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BSF jawan returns home after 21 days in Pak custody

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Alaya F performs headstand on a paddleboard

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INDIA POST

SURVEY

survey@indiapost.com

This week's question

Will Pakistan finally realize its failure to control terrorism?

Last week's result

Can India successfully negotiate tariffs with US?

YES 74% NO 26%

PAK: TERROR EPICENTER

"Global community recognizes Pakistan as epicenter of terrorism": MEA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and members of the Armed Forces chant 'Vande Mataram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' during his visit to Adampur Air Base, in Jalandhar (ANI Photo)

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, stated recently that the global community has shown a clear understanding of India's plight and recognized that the Pahalgam terrorist attack targeted Indian tourists and that the epicenter of terrorism lies across the border in Pakistan.

He said that numerous foreign leaders have acknowledged India's right to defend itself and protect its citizens, emphasizing that the epicenter of terrorism is in Pakistan.

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He added, "I also draw your attention to the UN Security Council press statement of 25th April, which states that - 'there is a need to uphold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice.' They further stressed that those responsible for these killings should be held accountable."

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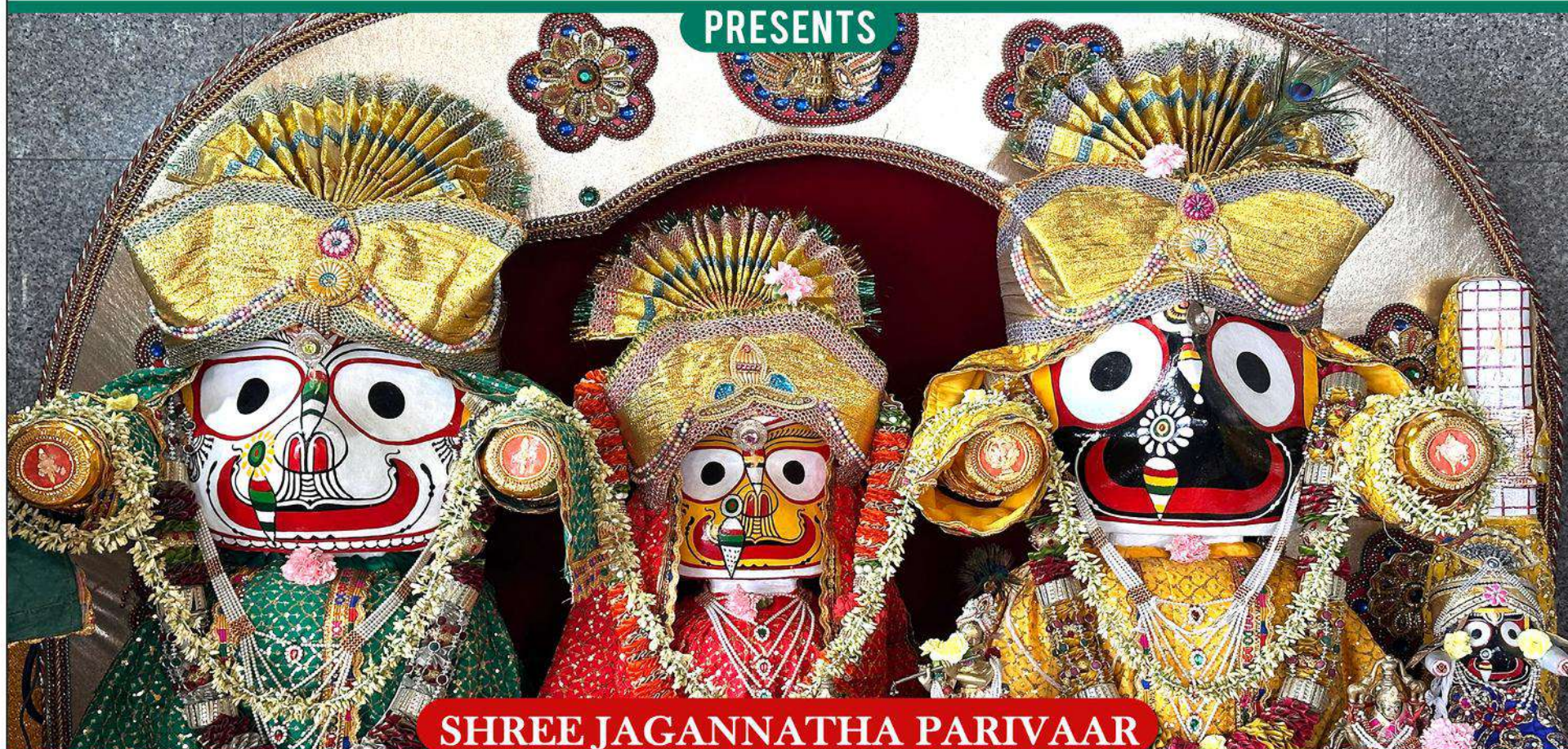


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PAK: TERROR EPICENTER

"Global community recognizes Pakistan as epicenter of terrorism": MEA

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, stated recently that the global community has shown a clear understanding of India's plight and recognized that the Pahalgam terrorist attack targeted Indian tourists and that the epicenter of terrorism lies across the border in Pakistan.

He said that numerous foreign leaders have acknowledged India's right to defend itself and protect its citizens, emphasizing that the epicenter of terrorism is in Pakistan.

While addressing a question of India and Pakistan 'hyphenation,' Jaiswal, while addressing the MEA briefing, said, "There is widespread understanding in the world that Indian tourists were the victims of terrorism at Pahalgam and that the epicenter of terrorism is across the border in Pakistan. A number of foreign leaders, in their conversations with Indian counterparts, recognized India's right to defend itself and protect its people."

He added, "I also draw your attention to the UN Security Council press statement of 25th April, which states that - 'there is a need to uphold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice.' They further stressed that those responsible for these killings should be held accountable."

Jaiswal also spoke about the abeyance of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) and highlighted

that while the treaty was originally founded on the principles of goodwill and friendship, "Pakistan held these principles in abeyance by its promotion of cross-border terrorism."

"After the CCS (Cabinet Committee on Security) decision, the Indus Water Treaty has been put in abeyance. I would also like to take you back a little. The IWT was concluded in the spirit of goodwill and friendship as specified in the preamble of the

treaty. However, Pakistan has held these principles in abeyance by its promotion of cross-border terrorism for several decades now. Now, as per the CCS decision, India will keep the treaty in abeyance until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism. Please note that climate change, demographic shifts and technological changes have created new realities on the

ground as well," Jaiswal said.

Jaiswal, during the press briefing, also stated that Pakistan's attempt to escape the consequences of its actions is futile, given its long history of supporting terrorism. He highlighted that the terrorist infrastructure sites destroyed by India were responsible for the deaths of not only Indians but also many other innocents around the world.

"We have seen the statement made by the Pakistani side. That a nation which has nurtured terrorism on an industrial scale should think that it can escape the consequences is fooling itself. The terrorist infrastructure sites that India destroyed were responsible not only for the deaths of Indians but also of many other innocents around the world. There is now a new normal. The sooner Pakistan gets used to it, the better," he said.

Jaiswal's remarks came after Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Ishaq Dar, in his first interview since India and Pakistan's cessation of hostilities, said that Islamabad "had no choice" but to launch strikes in "self-defense" following India's May 7 cross-border attacks.

Dar referred to India's strikes as a "war" and a "wishful attempt to establish its hegemony" and claimed that "We were very sure that our conventional capacity and capabilities are strong enough that we will beat them both in the air and on the ground." ANI



MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal addresses a press conference, in New Delhi. (ANI Photo)

"There is widespread understanding in the world that Indian tourists were the victims of terrorism at Pahalgam and that the epicenter of terrorism is across the border in Pakistan. A number of foreign leaders, in their conversations with Indian counterparts"

Breaking down Pak's fake narrative factory: How it colluded with 'allies' to launch 'info war' against India

NEW DELHI: India's Operation Sindoor gave a deadly blow to Pakistan, demolished its terror infrastructure and also left its political leadership humiliated and exposed before the world.

The Indian military decimated its safe havens for terrorists as well as Pakistani air bases in response to its escalation; however, the rogue nation stuck to its character and kept upping the ante against Indian action.

Defeated on the battlefield, it opened a new front against India and desperately attempted to sell false narratives about India's 'defeat', the fall of its fighter jets, to project itself as a 'winner'

in the digital space. A couple of its friendly nations, allegedly Türkiye and China, also helped it in peddling this fabricated narrative by tacit or direct means.

An X user has documented a chain of events as to how Pakistan engaged in a blitz of 'information warfare' and peddled full-blown propaganda to paint India in a poor light and get itself an upper hand.

As India struck its popular airstrip and airbases, Pakistan started leveraging its access to Western media to push anti-India propaganda. Pakistan journalists at CNN, Reuters, Bloomberg, and NYT began publishing anti-India narratives with baseless claims and without any evi-

dence, claimed the X user.

Instances of data fudging, doctored videos for the anti-India narrative

On May 8, DG ISPR peddled its first official lie as it claimed that the Pakistan Army didn't attack civilian areas in Amritsar and accused India of 'false flag'. The very next day, they went on chest-thumping, celebrating Pakistan's attack in Amritsar.

DG ISPR, addressing the media, played a doctored clip of Wing Commander Vyomika Singh 'admitting' to Pakistan's attack, however, the fact was that the Pakistani Army's spokesperson conveniently cut out a part from the video,

where the officer was explaining how Pakistan targeted civilian areas.

On May 1, 2025, Pakistan's ISPR ran a disinformation campaign by circulating 'classified RAW documents' to target India.

On May 11, DGISPR used a 2-year-old image from 2023 to falsely show their Navy's preparedness against India.

DGISPR also manipulated a news clip from a reputed Indian news channel and claimed that an Indian airfield was destroyed, however, the original footage was about Pakistan's airfield being hit by Indian forces. IANS

Baloch forum blames Pakistan army for civilian assault

BALUCHISTAN: As Pakistan continues to rain atrocities on Baloch residents, the Baloch Women Forum (BWF) strongly criticized the recent rocket launcher attack on the residence of Jangiyan Baloch, a civilian in the Balicha area of Tump Tehsil, district Kech.

Taking to the social media platform X, BWF alleged that the assault was carried out by "death squads," the locally operating armed groups with the purported backing of law enforcement agencies of Balochistan.

The forum stated, "We, the Baloch Women Forum (BWF), denounce the ugly attack of rocket launchers on

gion freely perpetrate violence, destabilizing society while remaining shielded from justice. And, with the tacit support of the state, these groups act as instruments of chaos, immune to law and accountability.

"These groups have been given a free hand to destabilize the social order," the BWF stated. "They function with impunity and are unaccountable due to the backing they receive from state institutions."

The Forum also expressed deep concern over the deteriorating security conditions in Tump, describing it as one of the most gravely impacted regions in Balochistan.

It accused armed groups in the area of orchestrating targeted killings, enforced disappearances, and assaults on civilians, all of which are fueling an escalating climate of lawlessness and fear.

The Baloch Women Forum in the resort to combat

"We, the Baloch Women Forum (BWF), denounce the ugly attack of rocket launchers on the home of a civilian, Jangiyan Baloch, in district Kech's Balicha in the strongest possible terms and deem it an attack on the societal order and organization of the Baloch"

the home of a civilian, Jangiyan Baloch, in district Kech's Balicha in the strongest possible terms and deem it an attack on the societal order and organization of the Baloch."

According to X handle, the incident left three members of Jangiyan Baloch's family injured -- his son Nawaz Jangiyan, daughter-in-law Ayesha Mulla Raza, and wife Modho Naik Bakht.

The BWF highlighted that the armed factions in the re-

the rising human right abuses demanded several actions which included measures like an immediate end to what it described as "illegal privileges" granted to armed militias, a permanent halt to human rights violations in Trump and the wider Balochistan region, and a transparent and impartial inquiry into the rocket attack on Jangiyan Baloch's home, with legal action against the perpetrators. Furthermore, it also called for medical and financial assistance for the injured and their family. ANI

BSF jawan Purnam Kumar Shaw returns home after 21 days in Pakistani custody, family celebrates

KOLKATA: BSF constable Purnam Kumar Shaw was repatriated to India on Wednesday (14 May), after spending 21 days in Pakistani custody.

Shaw had inadvertently crossed into Pakistan territory while on operational duty in the Ferozepur sector on April 23, 2025, and was detained by Pakistan Rangers.

Family members of BSF Jawan Purnam Kumar Shaw celebrated the news of his repatriation to India by distributing sweets.

Following the cessation of hostilities, diplomatic efforts between India and Pakistan facilitated the repatriation process. Shaw was handed over to Indian authorities at the Joint Check Post Attari in Punjab at 10:30

a.m. today. The handover was conducted peacefully and in accordance with established protocols.

Shaw's family, who had been anxiously waiting for his return, celebrated the news of his repatriation with great relief. His wife, Rajni Shaw, had pleaded with the Indian

government to ensure her husband's safe return.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her happiness and relief after Border Security Force Constable Purnam Kumar Shaw was repatriated from Pakistan to India.

