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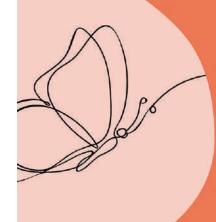
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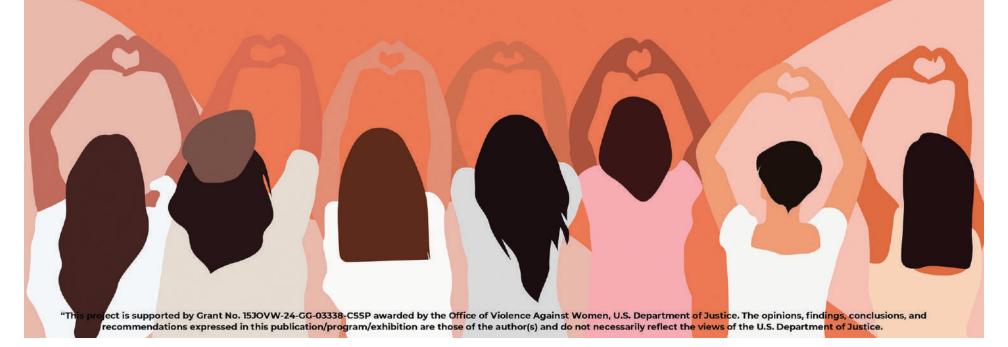
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UIASC celebrates I-Day

Details on page 24

Air India to suspend Delhi-Washington flights

Details on page 29



'Saiyaara' actress Aneet Padda pens note

Details on page 48

#### INDÍA POST Will India be able to solve tariff issue with US? ast week's result Is Trump fair towards India on tariff? NO 92%

## NDIA WON'T BE INTIMIDATED

"India should put out that it won't be intimidated," says expert on Trump's tariff

WASHINGTON, DC: Following the US' imposition of a 50 percent tariff on Indian goods, Michael Kugelman, a and Vietnam are competitors of India in textile exports

Washington, DC-based South Asia analyst, emphasized that India had to respond to these tariffs, given the strong comments made by President Donald Trump.

"India had to respond, given how strong the comments were," Kugelman told ANI. He

be intimidated," he added.

emphasized the importance of India maintaining its position and not being intimidated.

Michael Kugelman

The analyst highlighted that "Bangladesh, Pakistan,

and since they face lower tariffs as compared to India."

"India could be disadvantaged if it does not adjust. I am sure India has already thought through walk-arounds," he added.

Kugelman suggests that to mitigate the effects of the tariffs, he suggests India should focus on concluding new trade deals with key

"It is important for India to put out its position that it won't export destinations, such as the European Union.

Details on page 11



Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and CM Omar Abdullah participate in a Tiranga Rally ahead of the 79th Independence Day celebrations, on the banks of Dal Lake, in Srinagar. (ANI Photo)



Vivek Agnihotri and Pallavi Joshi honored by A4H

Details on page 26

India's courage inspires Asia: Lankan MP

Details on page 14



#### CONTENT

Bollywood 48-51
Classifieds 52
Community Post 24-29
Cover/Top Stories 11-14
Edit Page 53
mmigration Post 19-20
nfo/Highlights 4
_ife Style 38
OP-ED 43
TechBiz Post 21-23
Real Estate 44-45
Travel & Hospitality Post 56
Wellness Post 35-37

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#### HIGHLIGHTS

#### **Bollywood:**

#### 'Saiyaara' actress pens note

Actress Aneet Padda pens a heartwarming note to showcase her love for response she has got for her work in "Saiyaara"

48



#### Lifestyle:

#### Fashion Design Academy on Mission

Malini Reddy Fashion Academy is rewriting rules of broken fashion education, to master fit, form, and confidence, most fashion schools don't

38

#### **Cover Story:**

#### INDIA WON'T BE INTIMIDATED



On US' 50% tariff, Michael Kugelman said, "It is important for India to put out its position that it won't be intimidated"

11



#### <u>Techbiz:</u>

#### **US tariffs: credit impact**

A Crisil report said - Any support measures from the Indian government to safeguard the tariff-impacted sectors will play an important role.

21

#### **Community:**

#### **UIASC** celebrates Independence Day



United Indian Associations of Southern California celebrated India's Independence Day event at Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in La Palma, California

24



#### <u>Travel</u>

#### Goa a vibrant escape

Goa offers travellers a unique blend of tropical charm, deep-rooted heritage, vibrant festivals, and a warm, welcoming culture that lingers in memory

56

#### **Immigration:**

#### USCIS on CSPA age calculation



New guidance applies to requests filed on or after August 15, 2025. Will apply the Feb. 14, 2023, policy of CSPA age calculation

19



#### **Wellness:**

#### Surgical implant for vision loss

Vision loss caused by a blinding eye disease can be slowed with a neuroprotective surgical implant, according to a study

35

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## INDIA WON'T BE INTIMIDATED

# "India should put out that it won't be intimidated," says expert on Trump's tariff

WASHINGTON, DC: Following the US' imposition of a 50 percent tariff on Indian goods, Michael Kugelman, a Washington, DC-based South Asia analyst, emphasized that India had to respond to these tariffs, given the strong comments made by President Donald Trump.

"India had to respond, given how strong

competitors of India in textile exports and since they face lower tariffs as compared to India."

"India could be disadvantaged if it does not adjust. I am sure India has already thought through walk-arounds," he added.

Kugelman suggests that to mitigate the effects of the tariffs, he suggests India

"India had to respond, given how strong the comments were," Kugelman told ANI. He emphasized the importance of India maintaining its position and not being intimidated.

"It is important for India to put out its position that it won't be intimidated,"

the comments were," Kugelman told ANI. He emphasized the importance of India maintaining its position and not being intimidated. "It is important for India to put out its position that it won't be intimidated," he added.

The analyst highlighted that "Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Vietnam are

should focus on concluding new trade deals with key export destinations, such as the European Union. "It will be significant for New Delhi to step up and conclude new trade deals with other key export destinations such as the EU, and we know that there have been talks between the two recently. It could reduce the poten-

tial danger the tariffs could pose," Kugelman said.

Trump's decision to impose tariffs on Indian goods has drawn criticism and concern, even as Industry stakeholders expressed confidence in their long-term resilience.

On Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir's nuclear threat, Kugelman remarked: "The context in which the Army Chief reportedly made these comments was at a closed private, off-the-record event."

"Since Operation Sindoor, Pakistan's position has been that it supports peace and that India is the aggressor, and to have these comments cuts against this narrative. It reflects how concerned Pakistanis are, including the very top, about India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, which is a non-military punitive step," he added.

Regarding the potential use of nuclear weapons, Kugelman stated that Munir's comments seem to reassert Pakistan's long-standing position of rejecting a No First Use Policy. "Based on what the army

chief seemed to suggest about Pakistan's threat to use nuclear weapons if it has to, it seems to re-assert Pakistan's long-time position of rejecting a No First Use Policy when it comes to nuclear weapons," Kugelman said.

Kugelman's remarks come after



Michael Kugelman

Munir's comments in Florida, where he reportedly said Pakistan could use nuclear weapons to take down India and "half the world" in the event of an existential threat.

# British author slams Pakistan Army chief's nuclear threats; calls it "disgraceful, reckless"

BELFAST: British political commentator and author David Vance strongly criticized Pakistan Army chief Gen Asim Munir's nuclear threats, calling them "absolutely scandalous and disgraceful."

Speaking to ANI, he said, "The comments made are absolutely scandalous and disgraceful. They are reckless. Saying things like attacking India and having a nuclear exchange are insane."

"India's response has been measured and coherent. He shouldn't be allowed to get away with such inflammatory comments," he added.

Further, Vance stated that he "would like to see the US break off diplomatic relations with Pakistan until it starts to behave like a civilized country, which it hasn't in a long time."

Vance criticized the US government's response to Munir's comments, stating that Washington should have reacted more strongly. "Washington should have reacted much stronger than it did. The fact

that it was said on US soil seems to be a calculated insult by the Pakistani Army chief," he added.

Vance expressed frustration over the US tolerance for Pakistan's behavior, saying, "I don't understand why America or President Trump tolerates this. Pakistan

Pakistan could use nuclear weapons to take down India and "half the world" in the event of an existential threat.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a strong statement in response to remarks reportedly made by the Pakistani Chief of Army Staff during his visit to the

"India's response has been measured and coherent.

He shouldn't be allowed to get away with such inflammatory comments," he added.

Further, Vance stated that he "would like to see the US break off diplomatic relations with Pakistan until it starts to behave like a civilized country, which it hasn't in a long time."

seems to think they can say whatever they want on such sensitive issues."

His remarks come after Munir's comments in Florida, where he reportedly said

United States.

"Our attention has been drawn to remarks reportedly made by the Pakistani Chief of Army Staff while on a visit to the United States. Nuclear sabre-rattling is Pakistan's stock-in-trade," the MEA official spokesperson said.

The spokesperson added, "The international community can draw its own conclusions on the irresponsibility inherent in such remarks, which also reinforce the well-held doubts about the integrity of nuclear command and control in a state where the military is hand-in-glove with terrorist groups."

The MEA spokesperson further expressed regret that these remarks were made from the soil of a friendly third country. "It is also regrettable that these remarks should have been made from the soil of a friendly third country," the official said.

"India has already made it clear that it will not give in to nuclear blackmail and will continue to take all necessary steps to safeguard its national security, the MEA spokesperson affirmed. The MEA statement further said. ANI

## 'India has emerged as preferred security partner in Indo-Pacific'

NEW DELHI: India has now graduated to becoming a "preferred security partner" in the Indo-Pacific region, forming defense partnerships that not only include joint exercises and capacity building but also exports of defense equipment either as a grant or under a defense Line of Credit at the request of the partner state, according to former Indian diplomat

Suchitra Durai.

Trilateral maritime security cooperation with Sri Lanka and the Maldives, which began in 2011, has extended to other Indian Ocean states, including Mauritius and Bangladesh, with Seychelles as observer under the Colombo Security Conclave that now has a charter and a secretariat in Colombo. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) has 25 participating countries from South Asia, West Asia, Af-

rica, Southeast Asia and European countries with Indian Ocean territories as well as nine observers and a rotating chair (India will take over as chair at the end of 2025). MILAN is a biennial multinational exercise hosted by the Indian Navy in harmony with India's vision of SAGAR and the Act East policy, Durai, a former envoy to Thailand, highlighted in an article in Mizzima News, a leading media outlet in Myanmar.

A crucial facet of maritime security is enhanced maritime domain awareness. Towards this, India has also been pursuing white shipping agreements with several countries (22 have been concluded till now) and established a state-of-the-art Information Fusion Centre (IFC - IOR) in Gurugram that facilitates the sharing of

from a regional focus on the Indian Ocean to a global maritime vision, with particular emphasis on the Global South. PM Modi's recent engagements with Mauritius, Maldives, Trinidad and Tobago, Ghana, and now the Philippines are aligned with the MAHASAGAR vision. India has been sharing its developmen-

tal experiences and technical expertise in a spirit "Vasudhaivakutumbakam"

(the ancient belief that the World is One Family). As PM Modi stated in his address to the Ugandan Parliament in 2018: "Our developmental partnership will be guided by your priorities, it will be on terms that will be comfortable for you, that will liberate your potential and not constrain your future."

The Indian model of developmental cooperation is comprehensive and involves multiple instruments, including grant-inaid, concessional lines of credit, capacity building and technical assistance.

In June 2018, at the Shangri-La conference. PM Modi outlined India's Indo-Pacific vision. For India, the Indo-Pacific stands for a free, open, inclusive region that "embraces us all in a common pursuit of progress and prosperity". IANS



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Ten years after SAGAR, during an official visit to Mauritius in 2025, PM Narendra Modi announced MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions), an updated doctrine. If SAGAR is the sea, then MAHASAGAR denotes "ocean" in Hindi and several other Indian languages. MAHASAGAR marks a strategic evolution

## "If Putin agrees to ceasefire, it could take heat off India," says South Asia expert

WASHINGTON, DC: Ahead of US President Donald Trump's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Michael Kugelman, a Washington, DC-based South Asia analyst, emphasized that there is a "strong link" between the Trump-Putin meeting and the tariffs imposed on India.

Speaking to ANI, Kugelman stated that "There is potentially a very strong link between this upcoming meeting and the tariffs on India."

"This appears to be the last-ditch effort Trump wants to make to get Putin to agree to stop fighting or for a ceasefire (with Ukraine). If Putin does agree to the ceasefire or something close, it would potentially take the heat off of India," he added.

The tariffs on India, imposed by Trump,

have been a point of contention between the two countries. The US has imposed a 50 percent tariff on Indian goods, citing India's oil imports from Russia.

Trump said that he's meeting with Putin to see what the parameters of a peace deal could be before he speaks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Furopean leaders.

"I'm going to meet with President Putin and we're going to see what he has in mind, and if it's a fair deal I'll reveal it to the European Union leaders and to the NATO leaders and also to President Zelenskyy," Trump said, noting that he'll call Zelenskyy first "out of respect."

Earlier in the day, Trump expressed optimism about the possibility of normal trade between both countries.

When asked if he sees a time when there could be normal trade between the US and Russia, Trump said, "I do. Russia has a very valuable piece of land. If Vladimir Putin would go toward business instead of toward war, you know, it's a warring nation. That's what they do. They fight a lot of wars. A friend of mine said Russia is tough because they just keep on fighting.'

"We're going to have a meeting with Vladimir Putin. And at the end of that meeting, probably in the first two minutes, I'll know exactly whether or not a deal can be made," he added.

Trump made these comments while addressing the White House briefing on 11 August. ANI

#### India seeks transparency from China over construction of mega dam on River Brahmaputra

DHARAMSHALA: The Government of India has raised serious concerns over China's reported construction of a mega dam on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet, a development that could have significant implications for South Asia's ecology, water security, and geopolitics, according to Phayul.

The Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement that they were carefully monitoring China's hydropower project on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo (upper reaches of the Brahmaputra) River in Tibet.

This project, first made public in 1986, has been a subject of concern for India due to its potential impact on the country's interests and the livelihoods of local tribes.



Minister of State for External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh, said that the government carefully monitors all developments related to the Brahmaputra River and takes necessary measures to protect its interests. The government has consistently conveyed its views and concerns to the Chinese authorities, emphasizing the need for transparency and consultation with downstream countries.

"The Government of India has taken note of reports about the commencement of construction of the mega dam project by China on the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo (upper reaches of the Brahmaputra) River in Tibet. This project was first made public as far back as 1986 and since then, preparations have been underway in China," the MEA stated in response to an unstarred question in the Rajya Sabha.

The MEA said that the government remained committed to safeguarding Indian interests in the region. ANI

## India reaffirms commitment to free and open maritime order at UNSC

NEW YORK: At a high-level UN Security Council debate on maritime security held in New York, India strongly reaffirmed its commitment to a free, open and rulesbased maritime order, grounded in international law and guided by the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The debate, chaired by the Permanent Mission of Panama, brought together global stakeholders to address pressing challenges in maritime governance and secu-

Addressing the session, Tanmaya Lal, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Secretary (West), spoke of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) -India's vision for maritime security, outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He also congratulated Panama for taking over the Presidency of the UN Security Council for August.

Emphasizing the critical importance of sea routes for global trade, energy supplies, communication cables, the traditional and non-traditional threats, and India's longstanding maritime tradition, Lal stated that India, as one of the world's largest economies, has strong stakes and interests in maritime security.

"India, with a coastline of more than 11,000 km and nearly 1,300 offshore islands and islets, has an Exclusive Economic Zone spread over nearly 2.3 million sq km. India shares maritime boundaries with 7 nations. There are 12 major ports,

Lal highlighted that the scale of maritime safety and security challenges, as well as the urgent importance of economic stability and environmental sustainability concerns, is huge for India.

"India is a founding member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), and is an observer at the Indian Ocean

"India, with a coastline of more than 11,000 km and nearly 1,300 offshore islands and islets, has an Exclusive Economic Zone spread over nearly 2.3 million sq km. India shares maritime boundaries with 7 nations. There are 12 major ports, 200 smaller ports, and nearly 30 shipyards on the Indian coast, continuing the longstanding shipbuilding tradition

200 smaller ports, and nearly 30 shipyards on the Indian coast, continuing the longstanding shipbuilding tradition. India is also the third largest supplier of seafarers to the global maritime industry," he noted.

He stated that a large section of the Indian population resides close to the coasts and millions of Indians derive their liveli-

Commission (IOC). We also engage with a range of partners at other formats such as the Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC), Contact Group on Illicit Maritime Activities (CGIMA), and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical & Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)," the MEA official emphasized. IANS

#### India's US envoy speaks to Senator **Lindsey Graham amid** tariff turmoil

NEW DELHI: India's ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, has met influential US Senator Lindsey Graham amid the stalemate in trade talks between the two countries and the Trump administration's decision to impose penal tariffs on countries buying Russian oil.

"Spoke to Senator Lindsey Graham and shared with him the Indian perspective on our energy security, including increasing energy trade with the United States," Kwatra said in a post on X.

This comes a day after Graham said India must help end the war in Ukraine. "As I have been telling my friends in India, one of the most consequential things they could do to improve India-U.S. relations is to help President Trump end this bloodbath in Ukraine," the Republican Senator wrote in a post on X.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump is scheduled to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska on August 15 for talks on ending the war in Ukraine. IANS

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## PM Modi asserts India is fastest-growing major economy in the world, counters Trump's 'dead economy' jibe

BENGALURU: Countering US President Donald Trump's recent jibe that India is a dead economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recently asserted that India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

He was addressing a gathering at the International In-

stitute of Information Technology Auditorium in Bengaluru, after laying the foundation stone for the Metro Phase-3 project.

"In the last 11 years, our economy has moved from the 10th position to the fifth position, and we are marching at a speed to become the third-largest economy," he underlined.

"How did we achieve this speed? We got it from the spirit of reform, perform, and transform -- through sheer honesty and commitment," PM Modi said.

He highlighted that economic growth is driving the country's progress.

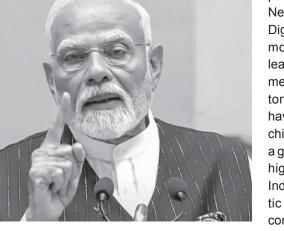
"Before 2014, India's total exports were worth \$480 billion. Today, they have reached \$850 billion. Earlier, we used to import mobile phones, but now we are among the top five exporters of mobile handsets. Bengaluru plays an important role in this," PM Modi added.

"Before 2014, our electronic exports were around \$6 billion; now they stand at \$38 billion. Automobile exports in 2014 were \$16 billion, and today that figure has doubled. India has become the fourth-largest exporter of automobiles. This growth strengthens our 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'

vision," he said.

The Prime Minister emphasized, "The journey of New India is intertwined with Digital India. Our country is moving towards global Al leadership and gaining momentum in the semiconductor space. India will soon have its own 'Made in India' chip. We have also become a global example of low-cost, high-tech space missions. India is advancing in futuristic technology, and at the core of this progress is the empowerment of the poor."

He said digitalization has



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

reached even the villages.

