consul General of India in Los Angeles, who highlighted the power of such gatherings to build bridges across communities. A message from California Governor Gavin Newsom was also shared, extending Diwali greetings and recognizing the Mandir's role in promoting unity and service.

The interfaith segment began with a land acknowledgment and prayer by members of the Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, followed by reflections from faith leaders representing the Sikh, Zoroastrian, Jain, Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, and Indigenous communities.

The evening concluded with an inspiring video address from Pujya



admiration for the Mandir's mission to unite communities through faith, culture, and service. Sangam was more than a Diwali celebration - it was a collective commitment to illuminating the path of unity and mutual respect.

Indian Embassy in Germany celebrates 150 years of Vande Mataram

BERLIN: The Indian Embassy in Germany held a celebration on the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram along with the Tagore Centre and saw diaspora members join in and pay tribute to the song.

Sharing the details in a series of posts on X, the Indian Embassy said, "150 years on, Vande Mataram continues to stir hearts across the world. At a special event hosted by @eoiberlin & @TheTagoreCentre, Hon'ble PM @narendramodi's address on Vande Mataram was screened, followed by a moving collective rendition by the Indian diaspora in Berlin -- celebrating the timeless song that continues to inspire India and the world."

In another post on X, the Embassy said, "@eoiberlin & @TheTagoreCentre hosted a special event in Berlin to commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram, composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay -- the anthem that inspired millions during India's freedom struggle. The Indian diaspora in Berlin came together to honor this immortal ode -- a song that awakened a nation and continues to inspire generations. A timeless tribute to the beauty, strength,

and spirit of our motherland."

Vande Mataram is a Sanskrit poem written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee in 1876. It was later included in his novel Anandamath, published in 1882, and became a symbol of Indian nationalism during the country's struggle for independence. The poem is a hymn to the motherland, personifying India as a goddess, and is often translated as "Hail to the Motherland".

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) joined the nation on Friday in commemorating 150 years of India's national song, Vande Mataram, describing the iconic song as a symbol of India's determination, commitment, and hope.

In a post on X, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that the song embodies the resolve, dedication, and aspirations of India as it continues to inspire citizens to pursue a common dream and collective future.

"MEA joins the nation in celebrating 150 years of Vande Mataram. Vande Mataram represents the determination, commitment and hope of a nation. Today, it inspires us to realize a shared dream and collective destiny," the EAM's post read. ANI

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Covered California's open enrollment 2026

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This support will help keep monthly premiums consistent with 2025 levels for those with an annual income of up to \$23,475 for an individual or \$48,225 for a family of four. It will extend partial additional assistance to those earning up to \$25,823 for an individual or \$53,048 for a family of four.

While this funding offers a meaningful lifeline for the lowest-income Covered California enrollees, it cannot replace the nearly \$2.5 billion in enhanced premium tax credits that Californians receive from the federal government annually. However, if Congress takes action to extend the federal enhanced premium tax credits, Covered California will be able to maintain the current state enhanced benefit program, which would allow most Covered California enrollees to purchase health plans with lower out-of-pocket costs.

Nearly 92 percent of Covered California's enrollees receive financial help. Nearly half qualify for health insurance costing \$10 or less per month in 2026, and nearly a quarter could get a Silver plan for that same price. In addition, Covered California research shows that about 17 percent of current consumers will pay \$0 in premiums in 2026 if they keep their current plan.

"We remain hopeful that Congress will act to extend the enhanced premium tax credits," Altman said. "Regardless of the outcome, Covered California is ready to help you explore your options and answer any questions as you shop for plans during open enrollment."

Get Help Signing up for Coverage

With uncertainty around 2026 premium costs, Covered California is here to help Californians get connected to the right plan and quality care, with support throughout every step of the way. Enrollment help is

always free, confidential, and available in multiple languages through thousands of certified insurance agents and community organizations statewide.

Consumers can learn more about their options at CoveredCA.com, where they can easily check if they qualify for financial help and compare health plans in their area. Californians can also:

Get free and confidential assistance by phone, in a variety of languages, from more than 14,000 certified agents and community-based organizations throughout the state that provide free, confidential help in whatever language or dialect consumers prefer.

Request a call from a certified enroller for personalized help, at no cost.

Call Covered California directly at (800) 300 -1506.

To ensure coverage for all of 2026, consumers must select a health plan by Dec. 31.

About Covered California

Covered California is the state's health insurance marketplace, where Californians can find affordable, high-quality insurance from top insurance companies. Covered California is the only place where individuals who qualify can get financial assistance on a sliding scale to reduce premium costs. Consumers can then compare health insurance plans and choose the plan that works best for their health needs and budget. Depending on their income, some consumers may qualify for the low-cost or no-cost Medi-Cal program.

Covered California is an independent part of the state government whose job is to make the health insurance marketplace work for California's consumers. It is overseen by a five-member board appointed by the governor and the Legislature. For more information about Covered California, please visit www.CoveredCA.com.

Grand Chhath Puja observed in Los Angeles

Cont'd from page 10

Hemant a dedicated volunteer adds "This festival is like a divine message for us. There is so much for everyone to connect with".

Pushpa Mishra, another vratee, says this tradition shares a message of universal brotherhood with us. We should always allow ourselves to be of help and hence connect with everyone around us.

The event drew to a final stage on Tuesday 28th Oct, early morning, with offering (arghyas) to Surya Dev & Chhathi Maiya at Sunrise. Devotees reached afresh at the ghaat (venue) at dawn, to prepare arghya for the first rays of the rising sun and participated with excitement in their heart, as they prayed for renewal of blessings for the year to come.

The event was made possible by generous donations from other patrons and prime sponsors as -

Binod Kumar Realty which has massive presence in 5 states in USA

Agni - A Fiery Experience, a refreshing Indian eatery in downtown Covina

India Food & Spices, Duarte

Parul Henna Studio, famous for their magical henna artworks

Pista House chain of restaurants across California and Pooja Goel Realtor

The vratis observed a rigorous schedule as part of and in spiritual cleansing for this Puja. Managing multiple rituals along with a 36-40 hr fast, they unanimously

agree that this is only possible with the blessings of Chhathi Maiya. The vrat was performed by Smt Ashmita Kumari, Amt Madhu Ji, Smt Parul Priya, Smt Pinki Kumari, Smt Pushpa Mishra, Smt Shweta Sharma, Sri Subodh Kumar Singh, Smt Suchita Jha & Smt Swati Ji - with great devotion and faith.

public figures from the Hindu heartland, back in India. Words of motivation also came from Sri Nikhil Kumar, former governor of States of Nagaland and Kerela, for the success of the Mahapurv. Deputy CM of Bihar, Sri Samrat Choudhary conveyed his Best Wishes for the event. Other dignitaries who shared their mes-

Dheeraj, Binod, Sanjay, Rajeev, Rahul, Nikky, Tanya, Swati, Chanchala, Manisha, Vishwajeet, Ajay Jha, Rajesh Singh and many dedicated volunteers who offered to prepare prasad for the arghyas.

The fabulous event ended with distribution of offerings - the Prasad. Patrons were eagerly waiting for the 'thekua' - a special cookie made as an offering this festival. The patrons left the venue with the indelible sweetness of Thekua delicacy and the sweet message of unification to their homes.

The City of Newport Beach has recognized the truly inspiring efforts of Bihar Jharkhand Bandhu Association (BJBA) and honored them as promoters of cultural diversity and community service !

Members of the executive led by BJBA President Shweta Sharma, sincerely thanked Joe Stapleton (Mayor, Newport Beach), Janice Lim, Mayor, Yorba Linda; Albert Lord from the Office of Attorney General; and Dave Min for their support, and pledged to continue the efforts with a renewed vigor in the upcoming events..

It is worth mentioning here, that Indian Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi recently mentioned in his 'Mann ki baat' program that the Government of India is actively working on getting Chhath Puja added to the UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

This write up is prepared by Ashutosh Singh, a member of Bihar Jharkhand Bandhu Association organizing committee.



The divine atmosphere at the ghaat turned mesmerizing as melodious voices of Mohan Ji, Vishal Pandey Ji, Nitin Pandey, and Binod Ji filled the sunset horizon. Such was the musical vibes that most patrons stayed back quite late after the event, to listen to their soothing songs. Kudos to Anchita and Simran for engaging the audience with their inquisitive questionnaire

The gala drew attention of prominent

sages for the wonderful event included Sri Awadhesh Singh, MLA Hajipur, Singer Honey Priya, Host and musician Shri Thakur, Sri Uday Shankar Pd Singh Vice President of Red Cross Bihar Chapter, Folk singer Deepali Sahay, BJP Jharkhand Senior Leader Sri Mrityunjay Sharma and many other dignitaries from Bihar & Jharkhand.

The event was a result of tireless efforts of volunteers, like , Rajnish, Hemant,

Trump's big turnaround on H-1B visas, says US needs foreign talent

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump defended the H-1B visa program, saying the country needs foreign talent for certain industries.

In an interview with Fox News' Laura Ingraham on 11 November, Trump was asked if his administration planned to deprioritize H-1B visas. He replied, "You do have to bring in talent."

When Ingraham countered, "We have plenty of talent," Trump responded, "No, you don't."

"You don't have certain talents.... And people have to learn, you can't take people off an unemployment line and say, I'm going to put you into a factory. We're going to make missiles," he added.

Trump's statement comes even as he launched a crackdown on H-1B visas in September through a proclamation, imposing a hefty application fee of \$100,000.



US President Donald Trump

Last week, the US Department of Labor (DOL) launched at least 175 investi-

gations into potential abuses within the H-1B visa program, as part of a broader ef-

fort by the Trump administration to crack down on the foreign worker visa system.

The initiative, dubbed 'Project Firewall', was launched in September to target companies allegedly exploiting the visa system, which allows US firms to hire foreign workers in specialty occupations such as information technology, engineering, and healthcare.

"The Department of Labor is using every resource at our disposal to put a stop to H-1B abuse and protect American jobs," the DOL Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer said in a post on X.

In October, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced that he was directing the state's Board of Governors to end the use of H-1B visas across state universities, saying that positions currently held by visa holders should be filled by Florida residents.

"Why are we bringing people in to assess our accreditation on an H-1B visa? We can't do that with our own people?" DeSantis said, adding that the practice amounts to "cheap labor" and calling on university leaders to reassess hiring practices.

Days later, the White House reiterated that President Donald Trump's priority in reforming the H-1B visa program is to put "American workers first" and vowed to fight lawsuits filed against the administration's crackdown.

The administration's H-1B visa policy has faced broad opposition from lawmakers and legal challenges with two major lawsuits filed in courts, including the one by the US Chamber of Commerce, the country's biggest business organization.. IANS

Trump says US 'pretty close' to signing trade deal with India

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said he is very close to signing a trade agreement with India.

"We are making a deal with India, much different deal than we had in the past... We're getting a fair deal, just a fair trade deal. We're getting close... I think we're pretty close to doing a deal that's good for everybody," Trump added.

Trump made the remarks during the

swearing-in ceremony of Sergio Gor, the next US ambassador to India.

Trump also said that he has a "fantastic relationship with Prime Minister Modi" and termed India one of America's most "important international relationships."

"I'm trusting Sergio to help strengthen one of our country's most important international relationships, and that's the strategic partnership with the Republic of In-

dia. It's a big deal. India is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations, the largest country in the world... We have a fantastic relationship with Prime Minister Modi, and Sergio has only enhanced that, because he's become already friendly with the Prime Minister," Trump said.

Sergio Gor was sworn in by Vice President JD Vance, and senior members of the Trump administration, such as Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, attended the ceremony in the Oval Office of the White House. IANS

US expresses condolences over Delhi explosion, says 'closely monitoring' situation

WASHINGTON: The US State Department reacted to the explosion near Delhi's Red Fort, saying it is "closely monitoring the situation" and stands "ready to provide consular assistance."