Taking to the social media platform X, Banerjee shared that she had been in close contact with Shaw's family throughout the ordeal, offering her best wishes to the jawan, his wife Rajni Shaw, and their entire family.

"I am happy to receive the information that our Purnam Kumar Shaw, the BSF jawan, has been released. I had all along been in touch with his family and spoke thrice with his wife here at Rishra, Hugli. Today, I also called her. All the

very best wishes for my brother-like jawan, his entire family including his wife Rajni Shaw," Banerjee stated in her post.

Earlier today, the Pakistan government repatriated India's BSF Constable Purnam Kumar Shaw. ANI



BSF jawan Purnam Kumar Shaw stands with fellow personnel at the Attari-Wagah border after being handed over by Pakistan Rangers, in Amritsar. (ANI Photo)

Balochistan is not Pakistan: Baloch leader declares independence from Pakistan, seeks support from India and global community

BALUCHISTAN: Baloch representative Mir Yar Baloch on Wednesday 14 May, declared independence from Pakistan, citing decades of violence, enforced disappearances, and human rights violations in the region.

In a post on X, he said the people of Balochistan have given their "national verdict" and that the world must no longer stay silent.

"Tum Maroge Hum Neklengy, Hum Nasal Bachany Nekly Hain, Aao Hamara Sath Do. Baloch people across Pakistan Occupied Balochistan are up on streets and this is their national verdict that Balochistan Is Not Pakistan and world can't be a silent spectator any more," he said.

https://x.com/miryar_baloch/status/1922595396099944845

He also urged Indian citizens, especially media, YouTubers, and intellectuals, to avoid calling Balochs "Pakistan's own people."

"Baloch Narrative!! Dear Indians patriot media, the YouTube comrades, the intellectuals fighting to defend Bharat are suggested not to refer to Balochs as 'Pakistan's Own People.' We are not Pakistani, we are Balochistani. Pakistan's own people are the Punjabi who never faced air bombings, enforced disappearances and genocide," the Baloch leader said.

Mir Yar Baloch also expressed full support for India's stand on Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK). He urged the international community to pressure Pakistan to vacate the region.

Mir Yar said, "14 May 2025- Balochistan fully supports the India decision of asking Pakistan to vacate PoK. The international community must urge Pakistan to immediately leave PoK to avoid another humiliation of surrender on its 93,000 army personnel in Dhaka. India is capable of defeating Pakistan army and if Pakistan didn't pay any heed then the only Pakistani greedy army generals must be held responsible for bloodshed because Islamabad is using PoK people as human shields."

He also called for recognition and support from India and the global community for Balochistan's independence.

https://x.com/miryar_baloch/status/1922537075112313229

According to Mir Yar Baloch, the world must not accept Pakistan's narrative on Balochistan, which, he said, was forcibly annexed with the involvement of foreign powers.

Balochistan has long witnessed serious human rights violations. These include enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and silencing of dissent. Both Pakistani security forces and armed groups have been accused of abuses.

Civilians often suffer in the ongoing conflict, with little media access or legal accountability. While international concern has grown, meaningful intervention remains lacking. ANI

Devotees throng Hanoi to offer prayers to holy Buddha relics sent from India

HANOI: Vietnam's Hanoi came to a standstill as a large crowd thronged the capital city from across the country gathered outside the Buddhist temple Quan Su Pagoda on Wednesday 14 May, to pay their obeisance to the Holy Buddhist Relics sent from India.

"The mood of festivity and the excitement in the air is something people of Hanoi have not seen in a long time, as the crowd chanted -- 'the Buddha has arrived'," said the International Buddhist Confederation

Around 5 lakh people had gathered on the streets to welcome the sacred relics as it entered the Vietnamese capital on Tuesday. People were high on emotions, with many weeping and praying while others chanted aloud.

The sacred relics of Lord Buddha from India were enshrined in the Buddhist temple Quan Su Pagoda in Hanoi the same day, with ceremonial ritual and prayers conducted by monks from India and Vietnam. The relics will be displayed in the Buddhist temple till May 16.

"Holy Buddha Relics from Sarnath, India, arrived in Hanoi today and enshrined at Quan Su Pagoda till May 16, 2025, with due ceremonies and prayers by monks from India and Vietnam," the Embassy of India in Hanoi posted on X.

Earlier, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar



extended wishes on the Vesak Day, also known as Buddha Purnima, highlighting shared cultural ties with Vietnam, where over one million people prayed at the sacred Buddha relics sent from India.

"On this Vesak Day, also deeply moved to see over one million people in Vietnam pay respects to and pray at

the Buddhist Holy Relics, which travelled from India. Indeed, a clear reflection of our age-old connect, shared culture and special ties," said EAM Jaishankar.

India's sending of the holy relics to Vietnam has been appreciated by Vietnamese President Luong Cuong as a gesture that has further strengthened the strong spiritual and cultural ties between both countries.

The holy relics were brought from India on May 2 by a Union Minister of Parliamentary and Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju-led Indian delegation, which also included Andhra Pradesh Minister Kandula Durgesh and senior monks and officials.

The holy relics will remain in Vietnam until May 21 as part of the UN Day of Vesak celebrations. The relics were earlier displayed at Thanh Tam Pagoda in Ho Chi Minh City, and then in Ba Den Mountain in Tay Ninh province and are currently in Hanoi.

Recently, the Consulate General of India in Ho Chi Minh City attended the enshrining ceremony of the Holy Relic of Lord Buddha held at Ba Den Mountain in Tay Ninh province on May 8.

The ceremony was witnessed by most venerable monks from India, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and several other countries as well. Provincial leadership of Tay Ninh also graced the occasion. *IANS*

EAM Jaishankar congratulates Anita Anand on appointment as Canada's Foreign Minister

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar has congratulated Anita Anand on her appointment as the Foreign Minister of Canada in the newly elected Carney government.

In a post on X, the EAM said, "Congratulate @AnitaAnandMP on your appointment as Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs."

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney unveiled a 38-member cabinet, comprising 28 ministers and 10 Secretaries of State.

The Cabinet is supported by 10 Secretaries of State who will provide dedicated leadership on key issues and priorities within their minister's portfolio.

One of the key faces of the newly unveiled cabinet includes Indian-origin Anita Anand, who has been appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Following the unveiling of the new Cabinet, Carney outlined the government's top priorities -- creating new economic and security relationships with the United States, tackling the cost of living, and strengthening Canada's economy.

Sharing a post on X, Carney wrote, "Canada, meet your new Cabinet. This is a team that is empowered and expected to lead. Together, we will create a new economic and security relationship with the United States and build a stronger economy -- the strongest economy in the G7."

In another post, he wrote, "Canadians elected this new

government with a strong mandate: to define a new economic and security relationship with the United States, bring down the cost of living, and build a stronger economy. This new cabinet is focused, ready, and built for this moment."

On April 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Mark J. Carney on his election as the Prime Minister of Canada, extending warm wishes to the Liberal Party for their electoral victory.

Posting on X, PM Modi wrote, "Congratulations Mark J Carney on your election as the Prime Minister of Canada and to the Liberal Party on their victory. India and Canada are bound by shared democratic values, a steadfast commitment to the rule of law, and vibrant people-to-people ties. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our partnership and unlock greater opportunities for

our people."

Carney had taken over the leadership from Justin Trudeau, who resigned towards the end of his term after losing the confidence of his party.

Unlike his predecessor, Trudeau, whose tenure saw strained relations with India following his allegations regarding the killing of NIA-designated terrorist Hardeep Nijjar, Carney has publicly advocated for improving ties with India. He notably extended condolences following the Pahalgam terror attack, signaling a commitment to strengthening India-Canada relations. *ANI*



Anita Anand

India slams China's preposterous renaming attempts of places in Arunachal Pradesh

NEW DELHI: India has categorically rejected China's vain and preposterous attempts to rename places in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh and emphasized that such maneuvers would not change the reality that Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India.

Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Randhir Jaiswal, made the remarks while responding to the media queries on the renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh by China.

Jaiswal said, "We have noticed that China has persisted with its vain and preposterous attempts to name places in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. Consistent with our principled position, we reject such attempts categorically."

He added that such "creative naming" will not alter the undeniable reality that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of India.

"Creative naming will not alter the undeniable reality that Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India", he said.

In the past, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had said, "If today I change the name of your house, will it become mine? Arunachal Pradesh was, is and will always be a state of India. Changing names does not have an effect."

"I think we rightly called it senseless. By doing it repeatedly, it is still senseless. So I want to be very clear. Arunachal Pradesh was, is, and will always be India," he had said. The EAM had also emphasized, "I hope I am saying it so clearly that not only in the country but beyond the country also, people get that message very, very clearly," Jaishankar emphasized. *ANI*

Indian Consulate in New York expresses condolences

NEW YORK: After two Indian students from Cleveland State University, Manav Patel and Saurav Prabhakar, lost their lives in a road accident, the Indian Consulate expressed sorrow over the incident and said that it is in close contact with the families, offering all possible support during this time.

Sharing a post on X, the Consulate General of India in New York wrote, "Deeply saddened to learn about the unfortunate road accident in which two Indian students from Cleveland State University, Manav Patel and Saurav Prabhakar lost their lives."

The post added, "Our thoughts and prayers are with their families during this difficult time. The Consulate is in touch with the families and has assured them of all possible assistance." *ANI*

Indian-America student dies in Bahamas after falling from balcony

BOSTON: An Indian-origin student from the US died after falling from a balcony in the Bahamas, just a few days before graduating.

Gaurav Jaisingh, a student of Bentley University, Massachusetts, was on an annual senior class trip. Reports suggested that Jaisingh, a native of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, was a member of the Delta Sigma Pi fraternity and the South Asian Students Association of the University.

Bentley University took to social media, grieving the tragic loss of the student.

"It's been a difficult few days, and our community is feeling the emotional toll of the tragic loss of Gaurav Jaisingh '25. Our hearts go out to Gaurav's family and friends. We plan to honor Gaurav at the undergraduate commencement ceremony," the university said in a post on X.

The Royal Bahamas Police Force earlier confirmed the incident, stating that Jaisingh fell from an upper-level balcony while inside his hotel room with other roommates. *IANS*

COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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CRY 'Uphaar': A Bay Area Fundraiser

Indian American Cancer Scientists Honored with Prestigious Awards for Groundbreaking Discoveries

India Post News Service

The Society of American Asian Scientists in Cancer Research is a non-profit, non-political organization registered in the state of California in 2004 and has more than 5,000 members. All our mem-

bers are also members of American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). SAASCR scientists are from Asia, mainly of Indian origin, working in the USA and Canada in the field of cancer research and fully sponsored by the biotechnology companies.



(L to R) Dr. Sunil Krishnan, Dr. Chandan Guha, Dr. Prasad Adusumilli, Dr. Resham Bhattacharya, Dr. Natarajan Muthusamy, Dr. Rajvir Dahiya (President SAASCR), Dr. Dharam P Chauhan (Secretary SAASCR), Dr. Manmeet S Ahluwalia, Dr. Golam Mohi and Dr. Suresh Ramalingam

bers are also members of American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). SAASCR scientists are from Asia, mainly of Indian origin, working in the USA and Canada in the field of cancer research and fully sponsored by the biotechnology companies.

Dr. Rajvir Dahiya, the president of SAASCR, presented awards to these scientists on April 27th 2025 in Chicago, Illinois during American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting. Dr. Rajvir Dahiya is a Professor Emeritus at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine. Dr. Dharam Pal Chauhan is a secretary of SAASCR and is a retired Professor from University of California San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine.

Dr. Sunil Krishnan serves as professor and director of radiation oncology at the McGovern Medical School, UTHealth Houston. He holds the John P. and Kathrine G. McGovern Distinguished

Oncology from Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.

Dr. Krishnan's first faculty appointment was in the gastrointestinal radiation oncology section at MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2004 where he rose through the ranks to full professor in 2014. He held the John E. and Dorothy J. Harris Endowed Professorship in Gastrointestinal Cancer there and directed the Center for Ra-

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tion Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and serves as the co-director of the Therapeutics and Pharmacology graduate program.

rected the cancer nanotechnology T32 training grant for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows at MD Anderson and, Rice University. In 2019, Dr. Krishnan moved to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL as professor of radiation oncology.

While there, he was co-leader of the Gastrointestinal Cancers program of the three-site Mayo Clinic Cancer Support Grant, director of the Jacksonville Office of Clinical Trials, and held the Florida Department of Health Cancer Research Endowed Chair. Since returning to Houston, Dr. Krishnan has revived his affiliation with the MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Hous-

Dr. Rajvir Dahiya, the president of SAASCR, presented awards to these scientists on April 27th 2025 in Chicago, Illinois during American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting.

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ton Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and serves as the co-director of the Therapeutics and Pharmacology graduate program.