"Through UPI, more than 50 per cent of the world's real-time transactions take place in India. Technology is bridging the gap between people and the government. About 2,200 government services are available on mobile phones. Through the 'Umang' app, citizens can get their work done from home," he added. *IANS* 

## India's courage inspires Asia: Lankan MP lauds New Delhi's 'bold stand' on US tariffs

COLOMBO: Recalling India's massive support during Sri Lanka's unprecedented economic crisis, a Lankan MP has urged his countrymen to back New Delhi's stand against what he termed as US President Donald Trump's "selective and unfair trade" measures, saying "India's courage inspires Asia".

Noted economist and Colombo MP Harsha de Silva urged fellow lawmakers in the Parliament to be respectful towards India amid its ongoing tensions with the US following the recently-imposed tariffs on Indian goods. He recalled how India was the only nation that extended critical assistance to Sri Lanka during its economic crisis.

"Don't laugh at India. Don't mock them when they are down because when we were down, they were the only ones to lend us a hand. It ain't over until the fat lady sings. We witnessed you laughing. Don't laugh. India expected the tariffs to come down to 15 per cent, and so did we,"

"Don't laugh at India. Don't mock them when they are down because when we were down, they were the only ones to lend us a hand. It ain't over until the fat lady sings. We witnessed you laughing. Don't laugh. India expected the tariffs to come down to 15 per cent, and so did we," the Member of Parliament was quoted as saying by Daily

Mirror on Monday.

While addressing the Lankan Parliament, Silva emphasized the deep bond shared between India and Sri Lanka and backed New Delhi's stand on US tariffs.

Silva's statement comes after Trump on August 6 announced an additional 25 per cent tariffs on imports from India, citing the country's continued purchase of Russian oil. India has termed Washington's decision as "unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable."

The Lankan politician also shared a video of his speech in parliament on X, writing, "Called out the Govt in Sri Lankan Parliament for mocking India's bold stand against

Trump's trade tariffs. India, our true ally, stood by us in our toughest times. We should honor their fight, not laugh. India's courage inspires Asia."

The India-Sri Lanka relationship is deeply rooted in civilizational links, shared

history, religion, culture, and strong people-to-people ties. In the modern era, it has evolved into a close economic, cultural, and technical partnership. Sri Lanka is an integral part of India's 'Neighborhood First' policy, and this relationship, built on mutual trust and goodwill, has stood the test of time. *IANS* 

# Pakistan-China defense alliance poses risk to regional stability: Report

MUSCAT: Pakistan-China arms nexus has profoundly transformed South Asian military balance, posing significant challenges to regional stability and the global security framework, a recent report cited. The alliance transcends conventional buyer-seller arrangements, positioning Pakistan as a pivotal hub in China's strategic military influence operations across South Asia and beyond.

"Pakistan's military dependence on Chinese hardware has reached unprecedented levels. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China supplied 81 percent of Pakistan's arms imports in the past five years, representing a dramatic shift from the balanced approach Pakistan maintained with both Western and Chinese suppliers in previous decades," a report in Times of Oman highlighted.

According to the report, since 2015 China has sold Pakistan \$8.2 billion in arms. with Islamabad accounting for 63 percent Beijing's total arms exports during 2020-2024. This marks a deliberate, decisive shift away from Pakistan's traditional Western suppliers.

In the late 2000s, the report said, the US and China each contributed one-third of Pakistan's imports. However, in recent years, Islamabad has stopped purchasing American arms and bolstered its arsenal with Chinese weapons

In the late 2000s, the report said, the US and China each contributed one-third of Pakistan's imports. However, in recent years, Islamabad has stopped purchasing American arms and bolstered its arsenal with Chinese weapons. The transition gained momentum after the US cancelled military aid programs, signaling a major restructuring in Pakistan's defense procurement strategy.

"Joint projects producing armaments ranging from fighter jets to guided missile frigates have deepened the technological integration between the two military-industrial complexes. The relationship has facilitated intelligence exchanges that extend beyond conventional arms sales. Pakistan has provided China with access to US and other Western military technology that Beijing's scientists have then reverse-engineered," the report detailed

"This intelligence sharing arrangement has enabled China to enhance its military capabilities through analysis of Western systems previously acquired by Pakistan, raising significant concerns about technology security and proliferation controls," it added. IANS

Mark Twain had said "India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, the great grandmother of tradition.

"Our most valuable and highly artistic materials in the history of mankind are treasured up in India. I wish all Indians around the world continued peace and prosperity in the coming years.



# Late Arjan, Kamal, Sunil, Neelam, Krish & Aryan



SITTING: L to R - Aryan, Rani, Kamal, Krish | STANDING: L to R - Neelam & Sunil

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a congratulatory message and praise from USA based Prince Organization CEO Sunil Tolani, hailing him as a Global leader with "Grand vision for GREAT INDIA" putting him in the league of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel.

> Tolani Said "In Narendra Modi, we have a leader with a grand vision - a new vision. Bharat needs Modi's dynamic and pro Hindutva leadership









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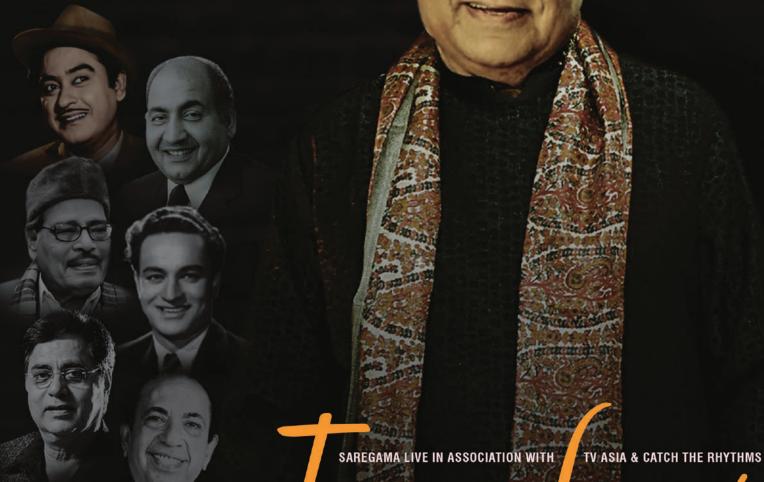
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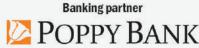
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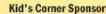




















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#### In Brief

# "Men do not belong in women's sports": US Immigration Services

WASHINGTON, DC: The US Citizenship and Immigration Services updated its immigration policy to restrict visa eligibility for transgender women seeking to compete in women's sports.

This move aligns with Executive Order 14201, "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports," which directs the Department of Homeland Security to develop policies to prevent the entry of male athletes seeking to compete in women's sports.

"USCIS has clarified eligibility for certain visa categories: O-1A aliens of extraordinary ability, E11 aliens of extraordinary ability, E21 aliens of exceptional ability, and for national interest waivers (NIWs), to guarantee an even playing field for all women's athletics in the United States," the statement added.

"Men do not belong in women's sports. USCIS is closing the loophole for foreign male athletes whose only chance at winning elite sports is to change their gender identity and leverage their biological advantages against women," said USCIS Spokesperson Matthew Tragesser.

"It's a matter of safety, fairness, respect, and truth that only female athletes receive a visa to come to the US to participate in women's sports. The Trump Administration is standing up for the silent majority who've long been victims of leftist policies that defy common sense." ANI

# Immigration Post

August 15, 2025

www.indiapost.com

India Post 19

This establishes a

consistent CSPA age

calculation for aliens

who apply for adjust-

ment of status and

immigrant visas

# USCIS updates policy on CSPA age calculation

We are updating the Policy Manualto clarify that a visa becomes available for the purposes of Child Status Protection Act age calculation based on the Final Action Dates chart of the Department of State Visa Bulletin. The new guidance applies to requests filed on or after August 15, 2025. We will apply the Feb. 14, 2023, policy of CSPA age calculation to adjustment of status applications pending with USCIS before August 15, 2025, as these aliens may have relied on that policy when they filed.

This policy update ensures both USCIS and the Department of State use the Final Action Dates chart in the Visa Bulletin to determine when a visa becomes available for the purposes of CSPA age calculation. This establishes a consistent CSPA age calculation for aliens who apply for adjustment of status and immigrant visas. The Feb. 14, 2023, policy resulted in inconsistent treatment of aliens who applied for adjustment of status in the United States versus aliens outside the United States who applied for an immigrant visa with the Department of State.



This policy update ensures both USCIS
and the Department of State use the Final Action
Dates chart in the Visa Bulletin to determine when
a visa becomes available for the purposes
of CSPA age calculation

Generally, an unmarried alien child must be under age 21 to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the United States based on their parent's approved petition for a family-sponsored, employment-based, or diversity visa. If they turn 21 and age out

during the immigration process, they generally are no longer eligible to immigrate based on their parent's petition. Congress enacted the CSPA to protect certain alien children from losing their eligibility for lawful permanent resident status based on an ap-

proved visa petition. The CSPA provides a method to calculate the alien's age that considers when an immigrant visa number "becomes available."

If an alien is applying for adjustment of status under a family-sponsored, employmentbased preference, or diversity visa, they must seek to acquire lawful permanent residence within one year of when a visa becomes available to benefit from the CSPA age calculation. This update also clarifies that we consider an alien to have satisfied the "sought to acquire" requirement if they demonstrate extraordinary circumstances for failing to seek lawful permanent resident status within one year of when a visa becomes available. If an alien demonstrates extraordinary circumstances for not applying for adjustment of status during the period of the Feb. 14, 2023, policy before August 15,2025, we will calculate CSPA age under the Feb. 14, 2023, policy. USCIS (Dated 08/08/2025)

## First illegal migrants detained in Britain under return deal with France

LONDON: The first illegal migrants have been detained under the new return deal between Britain and France, the British government confirmed recently.

"We have detained the first illegal migrants under our new deal before returning them to France," British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in a post on X.

"If you break the law to enter this country, you will face being sent back," he added. The Home Office said the migrants were detained after arriving on a small boat last week and that they will now be returned to

France in the coming weeks, Xinhua news agency reported.

The British Home Secretary Yvette Cooper did not confirm how many migrants were being held or will be returned to France. Critics have raised doubts whether the new deal will create any deterrent to potential migrants.

"The transfers to immigration removal centers are under way as we speak, so we won't provide operational details at this point that criminal gangs can simply use and exploit," Cooper said.

"But no-one should be in any

doubt: anyone who arrives from now on is eligible for immediate detention and return," the Home secretary added.

British officials are expected to make referrals for returns to France within three days of a migrant's arrival by small boat, with French authorities responding within 14 days. The pilot scheme, set to last 11 months will see Britain accepting an equal number of asylum seekers from France who have not tried to cross illegally and can pass security and eligibility checks. *IANS* 

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rich international exposure.

### India emerging as global education hub amid stricter foreign admissions, visa challenges

NEW DELHI: As global universities tighten their admission policies and visa challenges grow, India is rising as a global education hub, prompting many students to rethink their study-abroad plans, according to several top officials of educational institutions.

Top officials of many eminent educational institutions said that initiatives such as e-Student and e-Student-X visas are making it easier for international learners to access Indian educational institutions.

Speaking on the trend, Amruta Ruikar, Head of International Admissions and Promotions, Symbiosis International University, said, "India is not just reforming education - we're reimagining our role in the global academic community. With the National Education Policy (NEP)

Dr Yajulu Medury, Vice Chancellor of Mahindra University, said, "If Indian higher education is to compete with the world's best, we must go beyond traditional metrics and reimagine student experience. That means investing not just in infrastructure or curriculum, but in nurturing interdisciplinary thinking, global partnerships, and cultural agility. At Mahindra University, we've already partnered

CentraleSupelec, and Babson College, among others." Going further, the education experts suggested that to continue this trend, India will need continuous structural

with prestigious institutions such as Virginia Tech.

reform in the education

"The scope for Indian

universities to lead global academic innovation is growing, but it must be backed by continuous structural reform", said Dr Kannan, Director, SRM

"France must be strong and command respect. It can only receive this from its partners if it shows them the respect it demands from them. This basic rule also applies to Algeria"

"France must

be strong and command respect. It can only receive this from its partners if it shows them the respect it demands from them. This basic rule also applies to Algeria," Macron said, as quoted in the letter.

Tensions between the two nations have intensified since France recognized Morocco's sovereignty over Western Sahara in July 2024, a decision that strained ties with Algeria, France 24 noted.

Relations further deteriorated after Algerian authorities arrested Franco-Algerian author Boualem Sansal in November, and reached a tipping point in February when an Algerian national -- whom France had tried unsuccessfully to deport -- was arrested as the suspect in a deadly knife attack in Mulhouse. One person was killed and three others injured in

France 24 highlighted that Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau has been vocal about the need to overhaul France's visa and migration arrangements with Algeria. Retailleau has cited Algeria's persistent refusal to accept the return of its nationals ordered to leave France under the "OQTF" (obligation to leave French territory) deportation regime as a key issue. ANI

"Programs like Study in India, ICCR scholarships, and GIAN reflect a clear intent: to make India a destination, not just a departure point, for quality education. New steps like the e-Student and e-Student-X visas are making it easier for international learners to access our institutions"

2020 as our foundation, we're opening pathways for joint degrees, credit transfers, and cross-border collaborations."

"Programs like Study in India, ICCR scholarships, and GIAN reflect a clear intent: to make India a destination, not just a departure point, for quality education. New steps like the e-Student and e-Student-X visas are making it easier for international learners to access our institutions. But beyond policies, what truly sets us apart is our willingness to welcome, especially students from regions facing economic or political uncertainty," she further added.

Experts further added that the Indian institutions are

Group of Institutions, Ramapuram and Tiruchirappalli.

"We need sustained public and private investments in digital learning, research, and student life, alongside policies that support academic autonomy and international mobility. At SRMIST Trichy, we've signed MoUs with reputed bodies like the Officers Training Academy (OTA), ICAR-NRCB, and L&T EduTech, which promote joint research, faculty exchange, and advanced skill development. Many Indian universities now hold Institution of Eminence (IoE) status, which includes structured partnerships with foreign universities, further strengthening India's global education appeal", he further added. ANI

#### Mexican President slams latest anti-migrant raids in US

Emphasizing the

significant contributions

of both Mexican nation-

als and other Latino

migrants to the US

economy, she said,

"Without that labor

force. California and

other states will see

their fields go

unharvested"

MEXICO CITY: Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum criticized the latest anti-migrant raids in the United States, vowing to protect Mexican nationals staying in the neighboring country.

"We do not agree with the raids, and we will protect and help our compatriots," the Mexican president said at her daily press conference on last week Thursday.

Sheinbaum, who has urged efforts for the role of migrants in the US economy to be recognized, has worked to strengthen Mexico's consular service in the US to protect Mexicans deported or detained, including the Mexicans being held at the "Alligator Alcatraz" detention center in the US state of Florida, according to Rutilio Escandon Cadenas, the Mexican general consul in Miami, Florida.

From January 20 to August 1, more than 75,900 Mexicans were repatriated from the US, according to the Mexican government, Xinhua news agency reported.

Earlier in July, 2025, Sheinbaum condemned US im-

migration raids targeting migrant workers in farm fields, saying the actions were unjust and would harm the US economy.

> "These raids are deeply unfair and will severely damage the US economy," Sheinbaum said during her daily press conference.

Emphasizing the significant contributions of both Mexican nationals and other Latino migrants to the US economy, she said, "Without that labor force, California and other states will see their fields go unharvested."

Sheinbaum said that following the raids in California, staff from Mexican consulates are visiting detention centers to determine how many Mexicans may have been detained.

She also announced increased funding for Mexico's consulates in the United

States, especially to strengthen legal support for detained nationals. "Our brothers and sisters over there need legal assistance, and we're going to ensure they get it," she said. IANS

#### Macron seeks visa curbs on Algerian diplomats amid migration row

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron has directed his government to tighten visa requirements for Algerian diplomats amid escalating tensions over the deportation of Algerian nationals, France 24 reported.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Francois Bayrou, Macron said that France is facing "growing difficulties" with Algeria in terms of migration and security, necessitating a firmer stance against the former French colony. France 24 reported that Macron's directive comes amid deepening friction between Paris and Algiers.

Macron asked Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot to formally notify Algeria of the suspension of a 2013 bilateral agreement, which exempted diplomatic and official passport holders from visa obligations. The move marks a significant step in revisiting longstanding diplomatic protocols between the two countries.

According to France 24, Macron also instructed Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau to coordinate with Schengen zone countries to help enforce the re-

policy. Specifically. France has requested these countries to consult Paris before issuing short-stay visas to Algerian officials and those using passports covered under the 2013 agreement.

### Tech News

#### Make in India booster: OnePlus to manufacture premium tablets

NEW DELHI: In a boost for the 'Make in India' initiative, global technology brand OnePlus recently announced collaboration with domestic electronic firm Bhagwati Products Ltd (BPL) to manufacture premium tablets.

This strategic partnership aligns with OnePlus' long-term vision for India and its recent 'Project Starlight' initiative aimed at deepening local integration.

"As part of these efforts, OnePlus is ramping up its local manufacturing operations. In ad-



dition to producing smartphones in India, the company has begun manufacturing its tablet products at M/s BPL's facility based in Greater Noida," the company said in a statement.

Robin Liu, CEO, OnePlus India said, "By localizing tablet production, we are reinforcing our commitment to India and creating meaningful value for our user community. This partnership reflects our long-term vision to innovate for India, invest in India, and grow with India." IANS

# I ech Biz

Auigust 15, 2025

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#### Indian rupee strengthens against US dollar despite tariff concerns

NEW DELHI: The Indian rupee opened stronger on 11 August, amid additional 25 percent tariff proposed by US President Donald Trump on India, which is set to take effect from August 27.



The rupee likely inched up higher on optimism that the Russia-Ukraine war will end following the upcoming US-Russia negotiations India Post 21 on August 15, leading to removal of additional tariffs on India. IANS

## US tariffs: Strong corporate growth, govt support to mitigate credit impact on India, says Crisil

NEW DELHI: Strong corporate balance sheets, potential bilateral trade agreements with other countries and the possibility of support from the Indian government for the impacted sectors could mitigate the credit impact to some extent arising due to increased US tariffs on India, a Crisil report said.

Any support measures from the Indian government to safeguard the tariff-impacted sectors will play an important role. Plus, the tariffs come at a time when corporate balance sheets have strengthened significantly, which could cushion the credit impact, the report mentioned.

The imposition of 25 percent tariff on import of goods from India into the US will have a significant impact on the earnings of companies in sectors such as diamond polishing, shrimp, home textiles and carpets.

Additionally, the move to impose an additional 25 percent tariff with effect from August 27 as a penalty for importing crude oil



from Russia will make Indian exports to the US unviable for the aforesaid as well as other sectors including ready-made garments (RMG), chemicals, agrochemicals, capital goods and solar panel manufacturing, which have sizable trade exposure to the US.

"The extent of impact will vary depending on exposure, ability to pass on incremental costs to customers, and relative tariff disadvantage versus competing nations. A potential second-order

The imposition of 25 percent tariff on import of goods from India into the US will have a significant impact on the earnings of companies in sectors such as diamond polishing, shrimp, home textiles and carpets

impact, including a slowdown in US demand and disparate tariffs across nations that could alter trade dynamics globally, also warrants close monitoring. Any potential trade agreement between the two nations in the coming days will bear watching," the Crisil report noted.