In an exclusive response to IANS, a State Department spokesperson said, "We are aware of the explosion near Red Fort in Delhi. We are closely monitoring the situation and stand ready to provide consular assistance."

In a separate post on X, the State Department Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs said, "Our hearts are with those affected by the terrible explosion in New Delhi. We continue to closely monitor the situation. Our sincere condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured." IANS

"Terror may strike our cities, but it will never shake our souls": Israeli PM over Delhi blast

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed his condolences to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the people of India over the tragic blast near Delhi's iconic Red Fort on Monday evening.

In a strongly worded statement, Netanyahu emphasized the unbreakable spirit of both nations in the face of terrorism, declaring that while terror may target cities, it can never break the spirit of resilient nations.

"To our dear friend Narendra Modi and to the brave people of India: Sara and I, and the people of Israel, send our deepest condolences to the families of the victims. Israel stands strong with you in sorrow and in strength in this time," the statement read. ANI

Historic A4H meet

Cont'd from page 6

Launch of the National Hindu-Jewish Coalition of America (HJCA)

Another milestone during A4H Week was the creation of the

National Hindu-Jewish Coalition of America (HJCA) a united platform for interfaith cooperation and shared democratic values. The coalition is being coordinated by Nissim Reuben, who will serve as the organization's inaugural Executive Director. Leaders from both communities will participate in policy, advocacy, and cultural initiatives promoting pluralism, civil liberties, and mutual support.

About Americans4Hindus (A4H)

Americans4Hindus is an independent, non-partisan, national grassroots organization dedicated to political education, empowerment, and representation of Hindu Americans. A4H is registered as a Super PAC, Hybrid PAC, and Multi-Candidate PAC with the Federal Election Commission. For further information or media inquiries, please contact:

Media Contact, Americans4Hindus (A4H): Email: contact@americans4hindus.org Website: www.americans4hindus.org

"We are not just participating - we are shaping the future. From school boards to the U.S. Congress, American Hindus are ready to lead." - Americans4Hindus.

Thousands join Bhutan King in praying for Delhi blast victims

THIMPHU: Bhutanese King Druk Gyalpo led a prayer for the victims of the Delhi blast, during a ceremony at Changlimethang Stadium in Thimphu.

He was joined by thousands of Bhutanese people who expressed solidarity with India.

The Bhutanese leadership conveyed their heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of lives in the car blast near Delhi's Red Fort Metro Station.

The blast occurred in New Delhi on 10 November when a Haryana-registered car parked near Gate No. 1 of the Red Fort Metro Station exploded, killing at least eight people and injuring dozens.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is currently on a two-day Bhutan visit, assured action against the conspirators behind the deadly car blast in Delhi.

In his address at the Changlimethang Ground in Thimphu, PM Modi said, "Today is a very important day for Bhutan, for the Bhutanese royal family, and for all who believe in world peace. India and Bhutan have shared a deep spiritual and cultural bond for centuries. And therefore, it was India's and my commitment to participate in this important occasion."

He stated that Indian agencies will get to the bottom of the conspiracy and vowed that those behind the Delhi blast "will not be spared".

"Today, I come here with a very heavy heart. The horrific incident that took place in Delhi yesterday evening has

ing this incident throughout last night...Our agencies will get to the bottom of this conspiracy. The conspirators



In his address at the Changlimethang Ground in Thimphu, PM Modi said, "Today is a very important day for Bhutan, for the Bhutanese royal family, and for all who believe in world peace. India and Bhutan have shared a deep spiritual and cultural bond for centuries

deeply saddened everyone. I understand the grief of the affected families. Today, the entire nation stands with them. I was in touch with all the agencies investigat-

behind this will not be spared. All those responsible will be brought to justice," he added.

The Delhi Police have intensified

their investigation into the car blast that occurred near the Red Fort, revealing crucial details from CCTV footage that tracked the suspect vehicle's movements hours before the explosion.

According to Delhi Police sources, CCTV footage shows that the white i20 car was parked near the Red Fort parking area at around 3:19 p.m., remaining there for nearly three hours before it exited the parking at approximately 6:48 p.m.

The car was seen leaving the parking area at a time when there was heavy crowd movement in the vicinity, police officials said.

Investigators are also tracing the vehicle's full route, from where it originated, how it reached the Red Fort parking, and how it later proceeded toward the traffic signal located directly in front of the monument.

Police officials confirmed that over 100 CCTV clips are being analyzed, including footage from nearby roads and parking toll plazas, to map the vehicle's journey and identify the suspect.

A case has been registered under UAPA Sections 16 and 18, along with provisions of the Explosives Act and several sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). IANS

PM Modi inaugurates Kalachakra 'Wheel of Time' in presence of Bhutan King

THIMPU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the second day of his Bhutan visit, inaugurated the sacred Kalachakra 'wheel of time', kickstarting the Kalachakra Empowerment which began on Wednesday (12 Nov.), as part of the ongoing Global Peace Prayer Festival.

The event was attended by Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan and was presided over by Je Khenpo, the Chief Abbot of Bhutan, thus making the moment even more special.

The Prime Minister also took to X to share pictures of the event and said that this will bring together devotees and scholars of Buddhism in Bhutan.

"Had the honor of inaugurating K?alachakra 'Wheel of Time' Empowerment with His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan and His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo. It was presided over by His Holiness the Je Khenpo which made it even more special," PM Modi said in his post on X. IANS

Slammed for 'irresponsible' behavior', Pak PM says regional peace depends on Taliban's actions

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that regional peace and stability relies on Taliban taking concrete action against "terrorist groups operating from Afghanistan", including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), the Afghan media reported.

In his remarks at the International Conference of Speakers in Islamabad, Sharif expressed Pakistan's willingness to cooperate with the Taliban if they take "decisive and verifiable steps" against groups threatening cross-border security, Afghanistan's leading news agency Khaama Press reported. "Our doors for dialogue and cooperation remain open," he said.

Sharif stated that repeated militant attacks have stalled economic growth of Pakistan and stopped investment, particularly in border regions where violence continues to impact development. He stated that diplomatic efforts for peace and stability would continue "through every possible channel."

His remarks came after failure of

three rounds of negotiations between Pakistan and Taliban, with both sides accusing each other of not agreeing on a mechanism to monitor and combat cross-border terrorism. Tensions between two nations have escalated in recent months with major clashes erupting between forces of Afghanistan and Pakistan in October.

A ceasefire was agreed between the two sides on October 15, which had been extended during the two rounds of talks held on October 19 in Doha and October 25 in Istanbul.

Meanwhile, the Taliban Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Naeem blamed Pakistan's "unrealistic demands" and lack of coordination for the failure of talks between the two nations, local media reported.

Naeem stated that there was no outcome from the negotiations due to Pakistani side's "irresponsible and uncooperative behavior" despite what he termed Taliban's goodwill and the efforts of mediators, Khaama Press reported. IANS

Nepal border under tight watch as Delhi blast accused plan escape route

NEW DELHI: The security agencies that have launched a nationwide hunt to track down those involved in the Delhi blasts are keeping a close watch on the Nepal border. The Intelligence agencies have stated that the accused persons may attempt to flee India through this porous border.

The agencies say that the accused could be planning on exiting India through the Nepal border and then entering Pakistan. This was the route that was frequently used by the Indian Mujahideen operatives when the terror group was active.

Officials say that it is unclear at this time how many persons were involved in the blasts. The persons arrested during the Faridabad module bust are being questioned for more information. So far, they have not revealed anything major, but the agencies are confident that eventually they will.

Those living along the Nepal border have been told to immediately report any suspicious activity. IANS

India won't sign any trade deal at cost of farmers: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that India would not compromise on the interests of farmers, the dairy sector, and workers, in trade deals that it signs with other countries.

He also said India is looking for new markets like Russia for the country's fisheries sector as an alternative to the US market following the sharp hike in tariffs by the Trump administration.



Piyush Goyal

"We are working for a good trade deal. India is not going to compromise with the interests of farmers, dairy and workers... We are working on a fair, equitable and balanced trade deal," he said at Udyog Samagam 2025, a conference of Industries and Commerce Ministers of states.

The minister further stated that the timing of such deals would depend on mutual readiness. "The trade deal can happen tomorrow, it can happen next month, it can happen next year... but as a government, we are preparing for any contingency," he added.

Last week, Goyal said that discussions between India and the US are progressing steadily, though several sensitive and complex issues remain unresolved. *IANS*

TechBiz POST

18 India Post www.indiapost.com November 14, 2025

Canadian minister visits Delhi to advance trade links with India

NEW DELHI: Canadian Minister of International Trade Maninder Sidhu travels to New Delhi to find opportunities to advance trade and investment linkages between Canada and India.

He will visit Visakhapatnam on November 14 to attend the Confederation of Indian Industry Partnership Summit, said the Office of the Minister of International Trade. *IANS*



Maninder Sidhu

Tata Motors' demerger marks new era of independence for CV, PV arms: N Chandrasekaran



NEW DELHI: Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran has said the demerger of Tata Motors' commercial and passenger vehicle businesses marks a major milestone, allowing both entities to pursue independent growth strategies after years of shared financial interdependence.

Speaking at the listing ceremony of the commercial vehicle division, Chandrasekaran said that there was always support for Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) from the performance of Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles (TMCV).

He added that cash flows were coming from commercial vehicles and were subsumed in the capital expenditure of the passenger vehicle segment.

The separation was essential to ensure both businesses were

"fit" and "directionally strong", he further added.

The idea of demerging the two divisions was first conceived in 2017-18, but the Covid-19 pandemic delayed the plan. It was later revived and gained momentum over the last couple of years, culminating in the official demerger earlier this year.

Chandrasekaran noted that



Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran

TMCV had consistently remained profitable, while TMPV had faced financial challenges in the past. "It was clear to me 8-9 years ago that this company had to have a different path. Before splitting the company, it had to be made ready," he said.

The shares of Tata Motors' commercial vehicle business made a strong debut on the stock

exchanges on Wednesday (12 Nov.), listing at Rs 335 per share on NSE, up 28 percent over the discovered price of Rs 260.75.

The commercial vehicle company kept the Tata Motors name (TML) after the split, but the passenger vehicle division was renamed Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd (TMPVL).

TMPV, which is already listed, owns a portion of Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and includes Tata Motors' electric and passenger vehicle businesses.

In July 2025, Tata Motors revealed its intention to pay 3.8 billion euros to acquire the Italian commercial vehicle giant Iveco Group. This would be the company's largest acquisition to date and the second-largest in the history of the Tata Group. In the upcoming months, the deal is anticipated to close. *IANS*

Speaking at the listing ceremony of the commercial vehicle division, Chandrasekaran said that there was always support for Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) from the performance of Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles (TMCV)

Adani Ports joins global TNFD network, pledges nature-related reporting from FY26

NEW DELHI: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ), India's largest integrated transport utility, has joined the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) as an Adopter, pledging to begin nature-related reporting from the financial year 2026.

According to a press release issued by Adani Ports and Logistics, the company's move marks a step in aligning business practices with global sustainability standards. By becoming India's first integrated transport utility to adopt the TNFD framework, APSEZ aims to identify and dis-

close how its operations depend on and impact nature, while managing related risks and opportunities.

The TNFD, a science-based global initiative, was founded by organizations including the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Global Canopy. It guides companies to integrate nature-related considerations into financial and business decision-making.

Through this initiative, APSEZ joins a select group of global port

operators working to promote biodiversity and protect marine ecosystems. The company said the step strengthens its commitment to transparent and science-based environmental disclosures and builds on its ongoing environmental, social and gov-

ernance (ESG) strategy.

As part of its pledge, APSEZ plans to enhance its corporate reporting to align with TNFD recommendations from FY26. The company stated that this approach reflects its long-term focus on responsible growth

and environmental stewardship.