Dr. Krishnan's clinical re-

search is focused on the development of novel treatment approaches for patients with hepatobiliary, pancreatic, and rectal tumors, defining the role of radiation therapy in the management of these cancers, identifying predictors of response to

treatment, and incorporating novel treatment techniques in the clinic. His laboratory research focuses on devising new strategies to sensitize tumors to radiation therapy and protect normal tissues from radiation injury using nanoparticles, chemotherapeutics, biologics, and botanicals. A major thrust of the laboratory has been the design, fabrication, characterization, validation, and mechanistic inquiries of nanoparticles for diagnosis and treatment of cancer. These include carbon-based, organic, inorganic, hybrid, and multilayered nanostructures. Pivotal work has focused on the use of gold nanoparticles as radiation sensitizers via radiation dose enhancement and/or photothermal activation, and designer nanoparticles that improve pharmacokinetics and payload delivery characteristics via stimulus-responsiveness, bio-inspired molecular mimicry,

Cont'd on page 17

Tanishq opens in Santa Clara

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

Tanishq, the renowned Indian jewelry brand under the Tata Group, has recently inaugurated its largest U.S. store in Santa Clara, California. Located at 3406

El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95051, this expansive showroom offers a diverse selection of gold, diamond, and antique jewelry, catering to both traditional and contemporary tastes. The grand opening event was a significant occasion on May

8th, attracting members of the Indian-American community and jewelry enthusiasts. The store's strategic location in a cultural hub underscores Tanishq's commitment to connecting with the diaspora and providing them with exquisite craftsmanship and timeless elegance.

The brand is owned by The Tata Group, a Mumbai-based multinational conglomerate that owns 30 companies across 10 categories, including Tata Motors, Tata Consultancy Services, Air India, and Jaguar Land Rover. Tanishq already has a significant presence in the U.S. market. The high demand and interest shown by the Indian-American community encouraged us to have an on-ground presence for them.

At the heart of the launch are two

climbers, traditional jhumkas and much more. Each piece is crafted with utmost precision and attention to detail, consisting of extensive designs and craftsmanship in 18kt and 22kt gold.

Santa Clara County has a substantial number of residents born in India, with 148,000 in 2022, accounting for 8% of the county's population. "This region has one of the highest concentrations of the Indian diaspora and a strong affinity for luxury with cultural depth. We believe Tanishq will resonate not just with Indian Americans, but with anyone who appreciates heritage, elegance, and fine craftsmanship," said Amrit Pal Singh, Titan's North America Business Head. For the Tata Group, the Santa Clara showroom represents not another step in its interna-



Geeta Sikand awarded 2025 Cardiovascular Wellbeing Distinguished Scholar Award

India Post News Service

Geeta Sikand, a renowned registered dietitian nutritionist was nominated for, and awarded prestigious "Cardiovascular Wellbeing Distinguished Scholar Award". This award recognizes an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to research or the practice of dietetics as a result of continued commitment to scholarship.

Geeta is Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of California Irvine (Cardiology Division) where she has worked since 1987 in Instructor/Professorial positions. She has had a long and distinguished career as an Academy member for over 40 years and has worked tirelessly for our profession, having made many important contributions for the benefit of our profession. Her important contributions to CV-Well (and SCAN) and the National Lipid Association and several other impactful accomplishments are very well known and acknowl-

edged. Geeta has shown unwavering commitment to the nutrition and dietetics profession, always promoting dietitians for career opportunities and her remarkable advocacy activities that have benefited our profession. Collectively, Geeta's contributions in these areas have been instrumental in moving the profession forward.

Geeta has co-chaired the NLA Nutrition Expert Panel report on "Nutrition recommendations for the management of dyslipidemia" published in December 2015 in "Recommendations for Patient-Centered Management of Dyslipidemia: Part 2 (J Clin Lipidol. 2015;9: S1-S122)." The NLA expert panel recommended

that patients with dyslipidemia should be referred to the RDN. Geeta championed this language for this recommendation. For the dietetics profession, this was an unprecedented breakthrough for the promotion of the RDN in recommending that patients should be referred to an RDN.



Geeta Sikand



brothers: Tarush and Tushit Agarwal. For them, this is not just a business transaction; it's personal. "We've grown up seeing what Tanishq means to people in India," said Tarush, standing inside the showroom just before the opening ceremony. "Bringing that experience to our community here it's a proud moment." The collection features elegant studs, contemporary drop earrings, classy

tional expansion but it's also a reflection of a longer story: one about diaspora, economic influence, and the deep resonance of cultural memory.

Santa Clara Mayor Lisa Gillmor joined in the festivities, highlighting the meaningful partnership between the city and its vibrant Indian community. "Santa Clara, like Tanishq, blends tradition with innovation," she remarked.

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Pallium India Walkathon 2025: A step towards compassionate care



India Post News Service

On this year's Mother's Day, Pallium India founded by Dr Rajagopal organized a heartfelt Walkathon to raise awareness and support for palliative care. The event was flagged off by respected Council Member Murali Srinivasan, whose presence added inspiration and encouragement to all participants. We were honored by the presence of Vidya Sethuraman, representative of the Festival of Globe, and Rinu Nair, the youngest official in our Bay Area, Manju Abraham, Vanitha President, lent their voices and energy to amplify this vital cause. Held on May 11, 2025, the event saw enthusiastic participation from indi-

viduals and families who walked in solidarity to honor not only their mothers, but also the millions in need of compassionate end-of-life care.

The Walkathon served as a powerful reminder of the importance of love, dignity, and community support in the journey of life-values that mothers exemplify and that palliative care strives to uphold.

The team extended deepest gratitude to everyone who joined us, walked with purpose, and supported this cause-whether in person, virtually, or through donations and messages of encouragement. Your participation brings hope and comfort to patients and families across India facing life-limiting illnesses. This was not pos-



sible without our wonderful volunteers Sijin Koshy, Jacob Neethu, Raj Shaju, Hassan Abhi Raj, and Mithun.

Together, we are building a future where no one suffers needlessly, and every life is treated with respect and empathy.



Nonpartisan survey by the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI)

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

Online video conference on May 9 was hosted by American Community Media (ACOM), and several panelists explored the question of whether the United States is drifting toward authoritarianism. A new ABC News/Washington Post/Ipsos poll finds that 49% of respondents believe the new administration is expanding its authority, violating the rule of law and moving the nation away from its

founding principles.

Lucan Ahmad Way, a professor at the Department of Political Science at the University of Toronto, pointed out that the current situation in the United States is different from the rise of autocracies in other countries. He believes that the actions of the administration show a more rapid and drastic change, which is different from the slow and authoritarian path of most countries in the past that relied on legal reforms. He emphasized

that when government leaders challenge the rule of law, it not only damages the independence of the judiciary, but may also endanger the overall democratic system.

Gloria J. Browne-Marshall, a law professor at the City University of New York (CUNY), pointed out that there have been many constitutional crises in the past when the United States dealt with the rights of African Americans and other marginalized groups. She emphasized that the new administration's policies, especially on the rights of immigrants, refugees and other minority groups, show clear authoritarian tendencies. She warned that when governments violate basic human rights of certain groups, this behavior can expand and ultimately threaten the rights and freedoms of all members of society.



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CRY 'Uphaar': A Bay Area Fundraiser

ARCHANA ASTHANA

Photo credit: Sameer Yagnik



La Villa Rugosa in Campbell, CA was the venue last week Sunday, for the coming together of like-minded people focused on transforming the lives of underprivileged children in India, in support of CRY's (Child Relief and You) worthy mission.

The evening was aptly nicknamed "Uphaar" (gift), as it was one, for both the attendees and the organizers, who are the change makers, advocates and supporters to build compassion, resilience and hope for our children who deserve them the most. CRY is an Indian non-government organization (NGO) that works towards ensuring children's rights; providing free education, primary healthcare and protection from violence, abuse and exploitation in the guise of child labor and child marriages.

The American chapter works to protect such rights, to develop through education; to survive through healthy nutrition; to be safe and to participate in the management of their own rights. Charitable organizations like this run on volunteer and donor power who are dedicated, selfless supporters with their time and monetary contributions, having impacted the lives of over 800,000 children.

Gracing the occasion as guest speaker were actor Ms. Shabana Azmi, a Padma

Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee; philanthropist M.R Rangaswamy, founder of Indiaspora; and project partner, Ms. Lalithamma from Andhra Pradesh, India.

It was a memorable evening of capturing fun moments with the celebrity at an elegantly decorated photo booth, done up by Arpita Bagri of Spundhun, a warm welcome by MC, Sunny Moza, a rousing dance sequence by Bollywood for Life, comedic entertainment by Abhay Paranjpe, and several impassioned speeches by the guests of honor, as well

fundraising marathon. Several donors shared their feelings after visiting the creditable work underway by CRY in India. A fun event with a cause where the participants were united by the desire to dig into deep pockets to bring a ray of light in the bleak lives of the most underserved children in India.

Ms. Azmi in her emotional speech shared an incident of having met a child who had been trained to experience hunger only every other day... the hush that followed was a strong motivation for the

attendees to come up with even more donations than asked. CRY America is funding multiple projects in India, ably supported by local partners.

The only way to keep such organizations active and functioning in this charitable cause is through the generosity of influential and affluent donors, of which there were aplenty at this gathering. The community was touched by the stories that the leaders brought home to them; and promised to return each year with continued help to fund the noble cause.



as by Patrick Bocco, the fundraising director. The speaker's fervor for the cause was palpable as they shared their experiences with CRY the many projects that have impacted the lives of village children favorably. This segued into a pledge session with deep pocketed donors helping to meet the goal of \$350, 000 easily, while over \$3 million was raised in the six-city



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Vidya Jyoti's "Vibrant India"

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: April 27, 2025 on a Sunday afternoon, Vidya Jyoti Global Education Opportunity Foundation hosted the Vibrant India Cultural Festival at Ashton Place in Chicago.

The guests were swept into a celebration of Indian heritage, creativity, and most importantly: hope. The festival, free and open to the public, pulsed with life. It was hosted with charm and energy. The show opened with an upbeat hip hop performance blending rhythm and youthfulness. As the day unfolded, the stage bloomed with a variety of dances: elegant ballet, vibrant Garba, classical Indian sequences, and children twirling in joyful abandon. Groups such as Suhani Dance Academy, Ghunguru School, and Four Stars Dance Group left audiences spellbound.

At the heart of it all was Vidya Jyoti's powerful purpose: to educate underprivileged children across India, the U.S., and Haiti. The founder Pratibha Jairath spoke passionately, presenting stories of transformation. One such story was of Radhika, an orphaned child who, because of Vidya Jyoti's support, is now scoring over 80% (A grade) in school. "We are not just giving money," said Pratibha, her voice with emotion. "We are giving dignity. We are building futures."

Then came the two fashion-walks, a moment where grace met pride. Dressed in stunning saris, lehengas, and Indo-western fusion wear, participants of all ages took to the runway in two dynamic segments. The fashionistas for the evening



were: Swati Kukian, Suparna Dutta, Shree Guruswamy, Shraddha Marathe, Shalaka Sawant, Sara Bongale, Sakshi Sharma, Renuka, Pika Munshi, Nidhi Mishra, Neelam Aloor, Manisha Pandit, Kitkat Shah, Falguni Sukhadia, Fal Rana, Deepti Gupta, Bharathi Devathi, Alli Dhanaraj.

In the Title Walk, finalists were judged not only on style, but voice and purpose. When Rihanna Tandon and Archana Pantraffan stepped forward as winners, their poise and eloquence gave everyone chills. The judges Sanskriti Sharma, Sushma Bhanot and Archana Agarwal, beamed with pride.

A moving highlight of the afternoon was the recognition of community champions by Pratibha Jairath and co-founder Madhu Uppal. With the support of Mayor John Leash of Aurora and Alderwoman Shweta Baid, Vidya Jyoti presented Plaques to Vidya Jyoti sponsors, Sunil Shah, Pinky Dinesh Thakkar, Sudhir Agarwal,

Brij Sharma, Dr. Ashok Mehta, Bill Lyon, Ramesh Mehra, and Dr. Bhupinder Beri. Plaques were also presented to Prem Sharma, Urmil Chawla for their vision and leadership, and to Anita Beri & Sarita Sood for their dedication to Vidya Jyoti.

Sood, Shree Gurusamy, Alka Sood and Preeti Chawla. Colorful stalls offered hand-woven jewelry, textiles, and gifts with their own story.

Advisory Board member Dr. Bhupinder Beri echoed the emotions in his powerful appeal, "We

that cannot be stolen." The room fell silent, then rose to applause. Another passionate advisory member, Ramesh Mehra had another powerful appeal to help folks understand the mission of Vidya Jyoti.

The two raffle draws, including a grand prize of \$250, kept the energy high throughout. It was time for the final performance, a full-on Garba circle that united young and old, like the community had become one beating heart, dancing together.

As the event drew to a close, Pratibha took the mic one last time. Her words: Vidya Jyoti started with a dream in India. Today, we are helping schools in the U.S., in Haiti, and beyond. Because when we educate a child, we educate generations."

This was more than a cultural event. It was a radiant expression of humanity.

Vidya Jyoti, through this colorful and impactful celebration, reaffirmed its mission: to educate, empower, and inspire through unity.



Recognitions and tokens of appreciation were presented to community heroes; the people whose silent efforts light the path for others. The honorees.

Guests nibbled on savory chaats, sweets, and home-style meals. The effort of vendor booths was coordinated by a team led by Anita Beri, Sarita

are fortunate because someone once invested in our education. For just \$30 a month or a dollar a day, we can offer a child that same gift. Let's make giving a habit, not a moment."