Last fiscal, the US accounted for 20 percent of India's merchandise exports and 2 percent of its overall GDP.

For sectors such as readymade garments (RMG), agrochemicals, specialty chemicals, capital goods, etc., the impact of the 25 percent reciprocal tariff is likely to be more manageable, considering moderate exposure to the US (5-20 percent of overall revenue) and limited tariff disadvantage that will allow companies to partly pass on the impact to customers.

However, the additional 25 percent tariff will have an adverse impact on all the sectors.

For India's solar panel manufacturing industry, volume growth and operating profitability are unlikely to be significantly impacted, as exports to the US account for only 10-12 percent of overall sales volume. This share is expected to decline this fiscal, driven by growing domestic demand.IANS

## India will not just make in India, but make for the world: Jyotiraditya Scindia

NEW DELHI: From local to global, India will not just make in India, but make for the world, and Jabalpur will be at the heart of this transformation, Union Communication Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said recently.

"The government and industry are two sides of the same coin. Together, we can turn the aspirations of our youth into reality," the minister said as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) signed strategic Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with global technology leaders.

To create an industry-ready skilled manpower, BSNL signed strategic MoUs with four global technology leaders that include Ericsson India, Qualcomm Technologies Inc., Cisco Systems, and Nokia Solutions and Networks India.

Scindia described the initiative as a landmark step in building a skilled and future-ready telecom workforce through collaboration between BSNL and leading global technology companies.

"Backed by industry leaders such as Ericsson, Nokia, Cisco, Qualcomm, and BSNL, the

programme will train over 2,000 students annually, with Phase 1 investments exceeding Rs 1



Jyotiraditya Scindia

crore," the minister said.

Aimed at accelerating India's digital transformation and strengthening the skilling ecosystem, these partnerships will roll out advanced training initiatives in 5G, AI/ML, networking, and digital technologies at BSNL's apex training institute, Bharat Ratna Bhim Rao Ambedkar Institute Telecom Training (BRBRAITT) in Jabalpur.

"The courses -- ranging from short two-week modules to intensive 84-hour programs -- aim to position Jabalpur as a hub for cutting-edge technology education," the minister stated. IANS

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# Crackdown on Russian oil exports a big setback for Reliance, shares dip

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump's crackdown on Russian oil exports has come as a major blow to Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), which was a major importer of the cheap crude for processing at its giant oil refinery in Jamnagar on the Gujarat coast.

The setback is also reflected in the decline in prices of Reliance shares in recent days after Trump stepped up his rhetoric against the purchase of Russian oil by India.

In the last 30 days, the blue-chip stock fell nearly 7 percent. At 2.38 p.m. on Tuesday (12 Aug), the scrip was trading at Rs 1,380, down 0.40 percent. The RIL share price has crashed around 11 percent from its 52-week high of Rs 1,551.

According to a report in the Financial Times, Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance was one of the biggest gainers of Russian crude purchases. The report cites Amrita Sen, director of research at data and analysis consultancy Energy Aspects, as saying that private Indian refiners like Reliance had gained even more than govern-



ment-owned competitors, such as Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum, because they exported more of their oil products. Sen pegs the gains of Reliance Industries through the purchase of cheap Russian oil at around \$6 billion.

The US previously did not object to oil imports from Russia, as long as they were

priced below the \$60-a-barrel price cap fixed by the G7 countries to limit Russia's earnings. These purchases also helped to keep more crude flowing into the market and prices from spinning out of control.

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has pointed out that India's purchases of Russian crude oil have helped to bring down global energy prices to stable levels.

In an interview with a foreign news channel, Puri said: "Russia is one of the largest crude producers with over 9 million barrels/day. Imagine the chaos if this oil, amounting to about 10 percent of the global oil supply of around 97 million, vanished from the market. It would have forced the world to reduce its consumption, and since the consumers would be chasing reduced supplies, the prices would've spiraled to over \$120-130."

"India has been a net positive contributor to global energy price stability, while at the same time we successfully navigated the trilemma of energy availability, affordability and sustainability," he said.

India's stand has been that Russian oil was never under global sanctions. "Sensible decision makers around the world were aware of the realities of global oil supply chains and how India was only helping the global markets by buying discounted oil under a price cap from wherever we could," the minister said. *IANS* 

## Cabinet okays 4 semiconductor manufacturing units with Rs 4,600 crore outlay

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recently approved four more semiconductor projects under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) with an outlay of Rs 4,600 crore.

The four proposals approved are from

SiCSem, Continental Device India Private Limited (CDIL), 3D Glass Solutions Inc., and Advanced System in Package (ASIP) Technologies.

With these, the total approved projects under the ISM have reached 10, with cumulative investments of around Rs 1.60 lakh crore in six states.

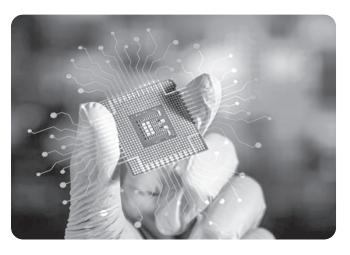
"These four approved proposals will set up semiconductor manufacturing facilities with a cumulative investment of around Rs 4,600 crore and are expected to generate a cumulative employ-

ment for 2,034 skilled professionals, which would catalyze the electronic manufacturing ecosystem, resulting in the creation of many indirect jobs," a Cabinet communique said

SiCSem and 3D Glass will be set up in

Odisha. CDIL is located in Punjab, and ASIP will be set up in Andhra Pradesh.

SicSem Private Limited is collaborating with Clas-SiC Wafer Fab Ltd., UK, to establish an integrated facility of silicon carbide-based Compound Semiconductors in Info Valley, Bhubaneshwar.



This will be the first commercial compound fab in the country. The project proposes to manufacture silicon carbide devices. This compound semiconductor fab will have an annual capacity of 60,000 wafers and a packaging capacity of 96 million units.

The proposed products will have applications in missiles, defense equipment, electric vehicles (EVs), railways, fast chargers, data center racks, consumer appliances, and solar power inverters, the Cabinet note said.

3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGS) will set

up a vertically integrated advanced packaging and embedded glass substrate unit in Odisha. This unit will bring the world's most advanced packaging technology to India.

The facility will have a large variety of advanced technologies, including glass interposers with passives and silicon bridges, and 3D heterogeneous integration (3DHI) modules. Planned capacity of this unit will be approximately 69,600 glass panel substrates, 50 million assembled units, and 13,200 3DHI modules

per annum.

The proposed products will have significant applications in defense, high-performance computing, artificial intelligence, RF and automotive, photonics and copackaged optics, etc. *IANS* 

#### Elon Musk alleges Apple favors OpenAl over xAi, threatens legal action

NEW DELHI: Tesla and SpaceX owner Elon Musk, on Tuesday, threatened legal action against tech giant Apple, alleging the company is unjustly favoring the OpenAl application in its App Store

Musk's own AI startup, xAI, was not able to claim the number one spot on the App Store due to this favoritism, he alleged.

Musk wrote on X, "Apple is behaving in a manner that makes it impossible for any AI company besides OpenAI to reach #1 in the App Store, which is an unequivocal antitrust violation. xAI will take immediate legal action."

"Unfortunately, what choice do we have? Apple didn't just put their thumb on the scale, they put their whole body!" he said in another post.

The accusation came as competition intensified between Grok, xAl's large language model, and OpenAl's ChatGPT. xAl launched Grok 4 last month and claimed notable performance improvements over competitors. *IANS* 

#### Govt involved in discussions on India-US bilateral trade deal: Minister

NEW DELHI: The government is still involved in the discussions on the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with Washington with the aim to expand trade and investment, through tariff stability and long-term trade predictability the Parliament was informed recently.

A reciprocal tariff at the rate of 25 percent has been imposed on certain goods exported from India to the US, starting from August 7.

It is estimated that around 55 percent of the total value of India's merchandise exports to the US is subject to this reciprocal tariff.

Further, an additional ad valorem rate of duty of 25 per-

### Identifying state-specific species key to boost India's seafood exports: Minister

NEW DELHI: Value addition and identifying state-specific species hold key to boosting India's seafood exports, Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh has said.

Singh underscored the importance of value addition in Indian seafood to enhance its export potential.

Speaking at the 'Seafood Exporters Meet 2025,' he highlighted the ongoing government initiatives being taken in the fisheries sector, including the development of a single-window system for better market linkages for all stakeholders, strengthening of High Seas and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) fishing, and upgrading infrastructure, all aimed at further bolstering the fisheries sector.

The minister emphasized on Marine Products Export Development Authority's (MPEDA) pivotal role in navigat-



ing the tariff challenges faced by the industry and urged MPEDA, along with state governments, to conduct stakeholder consultations for accurate mapping of state-wise species-specific exports and identifying new export op-

He also assured the stakeholders of the government's commitment to further strengthening Indian seafood exports.

Dr Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary (Fisheries), MoFAH&D, highlighted that only about 10 percent of India's seafood exports by value are currently value-added products, stressing the need to raise this share to 30-60 percent in line with global benchmarks through enhanced domestic production or import-and-re-export strategies. IANS

cent with effect from August 27, 2025, has been imposed on certain goods exported from India, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

"No additional tariffs have been imposed on Indian exports to the USA in sectors like pharmaceuticals and electronics as yet," he added.

According to the minister, a combination of different factors, such as product differentiation, demand, quality, and contractual arrangements, would determine the impact of reciprocal tariffs on India's exports, including in the textiles sector. "The government is engaged with all stakeholders, including exporters and industry, for taking feedback of their assessment of the impact of the reciprocal tariffs imposed by the USA. The government attaches the utmost importance to protecting and promoting the welfare of farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, exporters, MSMEs and all sections of industry," the minister emphasized.

India-US BTA negotiations were launched in March 2025. Five rounds of negotiations have been held, the last being from July 14-18 in Washington, DC.

New Delhi has reiterated that the latest tariff actions by US President Donald Trump are "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable". "We have already made clear our position on these issues, including the fact that our imports are based on market factors and done with the overall objective of ensuring the energy security of 1.4 billion people of India," the government had said in a statement.

"It is, therefore, extremely unfortunate that the US should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries are also taking in their own national interest," according to the statement. IANS

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#### Desi News

## MMNA singles mixer for young professionals

Aheshwari Mahasabha of North America is spear-heading an initiative to connect marriage age young people to know each other and potentially build relations that encourage Indian values and culture and heritage.

Date: Sat, September 13, 2025 Time: 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM Location: India Community Center (ICC), Milpitas, CA

Registration: \$99 (includes Lunch, Dinner, Chai and DJ) Early bird pricing ends soon -don't wait!

This is a one-of-a-kind singles mixer tailored specifically for young professionals in their 20s and 30s. Whether they are new in town or looking to expand their circle, this is a chance to connect with like-minded individuals from similar cultural and professional backgrounds in a relaxed, welcoming environment.

It allows meeting others who share your values, traditions, and sense of identity. This is an opportunity to network and build meaningful relationships with other ambitious young professionals.

It allows you to avoid awkward silences-enjoy music, interactive group activities, guided icebreakers, delicious meals, and a lively evening of dancing with a live DJ.

It is open to Maheshwari, Agarwal, Gupta, Jain, and Oswal communities

Organized by: MMNA.org - A nonprofit dedicated to preserving heritage and connecting the next generation has organized yearly events nationwide.

Tickets are selling fast! Reserve your spot now - Early Bird ends September 1st

# COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

**24** India Post www.indiapost.com August 15, 2025



Bengal Files producers Vivek Agnihotri and Pallavi Joshi honored by Americans4Hindus

Details on page 26

## United Indian Associations of Southern California celebrates India's Independence Day

LA PALMA, CA: The United Indian Associations of Southern California (UIASC), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, proudly hosted a sold-out celebration of India's Independence Day at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in La Palma, California. The event brought together community members, dignitaries, and cultural performers for an evening of patriotism, tradition and unity.

The celebration featured cultural programs, patriotic songs, and vibrant dance performances. Guests enjoyed snacks, vegetarian and non-vegetarian dinner, and had the opportunity to connect with community leaders and dignitaries.

Chief Guest of the event, Dr. Kali Pradip Chaudhuri, joined Guests of Honor Consul Kulwant Singh, Vice Consul Priyanka Tyagi (CGI-LA), and Dr. Bharat Patel. Distinguished invited guests included U.S. Congresswoman Young Kim, California State Senator Tony Strickland, California Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva, La Palma Mayor Mark I. Waldman, Congressman Raul Ruiz, Inglewood Mayor James Butts, Cerritos Mayor Frank Aurelio Yokoyama,



Zeel Ahir, and several councilmembers from surrounding cities.

The event commenced with a colorful parade, followed by a warm welcome from Ashok Patnaik. Sarumathi Shivakumar introduced UIASC President Kewal Kanda, who delivered an

inspiring speech. Amrit Bhandari and Dr Sukrit Mukherjee shared inspirational messages about UIASC's vision, and Dr. Priyadarshini led the U.S. and Indian national anthems. A recorded speech by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was played for attendees, followed by a video pre-

The celebration featured cultural programs, patriotic songs, and vibrant dance performances.

Guests enjoyed snacks, vegetarian and non-vegetarian dinner, and had the opportunity to connect with community leaders and dignitaries

sentation curated by Sudip Gorakshakar.

The ceremonial lamp lighting, led by dignitaries, sponsors, and executives, set a tone of reverence and unity for the evening. Esteemed guests then took the stage to share brief yet impactful addresses. The cultural program commenced with a graceful rendition of Ganesh Vandana, followed by an array of captivating performances featuring classical and folk dances, stirring patriotic medleys, and powerful theatrical presentations.

Cont'd on page 29







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## Bengal Files producers Vivek Agnihotri and Pallavi Joshi honored by Americans4Hindus

#### **RITU MAHESHWARI**

India Post News Service

FREMONT, CA: Vivek Agnihotri and Pallavi Joshi duo, known for several though provoking hit movies such as Kashmir Files were on a US tour to promote their latest film 'Bengal Files'. Americans4Hindus and FOG Bengal organized a special premier of the film to a packed house.

On the evening of August 7th, a special meet and greet was organized at Japra Mahal by Dr. Romesh Japra. A com-

munity gathering of over 300 fans and ardent supporters of A4H gathered to honor the producer duo. Bay Area leading dignitaries and elected officials honored Vivek and Pallavi.

Dr. Japra said that such though provoking movies that show case the hash realities of Hindu struggle awaken and unite community and are the need of the hour".

Vivek Agnihotri praised Americans4Hinuds initiative to build political awareness and leadership within American community.



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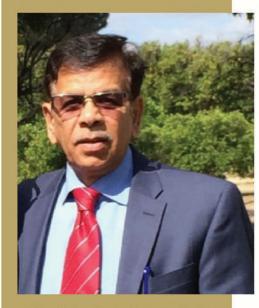






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#### **PERSONAL PROFILE**

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

#### FIELD OF EXPERTISE

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  - S Corp
  - C Corp
  - Tax Exempt Charitable and Sports organizations u/s 501(C)(3)
  - Others
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  - Preparation and compilation of Financial statements and schedules
  - Preparation of Budgets and Forecasts
  - Accounting system set-up and implementation services
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## Celebrating mothers and the motherland: Special event marks Independence Day with tribute to women

**RIYAZ KHAN** 

India Post News Service

LOS ANGELES: A heartwarming celebration titled "Every Day is Mother's Day: Appreciating Mothers on the Occasion of

When starvation is a

moral imperative?

The majority of Gaza's 2

million residents have

been displaced, left

without homes, clean

water, or consistent

access to food. For

months, many have

faced what international

agencies now describe

as catastrophic levels

of hunger

the Independence Day of Our Motherland" was held on the Saturday evening at 4810 Sunset Blvd, drawing community members together to honor the contributions of mothers and women leaders.

The event, blending national pride with

maternal appreciation, was moderated by Attorney Amy Ghosh and Swami Shuvananda Puri Maharaj. The evening

Chief Guest Toni Dasgupta with organizer Amy

**VIDYA SETHURAMAN** India Post News Service

aza is on the brink of famine. After nearly two years of war between Israel and Hamas, Gaza is in ruins. Over 60,000 people have been killed 18,000 of them children, according to UNICEF. The majority of Gaza's 2 million residents have been displaced, left without homes, clean water, or consistent access to food. For months, many have faced what international agencies now describe as catastrophic levels of hunger. UNICEF, the UN Fund for Children's emergencies, last week called for more humanitarian and commercial traffic to come into Gaza, calling for "flooding the strip with supplies using all channels and all gates" to combat the spiraling death rates that accom-

pany aid blockades, war and hunger. ACoM media briefing on August 8 had conversation exploring the roots of this crisis. the conditions on the ground, and what must be done to protect the lives of Gaza's children and families.

Alex de Waal, Executive Director, World Peace Foundation; expert on famine and mass atrocity, Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy,

Tufts University said after October 7, 2023, Israel implemented a comprehensive blockade. No supplies were allowed to enter for the first seven weeks, and then it was changed to partial release in an irregular amount every day. At the same time, it launched air strikes and ground offensives to destroy food, water sources, medical facilities and other necessities for survival. According to the United Nations' Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) data, in the past year the population of Gaza has been close to the highest warning line of famine for a long time. Due to pressure from the United

States, Israel has only temporarily increased aid to avoid breaking the critical point. A total lockdown started again in March this year, and food supply collapsed. Even if it was partially restored in mid-May, it was still not enough to fill

Budour Hassan, Amnesty International's researcher on Israel and Palestine pointed out that Israel has long restricted the import of supplies to Gaza, but since October last year, the scale and severity have been unprecedented. She mentioned that during the short ceasefire, although more supplies came in, reconstruction was still hindered, including a ban on the import of heavy machinery, and the destruction of farmland and infrastructure. After the resumption of total lockdown in

> March, the situation worsened, with shortages of supplies such as infant formula and skyrocketing prices, exacerbating the famine.

> Afeef Nessouli, Journalist and aid worker, just returned from 9 weeks volunteering in Gaza said that when he entered Gaza on March 27, many residents had already begun rationing food, and some people had lost nearly 40 kilo-

grams in just a few months. At that time, there was very little supply of fresh fruits and vegetables on the market, and the selling price of an onion was even equivalent to the price of a kilogram in the past. The number of community kitchens has plummeted from 170 to dozens, and many kitchens have been forced to close due to lack of supplies. Nessouli pointed out that hunger and material scarcity are not accidental, but are the result of the intersection of multiple policies and military operations, resulting in residents being forced to compete for limited resources in order to survive under physical and mental pressure.

tive Director of Saahas for Cause. Vivian Szwarc, noted immigration Saherish Khan, a multi-talented pilot, lawyer, and actress from Pakistan

> The evening also featured a fashion show curated by Fashion Weaves by Sumana Majumder, adding a fes-

as Chief Guest. During the event, several

outstanding women were honored for their

work in community service, law, advocacy,

and the arts. Among the awardees were:

Payel Kohli, Founder and Execu-

tive flair to the celebration. Attendees enjoyed a joyful and vibrant atmosphere filled with music, inspirational speeches, and cultural presentations. Organizers emphasized that while Mother's Day is tradi-

tionally celebrated once a year, the

role of mothers deserves daily recognition and appreciation.