"We firmly believe responsible business practices drive long-term success. Our adoption of the TNFD framework demonstrates support for nature-related corporate reporting at COP30. We see nature-related issues as a strategic risk management priority. The TNFD framework provides robust support for integrating nature into our decision-making processes and enhancing our contribution to biodiversity conservation," said Ashwani Gupta, Whole-Time Director & CEO of APSEZ. *ANI*



Cryptocurrency playing key role in drawing Trump closer to Pakistan: Report

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump's foreign policy is increasingly shaped by his personal interest in cryptocurrency which has led to "the recalibration of Washington's approach toward Pakistan, a country once viewed predominantly through the lens of security and counterterrorism, but now front and center in Trump's vision for World Liberty Financial, a global economic ecosystem pivoting on digital assets and alternative finance mechanisms," according to an article in the Pakistan Observer newspaper.

Trump's real estate empire and network of financial interests have never been completely divorced from his governing style; his willingness to openly champion policies that blend personal branding with national strategy is well documented. This admixture became more pronounced during his re-election campaign and subsequent policy directions, especially regarding the international expansion of American financial influence through novel tools like cryptocurrency, the article states.

Under Trump, the embrace of digital currencies, most notably, the drive to establish the World Liberty Financial platform, has taken on strategic importance. The platform aims to empower American entrepreneurs, facilitate international investment and bypass traditional banking

Under Trump, the embrace of digital currencies, most notably, the drive to establish the World Liberty Financial platform, has taken on strategic importance. The platform aims to empower American entrepreneurs, facilitate international investment and bypass traditional banking chokepoints

chokepoints. In this context, Pakistan emerges as an unexpected but crucial partner, the article further states.

Data from the Pakistan Software Export Board and in-

India reaffirms unwavering support to Bhutan's overall economic development

NEW DELHI: India has reaffirmed unwavering support to Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan, including the Economic Stimulus Program, along with actively assisting the Himalayan Kingdom in achieving its key development priorities and advancing sustainable growth across sectors, an official statement said.

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his two-day state visit to Bhutan, the Bhutanese side appreciated India's assistance for its 13th Five-Year Plan period for various projects under implementation across Bhutan and their contribution to the country's development.

PM Modi also conveyed the full support of the Government of India for the realization of "His Majesty's vision for the Gelephu Mindfulness City".

"PM Modi announced the decision to establish an Immigration Check Post at Hatisar, Assam, to facilitate easy movement of investors and visitors to Gelephu. His Majesty appreciated the Government of India's support for the construction of Gyalsung academies," according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). IANS



ternational blockchain indices indicates that Pakistan is among the world's top five markets for cryptocurrency adoption, a phenomenon accelerated by government support for fintech, large-scale diaspora remittances and a burgeoning youth demographic eager for financial innovation.

According to Chainalysis, Pakistan's crypto adoption rate was 711 percent between 2021 and 2023, with more than \$25 billion in transactions annually. The Trump Administration's pivot towards Pakistan is thus far more than a matter of diplomatic expediency or regional power balance, the article points out.

The highlights that even European Union policymakers and other strategists have voiced concerns that Trump's approach to relying on cryptocurrencies as tools of statecraft poses governance and security risks. The capacity for rapid, anonymous transfers heightens fears about illicit finance, state-sanctioned sanctions evasion and the undermining of AML frameworks.

Reports from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) rate Pakistan as a "jurisdiction under increased monitoring," with crypto flows complicating oversight and enforcement mechanisms. Nonetheless, the Trump Administration remains steadfast. By embracing digital assets and alternative payment systems, particularly through platforms like World Liberty Financial, the US can restore economic primacy without resorting to military interventions or deep treaty entanglements. In a 2025 White House briefing, President Trump described Pakistan as a "key partnership incubator for new digital freedoms."

The economic results of this policy pivot are already discernible. Bilateral trade between the United States and Pakistan has increased by 11 percent in the first half of 2025, with mobile payments and crypto-linked remittances accounting for over \$1.2 billion in value transfer, three times higher than in 2023, according to internal Commerce Department estimates. Pakistani fintech firms, several backed by American venture capital, have expanded operations into the Gulf and Southeast Asia, benefiting from reduced transaction costs and expanded interoperability, the article points out. IANS

Green Hydrogen a vital part of India's future roadmap, says Union Minister Jitender Singh

NEW DELHI: Hydrogen has taken center stage in India's clean energy roadmap, with the government calling it a vital part of the country's journey towards energy independence and sustainability. Speaking at the International Conference on Green Hydrogen 2025, Union Minister Jitender Singh said the National Hydrogen Mission is a key step in building a "whole-of-government plus whole-of-nation" approach to clean energy.

Singh stated that while the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy serves as the nodal body for the mission, its success depends on joint efforts across various ministries and industries. "This is one of the beautiful examples of what Prime Minister Modi often



Union Minister Jitender Singh

calls the whole-of-government concept," he said. "When we also have stakeholders from industry, it becomes an even better model of collective national effort."

The minister added that the mission's broader aim is not only to push clean energy adoption but also to strengthen India's scientific and industrial base. He highlighted how the Department of Science and Technology played a central role in the birth of the National Hydrogen Mission, which later merged with other renewable initiatives in a bid to work "out of silos in a more integrated fashion."

Singh explained that the focus now is on reducing oil dependence and addressing pollution through scientific innovation. "In terms of hydrogen, addressing pollution remains a critical part of our roadmap. While the concept of clean energy sounds idealistic, we must approach it scientifically and strategically," he said. He pointed out that oil-exporting nations themselves are now shifting their economies away from petroleum, reflecting a major shift in global energy dynamics.

The minister further said that India's progress in renewable and emerging technologies, such as electric vehicles, biotechnology, and nuclear energy, has set the stage for what he described as the country's "next industrial revolution." He noted that the government's decision to open the nuclear sector to private players was a bold move, reflecting a willingness to encourage innovation and investment.

Referring to the financial structure of the National Hydrogen Mission, Singh shared that the project has drawn strong support from non-government entities. "Of the total Rs 485.32 crore, Rs 315.43 crore will come from non-government sources, while the government's contribution will be around Rs 170 crore," he said. He added that this model mirrors other research-led initiatives such as the National Research Foundation, where a large share of funding also comes from private and institutional partners. ANI

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A.J. DUDHEKER

Professional Bio

AJ Dudheker is a seasoned mortgage professional with over **30 years** of experience and an MBA in Finance and Accounting. As the founder of **PLATINUM WEST FUNDING**, a trusted direct lender, AJ has helped more than 9,000 clients achieve their homeownership and financial goals.

Platinum West Funding offers a wide range of loan programs—including full documentation, stated income, bank statement, and profit-and-loss-only options—along with low down payment and flexible credit solutions. With interest rates declining, AJ and his team provide no-cost refinancing for 30-, 25-, 20-, and 15-year loans, as well as competitive ARM programs for clients planning to refinance in the near future. New buyers can also receive free pre-approvals before beginning their home search.

Please contact AJ Dudheker for current interest rates and expert guidance on refinancing or purchasing your next home.

Celebrating a Milestone

AJ's 75th Birthday

This past week, AJ celebrated his 75th birthday — a remarkable milestone in a life defined by generosity, compassion, and community spirit.

For many years, AJ has been a steadfast supporter of charitable causes that uplift and empower others. His contributions have touched countless lives and strengthened the very fabric of our community.

Family and friends gathered to honor not only his birthday but also the legacy of kindness and leadership he continues to build. It was an evening filled with warmth, laughter, and heartfelt gratitude for all that AJ has done — and continues to do — for those around him.

Here's to AJ — for his enduring generosity, wisdom, and the positive impact he continues to make every day.



Court order on Annual Asylum Fee notices

On Oct. 30, 2025, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland issued an order in Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project v. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, et al., SAG-25-03299 (D. Md.), temporarily staying the Annual Asylum Fee (AAF) implementation provisions by USCIS as provided in the notice titled "USCIS Immigration Fees Required by HR-1 Reconciliation Bill" and published in the Federal Register (90 FR 34511 (FRN)) on July 22, 2025. USCIS strongly disagrees with the Court's order but will follow its terms pending possible further judicial review.

The FRN provided information about how DHS would effectuate the mandatory AAF for fiscal year 2025 and subsequent years. It specified that any alien who had a Form I-589, Application for Asy-



lum and for Withholding of Removal, pending during the entire fiscal year 2025 would be subject to the fiscal year 2025 fee.

Additionally, aliens with asylum applications filed after Oct. 1, 2024 that remain pending with USCIS for 365 days must pay the AAF as of the one-year anniversary of his or her filing date and each calendar year thereafter that the application remains pending.

The FRN also provided that USCIS will directly notify aliens that an AAF is due, when it is due, and how it is paid. The fiscal year 2025 fee is not due until a notice has been sent.

It further stated that USCIS will provide guidance for future years' AAF payments in subsequent issuances. As provided in the FRN, on or around Oct. 1, 2025, USCIS began issuing personal notices to aliens that their AAF was due. **USCIS**

Immigration

POST

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www.indiapost.com

November 14, 2025

The Indian nationals deported November 10, were detained in Mae Sot after they had entered Thailand from Myanmar's Myawaddy

197 Indian nationals repatriated to India from Thailand via IAF flights



BANGKOK: The Indian Embassy in Thailand said 197 Indian nationals have been repatriated to India from Mae Sot by two special flights operated by the Indian Air Force (IAF). The Indian nationals deported November 10, were detained in Mae Sot after they had entered Thailand from Myanmar's Myawaddy, where they were allegedly working in the cyber scam-centers.

The Embassy stated that Thailand Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul visited Mae Sot to oversee the operation. During his meeting with India's Ambassador to Thailand Nagesh Singh, Charnvirakul conveyed Thailand's appreciation for Indian Government's efforts in prompt repatriation of detainees from Mae Sot and assured of continued cooperation from Thai authorities in facilitating repatriation of Indian nationals released from scam-centers in Myanmar.

"Today 197 Indian nationals have been repatriated to India from Mae Sot, Thailand by two special flights operated by the Indian Air Force (IAF). HE Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Prime Minister of Thailand, visited Mae Sot

this afternoon to oversee this operation. Mr. Nagesh Singh, Ambassador of India to Thailand, met him at the airport. The Prime Minister conveyed Thailand's deep appreciation for the Government of India's efforts in prompt repatriation of the detainees from Mae Sot, and assured of continued cooperation from Thai authorities in facilitating repatriation of Indian nationals re-

cently crossed into Thailand from Myawaddy, Myanmar, where they were allegedly working in the cyber scam-centers. They were detained by Thai authorities for violation of Thai immigration laws when they had entered the country illegally," it added.

The Embassy advised Indian nationals to verify the credentials of foreign employers and check the antecedents of recruiting

distress overseas."

"Indian nationals are strongly advised to verify the credentials of foreign employers, and check the antecedents of recruiting agents and companies before taking up job offers overseas. Further, visa-free entry into Thailand for Indian passport holders is meant for tourism and short business purposes only, and should not be misused for taking up employment in Thailand," it added.

On November 7, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated that 270 Indians were repatriated from Thailand's Mae Sot city to India by two special IAF flights and urged Indian nationals to stay away from job scam centers in Myanmar.

Addressing a weekly media briefing in New Delhi on November 7, Jaiswal said that the individuals had entered Thailand illegally after a crackdown on the centers in Myanmar. He added that, once the necessary procedures in Thailand were completed and their documents verified by the Indian authorities, they were flown back to India. **IANS**

"Today 197 Indian nationals have been repatriated to India from Mae Sot, Thailand by two special flights operated by the Indian Air Force (IAF). HE Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Prime Minister of Thailand, visited Mae Sot this afternoon to oversee this operation"

leased from scam-centers in Myanmar," the Embassy of India in Thailand shared on X.

"Both sides reaffirmed their steadfast commitment to combating transnational crimes including cyber scams and human trafficking in the region, and to enhance cooperation among the relevant agencies in both countries for this purpose. The Indian nationals deported today were detained in Mae Sot after they had

agents and firms before taking up job offers abroad.