Ashok Potdar, a dedicated a director of organization, reminded the audience that "Knowledge is the only wealth



ITServe announces Synergy 2025 at Kickoff event in New Jersey

India Post News Service

PLAINSBORO, NJ: "ITServe Alliance's signature event, Synergy 2025, our annual conference will be held, in Puerto Rico, for the first time outside of the United States, at the popular Puerto Rico Convention Center from December 4-5, 2025"

Manish Mehra, Director - Synergy 2025 announced here at the Weston Hotel Ballroom during a Kick off event that was attended by over 500 ITServe members, entrepreneurs, sponsors, and business magnates from across the nation.

Organized by a team of Synergy leaders led by Mehra, showcasing their unwavering dedication and support, who are committed in ensuring the seamless execution of this one of a kind event, the kick-off event was coordinated and executed by the New Jersey Chapter under the leadership of Subrahmanyam Osuru, and the East Coast Region consisting of the Chapters, including Boston, DMV, Maryland, New England, New Jersey, New York, and Philadelphia.

A dedicated and passionate Team of Synergy leadership launched the Synergy 2025 visual presentation, Synergy Journal Cover Page, and spoke enthusiastically about the great benefits being offered to the Synergy Platinum, Elite and Diamond members, urging all to join in the incredible event that Synergy 2025 promises to be.

In his inaugural address, Raghu Chittimalla, Governing Board Chair of ITServe shared with the participants about the origins of ITServe. "ITServe was born of the necessity to be the collective voice of small and mediums size IT companies in the United States, safeguarding their interests and needs."

He pointed out to the litigations ITServe initiated and won against the unfair policies of the US government. "Founded with the vision to provide a collaborative platform for IT professionals and businesses, we have grown into the largest association of IT services organizations in the nation," he added.

Anju Vallabhaneni, in his presidential address highlighted the numerous benefits for member companies by joining ITServe. At ITServe Alliance, we are dedicated to uniting and empowering IT services and consulting firms across the United States. "At ITServe Alliance, we provide a comprehensive suite of benefits designed to help your business thrive.

Join our community to access the



best support and resources tailored to your needs," he said. "Mentoring, Networking, Education, Investing, Giving Back to the Community are only some of the numerous benefits ITServe offers to its 2,500 member companies."

Siva Moopanar, President-Elect of ITServe said, "At ITServe, we are the voice of prestigious IT companies across the United States. During these challenging times for the economy, our respected platform fosters collaboration and initiates measures to protect shared interests and ensure collective success.

By connecting with like-minded professionals, you can grow your business and navigate the fast-paced IT landscape with confidence." Moopanar pointed to how there are 400 dedicated leaders of ITServe who are available to every new member for mentoring and guiding every step of the way to be successful ITServe leaders, who can make great impact on not only the IT Sector but also to the larger community through ITServe's CSR activities.

Prominent among those who addressed the event were, ITServe Governing Board Directors, Amar Varada, Vinay Mahajan, and Jagadish Mosali. During the kick off event, ITServe as part of its CSR activity, donated \$1,000 to the local Police Department, who will use the amount towards their Drone Initiative to support and protect the community.

Suresh Kandala, Chair, Synergy 2025 said, "Synergy 2024 will provide a platform for 3,000+ CXOs from hundreds of multi-national companies come together to hear industry leaders speak, engage in discussions with lawmakers, and participate in interactive breakout sessions, deliberate on the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities in the world of IT Staffing and Technology."

The keynote address during the kick-off was delivered by Navin Goel, Chief Executive Officer.

The Akshaya Patra Foundation USA, who has an incredibly successful career as former CIO of Capgemini, a global leader in consulting, technology, and outsourcing services. Navin was also the Former Chairman and CEO of Sogeti USA, a subsidiary of Capgemini.

In his address on AI and Its Impact of IT Staffing, praised the contributions of the Indian American IT leaders.

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SNM Greater San Francisco Center organizes a Blood Drive in Tracy celebrating Human Unity Day

PRAFULL LANDE



The Sant Nirankari Mission, a spiritual movement working towards universal brotherhood, celebrates 'Manav Ekta Divas' (Human Unity Day), every year in the month of April by organizing blood donation camps and health fairs all over the world.

On Sunday, April 27th 2025, SNM Greater San Francisco Center celebrated 'Manv Ekta Diwas' in Tracy, California by hosting a Blood Drive. The American Red Cross Blood Bank conducted the blood drive. Volunteers of the Sant Nirankari Mission (sewadal) worked hard for the last few weeks planning and making arrangements for the blood donation camp. Communication mediums such as fliers, newspapers, emails, Internet as well as word of mouth were used to make everyone aware of the event and as it turned out that the effort was not in vain. The blood camp received an overwhelming response. 55 people registered and 45 units of blood were collected. The total blood collected exceeded everyone's expectations, 50% more than the target. This will eventually save 150 lives. All the volunteers did a lot of hard work. The American Red Cross team was excited to see the zeal of the donors and the response that the camp received. Blood donors came from places as far as Reno, Fresno, San Jose, and Sacramento. The bank has promised to visit again next year.

Representatives from the American Red Cross blood bank as well as the volunteers of the Sant Nirankari Mission (sewadal) gathered at the Tracy Bhavan very early in the morning to set up the blood camp and health camp. Snacks, fruits and juices were arranged for the

blood donors. SNM sewadal began the proceedings of the camp with a prayer. SNM USA President Dr I S Rai ji addressed the volunteers and explained to them the importance of this day and reiterated Satguru's message that "Blood should flow in veins and not in drains." The blood donated saves lives and that is the path of a true devotee.



In a hall adjacent to the camp, there was a satsang program (spiritual congregation) organized. The Satsang program was on the topic of Manav Ekta (Human unity). Speakers paid tribute to Babaji by sharing incidents from Babaji's life. After the congregation langar (community

lunch) was served.

Every donor I spoke to expressed their joy as a participant and promised to visit again for such blood drives in future. Overall the feeling was the same amongst the blood donors and everyone seemed very happy by contributing to this noble cause.

The Sant Nirankari Mission today is one of the leading blood donating voluntary or-

would be the best tribute to Baba Gurbachan Singh who sacrificed his life for the sake of Truth and human values. Moreover, blood donation is the best service one could offer to humanity. When transfused in human veins blood knows no religion, caste or nationality.

The Sant Nirankari Mission is essentially a spiritual movement. Its principal commitment to its followers is to make their minds conscious of the Eternal Reality and unite their Soul with the Creator, the Formless God. The Mission believes that ignorance and superstition are the biggest obstacles in man's path to real progress and happiness. The narrow-mindedness, hatred and pride brooded by them are the most vicious source of trouble for mankind. The Mission endeavors to remove the same by making spiritual enlightenment within the reach of every man and woman--young or old, rich or poor, high or low, educated or illiterate, whatever the language, faith or culture, whatever the state or the nation.

For more information about the mission please visit <http://www.nirankari.org>



Saundarya Lahari Saptah, Chinmaya Mission Chicago - Badri

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Chinmaya Mission Chicago's Badri center was host to a spiritual retreat from Saturday, April 19 to Saturday, April 26, 2025.

Swami Shantananda of Chinmaya Mission Princeton, President Chinmaya Mission West, offered evening discourses on Saundarya Lahari, a text by Adi Shankaracharya on the glory of Tripura Sundari form of Devi, along with discourses on Mandukya Upanishad every morning. The retreat started with Shri Suktam Homam on the morning of the 19th and concluded with grand Chandi Homam on Saturday, the 26th.

This entire retreat was planned and executed by a large group of volunteers. Shri Suktam

Homam and Chandi Homam were performed by Chandasekhar Gurukkal and presided by Swami Shantananda and Swami Sharanananda.

sponsor families performed the havan simultaneously to the powerful chants. Meals were offered throughout the eight days that were freshly prepared onsite



Volunteers joyously prepared 13 Havan Kundas (one for each chapter of Durga Saptashati). All

by dedicated volunteers. Devotees are grateful to be witness to such a divine experience.

ITServe announces Synergy 2025 at Kickoff event in New Jersey

Cont'd from page 13

"You have contributed to the transformation, sustainability and the growth in America/ I can assure you, if you were not there, the GDP would probably go back by half a percent in United States, and we would not have had all

world, which means an incredible consulting opportunity, and that's what we have to do. But there is a skill issue that I would definitely bring to the table, that the talent base of the past, the workforce that gave us the quantitative edge in application development, is no longer as desir-

Proposing Vote of Thanks, Subrahmanyam Osuru said, "My Core Team deserves special accolades for their tireless efforts; this achievement would not have been possible without their collective expertise and commitment. ITServe Alliance is thrilled to unlock new opportunities and ignite your success

As the largest association of IT services, staffing, and consulting organizations in the U.S., ITServe Alliance is your gateway to growth and collaboration. Our robust platform

the might of the software engineering that today sustains us."

Referring to the artificial intelligence, Goel told the ITServe leaders, "If you all look at our history, our clients are as clueless as we may feel helpless. And that means there is a great opportunity to help them navigate the AI

able. We need people who are smarter with algorithms, scalability, depth of algorithms, and also multi-disciplinary. So these domain-based models are where the investment is going on. And people who can do that need to have the core skills, but also knowledge of the domain."

supports networking, knowledge sharing, and advancing business interests, helping you thrive in a competitive market. Join and experience the benefits of being part of a powerful community committed to your success. For more details please visit: www.itserve.org



OPINION

Terror in Pahalgam: The World Cannot Ignore Pakistan's role in Destabilizing Kashmir

PANKAJ ANSAL

On April 22, 2025, the tranquil valley of Pahalgam in Kashmir (India) was devastated by a brutal act of terrorism. Twenty-six Hindu tourists were murdered in what survivors describe as a coordinated, targeted assault—an act meant to intimidate, divide, and disrupt.

According to eyewitness accounts, the assailants separated Hindu men from their families, identifying their religion through names, forced recitations, and even invasive physical checks. This chilling pattern of violence echoes the threats issued to Kashmiri Pandits in 1990—"Raliv, Galiv, ya Chaliv" ("Convert, Leave, or Die")—which led to the forced displacement of over 150,000 Kashmiri Pandits.

The Indian government stated the attack was orchestrated by Pakistan-based terrorist groups, including Lashkar-e-Taiba and its proxy, The Resistance Front. This would add to a long and painful history of cross-border terrorism enabled by Pakistan's military and intelligence establishments.

A Threat to Peace and Progress

The Pahalgam massacre is not an isolated incident. It is a deliberate attempt to reverse the progress seen in Jammu and Kashmir in recent years. Since the abrogation of Article 370, the region has witnessed a remarkable revival. In 2024 alone, 2.36 crore tourists visited Kashmir—up from just 34.7 lakh in 2000. Young Kashmiris are increasingly turning away from violence and embracing opportunity.

For extremist groups and their state sponsors, Kashmir's return to normalcy is threatening. So is the global support India continues to receive. Just days ago, U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance visited India to strengthen diplomatic and trade ties. This attack, likely timed for maximum disruption, sought to reframe the Kashmir issue through bloodshed, not diplomacy.

The Global Dimension

Pakistan's recent hosting of a Kashmir-focused conference in PoK was attended by Hamas spokesperson Khalid al-Khoudousi underscores growing ideological ties between South Asian and Middle Eastern jihadist movements. The tactical similarity between the Pahalgam attack and Hamas's October 7 atrocities in Israel is deeply troubling.

This is no longer a regional matter. It is a global threat that demands a global response. The Punjab Unity Alliance calls on the international community to:

- Re-list Pakistan on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list until all terror infrastructure is dismantled.
- Pressure Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies to end support for extremist proxies.
- Hold accountable those who perpetrate or enable cross-border terrorism.

We also urge Indian authorities to ensure the safety of all citizens and visitors, and to hold accountable any individuals or institutions responsible for security lapses in Pahalgam.

A Call for Unity and Accountability

Silence in the face of targeted religious violence only emboldens its perpetrators. We urge elected officials of Indian origin around the world—and all defenders of justice—to condemn this act in the strongest possible terms.

This is a defining moment. The world must choose between appeasement and accountability, between allowing terrorism to fester or, standing firmly against it.

The Pahalgam massacre must not be allowed to fade from memory. It must become a rallying cry—for justice, for security, and for peace.

(Punjab Unity Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to peace building and cultural unity with a focus on South Asia and the global Indian diaspora.)

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author.

Maitri hosts electrifying evening with Indian Ocean Concert to Unite Community against Domestic Violence



India Post News Service

On Friday, May 9, 2025, Maitri brought together over 700 community members at the Smithwick Theatre in Los Altos Hills for an unforgettable evening of music, connection, and purpose. The auditorium pulsed with the soul-stirring rhythms of Indian Ocean, the legendary rock band from India the high-energy sounds of local favorite B.O.O.M.M, creating a powerful backdrop for a night dedicated to unity and

action against domestic violence.

The event was more than a concert—it was a celebration of Maitri's journey, a tribute to survivors, and a call to collective action. Audience members experienced not only an incredible performance but also a shared moment of purpose and solidarity.