The event successfully merged themes of independence, empowerment, and maternal love - leaving guests inspired and uplifted.



Gosh and Awardee Payel Kohli

featured a diverse program of tributes, talks, and cultural performances, all aimed at recognizing the tireless efforts of mothers in shaping society.

Dr. Toni Dasgupta, PhD, MBA, and CEO/Founder of the Veda Fund, served



Sumna Majumder of Fashion Weaves with the participants of the fashion show

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## Covered California offers information and resources for DACA recipients no longer eligible for Affordable Care Act coverage

India Post News Service

SACRAMENTO, CALIF: Due to recent rule changes made by the federal government, Covered California enrollees who are part of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program will have their Affordable Care Act health insurance terminated on Aug. 31, 2025. The federal rule will affect more than 2,300 DACA recipients in California.

The decision comes from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that oversees Affordable Care Act marketplaces. In its updated Marketplace Integrity Rule published in June, CMS changed the definition of "lawfully present" to exclude DACA recipients. Covered California is required to comply with this new rule.

"Covered California is deeply disheartened by the updated rule issued by this federal administration, which targets DACA recipients who are working to provide for their families and secure access to essential health insurance," said Covered California Executive Director Jessica Altman. "The decision is deeply unfair to hard-working, tax-paying individuals in California who trusted that they would have health insurance for 2025, only to have it stripped away eight months later. While we had hoped for a different outcome for DACA recipients, we must comply with federal law. In anticipation of this rule change going into effect, Covered California is doing everything we can to support DACA recipients with information and resources to understand what is happening and find other health insurance options."

Covered California is working to contact every individual affected by this federal decision through letters, emails and calls and will continue to be a resource for people to find health insurance outside the marketplace. Covered California encourcal county social services office or county Medi-Cal office.

Purchase a plan directly through a health insurance company.

Contact your employer to see if there is an employer-based insurance option available

Enrollees with questions or concerns about their enrollment status should contact Covered California for help. They can also contact legal aid or consumer assistance programs if they need help understanding their rights or addressing coverage concerns.

"Covered California is deeply disheartened by the updated rule issued by this federal administration, which targets DACA recipients who are working to provide for their families and secure access to essential health insurance,"

ages all DACA recipients to explore health insurance options and stay covered to protect against financial hardship in the event of an emergency.

Options for coverage may include:

See if you qualify for Medi-Cal by visiting CoveredCA.com or contacting your lo-

Additionally, the California Department of Social Services' Immigration Services Bureau keeps a list of qualified nonprofit organizations to provide services to immigrants who reside in California. For more resources and information, please visit the Immigration and California families

webpage.

Covered California contact information: Call Center (Cantonese): (800) 339 8938

Call Center (Mandarin): (800) 300 1533 Call Center (Korean): (800) 738 9116 Call Center (Vietnamese): (800) 652

Call Center (English): (800) 300-1506
As an organization, Covered California will continue to support policies that help everyone access the health care they need and will provide additional information as it becomes available. We have also developed information in English to help people navigate the ongoing changes.

English resources:

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) FAQ

#### Independence Day 2025: Top patriotic songs to stir your spirit this Aug 15

NEW DELHI: India is getting ready to celebrate its 79th Independence Day on Friday, August 15, the day when the spirit of freedom and love for the motherland resonates throughout the nation.

The day is observed in a grand manner every year, with multiple parades, cultural programs, events, and much more. To enhance the celebrations, music can be brought along, as it has slowly become an integral part of India's culture.

Take a look at some of the most soulstirring patriotic songs for Independence Day 2025.

Independence Day Songs

I Love My India (Pardes): The melodious song from the 1997 film is still played on various patriotic occasions, remaining a popular choice among people. The song has been sung by the talented Shankar Mahadevan, Hariharan, Kavita Krishnamurthy, and Aditya Narayan.

Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon: Sung by the legendary Lata Mangeshkar, the song truly celebrates the spirit of patriotism and pays a heartfelt tribute to the martyred heroes and their sacrifice. She performed the song live for the first time in 1963 on Republic Day in the presence of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Kar Chale Hum Fida (Haqeeqat):
Originally written by Urdu poet Kaifi Azmi,
the song was featured in the soundtrack
of the 1964 film 'Haqeeqat.' It was crooned
by the iconic Mohammad Rafi. ANI

### Roots & Reflections - The Wisdom Seat

oday marks a special milestone for Sikhlens as we begin filming our newest initiative, Roots & Reflections - a heartfelt video series honoring the voices of elders from the Punjabi diaspora. Through intimate conversations, they share memories of migration, food, struggle, and resilience, offering timeless wisdom for future generations.

Our inaugural guest is Amrit Kaur Kapoor, lovingly known as Amrit Auntyji. Her positive spirit, ever-ready smile, and generosity of heart have touched so many lives. She embodies the pride, warmth, and heritage we aim to preserve through this series.

As we launch this journey, we invite our community to nominate other inspiring elders whose stories can enrich and educate generations to come. Together, let's honor the roots that ground us and the reflections that guide us forward.

Trailer drops soon - stay tuned! #SikhlensRoots



The first episode highlights Amrit Kaur Kapoor

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Sikhlens' new video series,

"Roots & Reflections,"

features stories of Punjabi elders.

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www.indiapost.con

## United Indian Associations of Southern California Celebrates India's Independence Day with a houseful event

Cont'd from page 24

Dr. Kali Pradip Chaudhuri delivered an uplifting speech and was warmly felicitated by UIASC in recognition of his contributions. Hark Vasa introduced Dr. Bharat Patel, who delighted the audience with an inspiring address and a touch of humor through his engaging stand-up comedy. Consul Kulwant Singh spoke eloquently on the significance of Independence Day, leaving the audience both inspired and proud.

The cultural segment featured a captivating lineup of performances that kept the audience enthralled from start to finish. Dr. Sinduri Jayasinghe, Vinaini Jayasinghe, and their group delivered a spectacular drama portraying the life of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju.

Surekha Modi infused the stage with vibrant energy through a traditional Gujarati Garba, while Geeta Bhatt presented a powerful rendition of Operation Sindoor. The program continued with a graceful Maharashtrian dance by Priya Kulkarni, the colorful Flavors of India presented by Suma Hareesh, a soul-stirring patriotic medley by Paulomi Pandit, the melodious Sakal Ban by Anvita, and a Bhangra performance by Daman Singh with Jodhvir

Singh electrifying the audience with Bhangra. The grand finale featured a patriotic medley by all members, ending the cultural program on a high note.

Distinguished guests, including the Honorable Consul, addressed the audience, emphasizing the significance of India's Independence Day and the value of cultural unity.

The event concluded with a grand patriotic medley finale, a vote of thanks, and the announcement of dinner for all attendees.

Gorakshakar, Anil & Sona Desai, Smita & Kumar Shah, Aparna Hande, Indra Bakshi, Rajinder Dhunna, Baljinder Tahim, and Major Gurjeet Singh.

UIASC's leadership and volunteer teams worked tirelessly to ensure a seamless celebration. The Executive Team included President Kewal Kanda, Convenor Dr. Sukrit Mukherjee, Treasurer Arvind Patel, Secretary Hark Vasa, Joint Secretary Yatish Shukla, and Cultural Chair Surekha Modi. Publicity Chair Nila Parikh and Booth Coordinator Radhika Patel en-

The cultural segment featured a captivating lineup of performances that kept the audience enthralled from start to finish. Dr. Sinduri Jayasinghe, Vinaini Jayasinghe, and their group delivered a spectacular drama portraying the life of freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju

Generous contributions played a key role in the event's success. Gold Sponsors included Dr. Gunvant & Ila Mehta, Dr. Sukrit & Jayesha Mukherjee, Pandit Vinod Dave, Ashok Patnaik, Walis Bank, State Bank of India (California), Kewal & Asha Kanda, Amrit & Sheela Bhandari, Hark & Kusum Vasa, Ashok & Manju Madan, and Radhika Patel. Silver Sponsors included Sudip

sured strong outreach and on-site engagement.

The Executive Committee included Amrit Bhandari (Chair, Cultural), Rajeshwari Kulkarni, Suma Hareesh, Priya Kumar (Youth), Smeeta Shah (Decorations), Sarumathi Shivakumar, Bani Mukherjee (Media), Dr. Rohini Joshi (Medical), Anila Bhasin, Indra Bakshi, Anil & Sona Desai, and Rani Kusino (Publicity), with Meera Gadasalli overseeing the Booth and Dr. Manorama Gupta managing Food. The Advisory Board consisted of Ashok Patnaik, Amrit Bhandari, Dr. Pradip Shukla, Dr. Rangaesh Gadasalli, Hashmukh Modi, and Sudip Gorakshakar.

This year's celebration was not only about honoring India's independence, but also about celebrating the culture, heritage, and unity. UIASC's Independence Day celebration successfully showcased India's diverse cultural heritage, strengthened community bonds, and honored the spirit of freedom.

The celebration saw a remarkable turnout, with the community coming together to honor India's Independence Day.

(About UIASC - The United Indian Associations of Southern California (UIASC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Indian heritage, culture, and unity within the Indian-American community of Southern California.)

## Air India to suspend Delhi-Washington flights amid fleet shortfall, other factors

NEW DELHI: Tata Group-owned Air India announced it is suspending its services between Delhi and Washington, D.C., effective from September 1, 2025, due to a combination of operational factors.

The airline, which has been facing a myriad of issues since the fatal Boeing 787 crash in Ahmedabad on June 12, said the move is to "ensure the reliability and

AIR (NDIA 100)

integrity of Air India's overall route network".

In a statement, the airline said the suspension is primarily driven by the planned shortfall in Air India's fleet, as the airline commenced retrofitting 26 of its Boeing 787-8 aircraft last month.

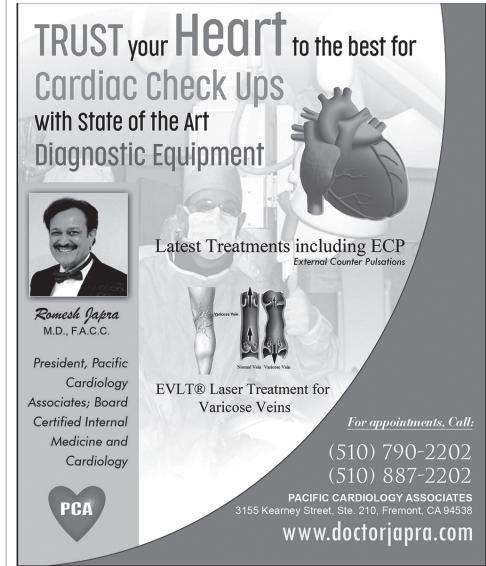
"This extensive retrofit program, aimed at significantly enhancing cus-

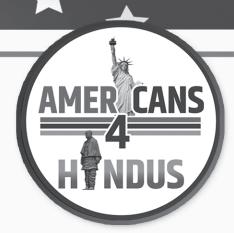
tomer experience, necessitates a prolonged unavailability of multiple aircraft at any given time until at least the end of 2026. That, coupled with the continued closure of airspace over Pakistan, impacts the airline's long-haul operations, leading to longer flight routings and increased operational complexity," the airline said.

Customers with Air India bookings to or from Washington, D.C. beyond Sep-

tember 1, 2025, will be contacted and offered alternative travel arrangements, including rebooking on other flights or full refunds, as per their individual preferences.

Meanwhile, Air India customers will continue to have the options of one-stop flights to Washington, D.C. via New York (JFK), Newark (EWR), Chicago, and San Francisco - with the airline's interline partners, Alaska Airlines, United Airlines, and Delta Air Lines, "allowing customers to travel on a single itinerary with their baggage checked through to the final destination". *IANS* 





## Americans 4 Hindus

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Mahalaya Saturday, SEP 20

10:00 am Chandi Path & Mahalaya Cultural program

Maha Shasti Sunday, SEP 28

06:00 pm **Evening Puja Aarti** 08:30 pm

Maha Saptami Monday, SEP 29

Morning Puja 08:30 am Aarti 11:30 am

**Evening Puja** 05:30 pm Aarti 06:30 pm

> Bijoya Dashami Thursday, OCT 2

Morning Puja & 08:30 am Bisharjan 10:30 am Sindur Khela

> Lakshmi Puja Monday, OCT 6

**Puja Starts** 

05:30 pm

- Maha Ashtami Tuesday, SEP 30
- 08:30 am **Morning Puja** 11:30 am **Aarti** Sandhi Puja 05:00 pm **Evening Puja** 07:00 pm Aarti 07:30 pm

Maha Nabami Wednesday, OCT 1

Morning Puja 08:30 am 11:00 am Kumari Puja 12:30 pm Aarti Nabami Ho'm 06:00 pm Vaidic Yagna 05:00 pm **Evening Puja** Aarti 06:45 pm

- Everyday Pushpanjali will be after Aarti, also Lunch & Dinner will be served after Aarti
- Sponsorship: \$400 or more, covers all meals for a family of 4 from Mahalaya to Kali Puja; or \$20 Donation to the Ashram Fund for each meal. For sponsorship/donations, please Zelle to: treasurer@bsswest.org.
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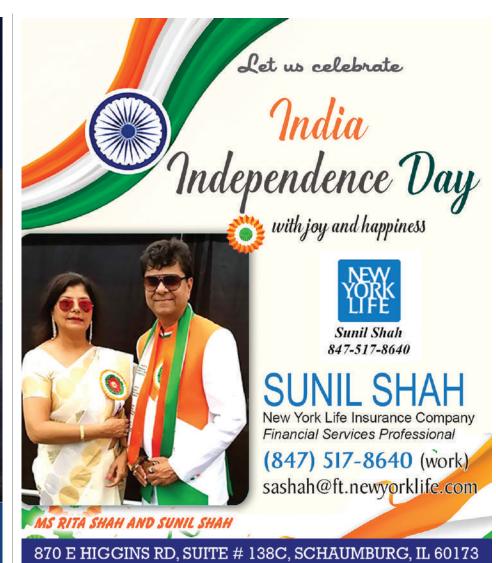


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#### \_ Health Line

#### Study finds potential biomarker for long Covid

NEW DELHI: US researchers have identified a potential biomarker for long Covid that may help develop better diagnostics and potential treatments for the condition.

Currently, clinicians confer a diagnosis of long Covid based upon a collection of symptoms that patients develop after SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The study, reported in the journal Infection, details the detection of SARS-CoV-2 protein fragments within extracellular vesicles (EVs) -- tiny, naturally occurring packages that help cells share proteins, metabolites, and other materials.

"If a patient arrives in clinic and they relate the persistence of typical signs and symptoms of long Covid, 12 weeks or more after Covid-19 infection, I give them a presumptive diagnosis, but I don't have any blood tests or biomarkers to confirm this diagnosis," said William Stringer, from the Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA Medical Centre.

The new biomarker could be the first specific and quantifiable indicator for confirming long Covid. The researchers collected and analyzed blood samples from 14 patients over 12 weeks of aerobic exercise training (56 samples in all) in a clinical trial on long Covid. *IANS* 



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)

August 15, 2025 www.indiapost.com India Post 3

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

# Surgical implant can slow down vision loss caused by blinding eye disease: Study

NEW DELHI: Vision loss caused by a blinding eye disease can be slowed with a neuroprotective surgical implant, according to a study.

For people with macular telangiectasia type 2 (MacTel) -- an orphan retinal disorder that gradually destroys central vision -- there have long been no approved treatment options.

The study, published in NEJM Evidence, reported results from two Phase III clinical trials evaluating ENCELTO -- a surgically implanted device that continuously releases a therapeutic protein to preserve vision.

Conducted across 47 sites internationally, the randomized trials enrolled 228 participants with MacTel, following their progress over a 24-month period, and the results provide strong evidence that the implant can preserve vision in people with MacTel.

"This is a step toward redefining how we think about vision loss. Instead of waiting for cells to die, we're learning how to protect and preserve them," said Professor Martin Friedlander of Scripps Research, US.

"This is the first time we've seen a therapy meaningfully alter

ditions," he added.

The US FDA-approved device delivers ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) -- a naturally occurring protein known to protect retinal neurons.





The study, published in NEJM Evidence, reported results from two Phase III clinical trials evaluating ENCELTO -- a surgically implanted device that continuously releases a therapeutic protein to preserve vision

the course of MacTel. It confirms that neuroprotection can be a powerful strategy to preserve vision in degenerative retinal conENCELTO also consists of genetically modified retinal pigment epithelial cells -- which help nourish and support the retina --

housed in a tiny, collagen-based capsule, which is implanted in the back of the eye.

The capsule design helps the cells to remain shielded from immune rejection while continuously releasing CNTF -- enabling long-term, localized delivery of the therapeutic molecule.

The study demonstrated that ENCELTO significantly slowed the loss of photoreceptors -- light-sensing nerve cells that are critical for central vision -- compared with sham-treated eyes, or eyes that underwent a simulated procedure without receiving actual treatment.

In one of the trials, the implant resulted in a 54.8 percent reduction in the rate of ellipsoid zone loss -- a measurable change in retinal structure that signals photoreceptor cell degeneration. The second trial showed a 30.6 percent reduction in the same measure, which is still statistically significant, though smaller in magnitude. *IANS* 

### Study identifies reasons behind deadly weight loss in cancer patients

NEW DELHI: Increasing weight loss experienced by cancer patients that often leads to deaths may be caused by communication between the brain and liver, according to a study

Nearly a third of cancer-related deaths are caused by cachexia -- a currently incurable metabolic syndrome that involves substantial weight loss, including depletion of muscle mass and body fat.

It also contributes to therapy resistance and increases mortality among affected patients.

Researchers from the

Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center,

US, have discovered that one of the reasons for this loss is disrupted communication between the brain and the liver.

When the activity of the vagus nerve -- a major axis of brainliver communication -is dysregulated by cancer-triggered inflammation, the result

is damage to liver metabolism and the development of the life-

threatening syndrome.

The prevalence of cachexia in cancer patients is as high as 85



percent in some cancers; it is among the highest in pancreatic

and lung tumors, said researchers led by Dr. Naama Darzi at Weizmann and Dr. Aliesha

Garrett at MD Ander-

The study, published in the journal Cell, showed that targeted blocking of the right vagus nerve -- even when performed by noninvasive means -- prevented cachexia's development in mice, en-

hanced their response to chemotherapy, and improved their overall health and survival.

The method, already being tested in clinical trials, offers a new therapeutic approach that may lead to improved quality of life and even survival for cancer patients, the team said.

Since the method is based on technologies approved for clinical use, it is likely to reach patients relatively soon.

Beyond opening new treatment options for cancer patients, this study demonstrates that the brain-body communication plays a critical role in our health and disease, the researchers said. *IANS* 

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# Man hospitalized after following dangerous diet advice from ChatGPT

NEW DELHI: In a rare and alarming case, a man in the United States developed life-threatening bromide poisoning after following diet advice given by ChatGPT.

Doctors believe this could be the first known case of Al-linked bromide poisoning, according to a report by Gizmodo.

The case was detailed by doctors at the University of Washington in 'Annals of Internal Medicine: Clinical Cases'.