In the statement, the Indian Embassy in Thailand stated, "Embassy of India, Bangkok and Consulate of India in Chiang Mai, in close coordination with various agencies of the Royal Thai Government, facilitated this repatriation. This is part of Government of India's sustained efforts to ensure safety and security of Indian nationals while in

India to build immigration checkpoint near Gelephu to facilitate visitors, investors: PM Modi in Bhutan

THIMPHU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced, India will soon construct an integrated immigration checkpoint near the border town of Gelephu, Bhutan, to further ease the movement of visitors and investors between the two countries.

Addressing a gathering at the Changlimithang Celebration Ground in Thimphu as part of his two-day state visit



Prime Minister Narendra Modi participates in the program to celebrate the 70th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo at Changlimithang Celebration Ground in Thimphu, Bhutan on November 11

to the Himalayan nation, PM Modi said the move will strengthen connectivity and ease of movement between the two neighboring nations.

"I'm making another important announcement from this platform today. In the near future, India will also be build-

ing an immigration checkpoint near Gelephu to further facilitate visitors and investors," the Prime Minister said.

PM Modi also announced the connection of Gelephu and Samtse to India's vast railway network, noting that upon completion, this project will significantly improve access for Bhutanese industries and farmers to India's large market.

He added that in addition to rail and road connectivity, both countries are rapidly advancing border infrastructure.

Emphasizing the deep-rooted partnership between India and Bhutan, PM Modi highlighted that the progress and prosperity of both countries are closely linked, noting India's previous commitment to providing Rs 10,000 crore for Bhutan's Five-Year Plan.

According to the Indian Embassy in Thimphu, Rs 7,000 crores of the announced Rs 10,000 crores has been earmarked for Project Tied Assistance (PTA) projects, Rs 1,000 crores for High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP), Rs 1,500 crores for RGoB's Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) and Rs 500 crores for Programme Grant.

"The progress and prosperity of India and Bhutan are intertwined, and with this sentiment, last year the Indian government announced a contribution of Rs 10,000 crore for Bhutan's Five-Year Plan. This fund is being used in every sector, from roads to agriculture, from finance to

healthcare, thereby improving the ease of living for Bhutanese citizens," the Prime Minister said.

PM Modi also spoke about India's efforts to ensure the steady supply of essential goods to Bhutan and the expansion of digital payment facilities. ANI

USCIS received 35,000 applications for Homeland Defenders, most for any job in agency history

WASHINGTON: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services today announced that since starting its hiring campaign for Homeland Defenders on Sept. 30, the agency has received an overwhelming 35,000-plus applications-the most for any position in agency history. The agency says its aggressive social media campaign is attracting Americans to join USCIS and restore integrity to the nation's immigration system after four years of Biden's border chaos.

USCIS is cutting bureaucratic red tape to hire fiercely dedicated, America-first patriots to serve on the frontlines and hold the line against terrorists, criminal aliens, and bad actors intent on infiltrating our nation. This includes interviewing aliens, reviewing applications, and identifying criminal or ineligible aliens.

"The Homeland Defender Campaign has already been a tremendous success and has resonated with the American people. I'm pleased to announce that in addition to seeing a historic number of applications, we are starting to bring on applicants at a rapid pace," said USCIS Director Joseph Edlow. "USCIS is not wasting time, we are committed to implementing President Trump's priorities. These candidates are not just applying for a job-they are applying to guard our values and defend our homeland. I look forward to onboarding many more Homeland Defenders in the coming weeks."

USCIS has made hundreds of job offers and looks forward to onboarding the first Homeland Defenders soon. Among those receiving offers are former law enforcement personnel and veterans who have experience serving and protecting their communities and our homeland.

USCIS Homeland Defenders may be eligible for signing bonuses up to \$50,000, student loan repayment, flexible duty locations, and remote work options for select openings, with expedited hiring for entry-level positions that do not require a college degree. These opportunities aim to attract talented individuals quickly while providing competitive benefits.

USCIS has cut red tape and can make on-the-spot job offers at upcoming job fairs. Go to uscis.gov/join for information on positions and upcoming job fairs. Find USCIS job openings at uscis.usajobs.gov. USCIS

Germany deports Uyghur woman to China's brutal regime sparks global outcry from World Uyghur Congress

WASHINGTON, DC: The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) has sharply criticized the deportation of Rizwangul Bekri, a Uyghur woman, from Germany to China, despite the widely acknowledged risk of persecution faced by Uyghurs under China's rule. The organization described the deportation as a serious violation of international law and a betrayal of Germany's human rights obligations.

According to Bekri's daughter, Muyesser, local officials from Selsingen's Rathaus informed her that her mother had been sent to China by German immigration authorities after her asylum request was denied. In a video statement shared with the World Uyghur Congress, Muyesser expressed deep distress, noting that her mother suffers from chronic hypertension and requires regular medication.

Fortunately, Bekri was diverted to Turkiye after passing through Beijing airport, avoiding what could have been a life-threatening situation.

WUC President Turgunjan Alawdun denounced the deportation, stating it violates the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits returning individuals to countries where they face persecution. "Sending a Uyghur back to China, where an ongoing genocide targets their

community, is indefensible," Alawdun said. "Germany must explain how this occurred and ensure it never happens again."

The World Uyghur Congress highlighted that this is not the first such incident. In 2018, a 22-year-old Uyghur man deported from Germany due to an administrative oversight disappeared after arrival in China, prompting a temporary moratorium on deportations of Uyghur asylum seekers. The WUC warned that Bekri's case represents a troubling reversal of that policy and raises questions about Germany's continued commitment to protecting vulnerable minorities.

Calling for urgent action, the WUC urged the German government to investigate the deportation, secure Bekri's safety, and reinstate the moratorium on Uyghur deportations. The group also appealed to the European Union and other democratic nations to strengthen legal safeguards preventing similar cases.

The World Uyghur Congress concluded that deporting a Uyghur to China, a regime accused of genocide and mass internment, is a threat to their tranquility and lives. ANI

Fortunately, Bekri was diverted to Turkiye after passing through Beijing airport, avoiding what could have been a life-threatening situation

India's real estate sector likely to soar to \$10 trillion by 2047: Report

GURUGRAM: India's real estate sector is at the cusp of a monumental and transformative journey and is projected to grow multifold levels-from nearly 0.3 trillion Dollars today to a staggering 5-10 trillion Dollars market by 2047, according to a Colliers-CII report released on Thursday.

This ongoing surge positions real estate as a cornerstone of India's economic ascent, potentially contributing 14-20 percent of the GDP by 2047, it added.

The report, titled "Real Estate @2047: Building India's Future Growth Corridors", highlights near-term trends and the overarching growth theme across core segments-residential, office, retail, industrial & warehousing, as well as emerging alternative asset classes like senior living, co-living, and data centers.

Most of these trends are being powered by a strong tailwind in the form of government-led reforms & policy initiatives, and structural demand drivers such as rapid urbanization, demographic shifts, infrastructure augmentation, technology-driven innovation, and sustainability priorities. Together, these growth engines are creating a multiplier effect, fueling employment and demand across real estate asset classes, attracting institutional capital and unlocking new growth corridors across the country, the report stated.

Within real estate, the residential segment is expected to see the most pronounced impact from rapid urbanization and evolving demographics, particularly in affordable, senior and co-living spaces. *IANS*

Real Estate POST

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November 14, 2025

Is it better to buy or rent luxury housing?

SAGAR SHARMA

Luxury housing in India occupies a rare space where lifestyle aspirations meet complex financial realities. For affluent professionals, business owners, and non-resident Indians, the question of whether to buy or rent a luxury property is more than motional - it's strategic. Owning a Rs 5-10 crore apartment in Mumbai or Gurugram signals stability and prestige. www.housing.com

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



Axis Bank to build 57 weather-resistant shelters in Mandi to support disaster-hit families



SHIMLA: In a significant corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative, Axis Bank has extended its support to the disaster-affected Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh by committing to construct 57 weather-resistant shelters for displaced families.

The announcement was made during a meeting between Axis Bank North Zone Head Abhishek Parashar, State Head Varun Sharma, and Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at his official residence, Oak Over recently.

The initiative focuses primarily on the Seraj Assembly segment, one of the worst-affected regions during the recent natural calamities. Each shelter will be equipped with heat insulation, PCC flooring,

kitchen slabs, and basic electrical fittings, ensuring safe and dignified living conditions for those who lost their homes.

In addition to housing support, Axis Bank will also install 15 community toilet units, each serving

assistance in logistics and administrative coordination, including beneficiary identification, vendor onboarding, supervision, and impact assessment, to ensure smooth and transparent implementation of the project.

The announcement was made during a meeting between Axis Bank North Zone Head Abhishek Parashar, State Head Varun Sharma, and Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu at his official residence, Oak Over recently

three to six families. These units will include water tanks, stainless steel sinks, and CPVC pipe fittings to maintain hygiene and sanitation in the affected areas.

The bank has also pledged

Special focus will be given to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and persons with disabilities. The shelters are designed not only for immediate rehabilitation but also for long-

term resilience, being reusable in future emergencies.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu expressed his gratitude to Axis Bank for its humanitarian contribution, emphasizing that such initiatives play a crucial role in helping disaster-hit families rebuild their lives. "This noble effort will go a long way in providing relief and comfort to those affected, while also strengthening the state's disaster preparedness," the Chief Minister said.

Earlier, the Chief Minister distributed Rs. 81.28 crore to 4,914 beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) during a function held at Paddal Ground, Mandi.

During the event, a total of 1,513 beneficiaries whose houses were completely damaged received the first installment of Rs. 4 lakh each out of Rs. 7 lakh. Among them, 781 beneficiaries are from Mandi district, 631 from Kullu and 101 from Bilaspur. Additionally, 3,401 beneficiaries whose houses were partially damaged received Rs. 1 lakh each, including 1,547 from Mandi, 1,541 from Kullu and 313 from Bilaspur District. *ANI*

Gujarat leads in India for implementation of PM-JANMAN

GANDHINAGAR: To address the critical needs of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and ensure their holistic development, the Central Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, launched Pradhan Mantri

Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

Under the guidance of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Gujarat has emerged as the top-performing state in the country in implementing this initiative. As per the Government of India's

state performance ranking, Gujarat secured the top position nationwide.

On October 17, at the National Conclave held in New Delhi, President Droupadi Murmu presented Gujarat with the "Best Performing State"

award for its outstanding implementation of the PM-JANMAN scheme. This recognition reflects Gujarat's consistent commitment to ensuring development, welfare, and an improved quality of life for tribal communities. *ANI*

Housing prices rise 7-19% across Indian metros in July-September 2025: Report

NEW DELHI: Property prices across metros in India continued their unabated upward march in the July-September quarter of 2025, supported by strong end-user demand in the premium segment, elevated input costs, and a limited supply of quality, ready-to-move-in inventory, according to digital real estate transaction and advisory platform PropTiger.com by Aurum Proptech.

The weighted average property price across the top Indian cities registered healthy year-on-year growth.

Delhi NCR led the pack with a 19 percent year-on-year and 9.8 percent quarter-on-quarter appreciation, driven by strong demand for luxury properties and infrastructure upgrades, PropTiger's latest report has asserted.

The weighted average price of homes in Delhi-NCR rose from Rs 7479 per sq. ft. in Q3 2024 to Rs 8900 per sq. ft. in Q3 2025.

Bengaluru recorded strong double-digit price growth of 15 percent year-on-year and 12.6 percent quarter-on-quarter, while Hyderabad recorded 13 percent year-on-year and 4.6 percent quarter-on-quarter growth.

The price in Bengaluru rose to Rs 8870 per sq. ft in Q3 2025 from Rs 7713 per sq. ft in the same period last year, while prices in Hyderabad rose to Rs 7750 per sq. ft in Q3 2025 from Rs 6858 per sq. ft in Q3 2024.

Karishmah Singh, President of Sales, Marketing and CRM, Sattva Group, said the growth they were seeing in Bengaluru and Hyderabad reflects a larger transformation in India's urban economy, driven by technology, talent, and aspiration.