Nandini Ray, Maitri's Senior Manager of Outreach and Prevention Program, addressed the audience with a heartfelt message of gratitude and hope. "We are so

thankful to everyone who joined us tonight," she said. "Together, we pledge to say NO to domestic violence—not just in words, but through action, compassion, and community support."

The evening emphasized the power of community in building a future where domestic violence is not tolerated.

About Maitri: Maitri is a free, confidential, nonpro?t organization based in the San Francisco Bay Area that prima-

rily helps families and individuals from South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives) facing domestic violence, emotional abuse, cultural alienation, or family conflict. Direct services at Maitri include crisis intervention, emotional support, and self-sufficiency programs. Maitri also engages with the community in fostering healthy relationships to create a safer and more respectful society.

Special Announcement from Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky!

This week, with profound gratitude and the utmost appreciation for my constituents, I announced my decision not to seek reelection at the end of my current term. For the last 26 years, I have had the distinct honor and privilege of representing the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, my lifelong home and the best district in the nation.

I am incredibly proud of the things I have been able to accomplish during my time in Congress. I was honored to help draft and



Ebinger school, 2002

pass the Affordable Care Act, ensuring that Americans could no longer be denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions and providing quality health coverage for millions. I was able to pass consumer protection bills that have saved lives and protected Americans, especially our children, from dangerous products and improved auto safety. I worked hard to protect the well-being of seniors and their families, blocking Republican attempts to privatize Social Security and to improve Medicare and Medicaid by lowering prescription drug

prices and expanding access to quality long-term care. I would not have been able to do any of this without the counsel of committed consumer advocates and the continued trust and support of our community.

While these legislative wins are important, the most rewarding part of my job has always been engaging directly with constituents in the 9th District. Whether it is a school visit, attending a rally, touring a new small business, or speaking with fellow shoppers at my local Jewel, I have always prioritized and enjoyed meeting with constituents and providing constituent services. I am so proud that I have always had one of the best and most successful constituent service operations in the country. Whether solving problems with health insurers or Medicare, expediting a passport or immigration application, assisting small businesses, not-for-profits, and community colleges with funding requests, helping veterans get their benefits, cutting through red tape to solve Social Security and IRS problems, stopping deportations,



Press conference opposing budget cuts, 2005

and so much more, my team and I have worked diligently each day to advocate and deliver for our constituents.

For my entire career, I have made it my mission to mentor and guide the next generation of leaders. In fact, when I talk with students, I do not ask them what they want to be when they grow up, I ask them what



Arriving in Chicago with President Obama, 2013

they want to do today to make a difference in this world. It is now time for me to pass the baton. We are so fortunate in the 9th District that there are dozens of talented leaders, advocates, and organizers who know our community and who are ready to lead the charge as we fight back against the extreme MAGA agenda and President Donald Trump's shameful policies.

To the people of Illinois' 9th Congressional District, thank you for allowing me to be your voice in Congress. I have tried to serve you each and every day with the integrity, decency, and fire you deserve. It truly is the honor of a lifetime!

To my staff, past and present, I could not have done this without you. Thank you for your dedication, sacrifices, expertise,

and smiles. Together, through all those late nights and early mornings, we were able to make a difference. The 9th District of Illinois and our nation are healthier, stronger, and more prosperous because of our hard work.

And to my family, thank you for going on this wild journey with me. I am looking forward to spending more family time together as I enter this new chapter of life. I love you.

While I will miss serving the people of the 9th District in an elected capacity, I am not going anywhere. For the remainder of my term, and beyond, I vow to continue taking every opportunity possible to fight for my community and my country. I will do everything in my power to secure equal rights for all, an economy that works for everyone, not just the rich, universal health care, reproductive rights, environmental protections and climate security, and so much more. We must all keep the faith, continue to resist, and make our voices heard, because when we fight, we win!



Protest to support fired EPA workers, 2025

Indian American Cancer Scientists Honored with Prestigious Awards for Groundbreaking Discoveries

Cont'd from page 8

Trojan-horse approaches, and phagocytosis evasion strategies. The laboratory also anchors a Center for Physical Energy Therapeutics that evaluates new strategies of combining localized physical energy therapeutics (ionizing and non-ionizing radiation of all flavors, thermal therapies, ultrasound) with targeted therapeutics (custom nanoparticles, antibody-drug conjugates, targeted protein degraders, immune-therapeutics) in a one-two punch synthetical lethality approach. Dr. Krishnan's laboratory research has been continuously funded by peer-reviewed extramural grants for over 15-years, the majority of these being from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Krishnan has authored and coauthored over 300 peer-reviewed manuscripts, co-edited three textbooks, co-authored 20 book chapters, been awarded five patents (with six pending), and served as editor of multiple scientific journals including as editor-in-chief of Cancer Nanotechnology. His publications have been cited over 28,000 times; his h-index is above 95, and more than 95 of his papers have been cited over 100 times (I100 index of 95) highlighting the impact of his research work within the scientific community. He enjoys working with students at all stages of their academic career, leading an outstanding research team of clinicians and scientists, and collaborating with colleagues across departments and institutions. In particular, this manifests as interactions at the intersection of the physical and biological sciences, where there is much to be learned from otherwise non-intersecting disciplines.

Dr. Krishnan's dedication to advancing cancer research and improving patient outcomes via novel therapeutics has been recognized with numerous awards and honors. He is an elected fellow of the American College of Physicians, the American Society for Radiation Oncology, and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineers, the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Institute of Physics, rounding out a trifecta of physics, chemistry, and biology recognitions. He has served as co-chair of the GI Translational Research Committee of the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group/NRG Oncology, chair of the gastrointestinal scientific program committee and education committee of the American Society for Radiation Oncology, and a consultant for liver cancers and advisor for rectal cancers at the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Dr. Chandan Guha serves as Professor, Vice Chairman, and founding Director of the Einstein Institute for Oncophysics at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. He also holds the prestigious Harry Eagle Chair in Cancer Research, National Women's Division, and is a Professor of Pathology and Urology. Originally trained in medicine at the University of Calcutta and later earning his PhD in immunology from the Medical University of South Carolina, Dr. Guha was among the first scientists in the 1990s to explore how radiation therapy could stimulate the immune system - a concept that laid the groundwork for modern in situ tumor vaccines.

Over the past three decades, Dr. Guha's groundbreaking research has produced major innovations, including the development of Radiation-enhanced Autologous in situ Tumor Vaccines and LOTUS (Low Intensity Therapeutic Ultrasound-activated Immune Response) against cancer therapy. His work spans critical contributions in pancreatic cancer

Dr. Guha's entrepreneurial spirit is matched by his scientific rigor - his translational research efforts have led to clinical trials across the U.S., India, and China, including at the Shanghai Proton and Heavy Ion Center where he served as the first Director of Translational Oncology.

Dr. Guha's career stands as a testament to the power of visionary science, bold innovation, and a deep commitment to improving human health. His work continues to drive transformative change across oncology, regenerative medicine, and radiobiology - inspiring the next generation of scientific leaders.

Dr. Prasad Adusumilli is a Professor and Vice Chair of Translational Research in the Department of Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York. Dr. Adusumilli serves as Deputy Chief of Thoracic Surgery and performs complex and minimally invasive cancer resections for lung cancer, mesothelioma, thymoma, and other cancers of the chest. He carries an international reputation for treating mesothelioma, an ag-

analyzing tumors from patients after immunotherapy to understand secondary resistance to immunotherapy and to develop agents to overcome this resistance.

Using the knowledge generated from analyzing tumors from patients, Dr. Adusumilli's laboratory established clinically relevant solid tumor models and investigated treatment with biological therapies, including oncolytic viruses and chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells. CAR T cells are T cells harvested from the patient's peripheral blood, genetically engineered to recognize and target cancer cells, and given back to the patient as treatment. Multiple clinical trials initiated by the Adusumilli laboratory have shown the safety and anticancer effects of CAR T cells, prolonging survival of patients with advanced cancer. The resulting mechanistic data have been translated to clinical trials, including trials of combination immunotherapy to reactivate both CAR T-cell and endogenous immunity by use of cell-intrinsic and -extrinsic checkpoint blockade strategies.

The Adusumilli laboratory has identified new antigen targets and costimulatory domains for CAR T-cell therapy. Dr. Adusumilli's discoveries in lung adenocarcinoma pathobiology were included in the World Health Organization classification of lung tumors and resulted in changes in clinical practice. He has mentored more than 150 junior faculty, postdocs, and MDs, resulting in more than 320 publications-one-third in high-impact journals-and has been honored with more than 100 research awards. He is an elected member of the Fleischner Society, the American Society of Clinical Investigation, the American Surgical Association, and the American Association for Thoracic Surgery.

Resham Bhattacharya is a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a Co-Leader of the Cancer Biology Program at the NCI-designated Stephenson Cancer Center (SCC) at the University of Oklahoma. She is an elected fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. Dr. Bhattacharya received her Ph. D. degree from the Bowling Green State University, Ohio in 2002. Dr. Bhattacharya received her post-doctoral training from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School, and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

Dr. Krishnan has authored and coauthored over 300 peer-reviewed manuscripts, co-edited three textbooks, co-authored 20 book chapters, been awarded five patents (with six pending), and served as editor of multiple scientific journals including as editor-in-chief of Cancer Nanotechnology

therapy with Carbon Ion Radiation (funded by the NIH), radiation biodosimetry, and the development of regenerative cell therapies to repair radiation injuries. He is the inventor of multiple patents and, a co-founder of BioConvergent Health, a biotechnology platform merging drug, device, and cell therapies to revolutionize cancer and regenerative medicine treatments.

In addition to his pioneering work in cancer immunotherapy, Dr. Guha has led major advances in mitigating radiation-induced injuries, particularly gastrointestinal, liver, and hematopoietic syndromes. His research team has developed and validated a range of innovative growth factor and cell-based therapies for radiation injury, supported through competitive funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Radiation Countermeasure Program. His contributions are critical for advancing emergency preparedness in radiation exposure scenarios and improving survivorship after radiological events.

gressive cancer of the lining of the lung resulting from asbestos exposure. Dr. Adusumilli is also an expert in robotic bronchoscopy, an advanced endoscopic outpatient procedure wherein multiple lung nodules and lymph nodes can be biopsied in patients by use of a computerized real-time image-guided robotic system.

Dr. Adusumilli research focuses on cancer immunology and the development and translation of immunotherapy. Supported by prestigious National Cancer Institute and Department of Defense awards, his laboratory has published papers that were among the first to highlight the prognostic importance of tumoral and stromal immune cell infiltration in thoracic cancers, which provided the foundation for investigating immune modulation. To date, his laboratory has analyzed tumors, peripheral blood, and body fluids from more than 12,000 patients to advance the understanding of cancer immunology and patient immune system responses to cancer cells. At present, his laboratory is

Study shows weight-loss drugs can cut alcohol intake by almost two-thirds

NEW DELHI: Medications such as liraglutide or semaglutide taken for weight loss also have the potential to reduce alcohol consumption by almost two-thirds, according to new research.

Alcohol use disorder is a relapsing condition that accounts for 2.6 million deaths a year -- 4.7 percent of all deaths globally.

Treatments such as cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), therapies that aim to strengthen motivation to stop or reduce drinking, and medication can be very successful in the short term, however, 70 percent of patients relapse within the first year.

The study showed that Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) analogues -- drugs developed to treat obesity -- likely curb alcohol cravings in the brain.

Average alcohol intake decreased from 11.3 units/week to 4.3 units/week after four months of treatment with the GLP-1 analogues a reduction of almost two-thirds.

Among the regular alcohol drinkers, intake decreased from 23.2 units/week to 7.8 units/week in four months.

This reduction of 68 percent is comparable to that achieved by nalmefene -- a drug used to treat alcohol use disorder in Europe, said Professor Carel le Roux, of University College Dublin, Ireland.

"The exact mechanism of how GLP-1 analogues reduce alcohol intake is still being investigated, but it is thought to involve curbing cravings for alcohol that arise in subcortical areas of the brain that are not under conscious control. Thus, patients report the effects are 'effortless'," Roux said.

The study, published in the journal *Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism*, was also presented at the European Congress on Obesity (ECO 2025).

GLP-1 analogues have reduced alcohol intake in animal studies, but research on their effect in humans is less.

To find out more, the team prospectively collected data on the alcohol intake of patients who were being treated for obesity at a clinic in Dublin. *IANS*

One can be said to be perfectly healthy in body and mind only if no part of the body or mind makes itself felt. A part makes itself felt only when there is something wrong with it. You know that you have a head only when it aches.
Sri Atmananda (1883 - 1959)

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May 16, 2025

Donald Trump pledges to cut US prescription drug prices by 80pc

NEW DELHI: In a new executive order, US President Donald Trump has vowed to cut the price of prescription drugs and pharmaceuticals in the US by 30 to 80 percent.

Taking to his social media platform Truth Social, Trump promised to sign the order on May 11 morning and provide Americans relief from high medication costs "almost immediately".

He also cited years of frustration of US consumers in paying significantly higher prices for medications than people in other countries.