They said the man consumed sodium bromide for three months, thinking it was a safe substitute for chloride in his diet. This advice reportedly came from ChatGPT, which did not warn him about the dangers.

Bromide compounds were once used in medicines for anxiety and insomnia, but they were banned decades ago due to severe health risks.

Today, bromide is mostly found in veterinary drugs and some industrial products. Human cases of bromide poisoning, also called bromism, are extremely rare.

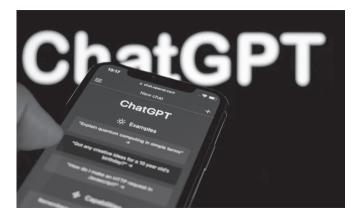
The man first went to the emergency room believing his neighbor was poisoning him. Although some of his vitals were normal, he showed paranoia, refused water despite being thirsty, and experienced hallucinations.

prove. Once stable, he told doctors that he had asked ChatGPT for alternatives to table salt.

The AI allegedly suggested bromide as a safe option -- advice he followed without knowing it was harmful.

Experts say this shows how AI can provide information without proper context or awareness of health risks.

The man recovered fully after three weeks in hospital and was in good health during a follow-up visit. Doctors have



The man first went to the emergency room believing his neighbor was poisoning him.

Although some of his vitals were normal, he showed paranoia, refused water despite being thirsty, and experienced hallucinations

His condition quickly worsened into a psychotic episode, and doctors had to place him under an involuntary psychiatric hold.

After receiving intravenous fluids and antipsychotic medicines, he began to im-

Doctors did not have the man's original chat records, but when they later asked ChatGPT the same question, it again mentioned bromide without warning that it was unsafe for humans.

warned that while AI can make scientific information more accessible, it should never replace professional medical advice -- and, as this case shows, it can sometimes give dangerously wrong guidance. IANS

# Little girl in southern Cambodia becomes 15th victim of bird flu in 2025

PHNOM PENH: A six-year-old girl from southern Cambodia's Takeo province has been confirmed for H5N1 human avian influenza, bringing the number of cases to 15 so far this year, the Ministry of Health said in a statement.

"A laboratory result from the National Institute of Public Health showed on August 5 that the girl was positive for H5N1 virus," the statement said.

"The patient has the symptoms of fever, cough, fatigue, and breathing difficulty, and she is currently being rescued by a team of doctors," it added.

The victim lives in Prey Mok village of Tram Kak district.

"Investigations revealed that in the past 20 days, about 30 chickens had fallen ill and died subsequently at the girl's house, and her mother cooked dead chickens for food, days before the girl got sick," the statement said.

Health authorities are looking into the source of the infection and are examining any suspected cases or people who have been in contact with the victim in order to

prevent an outbreak in the community, Xinhua news agency reported.

Tamiflu (oseltamivir), an antiviral drug to prevent the bird flu from spreading, was



also distributed to people who had direct contact with the ill-fated girl, the statement said

So far this year, the Southeast Asian

country recorded a total of 15 human cases of H5N1 bird flu, with five deaths, according to the Ministry of Health.

H5N1 influenza virus infection can

cause a range of diseases in humans, from mild to severe and in some cases, it can even be fatal. Symptoms reported have primarily been respiratory, but conjunctivitis and other non-respiratory symptoms have also been reported. There have also been a few detections of H5N1 virus in persons who were exposed to infected animals or their environments but who did not show any symptoms.

Infections in humans can cause severe disease with a high mortality rate. The human cases detected thus far are mostly linked to close contact with infected birds and other animals and contaminated en-

vironments. This virus does not appear to transmit easily from person to person, and sustained human-to-human transmission has not been reported. *IANS* 

#### India's 1st animal stem cell biobank, lab to boost regenerative medicine & therapies for livestock

NEW DELHI: India recently got its first animal stem cell biobank and animal stem cell laboratory that will focus on regenerative medicine and therapies for livestock.

Inaugurated by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, the biobank and lab is situated at the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad.

The cutting-edge facility of Animal BioBank is spread over 9,300 sq ft and has been constructed at a cost of RS 1.85 crore.

The laboratory is equipped with a stem cell culture unit, 3D bioprinter, bacterial culture lab, cryostorage, autoclave rooms, advanced air handling systems, and uninterrupted power backup. It will advance research in disease modeling, tissue engineering, and reproductive biotechnology.

With support from the National Biopharma Mission (NBM) of DBT-BIRAC, the facility will be expanded to enable biobanking of animal stem cells and their derivatives. *IANS* 

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# Indian pharma market up by 7.9pc in July, cardiac & anti-diabetes therapies show strong volume

NEW DELHI: The Indian pharmaceutical market (IPM) grew 7.9 percent in July this year, and the cardiac and anti-diabetes therapy segments have shown strong volume, according to a report.

The report by market research firm Pharmarack showed that cardiac and antidiabetes -- which together account for nearly 25 percent of the overall domestic market -- recorded value growth of 14.1 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

Several super groups, such as urology and antineoplastics, each contributing around 2 percent to the IPM's monthly sales value, also reported double-digit value growth. The respiratory segment also registered a 9.2 percent value growth.

"New introductions and price growth have driven the market growth for the month of July for most of the therapies," said Sheetal Sapale, vice-president (commercial) at Pharmarack.

"Among the top therapies, only cardiac and anti-infectives have a strong volume growth. New introductions also drove the growth in the anti-diabetes segment," Sapale added.

Meanwhile, the report highlighted that the GLP-1 agonists market continues to ride on a strong positive trend.

As per the report, Semaglutide and Tirzepatide continue to drive the growth of this market.

While Semaglutide is marketed as Rybelsus (oral), Wegovy (injections), Tirzepatide is sold under the brand Mounjaro. Both injectable medications are used to treat type2 diabetes and promote weight loss.

"A strong upward momentum is seen for the month of July. This may be due to aggressive promotion of both the new launch brands in the mar-

ket," Sapale

Although
the launch of
Tirzepatide
had imp a c t e d
S e m a g l u t i d e

(Rybelsus), "we see Wegovy bringing back the molecule on a strong sales momentum," Sapale said.

Further, the report also focused on strategic areas that drive exponential growth in the Indian pharma industry. This includes

biosimilars market is about Rs 3,900 Crore market today, growing at a five-year CAGR of 15 percent," Sapale said.

"With the changing landscape of dis-

biologics and biosimilars,
which are changing the
canvas of the Indian
pharma market.

"The

ease patterns and associated
complications, Biologics and
Biosimilars play a critical role in
the Indian pharma market," Sapale
added. IANS



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# Life Style

38 India Post

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This Fashion Design Academy is on a Mission to

# Fix Fashion Education in India

NEW DELHI: Designed for films, now making a path for others, how renowned fashion Design Institute Malini Reddy Fashion Academy is rewriting the rules of broken fashion education. Empowering fashion enthusiasts to master fit, form, and confidence in a way most fashion schools don't.

#### Why Do Most Clothes Never Fit Right, Even When They're "Professionally Made"?

This is the question that bothered the heads of Malini Reddy Fashion Academy, their creations once lit up the silver screen. De-

spite the glamour, they couldn't ignore the silent frustration of thousands of aspiring designers and everyday people; garments that looked good on paper, but failed in real life.

And that's when they decided to change everything.

#### From Red Carpets to Classrooms: The Start of Malini Reddy Fashion Academy

Malini Reddy Fashion Academy's value for fashion and love of learning was rooted in their foundation from day one, for them It was about how clothes made people feel. The Academy went up the ranks, eventually designing for films and celebrities, known for their precision, elegance, and eye for detail.

But while their business journey soared, something tugged them constantly, why did so many trained designers and tailors struggle with fit? Why did fashion education fail to address the core problem, how to create garments that fit real bodies, not mannequins?

#### Spotting the Broken System No One Talks About

Despite the flood of fashion academies, YouTube tutorials,

and online classes, 60-70% of people still end up with poorly fitting clothes, shoulder drops, armhole creases, loose necklines. The Leaders of this academy saw a pattern. Students were taught theory, not technique. Creativity was prioritized over construction. Generic size charts replaced real human measurements.

"People weren't lacking passion. They were just being taught the wrong way,"

"We knew the responsibility and the method to fix this."

4,000+ Students Trained. Lives Transformed.

In just five months, Malini Reddy Fashion Academy has trained over 4,000 students, homemakers, college grads, boutique owners, and even experienced tailors.

What they gained wasn't just skill. It was:

-The confidence to stitch perfectly fitting clothes

-The tools to start or grow their own fashion businesses

-The ability to charge more, earn more, and believe in their talent again

### Not just an Academy but A Changemaker

While the Academy continues to design for celebrities and film projects, their true fulfillment now comes from teaching.

"Our goal isn't just to teach fashion. It's to give people the power to build a life from it. When you stitch with confidence, you don't just create clothes--you create freedom." - said Malini Reddy Fashion Academy Chief.

(ADVERTORIAL DIS-CLAIMER: 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)

# Indian Traditional Festive Wear: Why Hand Block-Printed Suit Sets Are the Heart of Every Celebration

NEW DELHI: As the festive season approaches, your choice of attire becomes a celebration in itself. Ethnic dresses for women offer more than style--they connect you to rich traditions while keeping comfort at the forefront. At Tara C Tara, we understand this emotional and cultural significance. Our hand block printed suits and co-ord sets are designed to make you look stunning and feel comfortable during every festive moment.



The Timeless Charm of Hand Block-Printed Suits

Indian traditional dress is a bridge between centuries of artistry and the modern wearer's expectations. Hand block printed suits, the heart of every Indian festival, reflect this harmony perfectly. At Tara C Tara, each suit set promises the legacy of detailed craftsmanship combined with the ease needed for today's celebrations. Whether you are attending a family puja or a vibrant party, our festive wear is your go-to choice.

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com





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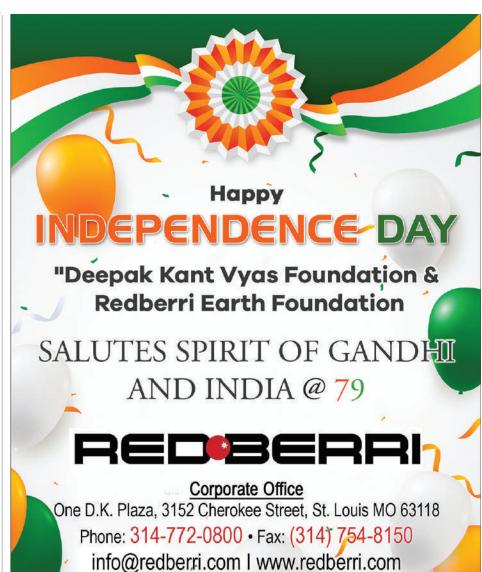
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40 India Post August 15, 2025









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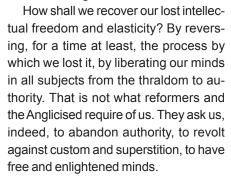
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### **Philosophy**

#### **SRI AUROBINDO**

Our Hinduism, our old culture are precisely the possessions we have cherished with the least intelligence; throughout the whole range of our life we do things without knowing why we do them, we believe things without knowing why we believe them, we assert things

without knowing what right we have to assert them, - or, at most, it is because some book or some Brahmin enjoins it, because Shankara thinks it, or because someone has so interpreted something that he asserts to be a fundamental Scripture of our religion.



not stopped by their surface, free of prejudgments, shearing sophism and prejudice asunder as with a sharp sword, smiting down obscurantism of all kinds as with the mace of Bhima.

Let us not, either, select at random, make a nameless hotchpotch and then triumphantly call it the assimilation of East and West. We must begin by ac-

> cepting nothing on trust from any source whatsoever, by questioning everything and forming our own conclusions. We need not fear that we shall by that process cease to be Indians or fall into the danger of abandoning Hinduism.

India can never cease to be India or Hinduism to be Hinduism, if we really think for ourselves. It is only if we allow Europe to think for us that India is in danger of becoming an ill-executed and foolish copy of Europe.... We must ... take

our stand on that which is true and lasting. But in order to find out what in our conceptions is true and lasting, we must question all alike rigorously and impartially.

Europe has for some time ceased to

# Nepal negotiating a difficult equilibrium between China and India

RAHUI KARAN REDDY

epal's return to full-fledged trade and economic engagement with China has taken on a pattern not unlike Nepal's trade with India; skewed in favor of the larger neighbor. At the same time, Nepal's trade with China is also entwined with uncertainty stemming from Transboundary Rivers and connectivity infrastructure. As Kathmandu pursues diversification on the economic front and multialignment on the diplomatic front, it is faced with managing a rapidly evolving equilibrium with trade-offs to consider and navigate.

\*The insights presented here draw from the author's recent research visit to Nepal.

The nearly 150 trucks hauling goods everyday between Nepal and China at the Rasuwagadhi-Kerung border signaled a cautious renewal of economic engagement between China and Nepal. However, just as trade at one of Nepal's most important land-border trade points was gathering momentum after a 38-month long un-

looning trade deficit with China, uncertainty about sustaining overland trade and securing reciprocal access.

Additionally, the recent flooding at Rasuwagadhi also indicates that Nepal's economic relations with an upstream riparian are also complicated by transboundary river water flows. From a broader South Asian perspective too, Nepal is navigating China and India's competing economic engagement which complicates a rapidly evolving equilibrium with trade-offs for Kathmandu to consider and navigate.

### Resurfacing Nepal-China Trade Asymmetry

Disruptions to China's trade with Nepal due to COVID-19 seemed to have come to an end, with bilateral trade exceeding prepandemic levels - while also revealing a troubling trade deficit. China's exports to Nepal in 2023-24 reached Rs 298.77 billion, expanding significantly as 14 of 21 border trade points were opened in May 2024. Although a deepening trade relation-

ship with China is seen as a positive, an escalating imbalance in the trade relationship is unmistakable and has not gone unnoticed. Nepal's trade deficit with China stands at Rs. 338.47 billion in 2024-25, an in-

China-Nepal economic relations are at a decisive stage; China has significantly expanded its commercial footprint in Nepal. At the same time, based on my interactions with academics and the public, there is significant positive sentiment about deepening economic relations with China within the strategic community, and the public

official closure of it ended in April 2023, disaster struck. A Glacial Lake Outburst flood on July 8th 2025 in upstream China flooded the Bhotekoshi river, washed away the Nepal-China Friendship bridge at Rasuwagadhi and significantly damaged cross-border trade infrastructure at the overland trading point with China. The unfortunate natural disaster has brought into sharp focus the challenges Kathmandu faces in managing the logistics of China's growing economic engagement with Nepal.

China-Nepal economic relations are at a decisive stage; China has significantly expanded its commercial footprint in Nepal. At the same time, based on my interactions with academics and the public, there is significant positive sentiment about deepening economic relations with China within the strategic community, and the public. However, beneath the sheen of optimism are anxieties of managing a bal-

crease of 15 % compared to the previous year, a trend Nepal's Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supply, Damodar Bhandari raised at the 15th meeting of the Nepal Trans-Himalayan Commerce Association.

Furthermore, China's growing exports are likely to produce adverse deficit-related outcomes after Nepal graduates from the LDC status to a developing country in 2026; China has not made any provisions to grant zero customs facilities for Nepal like other export markets have, which Nepal's National Trade Integration Strategy argues will have a significant impact on export potential in markets other than India.

(The author is a Senior Research Associate at Organization for Research on China and Asia (ORCA). The article was first published in ORCA) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit

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# Youth of India should think independently

Sri Aurobindo

India can yet arise and break her own and the world's fetters

But they mean by these sounding recommendations that we should renounce the authority of Sayana for the authority of Max Müller, the Monism of Shankara for the Monism of Haeckel, the written Shastra for the unwritten law of European social opinion, the dogmatism of Brahmin Pandits for the dogmatism of European scientists, thinkers and scholars.

Such a foolish exchange of servitude can receive the assent of no self-respecting mind. Let us break our chains, venerable as they are, but let it be in order to be free, - in the name of truth, not in the name of Europe. It would be a poor bargain to exchange our old Indian illuminations, however dark they may have grown to us, for a derivative European enlightenment or replace the superstitions of popular Hinduism by the superstitions of materialistic Science.

Our first necessity, if India is to survive and do her appointed work in the world, is that the youth of India should learn to think, - to think on all subjects, to think independently, fruitfully, going to the heart of things, produce original thinkers, though it still produces original mechanicians.... China, Japan and the Mussulman states are sliding into a blind European imitativeness. In India alone there is self-contained, dormant, the energy and the invincible spiritual individuality which can yet arise and break her own and the world's fetters.

Excerpted from 'India's Rebirth: A selection from Sri Aurobindo's writings, talks and speeches.' The 153rd birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo is being celebrated on August 15

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#### **Realty Tidbits**

#### 'Bangalore will have 2nd-best metro network'

BENGALURU: Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and claimed that Bengaluru will have the second-best metro network after Delhi.

Addressing the 'Next-Gen Mobility for a Next-Gen City' program after PM Modi inaugurated the Yellow Line of the Bengaluru metro, Khattar said that there are more plans in the pipeline.

"People jokingly say that if someone from Bengaluru drops someone off at the airport, then in the time it takes for that person to reach Delhi or Mumbai, this person from Bengaluru will not be able to reach home. We accepted this challenge under the leadership of the Prime Minister. There are more plans in the pipeline... In the coming years, Bangalore will have the second-best metro network after Delhi," he said.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar felicitated PM Narendra Modi during the program.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Yellow Line from RV Road (Ragigudda) to Bommasandra of the Bangalore Metro. *ANI* 

# Real Estate Post

44 India Post

www.indiapost.com

August 15, 2025

### Rs 50 lakh to 1 crore homes dominate from 2022-2024, budget homes demand declines

NEW DELHI: India's residential real estate market is witnessing a notable shift in buyer preferences, with the Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore budget segment emerging as the most in demand, accounting for approximately 28 percent of homebuyers in 2022, rising to 32 percent in 2023 and further to 35 percent in 2024, a recent report said.

Simultaneously, demand in the lower budget segment, or homes priced up to Rs 25 lakh, has declined from 16 percent in 2022 to 14 percent in 2024, ANAROCK said in a report, citing its AI data. *IANS* 

# RBI MPC: Home Loan EMI, interest rate to remain unchanged as Central Bank retains reportate

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (RBI-MPC) on 6 August, decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.50 percent after its bi-monthly meeting.

Keeping the repo rate steady means the Equated Monthly Installment (EMI) and interest burden on the home loan will not change.

In its last meeting, the MPC had lowered the repo rate by 50 basis points, bringing it down to 5.50 percent from 6 percent.

The RBI has cut the reporate by 100 BPS between February and June this year, following which major banks have brought their Home Loan rates as low as 7.3 percent.

Currently, home loan rates from top lenders such as the State Bank of India (SBI), Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Bank of Baroda, and ICICI Bank start at 7.3-8 percent.

"The RBI's decision to maintain the repo rate at 5.5 percent despite easing inflation reflects a cautious yet balanced approach

"The RBI's decision to maintain the repo rate at 5.5 percent despite easing inflation reflects a cautious yet balanced approach to managing global headwinds and domestic stability"

to managing global headwinds and domestic stability. For the real estate sector, a status quo on rates ensures continued momentum in homebuyer sentiment and sustains the affordability factor in housing," said Prashant Sharma, President, NAREDCO Maharashtra.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said the decision would affordability for homebuyers. Notably, some banks have already reduced consumer home loan rates - a move that supports housing demand, especially in



preserve affordability for homebuyers.