"As the IT and GCC sectors expand, they are shaping

sign, strong infrastructure, and community living--in step with India's evolving urban growth story."

According to the report, other major markets, including Greater Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, and Kolkata, saw robust single-digit price growth, reflecting broad-based developer confidence and buyers' willingness to invest in appreciating assets.

The PropTiger report also highlighted that home sales across India's 8 prime residential markets stabilized in the July-September quarter, with a marginal 1 percent year-on-year dip in volume to 95,547 units sold.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, it registered a 2.2 percent decline. In sharp contrast, the total value of properties sold during the quarter surged by 14 percent annually to reach Rs 1.52 lakh crore, which the report asserted is a "clear indication of a market shift towards premiumisation."

The report also highlighted that new supply across the top eight cities saw a marginal annual decline, with 91,807 units launched.

However, new launches registered a 9.1 percent growth over the previous

quarter, signaling cautious optimism among developers.

"This trend suggests that developers are strategically launching higher-value projects to align with the current buyer demand, which is heavily skewed towards the premium and luxury segments," it said.

"Geographically, new supply was concentrated in the western and southern markets. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) was the largest contributor, accounting for 26.9 percent of all new launches, followed by Pune with 18.7 percent and Hyderabad with 13.6 percent. These

The weighted average price of homes in Delhi-NCR rose from Rs 7479 per sq. ft. in Q3 2024 to Rs 8900 per sq. ft. in Q3 2025



new patterns of homeownership built around proximity, lifestyle, and long-term security. Families are seeking integrated communities that support both professional and personal well-being, signaling a more mature and resilient housing market. At Sattva, we are focused on creating future-ready neighborhoods that blend thoughtful de-

three cities collectively represented 59.2 percent of the new inventory introduced during the quarter."

The top 8 cities are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, NCR (Gurugram, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, and Faridabad), MMR (Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, and Thane), and Pune. ANI

Indian Cement Review Leads Decarbonization Dialogue at Cement Expo 2025 in Delhi

NEW DELHI: As World Leaders converge for COP 30 in Brazil, India's cement sector, responsible for nearly 8 per cent of national CO₂ emissions, faces a critical challenge--ramping up production from 445 million tons in 2024 to 670 million tons by 2030 while sharply reducing environmental impact. To catalyze this transition, the 15th Cement Expo will be held on November 12-13, 2025 at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka (Delhi), convening industry leaders to foster innovation, collaboration, and actionable strategies for low-carbon growth.

The Expo will be co-located with the 11th Indian Cement Review (ICR) Conference and the 9th Indian Cement Review Awards. The event is organized by the FIRST Construction Council and; Indian Cement Review, India's oldest and most widely respected cement magazine, now in its 40th year.

MultiLogistix Conference & Awards 2025 - the premier event dedicated to India's logistics and supply chain industry that will be co-located along with Cement Expo at Yashobhoomi - will bring together who's who of India's logistics and supply chain sector, which is undergoing a significant transformation, fuelled by large-scale infrastructure investments, policy reforms, and increasing formalization.

The Cement Expo 2025 edition is supported by, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Heavy Industries, Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA), Cement Manufacturers Association (CMA), Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Telangana Chambers of Commerce & Industry (TCCI), and Indian Institute of Materials Management (IIMM).

The government's 2025-26 Budget has allocated ₹11.21 trillion in capital expenditure -- a 10 per cent increase over the previous year -- signaling strong infrastructure and housing demand. While this expansion will boost cement consumption, rising sustainability requirements across user industries will intensify pressure on the cement ecosystem to decarbonize rapidly. With the theme "Collaborating for Decarbonizing the Cement Industry", the Expo and Conference will convene cement manufacturers, policymakers, technology providers, logistics partners, and end-users to chart India's path to low-carbon cement production.

"As the world's second-largest cement producer, India generates roughly 0.6-0.9 tons of CO₂ per ton of cement. The industry stands at a defining moment where decarbonization is both an environmental duty and a strategic necessity for global competitiveness. Cement Expo 2025 aims to build the collaborative momentum needed to shape a greener, more responsible future for the sector," said Prate Pad ode, Founder & President, FIRST Construction Council.

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

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

India makes significant strides to address mental health issues

NEW DELHI: Mental health remains a pressing global challenge and while India has made significant strides through initiatives like Tele MANAS and the National Mental Health Program, building a mentally healthier society requires strengthening awareness, expanding workforce training and investing in digital solutions, according to government data.

About 10.6 percent of Indian adults -- roughly 11 out of every 100 adults -- were living with a diagnosable mental health disorder, according to a 2015-16 National Mental Health Survey (NMHS) conducted by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS).

According to a NIMHANS study from 2019, mental health disorders are more prevalent among women (20 percent) than men (10 percent). Women in India are found to be particularly more prone to conditions like depression, anxiety, and somatic complaints compared to their male counterparts.

Suicide rates in India are on the rise. According to the 2023 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India', 171,418 suicides were reported in the country in 2023. *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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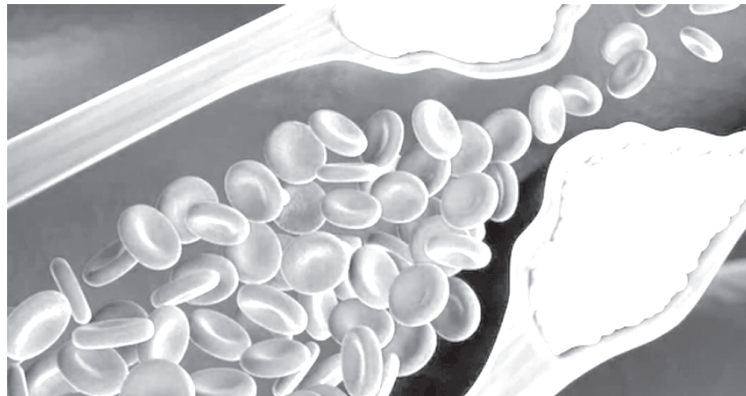
November 14, 2025

Australia leads first human trial of one-time gene editing therapy to halve bad cholesterol

MELBOURNE: Researchers in Australia have led a first-in-human trial for a breakthrough gene-editing therapy that halves bad cholesterol and triglycerides in people with difficult-to-treat lipid disorders.

The trial tested CTX310, a one-time CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing therapy that uses fat-based particles to carry CRISPR editing tools into the liver, switching off the ANGPTL3 gene. Turning off this gene lowers LDL (bad) cholesterol and triglycerides, two blood fats linked to heart disease, according to a statement released by Australia's Monash University.

The Victorian Heart Hospital, operated by Monash Health in partnership with Monash University, treated three of 15 patients aged 18-75 years with difficult-to-treat lipid disorders in phase 1 of the global trial conducted across Australia, New Zealand, and Brit-



The trial tested CTX310, a one-time CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing therapy that uses fat-based particles to carry CRISPR editing tools into the liver, switching off the ANGPTL3 gene

ain, the statement said, Xinhua news agency reported.

At the highest dose, a single-course treatment with CTX310 resulted in a mean reduction of LDL cholesterol by 50 percent and triglycerides by 55 percent,

remaining low for at least 60 days after two weeks of treatment, it said, adding LDL cholesterol and triglycerides were reduced by nearly 60 percent among all participants with various doses, with only mild, short-term side effects

reported.

Importantly, CTX310 is the first therapy to achieve large reductions in both LDL cholesterol and triglycerides at the same time, marking a potential breakthrough for people with mixed lipid disorders who have elevations in both, according to the trial published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"The possibility of a single-course treatment with lasting effects could be a major step in how we prevent heart disease," said Stephen Nicholls, Director of the Victorian Heart Hospital, and study lead investigator.

"It makes treatment easier, reduces ongoing costs, relieves pressure on the health system, all while improving a person's quality of life," Nicholls said, emphasizing plans to focus on larger and more diverse patient populations in future trials of CTX310. *IANS*

Adopt yoga to align with nature's rhythm: Acharya Devvrat after inaugurating Naturopathy Day Festival

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat and Maharashtra Governor Acharya Devvrat inaugurated the Naturopathy Day Festival in Ahmedabad, marking the beginning of nationwide celebrations dedicated to yoga and natural healing that will continue till November 18.

The event began with an inspiring feat at Sabarmati Riverfront, where 685 participants simultaneously performed 'Vrikshasana' (tree pose), applied face mud packs, and took a collective sun bath, earning entries in both the IEA Book of World

Records and the Asia Book of Records.

Unveiling the cut-outs of 'Naturopathy Day' and 'Prakritik Chikitsa Parv', Governor Devvrat emphasized the deep connection between nature and health.

"A healthy soul resides only in a healthy body," he said, urging people to adopt natural living practices, including

yoga, pranayama, and balanced diets aligned with nature's rhythm.

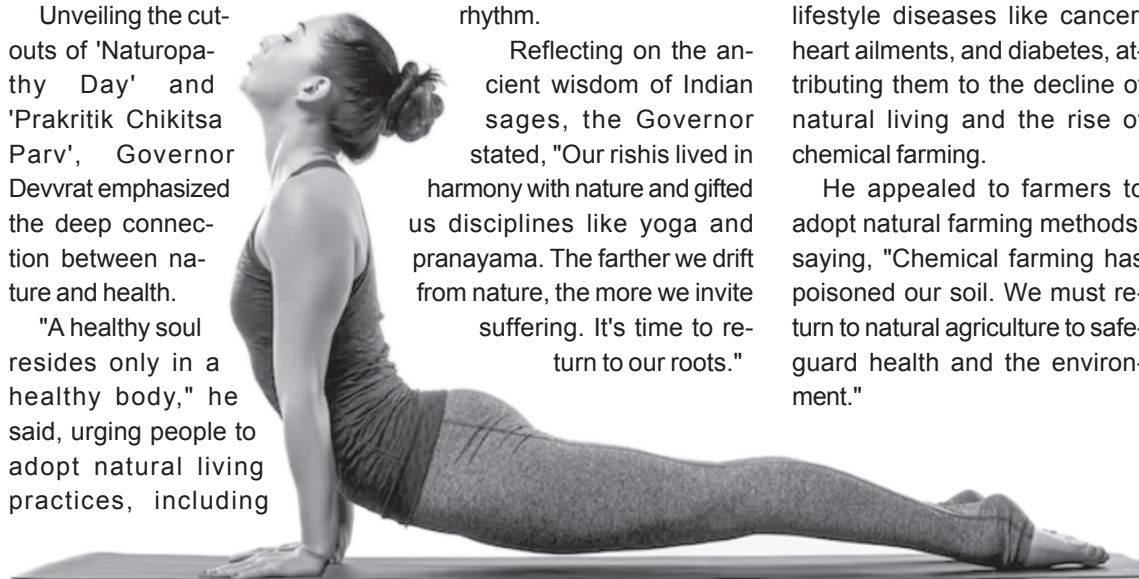
Reflecting on the ancient wisdom of Indian sages, the Governor stated, "Our rishis lived in harmony with nature and gifted us disciplines like yoga and pranayama. The farther we drift from nature, the more we invite suffering. It's time to return to our roots."

Governor Devvrat highlighted the growing prevalence of lifestyle diseases like cancer, heart ailments, and diabetes, attributing them to the decline of natural living and the rise of chemical farming.

He appealed to farmers to adopt natural farming methods, saying, "Chemical farming has poisoned our soil. We must return to natural agriculture to safeguard health and the environment."

He also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives through the Ministry of AYUSH and the National Mission on Natural Farming, calling them steps toward reconnecting with India's traditional wellness practices under the vision of 'Virasat bhi, Vikas bhi' (heritage with progress).

Chairman of the Gujarat State Yoga Board, Shishpal, lauded the Governor's consistent guidance in promoting yoga, indigenous sciences, cow protection, and natural agriculture across the state. *IANS*



Study finds pregnancy hypertension raises women's cardiovascular risk

UTAH: Women who experience hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP) face significantly higher risks of cardiovascular complications, including heart attack, stroke, heart failure, and death, within five years of giving birth, according to a new study by Intermountain Health researchers.