"For many years the World has wondered why Prescription Drugs and Pharmaceuticals in the United States of America were so much higher in price

than they were in any other nation," Trump said in the post.

"Sometimes being five to 10 times more expensive than the same drug, manufactured in the

any other country for the same drug. It would introduce a "most favored nation's policy", said Trump.

"Our Country will finally be



exact same laboratory or plant, by the same company"

The new policy is expected to tie the cost of drugs sold in the US to the lowest price paid by

treated fairly, and our citizens' Healthcare Costs will be reduced by numbers never even thought of before," he added.

The US president also ac-

cused pharmaceutical companies of exploiting Americans by citing research and development costs to justify inflated prices. The move is expected to slash prices of cancer treatments and other injectable medications in the US.

Notably, the new policy would also force prices to rise in other countries to match, calling it a matter of fairness, Trump said. "They will rise throughout the World in order to equalize and, for the first time in many years, bring fairness to America!" he said.

Trump first introduced a similar plan during his first term, but it was blocked in court and never took effect. Trump said this time it is different, and promised that the move would "save trillions of dollars." *IANS*

Reset blood test reference values to suit Indian conditions: Scientist

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A leading scientist in the field of metabolism and aging has emphasized the need for re-optimizing the standard reference ranges for blood parameters to align them with Indian conditions, instead of following the values set for western population.

"While blood parameters are fundamental to diagnosing metabolic disorders like diabetes and cardiovascular disease, emerging research underscores that many standard reference ranges may need to be re-optimized for Indian population," said Ullas Kolthur-Seetharam, Director, Centre for

DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (BRIC-CDFD), Hyderabad.

Delivering the National Technology Day, 2025 (11 May), lecture at the Biotechnology Re-



search and Innovation Council-Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (BRIC-RGCB) here, he said in India reference values used in laboratories have been

established based on the values from western population.

"Genetic, dietary, and environmental differences can alter biomarkers, besides life-history

trajectories. Cutting-edge research is uncovering how acute and chronic dietary changes influence health at the most fundamental level -- through mitochon-

drial function and epigenetic regulation," Seetharam added.

Now on deputation from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, to CDFD, Seetharam has made seminal contributions to understanding how mitochondrial function, epigenetics, and nutrition intersect to shape health span.

He also established The Advanced Research Unit on Metabolism, Development and Aging (ARUMDA) at TIFR, a pioneering initiative addressing India's "Double and Triple Burdens of Malnutrition, Non-communicable Diseases and Aging" through interdisciplinary research. *IANS*

A simple oral swab test before IVF likely to boost success rate

NEW DELHI: Swedish researchers have developed a simple oral swab test, which can help boost the success rate of the in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedure.

IVF treatment involves stimulating the woman's ovaries to mature many eggs, which are then retrieved and fertilized with sperm in the laboratory before being returned to the uterus.

There are two different types of hormone treatments to choose from for egg maturation: biological or synthetic. Besides the risk of serious side effects, the therapies sometimes require women to go into intensive care -- and many attempts at IVF fail. Selecting which therapy is best for the woman has become a major challenge.

While mapping genes is costly and takes time, the new simple oral swab test within an hour shows which hormone therapy is most suitable.

"Our hope is that this will reduce the risk of suffering for women, increase the number of successful treatments, and cut costs for taxpayers. Our goal is for the

test to be available by the start of 2026," said Yvonne Lundberg Giwerzman, professor at Lund University.

A total of 1,466 women undergoing IVF treatment in Sweden were included in the study, and 475 were randomized to two different hormone treatments while the rest were controls.

Using gene sequencing, the team mapped the action of the gene follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), which is known to play an important role in egg maturation.

The study identified that women with a particular variant of the FSH receptor (FSHR) gene that mediates the action of the hormone re-

sponded best to the biological hormone treatment, while others benefited from receiving the synthetic type of hormone.

To decode the genetic profile, the team turned to the oral swab test, which proved to be significantly efficient. Within an hour, it produced results that can be seen with the naked eye as a pink or yellow color. IANS



8,500 tons of antibiotics from human use contaminating rivers worldwide: Study

NEW DELHI: About 8,500 tons of antibiotics -- nearly one-third of what people consume annually -- end up in river systems around the world each year, significantly promoting drug resistance and harming aquatic life, according to a study.

The study, led by researchers from McGill University in Canada is the first to estimate the scale of global river contamination from human antibiotics use.

"While the amounts of residues from individual antibiotics translate into only very small concentrations in most rivers, which makes them very difficult to detect, the chronic and cumulative environmental exposure to these substances can still pose a risk to human health and aquatic ecosystems," said lead author Heloisa Ehalt Macedo, a postdoctoral fellow in geography at McGill.

For the study, published in the journal PNAS Nexus, the research team used a global model validated by field data from nearly 900 river locations.

They found that amoxicillin -- the world's most-used antibiotic -- is the most likely to be present at risky levels. The risk was especially found in Southeast Asia, where rising use and limited wastewater treatment amplify the problem. While antibiotics are crucial for global health treatments, the "results indicate that there may be unintended effects on aquatic environments and antibiotic resistance", said Bernhard Lehner, Professor in global hydrology at McGill's Department of Geography. IANS

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Indian researchers develop catalyst for sustainable oxygen electro-catalysis

NEW DELHI: Researchers from Bengaluru-based Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) have created a groundbreaking new catalyst designed to make crucial oxygen-related catalytic reactions faster, more affordable and efficient, it was announced.

Electro-catalysis involving oxygen underpins numerous clean energy technologies, such as splitting water to produce hydrogen, creating clean fuels, and manufacturing chemicals like hydrogen peroxide.

However, these technologies typically face challenges like slow reaction speeds, high energy demands, and high costs due to the limited availability and expense of the precious metals involved.

Traditionally, catalysts used in these processes rely on expensive precious metals like platinum or ruthenium making the processes costly, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Targeting to reduce the costs, CeNS (under the Department of Science and Technology) has developed a new catalyst that uses nickel selenide enhanced by precisely adding a small amount of iron (Fe). This has the potential of not only reducing costs significantly, but also improves performance. *IANS*

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Piyush Goyal takes stock of Invest India in bid to boost manufacturing sector

NEW DELHI: Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal held a comprehensive review of Invest India at a recent meeting held at Bharat Mandapam here.

The minister emphasized on enhancing the performance, effectiveness and efficiency of Invest India to facilitate greater investments into India. He also discussed avenues for further strengthening investor engagement, empowering MSMEs and boosting manufacturing in the country. *IANS*



Turkey learns the cost of siding with Pakistan: Indian tourists cancel in droves

NEW DELHI: Facing criticism and a wave of trip cancellations by Indian travellers, Turkey has launched a damage-control campaign after its open support for Pakistan during the recent conflict with India.

In a bid to stem the fallout, Turkey's Department of Tourism has issued a public appeal to Indian tourists, urging them to continue visiting the country and assuring them of safety and warm hospitality.

A social media post purportedly from Turkey's tourism authority is now widely circulating, emphasizing that Indian travellers are "welcomed and treated with the utmost courtesy across Turkey -- in hotels, restaurants, shops, and all tourist attractions -- just as they have always been."

Distancing from the geopolitical tensions, the post says, "The vast majority of the local population is unaware of the conflict taking place between India and

Pakistan, and it has no bearing on daily life or the tourism environment here."

It further states that all travel

guests."

"We remain fully committed to ensuring your comfort, safety, and satisfaction throughout your



In a bid to stem the fallout, Turkey's Department of Tourism has issued a public appeal to Indian tourists, urging them to continue visiting the country and assuring them of safety and warm hospitality

operations remain unaffected and there are "no restrictions or safety issues impacting Indian

stay in Turkiye," it says, adding that Indian tourists with concerns are welcome to contact

the department for clarification.

However, the message appears to have done little to pacify Indian sentiment.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, in a strongly-worded post on X, responded: "No Turkiye, Indians won't come spending money on tourism in a country that uses the same to arm Pakistan. Look for your tourists elsewhere, our money ain't blood money."

BJP Kerala state president Rajeev Chandrashekhar, in a terse post, just said, "No, thank you," accompanied by hashtags #BoycottTurkey and #SayNoToTurkey.

Veteran journalist Vir Sanghvi also weighed in, writing on X: "Frankly we don't give a damn whether Turkey is safe or whether you welcome tourists. You must be mad if you think we want to visit a country whose naked military support for Pakistan and drones have spilled the blood of Indians. Invite Pakistani tourists instead."

Industrialist Harsh Goenka, Chairman of RPG Enterprises, highlighted the economic contribution of Indian tourism to the region. "Indians gave Rs 4,000 crore plus to Turkey & Azerbaijan last year through tourism. Created jobs. Boosted their economy, hotels, weddings, and flights. Today, both stand with Pakistan after the Pahalgam attack. Plenty of beautiful places in India & the world. Please skip these 2 places. Jai Hind," he wrote.

Meanwhile, Indian travel agencies like EaseMyTrip and Cox & Kings have suspended all travel packages to both Turkey and Azerbaijan, citing these countries' alignment with Pakistan as the reason. *IANS*

India's industry sector to open \$3 trillion opportunity by 2035, manufacturing to lead

NEW DELHI: India's industry sector is expected to outpace agriculture to take a larger share in the GDP (30-32 percent) by 2035 and opening a \$3 trillion opportunity, driven majorly by manufacturing, a recent report showed.

Manufacturing is expected to emerge as the growth leader taking two-third share of industrials and more than 20 percent share of the GDP by 2035.

Higher domestic consumption with increasing per capita income and a target of \$1 trillion merchandise exports are expected to drive this growth, according to the report by Omniscience Capital.

The manufacturing sector is pivotal to India's economic growth, significantly contributing to the nation's GDP. Currently, it stands as one of India's key growth sectors, catering to both domestic and

international markets.

Government initiatives such as the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, 'Make in India' campaign, liberalized Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, public-private partnership (PPP) models for various public undertakings, and infrastructure development are fuelling this growth.

To achieve India's ambitious \$1 trillion merchandise export target by 2030, the merchandise exports should increase from the current \$450 billion to \$1 trillion, requiring a year-on-year growth rate of 12 percent, the report mentioned.

India's share in global merchandise exports has doubled from 0.9 percent share in 2005 to 1.8 percent in 2023. India's merchandise exports have grown at a 3-year CAGR of 18.8 percent from FY21 to FY24 and a 5-year CAGR of 9.4 percent from FY19 to FY24. *IANS*



India successfully tests hard-kill counter-swarm drone system 'Bhargavastra'

NEW DELHI: India achieved a significant milestone in its counter-drone capabilities with the successful test firing of its low-cost, hard-kill counter-swarm drone system, 'Bhargavastra', at the Seaward Firing Range in Gopalpur.

The system met all specified performance targets and is being hailed as a major advancement in the country's ability to neutralize the emerging threat of drone swarms.

Developed indigenously by Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited (SDAL), 'Bhargavastra' is a powerful addition to India's defense arsenal, particularly in its mission to secure airspace from unmanned aerial threats.

The micro rockets that form the heart of the system underwent rigorous testing in Gopalpur and successfully achieved all designated objectives, indicating a high level of operational readiness.

Three separate trials of the rocket system were carried out on May 13 in the presence of senior officials from the Army Air Defence (AAD).

Two of these tests involved the firing of individual rockets, while the third was conducted in salvo mode, launching two rockets within a span of just two seconds.

All four rockets met the required launch parameters, highlighting the system's robust technological foundation and its potential to combat large-scale drone incursions effectively.

According to SDAL, 'Bhargavastra' offers a unified and advanced solution to counter the growing threat from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), especially drone swarms.

The system has the capability to detect and neutralize small, fast-moving drones at distances of up to 2.5 km.

It utilizes unguided micro rockets as its primary defensive layer, designed to destroy multiple drones within a lethal radius of 20 meters.

For precision strikes, a guided micro-missile -- which has already undergone successful testing -- forms the second defensive tier, ensuring pinpoint accuracy.

The system is engineered to function efficiently across varied terrains, including high-altitude areas exceeding 5,000 meters above sea level.

This design feature addresses the complex operational challenges faced by India's armed forces in difficult and strategic regions.

SDAL has highlighted the indigenous nature of the technology, emphasizing the in-house development of both the dedicated rockets and micro-missiles.

'Bhargavastra' is also designed with modularity in mind, allowing for the integration of a soft-kill layer that can include jamming and spoofing elements, thereby offering a comprehensive and multi-dimensional shield against UAV threats.

A key feature of 'Bhargavastra' is its seamless compatibility with India's existing network-centric warfare systems.

The counter-drone system includes a Command-and-Control Centre that integrates advanced C4I (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence) technologies. IANS



Indian tablet market grows 15 pc in Jan-March, 5G captures 43 pc share

NEW DELHI: The Indian tablet market witnessed a 15 percent (year-on-year) and 13 percent (quarter-on-quarter) growth in the January-March period (Q1), buoyed by sustained demand from both the consumer and enterprise segments, according to a new report.

The premium segment expanded 41 percent, while 5G tablets gained traction, capturing 43 percent of the overall market, reflecting rising consumer appetite for future-ready devices, as per CyberMedia Research (CMR)'s 'Tablet PC India Market Report.'