"For the real estate sector, the continuation of stable policy rates and surplus liquidity conditions provides much-needed predictability and helps preserve

the mid-income and low-income segment - and more transmission of interest rates is underway," said Baijal.

Amit Goyal, MD, India Sotheby's International Realty said, "The RBI's neutral policy stance, coupled with a 6.5 percent GDP growth outlook and a softer inflation trajectory, reflects a steady macroeconomic confidence. Strong consumption and stable urban demand are already supporting India's housing sentiment."

Rajeev Radhakrishnan, CFA, CIO - Fixed Income, SBI Mutual Fund, believes that the RBI's decision was as per the expectation given the current geopolitical scenario.

"After the frontloading of policy actions in June, it was unlikely that the RBI would alter the policy rate or guidance in the August review. In an uncertain external environment, marked by trade and tariff disruptions that are likely to keep external demand subdued, the onus of sustaining growth largely rests on domestic policy measures and the evolution of domestic demand drivers," Radhakrishnan said. *IANS* 

# Beyond the Core: Luxury Finds a Stronghold in Emerging NCR Pockets

DELHI-NCR: For long, luxury housing in NCR was synonymous with legacy addresses in Lutyens' Delhi, Golf Course Road, or DLF Phase V, where prestige was tied to postcode. However, a growing wave of demand is now sweeping across emerging corridors like the Dwarka Expressway, SPR Road, Sector 150 in Noida, Siddharth Vihar in Ghaziabad, Yamuna Expressway, FNG Corridor, and Neharpar in Faridabad. These locations are on the radar of HNIs and UHNIs seeking modern living, expansive layouts,

and better value. With infrastructure catching up and lifestyle aspirations evolving, luxury is moving beyond the core.

As per the CBRE-

ASSOCHAM report, Delhi-NCR has witnessed sales of 3,960 luxury homes, each costing Rs 6 crore and above, during the January-June period, an

increase of more than three times on an annual basis.

Meanwhile, according to the

CREDAI and CRE Matrix Pan India report, India's housing market witnessed a sharp surge in FY25, with tier I cities recording recording primary housing sales worth

Rs. 6,70,000 crore (US\$76.53 billion), marking a 96% jump compared to FY22. Delhi NCR's residential market, especially in Gurugram, recorded a 313%

surge in sales value from FY22, touching Rs. 1,70,000 crore (US\$19.42 billion). The shift to-

wards high-value properties and sustained buyer demand underscores changing real estate investment trends across India's top cities.

Besides, several factors are converging to drive this shift beyond the core, and infrastructure has been the biggest catalyst. Projects like the Delhi-Meerut RRTS, Dwarka Expressway, Noida International Airport, and the KMP Expressway are dramatically improving intercity and intra-city mobility, making once-overlooked locations far more accessible. NewsVoir/ANI

www.indiapost.cor

# Aranyakaa Farms partners with RCI to redefine sustainable luxury in farm living

BANGALORE: Aranyakaa Farms, a leading innovator in sustainable real estate and luxury farmlands, has announced its strategic affiliation with Resort Condominiums International (RCI), a global leader in vacation exchange. This landmark collaboration bridges the serene, eco-friendly experience of Club Aranyakaa with RCI's extensive network of over 4,000 affiliated resorts worldwide, making it a significant step forward in promoting sustainable tourism.

The partnership ensures that members of Club Aranyakaa gain access to a global platform of vacation options, while RCI members can immerse themselves in the unique blend of luxury, nature, and tranquility that Aranyakaa Farms offers. This initiative not only expands the horizons of luxury farm tourism but also positions India as a notable player in the sustainable travel sector.

Ajay Kaul, Director of Club Aranyakaa, expressed his enthusiasm, stating: "Collaborating with RCI is a pivotal moment for us. It opens a world of opportunities for our members while introducing international audiences to the essence of Aranyakaa's farm lifestyle. Our vision is to provide an unparalleled experience that harmonizes nature, luxury and community, creating lasting memories for all."

Setting New Standards in Farm Living This partnership underscores the emerging trend of farm tourism as a viable alternative to traditional luxury vacations. By integrating elements of sustainability



with global accessibility, Aranyakaa Farms is not only enhancing its own portfolio but also contributing to the larger narrative of responsible tourism.

Commenting on the collaboration, Lucas Ramos, Senior Director of Travel & Membership - Asia, Pacific & India at RCI, said:

"We are thrilled to welcome Club Aranyakaa to the RCI family. This partnership reflects the rising demand for distinctive travel experiences that combine luxury with authenticity. The eco-conscious, tranquil charm of Aranyakaa Farms aligns seamlessly with the expectations of today's global travelers seeking meaningful, sustainable getaways."

This partnership grants members access to premium amenities at Club Aranyakaa, including pools, spas, gourmet dining, fitness centers, and exclusive lounges, ensuring an exceptional experience.

The Road Ahead: Transforming Farm Tourism

The affiliation with RCI is not just a business milestone but a cultural exchange opportunity. Club Aranyakaa's initiative seeks to highlight the richness of Indian farm traditions while elevating them to global standards of luxury and sustainability. This alignment with RCI allows for the ex-

change of ideas, best practices, and tourism models that further Aranyakaa's mission of creating eco-conscious communities.

Both organizations are optimistic about the potential impact of this partnership on the travel and real estate industries. With growing global interest in wellness tourism and eco-friendly travel, Aranyakaa Farms is uniquely positioned to set benchmarks in the sector.

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

### Gujarat: Rural housing schemes and increased housing under PM Awas Yojana aim to realize Prime Minister's vision of housing for all

GANDHINAGAR: Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel emphasized the key role of District Development Officers in advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat at 2047 at the grassroots level, a 7 August release from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said.

In this context, he stated that the Prime Minister aims to accelerate rural development by equipping villages with modern amenities to realize the goal of Viksit Bharat.

CM said that the need for youth District Development Officers is to lead with a spirit of service in delivering key welfare schemes -- livelihood, housing, healthcare, sanitation -- to rural and needy communities.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel was addressing the joint conference of District Development Officers and Directors of District Rural Development Agencies held in Gandhinagar. Rural Development Minister Raghavji Patel and Chief Secretary



Shri Pankaj Joshi remained present at the meeting.

The Chief Minister launched a digital platform to streamline the village site regularization process, making plot allocation more transparent and efficient. This will

aid in achieving rural housing targets and fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of a permanent home for all.

CM urged DDOs to see their roles as a vital opportunity to bring meaningful change to rural life through welfare schemes. He called on them to approach their duties with sincerity, dedication, and a strong sense of public service. He stated that misconduct will not be tolerated and emphasized the need for consistency in conduct, clear communication, and integrity while serving the public interest.

In today's technology-driven era, where public awareness and accountability have grown, the CM said officers must ensure timely, transparent, and efficient delivery of government services, leading with quality and responsiveness to people's needs.

CM stated that Gujarat is financially stable, with sufficient resources allocated for rural and overall development. He urged DDOs to ensure that the benefits of development reach everyone. The CM noted that the Viksit Bharat vision can only be achieved through collective effort. *ANI* 









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48 India Post

Actor Suniel Shetty has turned 64 years old on 11 August, and his family decided to shower him with love

Wishing his father on his special day, Ahan Shetty took to his Instagram stories and wrote, "Happy birthday papa. Thank you for your constant and steady support, your quiet wisdom, and the way you've always been there without needing to be asked. I love you @suniel.shetty."

The 'Dhadkan' actor's daughter, Athiya Shetty, also penned a lovely birthday wish for her daddy dear, saying, "Happy birthday to the best father and now the best Ajja. We love you sooo much! Thank you for all that you are @suniel.shetty."

Suniel's son-in-law, KL Rahul went on to share, "Happy happy birthday Ajja @suniel.shetty keep inspiring us with everything you do. And pls rest more."

### SUNIEL SHETTY TURNS 64: ATHIVA, AHAN & K L RAHUL DROP BIRTHDAY WISHES

Last Monday, Suniel and Ahan celebrated Team India's thrilling win over England directly from the Oval stadium in London.

Taking to their Instagram accounts, the father and

son duo dropped a joint post with photos and videos from the stadium during the winning moment.

"2 incredible days at The Oval! What a game and what a win! Come on India, always my India," they captioned the post.

Suniel and Ahan traveled to London to witness the match live and lend their support to team India's opener KL Rahul.

Team India secured a thrilling 6-run victory against England in the final Test at The Oval, clinching the series.

Coming to his professional commitments, Suniel was recently seen as the suspended special investigations officer, Vikram Sinha, in the action-packed series, "Hunter 2".

Talking about his role, he revealed that as a father himself, it wasn't hard for him to connect to Vikram's pain.

v.indiapost.com August 1

# 'SAIYAARA' ACTRESS ANEET PADDA PENS NOTE ON LOVE, FEAR &

ctress Aneet Padda has penned a heartwarming note to showcase her love for the response she has got for her work in "Saiyaara" and promised to keep giving back through her work, even if imperfect, as long as it brings emotion to others.

Aneet took to Instagram, where she shared a string of pictures of herself from the film, directed by Mohit Suri.

She wrote in the caption section: "The daze is wearing off and all I want to say is that I love you. I don't know you. But I know that I love you. All this love you've been so generous to give me, it's sitting heavy in my chest, and I don't know what to do except give it back."

The actress said that she's "scared of what's next, scared I won't be enough, but whatever I have, even the smallest piece of me, I'll put it out there."

She added: "If it makes you laugh, or cry, or remember something you thought you'd forgotten,?if it makes you feel a little less alone - then maybe that's what I'm here for. And I'll keep trying. Imperfect, but with everything I've got. Because I love you."

Saiyaara is a musical romantic

drama film which also stars debutant Ahaan Panday. The film follows Krish Kapoor, a troubled musician who forms

a deep connection with Vaani Batra, a shy poet.

IANS

TOP TEN

1 Saiyaara: Saiyaara

2 Barbaad: Saiyaara

3 Dhun: Saiyaara

4 Qayde Se: Metro ... In Dino

5 Zamaana Lage: Metro ... In Dino

6 Aur Mohabbat Kitni Karoon: Metro ...

In Din

7 Laal Pari: Housefull 5

8 Tum Ho Toh: Saiyaara

9 Tu Hain Toh Main Hoon: Sky Force

10 Pardesiya: Param Sundari



### Nyrraa M Banerjee's Hong Kong getaway, all 'food & furry friends'





Actress Nyrraa M Banerjee is cur rently enjoying a much-needed break from her hectic work schedule in Hong Kong.

Her latest getaway has turned out to be a perfect blend of culinary adventures and wildlife encounters.

From exploring local markets to checking out local eateries, Nyrraa's social media feed has been shelling wonderlust goals. Her feed includes everything from sizzling dim sum platters to quirky street snacks.

Shedding further light on her latest getaway, Nyrraa shared: "Walking through the vibrant streets of Hong Kong, I found so much beauty in every corner-from the morning bustle to the serene harbor."

She added that what truly moved her were the gentle souls she encountered in Hong Kong-street dogs napping in the shade, curious birds perched on

temple walls.

"In their quiet company, I felt a deep, simple truth: compassion knows no language, and the love we share with animals unites us all," Nyrraa added.

During her fun getaway, the netizens also noticed her love for animals. She was seen cuddling with some of her friendly pets, along with feeding curious critters, and making furry friends wherever she went. *IANS* 

#### REKHA CALLS 'KAISI PAHELI' FROM 'PARINEETA': 'METAPHOR FOR LIFE'

Veteran actress Rekha, who had a special appearance in 'Parineeta', has spoken up about her song from the film 'Kaisi Paheli'. The song featured the actress in retro outfit, and was sung by Sunidhi Chauhan.



Talking about the song, Rekha said, "'Kaisi Paheli' was not just a song, it was a mood, a vibe, and a metaphor for life. The song was so atmospheric; it reminded me of the time gone by and a certain enigma of a woman who owns her narrative".

She further mentioned, "Even 20 years ago, it stood out; the composition was rare, and the poetry was unlike most songs of that time. As I stepped onto that jazz club set, I became the jazz singer. Even today, when I hear the song, it brings a smile... It's one of those Pahelis you never want to solve; you just want to live it". *IANS* 



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# Natashaa Fernandes on staying aloof on sets of 'Andaaz 2'

atashaa Fernandes has opened up about her decision to keep a distance from others while shooting for her film "Andaaz 2."

The actress shared her reasons for maintaining distance from everyone on the sets. Speaking about the challenges of her role, Fernandes shared, "There were ample challenges, which I was keen on overcoming. Since I am the negative lead, I used to maintain distance from everyone and live in my bubble of emotions on days when I had a major scene.

"The reason I address it as a challenge is many times I used to be misunderstood by many. They'd generally feel I was too reserved as a person and someone who'd avoid social interaction. Being on set I preferred to be focused and live the life story of Priyanka, I had to be true to my purpose. In order to become her I knew I had to make some sacrifices be it making jokes with co-actors or mingling elsewhere. However, that was never the case, I strongly believe every actor has a personal method and approach and prefers their space which once

expressed should be respected."

The actress shared that she had to navigate deep emotional preparation to portray the role. Natashaa explained, "Acting is a process and a very personal experience. Although we did have workshops before filming, I believe that set up helped me understand and get to know my co-stars better. However, the emotional journey I went through to live the life of the character Priyanka was still achievable."

"This particular character had a very interesting emotional graph that involved multiple highs and lows of life. For any scene that involved negative emotions I had to channelize that emotion from a place of deep hurt, from an unhealed version of myself or life experiences that had the worst of me, hence it wasn't easy emotionally while I was living the life of Priyanka!."

Talking about her look and role, she added, "The character Priyanka is a young lady who had the responsibility of her family at a tender age. She eventually sacrificed her happiness to establish a business in order to provide for her loved ones". *IANS* 

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# Preeti Jhangiani defends'lldaipur Files' amid legal challenges

Actress Preeti Jhangiani has come out in support of her film "Udaipur Files," which ran into legal trouble just a day before its release.

Emphasizing the core message of the movie, she clarified that it is not centered on religion but is instead a call for justice. Jhangiani, who portrays journalist Anjana Singh in the movie, clarified, "Udaipur Files isn't about religion - this film represents only justice. It narrates true-life incidents and crime; and when a heinous crime happens, justice must be served and given. The film emphasizes that first is the nation, then everything else."

The Delhi High Court recently rejected a lastminute petition aimed at stopping the release of "Udaipur Files," stating that there was no strong initial case to justify a stay. The court upheld the filmmakers' right to free expression,

the filmmakers' right to free expression particularly since the film had already been cleared by the appropriate regulatory body.



the movie
had already been
cleared by the Central
Board of Film Certification (CBFC).
Eventually, the issue
was taken to the
central government, which approved the release, allowing
the film to finally
hit theatres.

IANS



# Hrithik Roshan lauds War 2 co-star NTR

head of the release of one of the most anticipated movies of 2025, "War 2", starring Hrithik Roshan and NTR, the makers organized the film's only promotional event in Hyderabad.

Admirers of both Hrithik and NTR flooded from across states, creating an electric atmosphere with their energetic chants.

Addressing the gathering, Hrithik heaped praises on his co-star, saying, "Tarak, I have not just observed you, but I have learnt from you".

Claiming that he sees a lot of himself in NTR, Hrithik added, "We have had very similar journeys for 25 years now, and I

have had very similar journeys for 25 years now, and I think Tarak sees a little bit of himself in me also. It is true when they say that he is a one-take final-take star".

Revealing what all he has picked up from his onscreen enemy, Hrithik revealed, "On set, Tarak, I have not just observed you, but I have learnt from you. I have learnt how to go into a shot 100% - not 99.99%, not 99.999, but 100%. Which is why when he comes out of a shot, there is no judgment on me. He will not even check the shot because he knows he has given everything to it. And I will apply that in my future films. Tarak, thank you for teaching me that." *IANS* 

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ONE-TAKE FINALTAKE STAR"

# Ameesha Patel thanks audience for 'love & support' as Gadar 2 clocks 2 years

ctress Ameesha Patel aka Sakeena showed her gratitude to the audience for showering tremendous love and support to her action drama, "Gadar 2" and turning it into a box office tsunami.

As the movie clocked 2 years of release, she treated her InstaFam with some precious moments from the drama, and wrote: "Celebrating 2 years today of India's BIGGEST n ONLY ORGANIC BLOCKBUSTER!! Thank u all for ur tremendous love n support in creating a TSUNAMI at the box office."

Additionally, Sunny Deol, who essays the role of Tara Singh in the much-appreciated sequel, also marked the milestone with a special post.

He dropped a video of some of the movie's promotional activities on social media.

The clip commenced with one of the scenes from "Gadar 2" featuring Sunny Deol, followed by the audience cheering for him. The video further showed Sunny interacting with fans. *IANS* 





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Case No. JM-V/TNC/DECL/u/s7/Siolim/32/2019

Derrick D'Souza, Mrs. Sandhya D'Souza, Both r/o. H. No. 85, Gaunsov Siolim, Bardez Goa.

1. Mrs. Teodoline Candide Santamaria & Others.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

1. Mrs. Teodoline Candide Santamaria,
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Whereas the above named applicants has made an application dated 28/08/2019 before this court under section 7 of the Goa Daman and Diu Agricultural Tenancy Act, 1964 for Declaration with regard to the property surveyed under Sy. No. 197/9 of village Siolim, Bardez Goa.

And whereas, applicants vide application dated 05/08/2025 informed that notices sent to the opponents are returned unserved and that the applicants are not aware of any other addresses of the above Opponents and it is therefore prayed for substitute service to said Opponents by way of

And whereas this Court is satisfied that this is a fit case for Ordering such service and has made Order to that effect as per Order V Rule 20 (1A) of Civil Procedure Code, 1908

You are therefore hereby summoned to appear in this Court at Mapusa - Goa in person or by duly authorized agent on 08/09/2025 at 10.30 a.m. to answer the claim, and as the day fixed for your appearance is appointed for the final disposal of the suit, you must be prepared to produce on that all day the witnesses upon whose evidence and all documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence. Take notice that in default of your appearance as aforesaid on date and time mentioned above, the suit will be board and detertained in your absence

Give under my hand and the seaf of Sha Court on this 05th day of Au

(Meghana Naik) Joint Mamlatdar - V of Bardez,

\*\*\*Service through daily nowspaper, in locality of the last known address.

Disclaimer:
This public notice is published pursuant to an order of The Court of the Joint Mamlatdar V- of Bardez Taluka at Mapusa Goa. In connection with legal proceedings bearing case number JM-V/TNC/DECL/u/s7/Siolim/32/2019.
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# A reconfigured geoeconomic landscape presents India with a strategic opportunity

LT GEN P R KUMAR (RETD.)

t is now an accepted reality that the world is churning and we are facing turbulent, fairly violent times. The prediction that the world has entered a unipolar peaceful era with the downfall of the Soviet Union has been gradually but surely cast asunder. Probably, in the economic, geopolitical worldly scheme of things this too is part of the adage 'nothing is permanent in this world except change'.