The study found that women who experienced HDP during pregnancy were significantly more likely to develop serious cardiovascular-related issues compared to those without HDP. These findings underscore the growing body of evidence over the past two decades linking pregnancy-related hypertension to long-term maternal health risks.

"Any form of hypertension during pregnancy significantly increases cardiovascular risk and the risk of death," said Kismet Rasmusson, NP, principal investigator of the study and an advanced practice clinician with Intermountain Health's Advanced Heart Failure Program. "This risk is present in women with chronic hypertension prior to pregnancy, and it's even more

pronounced when compounded by severe forms of HDP, such as eclampsia."

The findings were presented at the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions 2025 in New Orleans on Sunday, November 9.

In this retrospective study, researchers



analyzed 218,141 live births involving 157,606 patients across 22 Intermountain Health hospitals between 2017 and 2024. They reviewed electronic medical records for diagnoses of chronic hypertension and hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, including gestational hypertension, preeclampsia, and eclampsia. Patients were then monitored for cardiovascular disease for an average of five years following delivery.

19.7 per cent of patients had an HDP diagnosis, with most cases occurring during the first live birth. Patients with HDP had significantly more cardiovascular risk factors, including obesity, smoking, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, depression, and lower socioeconomic status. HDP was most strongly associated with increased risk of heart failure (3 to 13 greater risk), but also for stroke (2-17 greater risk), heart attack (3 to 7 greater risk), coronary artery disease (2 to 7 greater risk), and death (1.4 to 4 greater risk).

The severity of HDP correlated with higher cardiovascular risk. Women with chronic hypertension and eclampsia had the greatest risk of future cardiovascular events compared to those without HDP.

Despite these alarming statistics, many pregnant women remain unaware of the long-term cardiovascular risks associated with HDP. ANI



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India's bio-economy likely to reach \$300 billion in coming years: Dr Jitendra Singh

NEW DELHI: India's bio-economy, which rose from \$10 billion to over \$130 billion in about 10 years, is projected to reach \$300 billion in the coming years, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said.

Speaking at an event here, Dr Singh observed that India is already initiated into next industrial revolution driven by biotechnology.

The minister noted that India is one of the few countries to have an exclusive dedicated Biotechnology policy 'BioE3'. He commended the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for emerging as one of the most dynamic and integrated scientific ecosystems in the Government of India.

Additionally, the minister also launched BRIC-BIRAC Entrepreneur-in-Residence (EIR) Programme.

The Union Minister recalled that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the decision to merge 14 autonomous biotechnology institutions



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh

under a single umbrella - BRIC -- was a transformative reform that strengthened coordination, innovation, and impact across India's biotechnology sector.

The minister said that the integration of institutions under BRIC reflects the spirit of "synergized working" in Indian

science. "The age of silos is over. We have moved towards collaboration across biotechnology, medical research, agriculture, and data-driven science. BRIC now partners not only with other science departments but also with IITs, medical institutions, and private industry

to accelerate innovation," he added.

Dr. Singh noted that biotechnology has become the key driver of India's growth in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Referring to the recently launched BioE3 Policy, he said India has positioned itself among the global frontrunners in bio-innovation.

The minister stated that when the next phase of global economic growth will be biotechnology-driven, India will not be a follower; it will be a leader.

Dr. Rajesh S Gokhale, Secretary, DBT and DG, BRIC, highlighted the achievements of BRIC institutions over the past three years - 3,190 publications, 107 patents, 13 technologies commercialized, 2,578 PhD scholars, and 678 post-doctoral fellows currently contributing to the research network.

He also noted that BRIC ranks number one in biological sciences in India, as per Nature's Pringles Index. *IANS*

Nagaland University researchers unlock medicinal secrets of rare Meghalaya plant

KOHIMA: A research team from Nagaland University, the only Central University in the state, has partnered with an Assam-based private varsity to carry out the first comprehensive scientific study on *Goniothalamussimonsii*, an endangered and endemic medicinal plant found in the forests of Meghalaya.

Long used by indigenous communities to treat gastrointestinal complications, throat irritation, typhoid fever, and malaria, this plant had never before been studied for its scientific or pharmacological potential.

Nagaland University officials said that the study provides scientific validation for the plant's traditional use and reveals that *G. simonsii* is a rich

source of bioactive phytochemicals with potent antioxidant, antimicrobial, and anti-cancer activities.

Using advanced analytical tools and computational modeling, the team demonstrated how natural compounds from this species interact with cancer-related proteins, offering valuable leads for the devel-

opment of new, nature-based therapeutic drugs.

The Research was led by Dr Mayur Mausoom Phukan, faculty, Nagaland University, with his student Samson Rosly Sangma.

The findings were published in October 2025 in a reputable journal. The paper was co-authored by Sangma, research scholar; Dr Phukan, Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry; Dr Pranay Punj

Pankaj, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Vahshi Chongloi, Research Scholar of the Nagaland University and Dr Dhrubajyoti Gogoi, Assistant Professor of the Assam-based private varsity.

Speaking about this research, Prof. Jagadish K Patnaik, Vice Chancellor, Nagaland University, said, "Nagaland University, in collaboration with Assam's private University, have undertaken the first comprehensive scientific study on *Goniothalamussimonsii*, an endangered and endemic medicinal plant native to the forests of Meghalaya." *IANS*



Scientists find brain cells that can stop Alzheimer's: Study

WASHINGTON DC: Researchers have identified special immune cells in the brain that help slow Alzheimer's disease. This microglia, work to reduce inflammation and block the spread of harmful proteins. They appear to protect memory and brain health, offering a promising new direction for therapy.

In a study published November 5 in *Nature*, the team found that microglia with lower levels of a transcription factor called PU.1 and higher expression of a receptor known as CD28 help reduce brain inflammation.

These specialized microglia also slow the buildup of amyloid plaques and the spread of toxic tau proteins, which are both major hallmarks of Alzheimer's.

PU.1 is a protein that binds to specific DNA regions, helping control which genes are activated or silenced. CD28 found on the surface of T cells, acts as a signaling receptor that supports immune cell activation and communication.

How Protective Microglia Work

Using mouse models of Alzheimer's, as well as human brain cells and tissue samples, the researchers showed that reducing PU.1 levels encourages microglia to express immune-regulating receptors typically found in lymphoid cells.

Although these protective microglia make up only a small portion of total microglia, their effect is widespread: they suppress inflammation throughout the brain and help preserve memory and survival in mice.

When the scientists removed CD28 from this specific microglial subset, inflammation worsened and plaque growth increased, confirming that CD28 plays an essential role in keeping these brain-

protective cells active.

"Microglia are not simply destructive responders in Alzheimer's disease -- they can become the brain's protectors," said Anne Schaefer, MD, PhD, Professor in the Nash Family Department of Neuroscience at the Icahn School of Medicine, Co-Director of the Center for Glial Biology at The Friedman Brain Institute. *ANI*



Philosophy

DEEPAK CHOPRA

Of all the ways you can grow, most are marked by externals - growing richer, more successful, or with a larger family, for example - and others are known by your behavior and attitude - for instance, growing happier, more loving, and more mature. The only kind of growth that is totally silent, hidden, and unseen is spiritual growth. The Bhagavad-Gita says that even someone who is enlightened can't be known by external signs.

This isn't a mystical statement, or an obstacle put up to confuse someone on the spiritual path. The reason that spiritual growth is unseen is because it happens in consciousness. You can't think your way to a higher spiritual state. It requires knowing how consciousness works, which is what another ancient Indian adage means; "Know this one thing by which all else is known."

In daily life all of us are guided by mental activity, which is constantly renewing itself with new desires, wishes, dreams, fears, habits, and miscellaneous

disturbed, overwhelmed or stressed. This is simple awareness. From here, there is movement toward deeper awareness.

First for the serious aspirant is regular meditation, but in modern life this might be too much to ask given the speed and stress that we are all subjected to. But you can always take time during the day to center yourself. Find a quiet place to be alone, take a few deep breaths, and with eyes closed follow your breathing. This centering exercise should be done regularly several times a day to learn what it feels like to be in simple awareness. With practice, your mind will slip into this state and stop being addicted to constant thinking.

Simple awareness is the starting gate to the spiritual path. The goal of the path is total awakening or enlightenment, but that is far off for almost everyone. There have to be steps of progress along the way. These are the steps that draw you toward your true self. It silently attracts your attention all the time, even now, and by noticing this, you come ever closer to your source.



Deepak Chopra

Spiritual growth is silent
hidden and unseen
Know that almost all mental
activity is irrelevant

thoughts. This level of awareness is not the enemy of spiritual growth, but almost all mental activity is irrelevant. Positive thoughts and negative thoughts play a huge part in how well your life is going, but they do not affect your state of awareness, which is the only thing to be focused on if you want to grow spiritually.

Although there are different words for the source of creation, many of them religious when God enters the story, every tradition agrees that the source of creation is conscious. This source is behind the scenes, we might say, and every individual consciousness (that is, you and I) is embedded in it.

To grow spiritually, you must take an interest in consciousness, which means setting out to find your source.

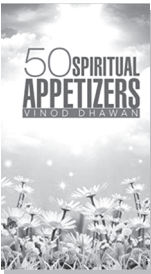
To find your source, you are not asked to think your way there, nor to feel your way or follow obscure teachings. Something much simpler is required, known as simple awareness. When your mind is quiet and rested, you will feel centered. The thinking mind won't be distracted,

You are already getting glimpses of your true self all the time. These are experiences of higher consciousness, although you might not use that term for them. Such experiences are known intimately as love, compassion, empathy, beauty, truth, creativity, insight, and bliss. By noticing these glimpses, you are beginning to know your true self directly.

Excerpted from *deepakchopra.medium.com*. The 79th birth anniversary of Deepak Chopra was observed on October 22

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

Vinod Dhawan



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

Jac O'Keeffe
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India's AI Journey Is Redefining Digital Leadership

COL KL VISWANATHAN (RETD.)

In the recently concluded UN General Assembly session, President Emmanuel Macron of France was one among many who saw deepening divisions among the world's nations, telling global leaders that effective multilateralism has never been more necessary to rebuild trust and tackle crises.

Transformative Power Of AI

In the emerging multipolar world, technological capability is as decisive as economic or military strength. Among all frontier technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI) stands out as the most transformative-resaping governance, industries, and geopolitics alike. Nations that master AI will define global standards, control critical data flows, and influence the digital rules of the future. India, with its vast human capital and digital infrastructure, is positioning itself to be one of these defining powers.

Over the past decade, India has evolved from being a major technology consumer

is not left behind in the race for AI leadership. While countries like the U.S. and China have long dominated AI research, India's strength lies in the scale of its talent pool. Each year, millions of STEM graduates enter the workforce, many trained in computer science, mathematics, and data analytics. By connecting this talent with national AI infrastructure, India aims to democratize innovation-making advanced computing resources accessible to startups, universities, and small businesses, not just tech giants.

Public-Private Synergy

Unlike China's state-dominated AI ecosystem, India has chosen a public-private partnership (PPP) model. The government provides enabling frameworks, digital infrastructure, and initial funding, while the private sector drives innovation and global competitiveness. Collaborations with major technology firms-such as Google, Microsoft, and Infosys-are helping develop AI applications in sectors ranging from telemedicine and climate modeling to precision farming and education technology.

At the center of India's AI strategy is the IndiaAI Mission, a multibillion-dollar national program launched to accelerate AI research, infrastructure, and innovation. The mission's pillars include the establishment of AI compute clusters, centers of excellence

to an increasingly confident producer and policymaker. With a vibrant startup ecosystem, deep digital penetration, and a global talent base, India is emerging as a key player in the global AI landscape. Unlike earlier technology waves dominated by Western or East Asian powers, India's approach to AI blends scale, inclusivity, and democratic governance-making it a distinctive model for the developing world.