In Q1 2025, Samsung led the Indian tablet market with a 34 percent share, followed by Apple (21 percent) and Lenovo (19 percent).

"The Indian tablet market delivered a robust performance in Q1 2025, underpinned by strong premium seg-

ment growth and rising 5G adoption. Brands like Samsung, Apple, Lenovo and Xiaomi capitalized on evolving consumer expectations with differentiated offerings across price tiers," said Menka Kumari, senior analyst, Industry Intelligence Group (IIG), CMR.

Apple grew an impressive 18 percent YoY, and garnered 21 percent market share. The Apple iPad 11 Series was a key growth driver, accounting for a whopping 49 percent of Apple's shipments.

The recent launch of the iPad Air (2025) is poised to further reinforce Apple's market leadership, said the



report.

OnePlus grew 32 percent YoY from a small base, giving the brand some favorable tailwinds in the tablet market, it added. IANS

Need to further strengthen financial inclusion initiatives: FM Sitharaman

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday emphasized the need to further strengthen financial inclusion initiatives by bringing the masses within their ambit.

Chairing a meeting to review the progress of government's financial inclusion schemes namely PMJDY, PMSBY, PMJJBY, APY, PMMY, SUPI, PMSVANidhi, PM Vishwakarma, PM Surya Ghar Yojana, KCC, PM Vidyalaxmi and CGTSME, she stressed the importance of enhancing customer experience across banking services.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and the senior officers of DFS. The mandate of the Department of Financial Services covers the functioning of banks, financial institutions, insurance companies and the National Pension System (NPS).

Meanwhile, the cumulative enrolments under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) - a life insurance initiative -- have surged by a whop-

As of March 19, PMJJBY has enrolled 23.36 crore individuals. During the decade, the scheme processed 9,37,524 claims, of which 9,05,139 claims were successfully disbursed

ping 699 per cent since 2016. Launched on May 9, 2015, PMJJBY addressed the dark reality that only about 20 per cent of India's population had any form of insurance coverage.

PMJJBY offers an Rs 2 lakh life insurance

cover in case of the subscriber's death from any cause -- natural or accidental -- for an annual premium of just Rs 436.

As of March 19, PMJJBY has enrolled 23.36 crore individuals. During the decade, the scheme processed 9,37,524 claims, of which 9,05,139 claims were successfully disbursed, releasing a total sum of Rs 18,102.78 crore.

On the other hand, the cumulative enrolments under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), -- an accident insurance scheme -- have surged by 443 per cent, since 2016. The scheme provides financial stability and affordable security in case of accidents and loss of lives at just Rs 20 per year.

Launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana has become a cornerstone of the government's efforts to provide financial safety to the public.

With reforms in infrastructure, innovation, and financial inclusion, India continues to enhance its role as a key driver of global economic activity. IANS

ICP exempts nationals of Republic of Sudan from residency, visa fines

ABU DHABI: The Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs & Port Security (ICP) has decided to exempt nationals of the brotherly Republic of Sudan from incurring fines on their residency and entry permits.

Reflecting the UAE's keenness to alleviate the consequences of the exceptional circumstances currently facing Sudan, the decision aligns with the UAE's long-standing commitment to supporting brotherly nations and offering humanitarian aid during crises. It further underscores the country's role as a beacon of tolerance and human solidarity.

ICP clarified that this decision takes effect on May 19, 2025, and will remain valid until the end of the current year. Sudanese nationals with outstanding fines can regularize their status and submit renewal applications via the ICP's official digital platforms. These processes will be streamlined and flexible, with the incurred fines waived.

ICP noted that the decision aligns with national efforts to strengthen social and humanitarian well-being for UAE residents. It also reflects the wise leadership's commitment to compassion and generosity, embodying the UAE's core message of promoting humanity and peace. ANI/WAM

Immigration

POST

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May 16, 2025

The Trump administration has moved to not only admit but to expedite the processing of Afrikaners as refugees for alleged discrimination

Trump cites 'genocide' of white farmers as 59 South Africans granted refugee status in US

WASHINGTON DC: A group of 59 White South Africans arrived in the United States (12 May), after being granted refugee status under the US President Donald Trump administration, marking the first such designation by the administration, according to a report by CNN.

The group, which included children, landed at Washington Dulles International Airport in Virginia, where they were welcomed by US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau and Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Troy Edgar.

The Trump administration has moved to not only admit but to expedite the processing of Afrikaners as refugees for alleged discrimination. At the same time, it has suspended all other refugee resettlement, including for people fleeing war and famine, as per CNN.

Defending his administration's decision to grant refugee status to a group of White South Africans, Trump described the situation in South Africa as "a genocide," citing the killing of white farmers and the confiscation of their land. Trump said the US had extended protection to those fleeing what he called a "terrible situation," and criticized the media for ignoring the issue.

During a press conference, Trump said, "They are being killed and we don't want to see

black makes no difference to me, but white farmers are being brutally killed, and their land is being confiscated in South Africa, and the newspapers and the televi-



people be killed... It's a genocide that's taking place that you people don't want to write about, it's a terrible thing that's taking place, and farmers are being killed; they happen to be white. Whether they're white white or

sion media don't even talk about... I don't care who they are, I don't care about their race, their color, I don't care about their height, their weight, I don't care about anything. I just know that what's happening is terrible. I

have people who live in South Africa -- they say it's a terrible situation taking place, so we have essentially extended citizenship to those people to escape from that violence and come here."

Earlier, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said that those going to the US "do not fit the definition of a refugee."

Ramaphosa said he told Donald Trump that what the US president had been told about the persecution of the White minority group was not true. "Those people who have fled are not being persecuted, they are not being hounded, they are not being treated badly. They are leaving ostensibly because they don't want to embrace the changes that are taking place in our country in accordance with our constitution," he said at a panel at the Africa CEO Forum in Cote d'Ivoire, CNN reported. ANI

DHS terminating Temporary Protected Status for Afghanistan

WASHINGTON: Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem today announced the termination of Temporary Protected Status for Afghanistan. The TPS designation for the country expires on May 20, 2025, and the termination will be effective on July 12, 2025.

At least 60 days before a TPS designation expires, the Secretary, after consultation with appropriate U.S. government agencies, is required to review the conditions in a country designated for TPS to determine whether the conditions supporting the designation continue to be met, and if so, how long to extend the designation.

"This administration is re-

turning TPS to its original temporary intent," said Secretary Kristi Noem. "We've reviewed the conditions in Afghanistan with our interagency partners, and they do not meet the requirements for a TPS designation. Afghanistan has had an improved security

there are recipients who have been under investigation for fraud and threatening our public safety and national security. Reviewing TPS designations is a key part of restoring integrity in our immigration system."

After consultation with interagency partners, Secretary Noem determined that conditions in Afghanistan no longer meet the

statutory requirements. The Secretary's decision was based on a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services review of the country conditions and in consultation with the Department of State. USCIS



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

situation, and its stabilizing economy no longer prevent them from returning to their home country. Additionally, the termination furthers the national interest as DHS records indicate that

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YES Germany Opens 2025 Admissions, expands student support across India and Dubai

NEW DELHI: YES Germany, one of India's most trusted education consultancies for higher studies in Germany, has officially announced the opening of 2025 admissions for Indian students aspiring to pursue Bachelor's and Master's programs at Germany's prestigious public universities.

Germany continues to be a leading global destination for affordable, high-quality education--especially in fields such as Engineering, Information Technology, Management, Artificial Intelligence, and Automotive Engineering. Public universities in Germany offer tuition-free education, English-taught programs, strong industry-academia collaborations, and post-study work opportunities--making it an increasingly attractive option for Indian students.

Recent data underscores this growing trend. As of the winter semester 2023/24, 49,483 Indian students were enrolled in German institutions--a 15.1% increase from the previous year. Projections indicate this number could rise by nearly 298% by 2030.

EXPANSIVE PAN-INDIA AND GLOBAL SUPPORT

What sets YES Germany apart is its robust and ever-growing network of student support centers. With fully operational offices in Faridabad, Chandigarh, Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Andheri (Mumbai), Navi Mumbai, Pune, BTM Layout (Bangalore), Indiranagar (Bangalore), Hebbal (Bangalore), Mangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Dubai, YES Germany ensures personalized counseling and expert guidance is easily accessible to students across India and abroad.

From university selection and applications to visa documentation, accommodation support, and post-arrival assistance in Germany, YES Germany offers complete handholding at every step of the student's journey.



Students approach the process with clarity, confidence, and accuracy.

SCHOLARSHIPS & UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS SUPPORT

YES Germany also guides students in securing admissions to prestigious German universities and helps them

explore scholarship opportunities, including:

- * Heidelberg University - Hans-Peter Wild Talent Scholarship
- * RWTH Aachen University - RWTH Scholarships
- * Technical University of Munich (TUM) - TUM International Scholarship
- * Humboldt University of Berlin - Research Track Scholarship
- * LMU Munich - LMU Scholarships
- * Hamburg University of Applied Sciences - Merit Scholarships

APPLICATION PROCESS AND FREE CONSULTATION

YES Germany offers free one-on-one consultations to help students understand application timelines, university choices, eligibility criteria, and scholarship options. Due to high competition, students are encouraged to apply early to secure their preferred programs.

About YES Germany

With over a decade of experience, YES Germany has helped thousands of Indian students secure admissions to top-ranked public universities in Germany. Offering a holistic approach--from university selection and scholarship

guidance to visa support and post-arrival services--YES Germany has established itself as a reliable partner for students building global academic careers.

For more details on the application process, visit: <https://www.yesgermany.com/>

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UK cuts post-study work visa duration for international graduates from 5 years to 18 months

LONDON: The UK government recently announced plans to reduce, the length of time, international graduates can remain in the UK after completing their studies.

Under the new rules, the length of time graduates can remain in the UK after their studies will be reduced from five years to 18 months.

"New requirements will be imposed for educational institutions recruiting international students to ensure compliance with the law; The length of time graduates can remain in the UK after their studies will be reduced from two years to 18 months," according to a document reported by Sky News.

Further, the government is also raising English language requirements across every main immigration route.

"New English language requirements for both applicants and dependents, with 'an assessment of improvements over time'; Doubling the qualifying period for gaining settled status from five to 10 years," the document read.



Sharing a post on X, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer wrote, "If you want to live in the UK, you should speak English. That's common sense."

While announcing plans to reform the country's immigration system, Starmer said, "With our plan for change, we're restoring common sense and control to our borders."

"We will finally honor what taking back control meant and begin to choose who comes here. So that migration works for our national interest," he stated.

"We will create a migration system that is controlled, selective, and fair. A clean break with the past that links access to visas directly to investment in homegrown skills. So that if a business wants to bring people in from abroad, they must first invest in Britain," he added.

Under the new system, businesses seeking to bring in workers from abroad will be required to invest in Britain first. Starmer outlined the benefits of this approach, stating that it will result in "an immigration system that is fair, that works for our national interest, and that restores common sense and control to our borders."

The Prime Minister highlighted the key objectives of the new system, including lower net migration, higher skills backing, and support for British workers. "That is what this white paper will deliver: lower net migration, higher skills backing British workers." ANI

Recent data underscores this growing trend. As of the winter semester 2023/24, 49,483 Indian students were enrolled in German institutions--a 15.1% increase from the previous year. Projections indicate this number could rise by nearly 298% by 2030

Simplifying the German Student Visa Process

Understanding the intricacies of the German student visa process, YES Germany offers expert visa guidance. Services include:

- * Assisting with embassy document checklists
 - * Completing application forms and assembling documents
 - * Booking visa interview appointments
 - * Preparing students for embassy interviews
 - * Support with post-visa formalities
- YES Germany's experienced visa counselors help stu-

'Half of India's office spaces are fit for retrofitting and redevelopment'

NEW DELHI: Nearly 50 per cent of India's office inventory in the top seven cities, including integrated technology parks and standalone properties, is over ten years old, indicating significant potential for retrofitting and value enhancement, according to a study by CBRE.

The release by CBRE further mentions that specifically, around 27 percent of the total office stock is over 15 years old, and 23 percent is between 10 to 15 years old, while only 28 percent is less than 5 years old.

It also highlights the problem that a major portion of the total office stock of approximately 882 million sq. ft. faces the risk of declining occupancy, stagnant rents, and functional obsolescence as occupiers increasingly prioritize modern, high-performance spaces.

The report further reveals that Bengaluru and Delhi-NCR hold nearly 45 percent of the of India's decade-old office stock, while Mumbai and Chennai together account for another 32 percent. These stats reaffirm the need for strategic upgrades and retrofitting to align with evolving workplace expectations and sustain asset competitiveness.

The office buildings covering approximately 434 million sq. ft. are suitable candidates for upgrades, representing an investment potential of roughly INR 304 to 520 billion. ANI

Real Estate POST

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May 16, 2025

Japan FY 2024 household spending down for 2nd year amid rising prices

TOKYO: Japan's household spending in fiscal 2024 dropped a real 0.1 percent from a year earlier, falling for the second consecutive year, as consumers reduced food expenditure amid rising prices, government data showed recently.