However, when one examines the current times propelled by Trumpian tariffs and uncertainty, there seems to be continuity in the flux. In maritime parlance while the sea is choppy, there seems to be predictability in the choppiness; no sudden tsunamis or gale force winds, and even if geographically localized

adversaries and even allies to get together and put up a unified resistance.

Trumps tactics now follow a choreographed pattern; cause chaos and paralysis by an initial alarming/unreasonable demand, followed by a backing down to what appears to be more reasonable levels, which could well, be his real objective in the first place. By dealing bilaterally and working on the weakness/vulnerabilities of the other nation, he appears to be winning. The jury is still out with numerous analysts predicting differently on whether at the macro-economic and even geopolitical stage USA will win or benefit from these maneuvers; but apparently, he is getting his way despite the bluster and standoffs done by some

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strong winds of violence suddenly pops up, it seems to be within the red lines of control. Take the Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Gaza-Iran-Hezbollah-Syria, India-Pakistan conflicts; sudden gusts but the wildfire was controlled and never looked like spreading uncontrollably. The actors were playing within their script for achieving national objectives but not overreaching; the main players (the major powers USA, China, EU) too ensured that the fires were contained.

Amidst this President Donald Trump appears to be playing wild cards trying to destabilize/fan the fires or so it seems to the less discerning eye. Is Trump actually outsmarting everyone by playing the oldest trick of all, "Divide and Rule"? Of dealing bilaterally with all, not allowing his competitors/

bigger players more to please their domestic audience.

The president's tactics seem to echo his "Art of the Deal" approach. Use economic leverage to essentially force trading partners to show him the money or face astronomical tariffs. To trade experts, the commitment raises the question of whether Trump is negotiating with trading partners or trade hostages. A couple of illustrations to prove the point.

To secure a lower tariff rate in its deal, South Korea agreed to make \$350 billion in investments in the US and buy \$100 billion of liquefied natural gas.

The E.U. indicated that it would buy \$750 billion of American energy and that its companies were poised to invest at least \$600 billion.

Japan said it would establish

a \$550 billion fund for investments in the US.

India is holding out so far. The sudden imposition of 25% tariff has upended months of talks. The foreign ministry said Trump's threat of additional tariffs was "unjustified and unreasonable" and vowed to "take all necessary measures" to safeguard India's interests.

It is worth mentioning that focusing on the eye-popping investment figures might be premature. Tariffs are easier to enforce than investment and purchase commitments, and their vague nature suggests that countries might be looking for creative ways to escape Trump's tariffs. Some of the pledges appear too big to be true, and many of them lack specifics.

#### Broad Geopolitical Shifts through the American Prism impacting India

The emergence of a new "Axis of Upheaval", China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, have strained global norms, encouraged fragmentation of global institutions and increasing conflict risks. India's non-aligned, autonomous, principled stand on issues has not helped matters, as it does not necessarily align with US perceptions.

The resurgent strategic alignment between Trump and Pakistan, which includes a new oil and trade deal, has sharpened tensions with India. This and pressure on India to reduce its ties with Russia mark a fracturing of former personal diplomacy.

Will Tariffs make America Great Again (MAGA). Only time will tell, whether USA gains time and momentum to become MAGA, but it will only be a short breather; the decline is irreversible and statistically well founded.

(The writer, a strategic analyst, is an Indian Army veteran who was Director-General of Military Operations.) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



# TRUMP'S TARIFF TYRANNY

On the eve of Trump's Aug. 1 trade deal deadline, the White House once again unveiled new tariff rates on much of the world and said they would take effect Aug. 7.

For countries with which the U.S. has a trade surplus-meaning that it exports more to those countries than it imports from them-the "universal" tariff is 10%, which remains unchanged from April 2. For countries with which the U.S. has a trade deficit, the new baseline rate is 15%, which will apply to around 40 countries. More than a dozen other countries will face higher tariff rates, either imposed by Trump in a more recent announcement or obtained through trade agreements with the U.S.

They are also unprecedented in the era of the rules-based trade system that has been in place since 1945.

So what happens next? That's a tricky question to answer given that the US president has already pressed the pause button on this economic policy before. Assuming that doesn't happen again straight away, we can make some confident predictions about the consequences.

First off, the immediate economic effect will be felt by American consumers. JP Morgan, the biggest bank in the US, estimates that 60% of the cost of Trump's tariffs will be passed directly on to his fellow citizens.

And that's just the start. Most goods bought in the US are made up of dozens of components, sourced from multiple countries. A finished product may therefore be "tariffed" several times before it reaches the shelf, adding to the final price rise.

The term "Global South" is often used to describe nations that may be developing or underdeveloped, mainly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. However, not anymore, with change in times these countries are becoming more prominent globally, pushing for a fairer world system and working together on development issues through what is being called 'South-South' cooperation.

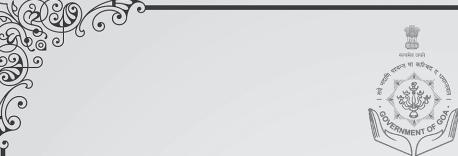
In fact they are openly challenging the so-called wealthier countries of the "Global North," primarily North America and Europe, on the basis of shared political, geopolitical and economic needs, global wealth and influence towards 'Global South,' especially China and India; is something that US President Donald Trump needs to factor in while taking decisions, say analysts.

After the new tariff, India now shares the top spot with Brazil, which is also facing a combined 50% tariff under Trump's adjusted trade regime.

India has already said that it will take "all actions necessary to protect its national interests" in response to US President Donald Trump imposing additional 25 percent tariff on Indian imports, taking the total tariff to 50 percent.

In one way it may be good for India that this has happened. India has to wake up to the new world order and find solutions that fit its micro and macro-economics. Indians need to buy and manufacture its own products rather than consume large imports mainly luxury goods.

What Trump is doing may be good for short term but in the long term US economy may become the victim. US manufacturing industry once the world leader is now second to China and may soon drop to third as India is rising fast.



#### Rohan A. Khaunte

Minister for Tourism, Information Technology, Electronics & Communication and Printing & Stationery

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#### Namaskar, warm greetings.

Beyond its world-famous beaches, Goa is India's most vibrant blend of culture, heritage, nature, and creativity. We are building the next chapter of Goa as India's Creative Capital - a place where ideas flourish, business thrives, and celebrations come alive.

For American travellers, Goa offers unmatched experiences - from luxury weddings on sunlit shores to wellness retreats, from adventure sports to immersive heritage trails.

For investors and business leaders, Goa is a natural bridge between the East and West. We are ready to host your global conferences, leadership retreats, and innovation summits - where business blends seamlessly with leisure. With world-class hotels, unique venues, and an open, collaborative spirit, Goa is ideal for MICE tourism, destination weddings, film production, and creative ventures.

We value the Festival of Globe as a unique platform to present Goa's story to the United States - opening doors for tourism, investment, and cultural exchange.

Whether you come here to relax, to innovate, to celebrate, or to invest - Goa promises inspiration at every step. Let's connect America's energy with Goa's creative spirit and open the door to a future of shared opportunities.

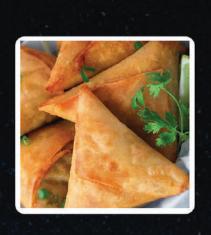
Jai Hind, Jai Gomantak.

Warm regards,

Rohan Ashak Khawat

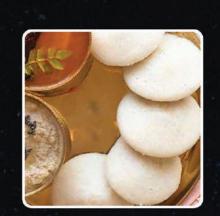
Rohan A. Khaunte

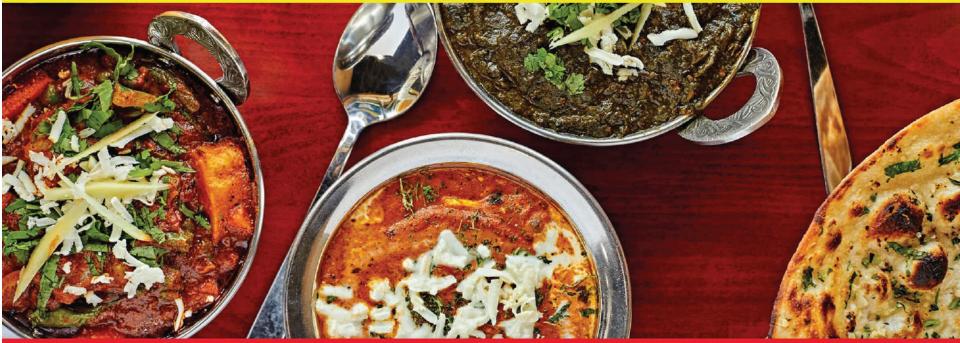
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ocated on the western coast of India in South Asia, Goa is one of the subcontinent's most enchanting destinations. Goa offers travellers a unique blend of tropical charm, deep-rooted heritage, vibrant festivals, and a warm, welcoming culture that lingers in memory long after the journey ends.

Goa today is emerging as a leader in regenerative tourism in India, encouraging visitors to explore its villages, rivers, forests, cuisine, and spirituality with fresh eyes and a responsible mindset.

The Department of Tourism, Government of Goa, continues to play a proactive role in promoting sustainable and inclusive travel experiences that preserve the state's natural beauty and cultural legacy.

### A CULTURALLY RICH GETAWAY IN INDIA

Goa stands apart from many destinations in India, not just for its scenic beauty but for the strength and continu-

ity of its local culture. Over the centuries, Goans have nurtured a vibrant identity shaped by ancient dynasties, deep spiritual traditions, and a resilient community spirit that has withstood many external influences.

While traces of colonial architecture and customs remain, the essence of Goa lies in its thriving temples, folk celebrations, village customs, and enduring connection to land and river. From the rhythmic beats of the Ghumot, drum and other musical instruments during festivals to the rich storytelling woven into local dance forms, Goans continue to celebrate their heri-

tage in everyday life.

For visitors, this offers a powerful glimpse into a living culture that has adapted, survived, and flourished on its own terms. Goa's charm is about how Goans have held onto their roots while welcoming the world with openness and pride.

#### A CELEBRATION OF FLAVOR AND TRADITION

Goa's culinary landscape is as rich and diverse as its culture. From traditional Saraswat and Catholic delicacies to flavors introduced by its many communities over centuries, the food here tells its own story. Whether it's a spicy Chicken xacuti, a coconut-based vegetarian curry, freshly caught fish grilled with local spices, or a sweet Patoleo wrapped in turmeric leaves - every dish is deeply rooted in tradition. The state is also home to charming cafés, vi-

Goa stands apart from many destinations in India, not just for its scenic beauty but for the strength and continuity of its local culture. Over the centuries, Goans have nurtured a vibrant identity shaped by ancient dynasties, deep spiritual traditions, and a resilient community spirit that has withstood many external influences.

brant markets, and fine-dining spaces where local ingredients meet global flair. Culinary trails and food festivals are now giving travellers more ways to explore Goa through its taste.

#### FROM THE COAST TO THE COUNTRYSIDE

While Goa's palm-fringed coastline is well known among European holidaymakers, the state has steadily moved towards showcasing its inland and lesser-known treasures. Our initiatives like Goa Beyond Beaches invite travellers to explore river islands, spice plantations, heritage homes, and trekking trails through the Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot.

#### WELLNESS, SPIRITUALITY, AND SLOW LIVING

For visitors looking to reset and recharge, Goa offers Ayurveda retreats, yoga shalas, and meditation spaces nestled in serene surroundings. The state has long attracted wellness travellers and creative minds all drawn to its slower pace of life.

You can begin your morning with a guided yoga session by the river, spend the afternoon exploring an art village or local market, and end your day with a traditional Goan meal under the stars.

#### ADVENTURE, HERITAGE, AND SUSTAINABILITY

Whether it's kayaking through backwaters, cycling through villages, or rafting in the monsoon-fed rivers, Goa has something for every kind of traveller. Adventure sports here are built around safety, sustainability, and community involvement.

What truly sets Goa apart, however, is its shift to-

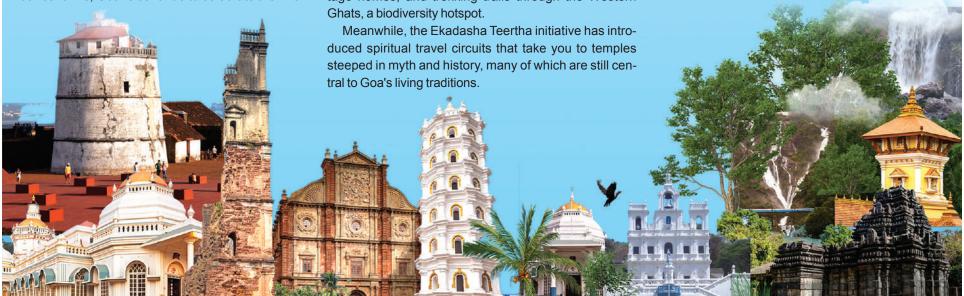
wards regenerative tourism. This means that tourism here is not just about preserving the environment - it's about actively revitalizing local economies, supporting cultural practices, and creating meaningful travel experiences that benefit all.

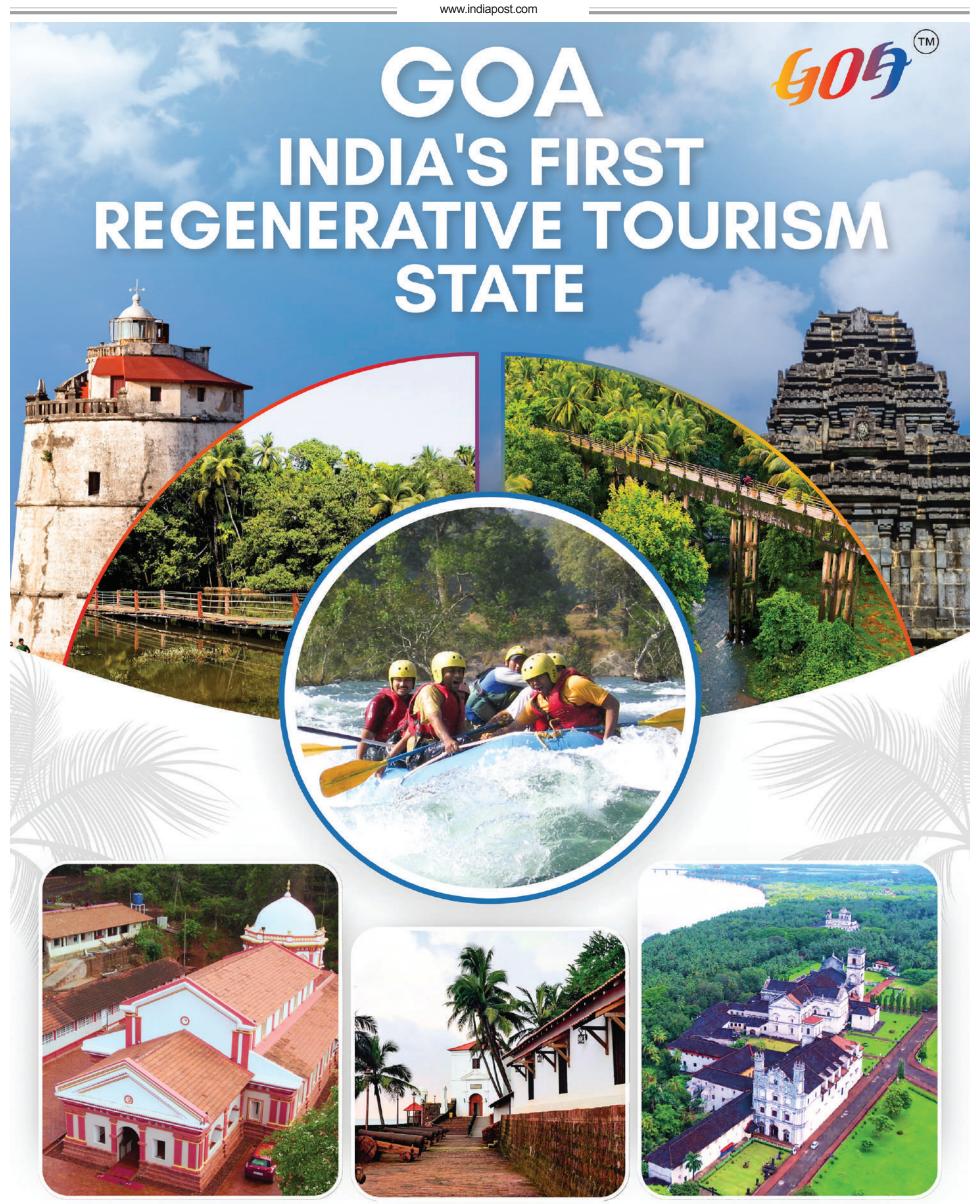
### A WELCOMING DESTINATION IN ASIA

Goa has emerged as one of India's most accessible travel destinations, thanks to significant strides in air con-

nectivity during 2024-25. The state witnessed a notable expansion in both domestic and international routes, with increased flight frequencies and charter arrivals from countries such as Russia, the UK, Kazakhstan, Poland, Iran and Uzbekistan. Backed by positive feedback from global operators, these developments have strengthened Goa's position as a year-round destination. Scheduled international flights from the Gulf region further enhanced access.

Cont'd on page 58





## Goa a vibrant escape in Asia where culture meets conscious travel

Cont'd from page 56

Notably, the state continues to attract Free Independent Travellers (FITs) from regions including the Gulf, Portugal, and Spain, highlighting its growing resonance with diverse

Goa awaits: Come as a visitor, leave as a storyteller In every sunset across its rivers, every festival in its villages, and every smile from its people, Goa invites you to engage, discover, and return transformed.

#### **PLACES TO VISIT IN GOA**

Calangute Beach: Situated 15 km from Panjim, Calangute Beach is the longest beach in North Goa, stretching from Candolim to Baga. Due to its sheer size and popularity, it is a hub for tourists and backpackers from all over the world.

Baga Beach: One of the most popular beaches in North Goa, Baga Beach is located close to Calangute beach, around 30 Km North of Panjim. Baga is the perfect destination to witness the dazzling nightlife of Goa as signature places such as Britto's, Tito's and Mambos are located in the vicinity. Being one of the most visited beaches in the North, Baga also offers a vast range of water sports.

Dudhsagar Falls: One of India's tallest waterfalls, the Dudhsagar Falls is located inside the Mollem National Park. The majestic falls are a little farther inland approximately 60 km from Panaji on the Goa - Karnataka Border. Literally translating to Sea of Milk, the 310 m high waterfall is divided into four tiers on the Mandovi river and resembles a heavy rush of milk flowing effortlessly down the hill.



Basilica of Bom Jesus: The Basilica of Bom Jesus Church located in Goa is one of a kind in India and is known for its exemplary baroque architecture. Built in 1594 and consecrated in 1605, the building of this church coincides with the beginning of Christianity in India. The church is located in Old Goa in Bainguinim about 10 km away from Panjim.