IndiaAI Mission: Building national capacity

At the center of India's AI strategy is the IndiaAI Mission, a multibillion-dollar national program launched to accelerate AI research, infrastructure, and innovation. The mission's pillars include the establishment of AI compute clusters, centers of excellence, data platforms, and startup incubators focused on AI applications in critical sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance.

This initiative seeks to ensure that India

Startups are a critical part of this ecosystem. India now ranks among the top five AI startup hubs globally, with thousands of ventures exploring generative AI, natural language processing, and predictive analytics. The success of Indian AI companies-whether in conversational platforms, credit scoring, or agritech-demonstrates how innovation can emerge from solving local problems at scale.

Crucially, India's AI ecosystem is backed by a robust digital backbone: the India Stack, which includes Aadhaar (digital identity), UPI (digital payments), and ONDC (open e-commerce network). These systems generate vast anonymized datasets that fuel responsible AI development while ensuring privacy and inclusivity.

(The author is an Indian Army veteran and a contemporary affairs commentator) South Asia Monitor

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Wrestling with Giants: India's Strategic Maneuvers In A Tri-Polar World

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India's position in the current US-Russia-China tri-polar geopolitical contest, imagined as a virtual wrestling arena, is that of a flexible, fiercely autonomous contender using a multi-alignment strategy to maximize influence while reducing vulnerability to any single great power. In this new era of transactional diplomacy and shifting alliances, India's choices and challenges have a significant impact on the global power balance.

World A Wrestling Ring

Imagine the world stage as a massive wrestling ring, with three heavyweights - the United States, China, and Russia, each battling for top dominance. India, once seen as an outsider or a secondary contender, now steps onto the mat as a strong, smart "swing power." In 2025, unlike during the Cold War, India's eco-

foreign policy, enabling it to interact with all powers without relying on any one of them. This principle is rooted in India's history of non-alignment. Still, its modern variant, multi-alignment, involves the country's participation in rival blocs, such as the QUAD (with the US and Japan), BRICS (with China and Russia), the SCO, and others.

With the US, India is a vital player in the Indo-Pacific strategy, sought by Washington as a bulwark against China. High-tech and defense collaboration has grown, and India is the USA's natural partner in defense, technology, counterterrorism, and economic rivalry with Beijing.

With Russia, despite Western pressure, India maintains strong arms and energy ties with Moscow, using Russian support at the UN and hedging against

with its leadership in the Global South and its advocacy for multipolarity, has projected India as a resilient and influential player in the global arena.

Navigating Hostility and Opportunity

This "wrestling match" is not without risk. China's assertive posturing, whether in South Asia, the Indian Ocean, or against Indian allies, means India faces constant jabs and probing holds by a neighbor determined to expand its influence. The border skirmishes, economic competition, and strategic encirclement by the Belt and Road Initiative have prompted India to strengthen its ties with the US and diversify its defense relationships beyond Russia.

Economic opportunities are plentiful, but so are vulnerabilities. The US's protectionist stance, tariff threats, and inconsistent signals can expose India to risks. Russian weaknesses are pushing Moscow closer to Beijing, limiting India's options in Eurasia and the energy sector. In this environment, India must constantly navigate, respond, and adapt, protecting its role as a "third pole" and preventing the conflict from becoming a solely Sino-US or Sino-Russian struggle.

Tools And Tactics Of Strategic Balancing

Much like a wrestler studies every move of his opponents, India monitors, anticipates, and uses the actions of the big three.

- Economic Diversification. India expands trade and technology cooperation with the EU, Japan, the Middle East, Africa, ASEAN, and Latin America. It aims to become the world's factory, supply chain hub, and services leader, while balancing dependence on any single market.

(The writer, an Indian Army veteran, is a strategic analyst) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

With the US, India is a vital player in the Indo-Pacific strategy, sought by Washington as a bulwark against China. High-tech and defense collaboration has grown, and India is the USA's natural partner in defense, technology, counterterrorism, and economic rivalry with Beijing

conomic strength, demographic advantage, and strategic insight put it nearly on equal footing with the established giants.

This arena is not just a test of brute force. Here, agility, adaptability, and the ability to exploit shifting alignments are as necessary as strength or historic alliances. India's role is not just that of a contender, but a "strategic balancer", a key pivot point that determines future outcomes. India's position is not that of a camp follower, but a crucial player that keeps the balance of power in constant flux.

Multi-Alignment: India's Winning Strategy

India's doctrine of "strategic autonomy" forms the basis of its

over-reliance on the West. Recent defense deals and energy arrangements are a deliberate hedge against global volatility.

The relationship between China and the West is characterized by both rivalry and interdependence. Trade volumes are high, but border disputes and China's encirclement strategy pose a challenge to New Delhi's security. India's participation in forums with China is calculated diplomacy, not deference.

India's success lies in maintaining flexibility. In the face of changing alliances and shifting power dynamics, India has successfully engaged, hedged, and extracted concessions from all sides. This adaptability, coupled



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INDIA GLOBAL HUB FOR RECYCLING

India has potential to become a global hub for recycling due to its strong existing recycling infrastructure, lower operational costs, and growing demand for recycled materials in sectors like textiles, e-waste and batteries. By investing in advanced technologies, improving enforcement against illegal practices, and strategic import of waste for processing, India can expand its current capabilities to become a significant player in global recycling.

India already has a culture of recycling, particularly with a world-leading PET bottle collection rate of 95%. Lower operational costs compared to developed countries make India an economically attractive option for processing waste. Strong growth in sectors like steel, driven by infrastructure and manufacturing initiatives, creates a high demand for recycled raw materials. There is significant growth potential in areas like e-waste, tire recycling, plastics recovery, and lithium-ion battery recycling. Foreign companies are showing interest in establishing plants in India, indicating confidence in its potential for a major recycling hub.

India has a large workforce, including skilled women who specialize in sorting, and there exists necessary talent of metallurgy and chemical engineering, required for complex recycling processes. To move beyond basic recycling and meet the demand for higher-quality materials, investment in advanced recycling technologies is needed.

Strict enforcement of existing rules and a crackdown on illegal practices, such as the misclassification and export of e-waste and batteries, is crucial for legitimate growth. A focus on high-value materials like lithium-ion batteries could solidify India's position in the global market of importing spent batteries for processing and creating a closed-loop system.

India's textile recycling efforts are already gaining momentum, particularly in states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. These regions have become key hubs for textile recycling, where cutting-edge technologies turn textile waste into valuable, reusable fabrics. These regions are focused on technologies that break down waste textiles into raw materials, which are reused to produce new fabrics and garments.

Austria is said to be world's leading country for recycling in a new study by Reloop and Eunomia Research and Consulting. Wales leads the way in the UK, coming in at number 2. Northern Ireland was ranked 9th England at 11th and Scotland at 15th among the 48 countries included in the comparison.

The diverse recycling market size in India is projected to grow significantly across different segments, with the waste recycling services market valued at USD 3.11 billion in 2024 and projected to USD 6.99 billion by 2033. The plastics recycling market was worth approximately USD 4.09 billion in 2024 and expected to grow to USD 6.93 billion by 2033. The e-waste recycling market forecast is USD 3.35 billion by 2031.

The "biggest" recycling company in India, varies by material recycled, with CMR Green Technologies Ltd. being the largest in metal recycling; Pashupati Group a major in plastics recycling and sustainability, is one of India's largest integrated recyclers with comprehensive services for various waste types. Attero Recycling is a leading e-waste recycler; and Ganesha Ecosph Ltd. is a major company in plastics recycling for the textile and packaging sectors.

Hope India can take advantage and become the leader in recycling for rare materials needed for advancement of I.T. Sector.

PM Modi highlights Uttarakhand's rise as an emerging Destination for weddings and film shoots



DEHRADUN: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday addressed the statehood silver jubilee celebrations at the Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Dehradun.

In his address, PM Modi highlighted the state's remarkable progress across all sectors over the past 25 years, with a special emphasis on the

growth of tourism. He also noted Uttarakhand's emergence as a sought-after destination for weddings and film shoots.

For the 'Wed In India' initiative, he emphasized that Uttarakhand must develop facilities on a grand scale and suggested identifying and developing 5 to 7 major destinations for this purpose.

"Uttarakhand is now emerging

as a film destination, and the state's new film policy has made shooting easier... Uttarakhand is also becoming popular as a wedding destination. My campaign is 'Wed in India'. For 'Wed in India', Uttarakhand should also be provided with facilities of the same splendid level. For this, 5-7 big destinations can be identified and developed," PM Modi added.

PM Modi also mentioned how Uttarakhand has made remarkable progress in Ayurveda, yoga and herbal development, highlighting the potential of the state to emerge as the spiritual capital of the world.

"If Uttarakhand decides, it can establish itself as the spiritual capital of the world. The state can connect its yoga and wellness centers to the global network of wellness tourism," PM Modi stated.

He emphasized that the temples, ashrams, and centers of meditation and yoga in the state can be connected to a global network.

The Prime Minister noted that

people from across India and abroad come to Uttarakhand for wellness, and the demand for its herbs and Ayurvedic medicines is rapidly increasing. He highlighted that over the past 25 years, Uttarakhand has made remarkable progress in aromatic plants, Ayurvedic herbs, yoga, and wellness tourism.

He proposed that every assembly constituency in Uttarakhand should have a complete package comprising yoga centers, Ayurveda centers, and naturopathy institutes, which would strongly appeal to foreign tourists. ANI

17 Charlie Chaplin classics to be showcased digitally on Children's Day

MUMBAI: A digital retrospective of legendary artiste Charlie Chaplin is set to stream on the occasion of Children's Day in India. 17 of his classics including 'Modern Times', 'The Kid', 'City Lights', 'The Gold Rush', 'The Great Dictator', 'The Circus', 'Limelight', 'A King in New York', and 'The Idle Class' amongst others will be streamed on November 14, 2025.

Each film represents a chapter in his extraordinary journey as

an actor, director, and composer, a body of work that continues to move generations long after the



lights of his studio dimmed.

Among these enduring gems is 'Rush Hour', which marks a hundred-year milestone this year. Like much of Chaplin's art, it feels impossibly alive even now, brimming with wit that dances like music, and emotion that transcends words.

Charlie Chaplin was an English actor, filmmaker, and composer best known for his character 'The Tramp'. He rose to fame during the silent film era. He co-founded United Artists in 1919, giving him creative control over his work. IANS

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Huma Qureshi translates Gen-Z lingo in Maharani style

Actress Huma Qureshi has received a lot of love for her portrayal of Rani Bharti in the popular series, "Maharani".

Given that the show is set in Bihar, Huma is seen speaking Bhojपुरi in the drama.

In her recent social media post, the 'Gangs of Wasseypur' actress was seen translating some popular Gen Z lingo in her Maharani style.

Some of the words she translated include - "Rizz - Bhaukaal Delulu - Ae Budbak ho ka?"

It's giving - Ae to Bahut jakaas hain be

Main character energy - Maharani."

Sharing the fun video on her official IG, Huma wrote, "When they ask me to talk the Gen Z lingo in #Maharani style .. thoughts?? Do u have better translations (Thinking Face Emoji) @kangratalikes @sonylivindia (sic)."

Lauding Huma's seamless transition into her character, an Insta user shared, "Maharani ate and left no crumbs with her rizz (sic)".

Another comment read, "Hahahhaha!!!! You have done it like a lit". The 4th season of "Maharani" premiered on Sony LIV on November 7. Reflecting on her journey as an actor, Huma called Rani Bharti the best role of her life. *IANS*



Harshvardhan Rane: THERE'S NO PRESSURE AS I LOVE MY CAREER

Actor Harshvardhan Rane, who is being hailed as the next great romantic hero courtesy his work in "Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat", says he feels no pressure carrying that tag, as the genre comes naturally to him and stems from his own life experiences.