Goa Cruise: Cruise in Goa allows one to explore the exotic scenery, pristine waters and marvel the breathtaking view of the sunset. There are several types of cruises in Goa ranging from simple evening cruises, elaborate and romantic dinner cruises, backwater cruises, and casino cruises. All of these usually originate from Miramar Beach

Anjuna Beach: Located near Panjim at a distance of 21 km, Anjuna Beach is among the most popular beaches in North Goa, stretching almost 2km. A hippie paradise of sorts it is characterized by its rocky outcrops. From family outings to adrenaline-filled adventures, Anjuna Beach is famed for its golden coastline, nightclubs, beach shacks, watersports, full-moon parties and flea markets.

Chapora Fort: Chapora Fort, located 10 km away from Mapusa, is undeniably one of the most famous forts in Goa. Built by the Portuguese in 1717, Chapora Fort has a long and fascinating history attached to it. More popularly known as the 'Dil Chahta Hai Fort', its claim to fame was the 2001 Bollywood blockbuster shot here. A scintillating escape, it offers beautiful views of the sea and Chapora River.

Vagator Beach, Arambol Beach, Tito's, Thalassa, Morjim Beach, Immaculate Conception Church, Fontainhas and Sao Tome, Se Cathedral, Mangeshi Temple, Ashvem Beach, Reis Magos Fort, Butterfly Beach, Divar Island, Anjuna Flea Market, Arvalem Waterfalls, Mormugao Fort and many more.



# Experience the Magic of Goa with Teleporters Travel

elcome to Goa, a land where golden beaches meet a vibrant cultural tapestry. Known as the "Pearl of the Orient," Goa is more than just a destination; it's a feeling of 'susegad'-a unique blend of relaxation and contentment. With Teleporters Travel Goa Packages, you can unlock the secrets of this tropical paradise and create a vacation you'll never forget.

#### **DISCOVER YOUR PERFECT GOAN EXPERIENCE**

Whether you're an adventure seeker, a history buff, or someone simply looking to unwind, Goa has something for everyone. We've curated a few highlights to get you started on your journey:

- Pristine Beaches:
- · North Goa: Experience the lively atmosphere of beaches like Baga, Calangute, and Anjuna. Here you can indulge in thrilling water sports, explore bustling flea markets, and dance the night away at vibrant clubs.
- South Goa: For a more tranquil escape, head south to the serene shores of Palolem, Agonda, or Colva Beach. These picturesque stretches of sand are perfect for relaxing, enjoying a quiet sunset, or spotting dolphins on a boat trip.
  - · Rich History and Culture:
- · Portuguese Heritage: Explore the remnants of Goa's colonial past in Old Goa. Visit the UNESCO World

Heritage Site, the Basilica of Bom Jesus, which houses the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier, and the grand Se Cathedral.

• Forts and Temples: Step back in time at historic forts like Fort Aguada and Chapora Fort, which offer stunning panoramic views of the Arabian Sea. Marvel at the unique architecture of ancient temples such as

> the Mahadev Temple and the Shri Shantadurga Kunkalikarin Temple.

- · Fontainhas: Wander through the charming Latin Quarter of Panaji, Fontainhas, with its narrow, winding streets and brightly painted Portuguesestyle houses.
  - Adventure and Nature:
- · Go on a thrilling banana boat ride, try catamaran sailing, or go deep-sea fishing.
- For a different kind of adventure, visit the majestic Dudhsagar Waterfalls, where water cascades from hundreds of feet, creating a breathtaking spectacle.

Travel Tips for an Unforgettable Trip

- Best Time to Visit: The main tourist season is from November to March when the weather is sunny and dry, perfect for outdoor activities and celebrations like Christmas and New Year.
- · What to Pack: Pack light cotton clothing, swimwear, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat. Don't forget comfortable footwear like flip-flops for the beach.
- Respect Local Customs: Remember to dress modestly when visiting religious sites, and always ask for permission before taking a picture of someone.

Teleporters Travel is dedicated to crafting a personalized Goan adventure for you. Contact us today to book your escape to this unforgettable destination. Get up to 30% Discount when Booked via email.

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### Unlock the Real Goa: Your Ultimate Road Trip with Savaari Car Rental

oa is a symphony of sun-kissed beaches, vibrant culture, and lush green landscapes. But to truly experience its soul-to discover its hidden coves, ancient churches, and serene villages-you need the freedom to go your own way. With Savaari Car Rental, you're not just renting a car; you're gaining the key to an unforgettable Goan adventure, on your own terms.

### WHY A CAR IS YOUR BEST COMPANION IN GOA

Public transport in Goa can be unpredictable and limit you to a fixed itinerary. Taxis can be expensive and require constant negotiation. Savaari provides the perfect solution: a reliable, comfortable car that puts you in the driver's seat of your vacation.

- Ultimate Freedom: Chase a sunrise at a secluded beach in the south and then party all night in the north-all in a single day. With a car, you decide where to go, when to stop, and for how long.
- Discover Hidden Gems: Goa's true beauty lies off the beaten path. Drive through the picturesque palm-lined roads of Parra, explore the charming Latin Quarter of Fontainhas, or take a ferry to the untouched Divar Island-destinations that are difficult to reach otherwise.
- Comfort and Convenience: Whether you're traveling solo, with a partner, or with a large family, our diverse fleet ensures you find the perfect vehicle. From compact hatchbacks for zipping through narrow streets to spacious SUVs for group trips, Savaari has you covered.
- Cost-Effective for Groups: Share the cost of a car rental with your friends or family. It's often a more afford-

able option than paying for multiple taxis for every trip, and there are no surprise fares.

### EXPLORE ICONIC ROUTES AND MUST-SEE PLACES

Goa is a road-tripper's paradise, and Savaari makes it easy to explore its best routes. Here are a few journeys you can embark on:



- The North Goa Beach Trail: Start your day at the famous Fort Aguada for a dose of history and stunning sea views. From there, drive up the coast, hopping between the lively beaches of Calangute, Baga, and Anjuna. Don't miss a sunset at Chapora Fort, the iconic "Dil Chahta Hai" spot.
- The Serene South Goa: For a tranquil experience, head south. The drive to beaches like Palolem, Agonda, and Cola is a beautiful journey through coconut groves and sleepy villages.

• The Green Hinterlands: Escape the coast and drive inland to witness a different side of Goa. Take a trip to the magnificent Dudhsagar Waterfalls or explore the protected wilderness of the Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary.

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Since 2006, Savaari has been dedicated to providing a

- superior road travel experience. We are not just a car rental company; we are your trusted travel partner.
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- Experienced Chauffeurs: If you prefer to sit back and enjoy the view, our professional, verified, and knowledgeable drivers are at your service. They're not just drivers; they're local experts who can guide you to the best spots and offer local insights.
- Variety of Cars: Our fleet is regularly inspected and well-maintained. Choose from

hatchbacks, sedans, SUVs, and even tempo travelers to suit your budget and group size.

Don't let your Goan adventure be limited by schedules and queues. Book your car with Savaari Car Rental today and start crafting a road trip that is as unique as you are.



# A Chilling Itinerary: Goa's Most Haunted Places

oa, a land of sun-kissed beaches and vibrant nightlife, holds a darker secret. Beyond the tour ist trails lie ancient, crumbling houses, lonely stretches of road, and churches with unsettling histories. For the brave traveler, these are not places to avoid, but destinations for an unforgettable horror tourism experience. Here is a curated itinerary to explore the haunted heart of Goa, where the line between myth and reality is chillingly thin.

### STOP 1: THE THREE KINGS' CHURCH, CANSAULIM

Perched atop a serene hill in Cansaulim village, the Three Kings' Church is a vision of peace. But its tranquility is a deceptive veil over a sinister past. Legend has it that centuries ago, three Portuguese kings ruled this land. In a ruthless power struggle, one king poisoned the other two during a feast at the church. Overwhelmed by public outrage, he then took his own life. The three kings were buried beneath the church, and locals whisper that their spirits never found peace.

• The Experience: Visitors report an overwhelming sense of unease, a sudden drop in temperature, and the feeling of being watched. Many have heard strange whispers and seen shadowy figures moving through the church's deserted halls, particularly after sunset. For the ultimate thrill, visit as the sun dips below the horizon, bathing the church in an eerie, golden light.

#### STOP 2: IGORCHEM BANDH, RAIA

While most ghost stories are set under the cloak of night, the Igorchem Bandh defies this rule. This narrow road, located behind the Church of Our Lady of Snows in Raia village, is said to be haunted in broad daylight, specifically between 2 pm and 3 pm. It's a place where the air hangs heavy with an unseen presence, and the deafening silence feels more menacing than any noise.



• The Experience: The legend claims that anyone walking this stretch during the "haunted hour" risks possession by a malevolent spirit. The fear isn't in what you see, but what you might become. Be prepared for a chilling walk that will make you question what's real and what's merely a trick of the mind.

#### STOP 3: D'MELLO HOUSE, SANTIMOL

The D'Mello House in Santimol is a testament to the fact that not all hauntings are ancient. The story here is of

two brothers whose bitter feud over ancestral property ended in a tragic murder. The house now stands abandoned, its silence broken only by the ghosts of a violent past

• The Experience: Neighbors and brave visitors claim to hear the sounds of shouting and fighting echoing from the empty house. Others have reported doors slamming shut on their own, broken windowpanes, and the sensation of a cold, menacing presence. This is a stop for those who want to feel the weight of a family's dark legacy.

#### **STOP 4: BORIM BRIDGE, PONDA**

The Borim Bridge, connecting Ponda and Margao, is a hub of tragic tales. One of the most famous stories involves a woman who is said to leap from the bridge at night. If a motorist stops to help, they will find the bridge empty, only to discover the same spectral figure sitting in the back seat of their car.

• The Experience: The bridge is a favorite spot for thrillseekers hoping to catch a glimpse of the phantom woman. It's a chilling game of cat and mouse, where a simple act of kindness can lead to a supernatural encounter.

Goa's haunted locales offer a different kind of adventure, a journey into the unknown that will test your courage and your belief in the supernatural. These are not just ghost stories; they are a part of Goa's rich and mysterious history, waiting to be discovered by those daring enough to seek them out.



oa, a name synonymous with sun-kissed beaches, vibrant nightlife, and a laid-back lifestyle, often conjures images of luxurious resorts and expensive parties. However, the state's charm is far more accessible than you might think. With the right planning and a few insider tips, you can experience the best of Goa without breaking the bank. This article will show you how to navigate Goa as a budget traveler, with a special mention of how Four Seasons Holiday Planner can be your perfect partner in making your dream vacation a reality.

#### The Budget Traveler's Goa: More **Than Just a Dream**

Goa is not exclusively for the rich and famous. Its landscape is dotted with affordable guesthouses, local eateries, and free or low-cost activities that allow you to soak in the Goan spirit without emptying your

#### 1. Affordable Accommodation:

Forget the five-star resorts. Goa offers a wide range of budget-friendly stays, including hostels, guesthouses, and homestays. Areas like Utorda in South Goa



and Anjuna in the North are known for their affordable lodging options. A bed in a hostel dorm can be as low as Rs/-800 per night, while a clean and comfortable guesthouse room can be found for Rs/-1,500 to Rs/-2,500

#### 2. Delicious and Inexpensive Food:

Goan cuisine is a treat for the taste buds and a blessing for the wallet. Street food stalls and beach shacks are your best friends here. A hearty Goan fish thali, a local favorite, can be enjoyed for a few hundred rupees. Don't miss out on trying other local delicacies like Chicken Xacuti and Pork Vindaloo at small, family-run restaurants for an authentic and affordable culinary experience.

#### 3. Smart Transportation:

Traveling within Goa can be a significant expense, but smart choices can keep costs down.

• Rent a scooter: This is a traveler's favorite for a reason. Renting a scooter or a "scooty" is the most cost-effective way to

## Discover Goa on a Shoestring: Your Ultimate Guide to a Budget-Friendly Getaway

explore the state at your own pace. Rentals can start from as low as Rs/-250 per day during the off-season.

- Public transport: While not as frequent as in a major city, local buses are an incredibly cheap way to travel between major towns and beaches.
- · Hop-on Hop-off buses: For a structured and hassle-free sightseeing experience, consider the Hop-on Hop-off bus tours offered by Goa Tourism. A one-day pass for a specific route (North or South Goa) is around Rs/-600.

#### 4. Free and Low-Cost Activities:

Goa's greatest treasures are often its free ones.

- · Beach hopping: Spend your days exploring the diverse coastline, from the lively beaches of North Goa like Baga and Calangute to the serene shores of South Goa like Palolem and Cavelossim.
  - · Exploring historical sites: Visit the numerous forts and churches that tell the story of Goa's rich history. The iconic Chapora Fort (made famous by the movie Dil Chahta Hai) and the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa are mustsees that cost nothing
  - Witnessing a Goan sunset: Grab a spot on any beach and

watch the sun dip below the Arabian Seaan unforgettable experience that is entirely

 Anjuna Flea Market: Even if you don't plan to buy anything, wandering through the stalls of the vibrant Wednesday Flea Market in Anjuna is an experience in itself.

Your Budget-Friendly Partner: Four Seasons Holiday Planner

While planning a budget trip can be fun, it can also be overwhelming. This is where a reliable travel agency like Four Seasons Holiday Planner comes in. They specialize in crafting affordable and well-structured tour packages that ensure you get the most out of your Goa vacation without the stress of planning.

Four Seasons Holiday Planner understands the needs of a budget traveler. They

· Curated itineraries: Their packages are designed to include the best of Goa's sights and experiences, from North Goa's party scene to South Goa's tranquility, all within a reasonable budget.

- · Cost-effective stays: They partner with a network of quality guesthouses and hotels, ensuring you have a comfortable and clean place to stay that fits your price range.
- · Hassle-free arrangements: From airport transfers to organized sightseeing tours, they handle the logistics so you can focus on enjoying your holiday.

Whether you're looking for a package that includes a dinner cruise and water sports or a simple itinerary focused on exploring the local culture, Four Seasons

Holiday Planner provides options that are both exciting and economical. They are committed to proving that a memorable Goa holiday doesn't have to be an expensive one.

#### **The Bottom Line**

Goa's magic is not reserved for those with deep pockets. With a little research and the right travel partner, you can have an incredible, fulfilling vacation that is both kind to your wallet and rich in experiences. So, pack your bags, and get ready to discover the budget-friendly side of Goa with Four Seasons Holiday Planner.













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lanning a trip from the USA to Goa is an exciting adventure that requires careful preparation. Here is a detailed guide covering everything from flights and visas to a sample itinerary, ensuring your journey is as smooth as possible.

#### 1. FLIGHTS AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

Flights: There are no direct flights from the USA to Goa. Your journey will involve at least one or two layovers, typically in major international hubs like Doha, Dubai, or Mumbai before a connecting flight to Goa.

- · Goa has two airports:
- Goa International Airport (Dabolim GOI): The older and more centrally located airport, serving both international and domestic flights.
- Manohar International Airport (Mopa GOX): A newer airport in North Goa, primarily handling domestic flights but with a growing number of international routes.
- Major Airlines: Airlines like IndiGo, Air India, Emirates, and Qatar Airways are common carriers for this route. Flight times can range from 20 to 30+ hours depending on the number and duration of layovers.

Visa: U.S. citizens are required to have a valid visa to enter India. The easiest and most recommended option for tourism is the e-Tourist Visa.

- e-Tourist Visa: This can be applied for online, and it's a relatively quick process. You can choose a 30-day, oneyear, or five-year e-Visa.
- Requirements: You will need a valid U.S. passport with at least six months of validity remaining from your date of arrival, a digital photograph, and a scanned copy of your passport's bio page. It is essential to apply at least four days before your departure.

#### 2. WHEN TO VISIT: CHOOSING THE RIGHT TIME

The best time to visit Goa is during the dry season, from November to March.

- November February: The peak tourist season. The weather is cool, sunny, and pleasant (temperatures from 70°F to 85°F), perfect for beach activities, water sports,
- March May: The pre-monsoon season. It gets hotter and more humid, but it's a good time for budget-conscious travelers as crowds thin out.
- June October: The monsoon season. Goa transforms into a lush, green paradise. While beach activities are limited due to heavy rains, it's a great time for nature lovers to enjoy the waterfalls and tranquil landscapes.

### 3. NORTH GOA VS. SOUTH GOA: FINDING YOUR

Goa is divided into two distinct regions, each offering a different experience.

- North Goa (The Lively Heart): Known for its energetic atmosphere, vibrant nightlife, and bustling markets.
  - Best for: Party-goers, backpackers, solo travelers,



# A comprehensive plan for a trip from the USA to Goa



and those who want to be in the middle of the action.

- · Beaches: Baga, Calangute, Anjuna, and Vagator.
- Attractions: Anjuna Flea Market, Fort Aguada, Chapora Fort, and a wide array of restaurants and clubs.
- South Goa (The Tranguil Retreat): Famous for its pristine, less-crowded beaches, luxury resorts, and serene environment.



- · Best for: Families, couples, honeymooners, and anyone seeking a peaceful and relaxing getaway.
  - Beaches: Palolem, Colva, Agonda, and Cavelossim.
- Attractions: Old Goa's historic churches (Basilica of Bom Jesus), dolphin spotting, and tranquil beachside dinners.

#### 4. SAMPLE 7-DAY ITINERARY

This itinerary is designed for a first-time visitor, combining the best of North and South Goa.

- Day 1: Arrival & North Goa Immersion: Arrive at Goa airport. Take a pre-booked taxi to your hotel in North Goa (e.g., in Baga or Candolim). Settle in, then head to Baga Beach for a stroll and a relaxed dinner at a beach shack.
- Day 2: Culture & History: Visit the historic Fort Aguada for panoramic ocean views. Later, head to the bustling Anjuna Flea Market (if it's a Wednesday) or the Saturday Night Market in Arpora.

- Day 3: Adventure & Fun: Spend the day at Calangute or Candolim Beach. Indulge in thrilling water sports like parasailing or jet skiing. In the evening, explore the lively Tito's Lane for nightlife.
- Day 4: South Goa Transition: Check out of your North Goa hotel and drive to a hotel in South Goa (e.g., near Palolem or Colva). Relax on the pristine sands of your new
  - beach and enjoy a quiet sunset.
  - Day 5: Serenity & Nature: Take a boat trip from Palolem Beach to spot dolphins and explore nearby Butterfly and Honeymoon Beaches. In the evening, enjoy a peaceful dinner at one of Palolem's famous candlelit beach restaurants.
  - · Day 6: Old Goa Heritage Tour: Hire a driver to visit Old Goa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the Basilica of Bom Jesus, Se Cathedral, and the Church of St. Francis of Assisi to witness Goa's rich Portuguese colonial history.
  - Day 7: Departure: Enjoy a final breakfast by the beach, do some last-minute souvenir shopping, and then head to the airport for your

#### 5. PRACTICAL TIPS

- · Getting Around: Renting a scooter or a car is a popular and flexible way to explore. Taxis are also readily available but be sure to agree on the fare beforehand, as meters are rarely used.
- What to Pack: Lightweight cotton clothing, swimwear, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, and comfortable walking shoes are essential. Also, pack a universal travel adapter.
- Currency: The currency is the Indian Rupee (INR). Credit cards are widely accepted in hotels and major restaurants, but cash is necessary for local markets, small
- · Safety: Goa is generally safe, but it's always wise to be aware of your surroundings, especially at night. It's recommended to carry a copy of your passport and visa at all times.



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