Talking about his emotional connection with romantic roles, Harshvardhan told IANS: "I feel that is the genre I was born for because of three things - the pain that God gifted me in my childhood, the filmmakers who trusted me with films like Sanam Teri Kasam and Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, and the audience who validated that pain and passion by saying, 'Yes, we felt it too.' These three things have completed the circle for me."

The actor shared that he sees his early struggles as a blessing that shaped his art. "I feel that it's a gift when you get a childhood with some sort of lessons and then how you extract that for your passion. So, all these three things have come together, and I feel great," said the actor.

Talking about whether he sees it as a validation, a responsibility, or a pressure being tagged as the next great romantic hero, he said: "There is no pressure on me, because I love my career as much as Vikramaditya used to love Ada. *IANS*



Manish Malhotra reveals Fatima Sana Shaikh as 'heroine'

TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

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

Designer Manish Malhotra recently revealed that actress Fatima Sana Shaikh was his first choice for the lead role in the upcoming film "Gustaakh Ishq - Kucch Pehle Jaisa."

During the film's trailer launch event, the designer-turned-producer opened up about his vision for her character and shared that he wanted to present Fatima as a classic 'heroine'-someone with grace, elegance, and old-world charm. "She's never come as a 'heroine'-with the dupatta and nazaakat," Manish said, expressing his excitement about showcasing a new side of the actress on screen.

Recalling the moment when the film's casting decisions were being made, Manish Malhotra shared, "The discussion continued, and I asked, why not Fatima? She's very petite and beautiful. *IANS*

MALAIKA ARORA: "CHUNKY I STILL HAVE YOUR POSTER"

Actress Malaika Arora has once again proclaimed her admiration for her old crush Chunky Pandey.

She took to the Stories section of her official Instagram handle and uploaded a clip of Chunky's actress daughter, Ananya Pandey, on the celebrity talk show "Two Much With Kajol and Twinkle", speaking about her parents, Chunky and Bhavana Pandey's

love story.

During the conversation, Ananya revealed that Malaika used to own a poster of her father, Chunky at some point.

Resharing the excerpt from the show, Malaika declared, "@chunkypandey i still have ur poster, don't worry (sic)."

However, this is not the first time Malaika has declared her love for Chunky.

Back when Malaika and Farah Khan were judges on the dance reality show,

"Jhalak Dikhlai Jaa", the 'Om Shanti Om' maker had disclosed that her first crush was Chunky. Pitching in, Malaika revealed that she, too, had a huge crush on Chunky.

Coming back to "Two Much With Kajol and Twinkle", during the episode, Farah was heard saying that Ananya could have been my daughter,' referring to her massive crush on Chunky.

The 'Happy New Year' maker stated that Ananya would have been her daughter as

she had such a massive crush on her father Chunky back in the day.

Ananya, who appeared on the show with Farah and was seated next to her on the couch, couldn't stop blushing upon hearing this.

Refreshing your memory, Farah had called Chunky Bollywood's most 'kanjoos' person during her appearance on "The Great Indian Kapil Show", along with actor Anil Kapoor. IANS



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Yami Gautam: FEMINISM HAS MANY DEFINITIONS

Actress Yami Gautam, who essays the role of Shazia Bano in the recently released film 'Haq', has said that feminism as an ideology has many definitions today, and she may not agree with all of them.

The actress spoke with IANS at a 5-star property in the Juhu area of Mumbai during the promotional leg of the film. While she called 'Haq', a deeply feminist film, she said that the ideology of feminism has evolved with time, and entails a few things which she may not agree with.

Talking about the film, she told IANS, "If you have courage to tell the story of, which is inspired by a really courageous woman, woman of substance, a woman of feminism, she is, I feel a true blue example of what feminism is".

"There are a lot of definitions of feminism today, and I may not agree with some of them. True feminism is not fighting the other person, it is about standing up for yourself, for your children, for what you know is right, is rightfully yours, it is as basic as that, so then, yeah, so that is my approach", she added.

Feminism is a social and political movement advocating gender equality and women's rights. The First Wave Feminism, which started in the late 19th and went on till early 20th century, fought for legal rights, especially suffrage. The Second Wave (1960s-1980s) expanded to workplace equality, reproductive rights, and challenging gender roles. /ANS



Nargis Fakhri's 'ROCKSTAR' JOURNEY OF HER LIFE

Actress Nargis Fakhri has opened up about her transformative experience working on the 2011 film "Rockstar."

In her post, she shared that her character Heer left a lasting impact on her both on and off screen. Nargis described her character Heer as deeply connected to her own emotions, saying that playing Heer left a lasting mark on her personality and perspective. Even 14 years later, she feels parts of Heer within her, highlighting how the role contributed to her emotional growth and continues to resonate with her in everyday life.

Sharing a BTS video featuring Ranbir Kapoor, Nargis Fakhri wrote, "Rockstar wasn't just a film - it was a journey that changed me & my life completely. Heer was written as a character, but she breathed with my heartbeat. On screen i see pieces of me in her & in life i still carry pieces of her within me - Fourteen years later, I still feel her - in the silence between music and memory, in the spaces where love and pain once met." #Rockstar #Heer #jordan #14YearsOfRockstar #love." /ANS



Aneet Padda to start 'Shakti Shalini' after college exams

Actress Aneet Padda, who was recently seen in the blockbuster "Saiyaara", is set to appear for her college final-year exams in December-January, after which she will begin work on her next film, "Shakti Shalini".

A source said: "It is incredible that Aneet Padda is so young and she has become such a massive success story in our country. The Gen Z face of India is set to give her college final year exams in December and January before she starts shooting for her next, Dinesh Vijan's Shakti Shalini, a film that she is headlining."

The actress is pursuing B.A. (Hons.) in Political Science, according to the source.

The source said: "Aneet is currently studying for her final-year examinations. She is pursuing a B.A. (Hons.) in Political Science and is neck deep balancing work and studies."

"Her schedule is being managed perfectly so that she can give ample time to her studies while finishing what is absolutely priority at the work front." Shakti Shalini is by Dinesh Vijan for his blockbuster Maddock Horror Comedy Universe's (MHCU) project. The film is scheduled to release on December 24, 2026.

Aneet began her career with a brief role in the drama Salaam Venky in 2022 and had her first lead role as a member of a boarding school in the Prime Video series Big Girls Don't Cry.

She made her breakthrough as a songwriter diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's in Mohit Suri's romantic drama Saiyaara directed by Mohit Suri. The film follows passionate lovers navigate a rollercoaster romance, facing euphoric highs and crushing lows while desperately clinging to their tumultuous bond. It emerged as the second highest-grossing Hindi film of 2025, and the highest-grossing Indian romantic film.
IANS



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Jaisalmer, a mesmerizing destination nestled in the heart of the Thar Desert, is a jewel in the crown of Rajasthan. Often referred to as the "Golden City," Jaisalmer captivates visitors with its sandstone architecture, picturesque landscapes, and rich cultural heritage. The city is adorned with lakes, ornate Jain temples and havelis.

One of the standout attractions in Jaisalmer is the magnificent Jaisalmer Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the largest fully preserved fortified cities in the world. Constructed using golden-yellow sandstone, the fort seems to

blend seamlessly with the surrounding desert, earning it the moniker "Sonar Quila" or the Golden Fort. Inside, visitors can explore narrow winding lanes, intricately carved havelis, and the imposing Maharaja's Palace.

ning architecture and intricate marble work. A camel safari in the vast expanses of the Thar Desert is an essential Jaisalmer experience. The golden dunes, changing hues during sunrise and sunset, create a magical setting for an unforgettable adventure. Camping under the star-studded desert sky adds to the allure of the desert safari. Jaisalmer, like other cities in Rajasthan, celebrates its cultural vibrancy through festivals like the Desert Festi-

nestled on the golden sands of Thar Desert, is not just a fort but a mini-town with houses, temples, shops, and restaurants. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it falls under the category of 'Hill Forts of India'. Built in 1156, Jaisalmer Fort gets its name from the former Bhati Rajput ruler Rao Jaisal. More than three thousand people live within the fort walls with multiple entrance gates on the path up top, the last of which directs you to the popular public square named Dasher Chowk.

Desert Safari in Jaisalmer:

Jaisalmer in Rajasthan is frequented by tourists for its large stretches of

Jaisalmer



blend seamlessly with the surrounding desert, earning it the moniker "Sonar Quila" or the Golden Fort. Inside, visitors can explore narrow winding lanes, intricately carved havelis, and the imposing Maharaja's Palace.

The havelis of Jaisalmer, such as Patwon Ki Haveli and Salim Singh Ki Haveli, showcase the city's opulent architectural heritage. These grand mansions boast exquisite carvings, delicate balconies, and intricate facades, providing a glimpse into the affluent lifestyle of the merchants who once inhabited them. The Gadisar Lake, a historic water reservoir surrounded by temples and ghats, adds a tranquil touch to the vibrant city. The Jain Temples within the fort premises showcase stun-

val. This three-day extravaganza showcases the rich folk culture of Rajasthan, featuring traditional music, dance, camel races, and vibrant processions.

Jaisalmer is not just a city; it's a living testament to the resilience of desert communities and their ability to create a thriving oasis in the midst of arid landscapes. The best time to visit Jaisalmer is during the winter months, from October to March, when the weather is pleasant for exploring the city and enjoying desert activities.

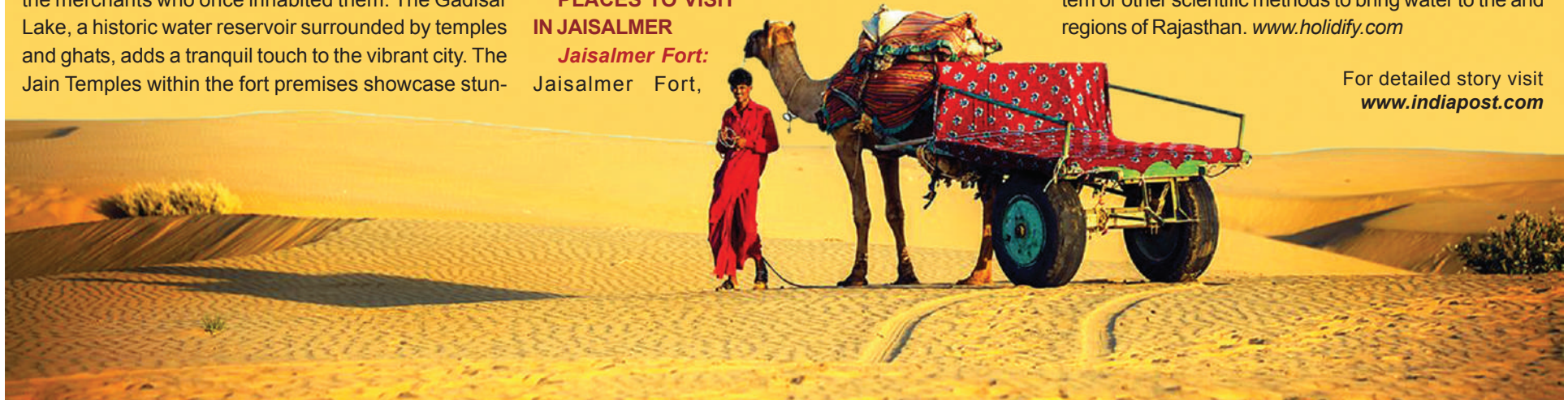
PLACES TO VISIT IN JAISALMER

Jaisalmer Fort:
Jaisalmer Fort,

desert sand. Popular Desert Safaris in Jaisalmer takes place in Sam Sand Dunes. A Jeep takes you to a point near Sam Sand Dunes (around 45km from the city) from where the camel ride starts and lasts for around 90 minutes. You will also stop by at a few attractions on your way.

Gadisar Lake: On the outskirts of Jaisalmer in the arid state of Rajasthan lies the beautiful Gadisar Lake, which sits like an oasis in the heart of a desert. Back in the middle ages, there were no canals or irrigation system or other scientific methods to bring water to the arid regions of Rajasthan. www.holidify.com

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