Households of two or more people spent an average of 304,178 yen (\$2,100) per month in the fiscal year ended March, according to the data, a key indicator of private consumption that accounts for more than half of Japan's gross domestic product. ANI/WAM

Union Minister Manohar Lal, Goa CM Sawant review progress of urban development schemes

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal met with Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Goa Minister Vishwajit Rane in Panaji to review the implementation and progress of key urban development initiatives and infrastructure projects in the State.

The Union minister reviewed the comprehensive development plans of urban schemes such as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U and PMAY-U 2.0), Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U and SBM-U 2.0), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) and PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi).

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said, "All the achievements and problems of Goa were discussed in great detail on the subjects of the Electricity Department and the Urban Development Housing Department. I congratulate Goa CM Pramod

Sawant that Goa is performing very well compared to other states... Electricity has reached every house here... We have been told a plan by the state to provide water to every house

ment, Rehabilitation of Existing Network, pilot Drink-from-Tap projects including smart metering, IoT and SCADA-based monitoring systems to the State under AMRUT 2.0.

priority projects for the State's overall development and are also coordinating to resolve the major challenges and pending issues.

Union Minister Manohar Lal emphasized the need to develop



here... I promise that this scheme will be taken forward..."

In connection, the Chief Minister of Goa requested to consider special assistance for 24x7 water supply Drink from Tap (DfT) (Project cost about Rs 652.61 crore) special financial assistance of Rs 326.30 crore minimum for Water Source Augmentation, Infrastructure Develop-

The Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs agreed to consider the request for the 24x7 water supply, Drink from Tap (DfT) Scheme for Goa.

Also Chief Minister requested to consider Given Goa's unique urban challenges, particularly due to the significantly high vol-

and improve infrastructure and promote sustainable urbanization through strategic planning and public-private partnerships.

He also advised the State to complete all pending works related to water supply (new/service tap connections and new/service sewer connections) un-

Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said, "All the achievements and problems of Goa were discussed in great detail on the subjects of the Electricity Department and the Urban Development Housing Department

Retail boom: India to add 16.6 million sq ft of new mall space by 2025-26

MUMBAI: India's retail sector is witnessing a major transformation, with over 16.6 million square feet of new Grade-A mall space expected to come up across top seven cities in 2025 and 2026, a new report said.

This surge is being driven by rising consumer demand and strong momentum in retail leasing, marking what experts call a golden era for the sector, according to data compiled by Anarock Research.

Hyderabad and Delhi-NCR will lead this supply boom, accounting for nearly 65 percent of the upcoming mall space.

This indicates a clear shift towards high-growth consumption centers in these cities.

The expansion is part of a broader retail real estate pipeline that could see more than 40 million square feet of new retail space added across India by 2029.

Anuj Kejriwal, CEO and MD of Anarock Retail, said that the push

for more mall development is also due to a shortage of quality supply in recent years.

"In 2022, top cities saw only 2.6 million sq. ft. of new supply, while leasing hit 3.2 million sq. ft. Similarly, in 2023, new supply was 5.3 million sq. ft., but leasing was even higher at 6.5 million sq. ft.," he said.

The supply shortfall became more pronounced in 2024, partly due to slower approval processes linked to general and state elections. IANS

ume of tourist inflow placing additional burden on civic infrastructure and requested that the State be considered as a special case for enhanced and expedited support under both AMRUT 2.0 and SBM-U 2.0.

The minister agreed and instructed the concerned official to make the necessary policy changes in the tourist states.

In the spirit of cooperative federalism, the Centre and the State are working closely to expedite

der AMRUT; revision of action plan, expedite tendering work for toilets (community toilets, public toilets, aspirational toilets, urinals), Solid Waste Management, STP/co-treatment facilities under SBM; submit proposals, inform and educate citizens about PMAY-U 2.0 to get benefits of affordable housing; profile Street Vendors under PM SVANidhi, clear eligible loan applications and increase women participation. ANI

City of Fremont celebrates Affordable Housing Month with 560 New Units in 2025

FREMONT, Calif.: In honor of Affordable Housing Month, the City of Fremont is celebrating the leasing of 560 new units of affordable housing in 2025 as a part of the City's ongoing efforts to expand affordable housing and support its residents in finding long-term stability.

To kick off the celebration, on Thursday, May 15, the City, in partnership with Abode Housing Development and Community of Christ, will host the grand opening of Fremont Family Apartments, located at 34320 Fremont Blvd. Built on repurposed land previously used for church parking, Fremont Family Apartments offers 54 units for low-income individuals and families, including those experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Located just one block from Fremont's Northgate Park, Fremont Family Apartments includes recreation areas, a community room, on-site social services, an outdoor play structure, and easy access to public transportation and community services. The Gold GreenPoint Rated building features electric vehicle chargers, energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, WaterSense plumbing fixtures, energy-efficient appliances, water-efficient landscaping, and high-efficiency lighting.

"Affordable housing transforms lives,"

said Fremont Mayor Raj Salwan. "When families have stable housing, they gain the security to pursue opportunity-childhood poverty drops, homelessness declines, and entire communities grow stronger. Fremont is committed to creating housing that empowers families and builds a more inclusive, thriving city for all."



Over the next few months, additional affordable housing developments will open their doors in Fremont-including Bell Street Gardens, Osgood North, Osgood South, and Serra Apartments-highlighting the City's dedication to finding creative, sustainable solutions to the current housing crisis. For example, Bell Street Gardens involved refurbishing a motel into 126 refreshed, affordable units in a desirable lo-

cation with access to shopping, transportation, and high-quality medical facilities. Similarly, Osgood North and Osgood South were built using prefabricated stackable units, a technology designed to reduce construction costs.

The City has contributed \$30.7 million via restricted funds to support the majority

single-family home. In January 2025, they reported that the Bay Area's median home price increased 2.3% from the year before, further limiting residents' abilities to purchase a home. In addition, Bay Area Equity Atlas reports that in the Bay Area, nearly half of renters are cost-burdened.

Guided by the City's 2023-2031 Housing Element and Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)-which is determined by the State-the City is committed to creating nearly 13,000 new residential units, with over 7,000 designated as affordable by 2031. These projects are made possible through the City's Affordable Housing Fund, County and State bonds, local developers, and housing agencies, all working toward a shared vision of equity and opportunity.

Members of the media interested in registering for the grand opening celebration for Fremont Family Apartments on Thursday, May 15 can contact Abode's Director of Communications and Marketing, Chris De Benedetti, at 510-295-9469 or by email.

To receive information when new affordable units become available in Fremont, sign up for the City's Affordable Housing Interest List.

Alibaug's Luxury Villa Market: Trends and Opportunities for 2025

MUMBAI: Alibaug, a picturesque coastal town just a short ferry ride from Mumbai, has solidified its status as a premier destination for luxury real estate in India. Known for its pristine beaches, lush greenery, and proximity to the financial capital, Alibaug is transforming into a hotspot for luxury villas, attracting high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs), celebrities, and savvy investors. With infrastructure advancements like the Atal Setu Bridge and the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport, the Alibaug luxury villa market is poised for significant growth in 2025. This article explores the latest trends, investment opportunities, and why projects like The Sands by Aroha Estates are leading the charge in redefining luxury villa in Alibaug.

Why Alibaug is a Magnet for Luxury Villa Investments

Alibaug's appeal as a luxury real estate destination stems from a unique combination of factors:

* Proximity to Mumbai: Located just 20 minutes by speedboat from South Mumbai

via Mandwa Jetty or a 1.5-hour drive through the Atal Setu, Alibaug offers unmatched accessibility for weekend getaways or first homes.

* Soaring Property Values: According to industry reports, land prices in Alibaug have doubled over the past five years, with

(expected completion by 2025) are set to enhance connectivity, driving property demand.

* Lifestyle Appeal: Alibaug's serene beaches (Sasawane, Mandhwa, Awas), historic forts, and vibrant social scene, including cafes and water sports, make it a

home rentals.

These factors position Alibaug as a lucrative market for luxury villas, offering both lifestyle benefits and strong financial returns.

Key Trends Shaping Alibaug's Luxury Villa Market in 2025

The Alibaug luxury villa market is evolving rapidly, driven by shift in buyer preferences and technological advancements. Here are the top trends to watch in 2025:

1. Demand for Designer Homes

Today's affluent homebuyer desires more than a house, for those who can afford luxury they want branded residences, popular designers and attention to every detail in an overtly increasing manner. Any why should they not? Since luxury houses are a reflection of one's lifestyle and taste, today's luxury homebuyers deserve the best.

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luxury villas projected to see 30-35% capital appreciation by 2027.

* Infrastructure Boom: Upcoming projects like the Mumbai-Alibaug Bridge and the Navi Mumbai International Airport

coveted destination for Mumbai's elite.

* High Rental Yields: Luxury villas in Alibaug command premium rental rates, with yields ranging from 5-8% annually, ideal for investors targeting holiday

Philosophy

THICH NHAT HANH

Buddha was not a god. He was a human being like you and me, and he suffered just as we do. If we go to the Buddha with our hearts open, he will look at us, his eyes filled with compassion, and say, "Because there is suffering in your heart, it is possible for you to enter my heart."

Buddha said, "Please don't think that because you are unhappy, because there is pain in your heart, that you cannot go to the Buddha. It is exactly because there is pain in your heart that communication is possible."

Your suffering and my suffering are the basic condition for us to enter the Buddha's heart, and for the Buddha to enter our hearts. For forty-five years, the Buddha said, over and over again, "I teach only suffering and the transformation of suffering."

When we recognize and acknowledge our own suffering, the Buddha - which

present.

If you dwell only in your suffering, you will miss paradise. Don't ignore your suffering, but don't forget to enjoy the wonders of life, for your sake and for the benefit of many beings.

Without suffering, you cannot grow. Without suffering, you cannot get the peace and joy you deserve. Please don't run away from your suffering. Embrace it and cherish it. Go to the Buddha, sit with him, and show him your pain. He will look at you with loving kindness, compassion, and mindfulness, and show you ways to embrace your suffering and look deeply into it.

With understanding and compassion, you will be able to heal the wounds in your heart, and the wounds in the world. The Buddha called suffering a Holy Truth, because our suffering has the capacity of showing us the path to liberation. Embrace your suffering, and let it reveal to you the way to peace.

The Buddha wanted his five friends



The Buddha

Entering the Heart of the Buddha
Embrace your suffering, and let it reveal to you the way to peace

means the Buddha in us - will look at it, discover what has brought it about, and prescribe a course of action that can transform it into peace, joy, and liberation. Suffering is the means the Buddha used to liberate himself, and it is also the means by which we can become free.

The ocean of suffering is immense, but if you turn around, you can see the land. The seed of suffering in you may be strong, but don't wait until you have no more suffering before allowing yourself to be happy. When one tree in the garden is sick, you have to care for it. But don't overlook all the healthy trees.

Even while you have pain in your heart, you can enjoy the many wonders of life - the beautiful sunset, the smile of a child, the many flowers and trees. To suffer is not enough. Please don't be imprisoned by your suffering.

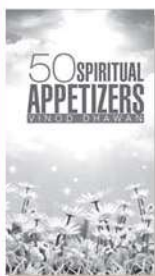
If you have experienced hunger, you know that having food is a miracle. If you have suffered from the cold, you know the preciousness of warmth. When you have suffered, you know how to appreciate the elements of paradise that are

to be free from the idea that austerity is the only correct practice. He had learned firsthand that if you destroy your health, you have no energy left to realize the path. The other extreme to be avoided, he said, is indulgence in sense pleasures - being possessed by sexual desire, running after fame, eating immoderately, sleeping too much, or chasing after possessions.

Excerpted from 'The Heart of Buddha's Teaching' by Thich Nhat Hanh. The 2649th birth anniversary of Gautam Buddha was celebrated on May 12

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

Vinod Dhawan



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

Jac O'Keeffe

Spirituality teacher based in USA.

Available on AMAZON, FLIPKART

Opinion:

The Los Angeles Times' Slanted Smear on India and Hindus

MADHU HEBBAR

India's rising as a global heavyweight, flexing economic muscle and cultural pride, but the Los Angeles Times keeps serving up a tired, lopsided narrative that paints the nation and its Hindu majority as villains. The paper's obsession with slamming Hindu nationalism as a threat to India's democracy is not just selective-it's borderline deceptive. By cherry-picking stories, ignoring history, and sidelining Hindu voices, the LA Times churns out articles that feel like they're written to shame Hindus rather than inform readers. This isn't journalism; it's agenda-driven storytelling that demands a reality check.

Take their February 2022 hit piece, "Hindu nationalism threatens India's status as world's largest democracy." (1) It screams that India's secularism is crumbling under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), toss-

What's missing? The 2019 Supreme Court ruling that greenlit the temple based on evidence of a prior Hindu structure, or the site's 500-year role as a symbol of Hindu grit against invasions. By obsessing over political drama and ignoring Hindu joy, the LA Times spits on a community's sacred moment.

Not every piece is a total miss. A March 2025 story, "Southern California Hindu temple vandalized with anti-India messages," (3) covered vandalism at a Hindu temple in Chino Hills, California, with graffiti like "F- Modi and Hindustan." It quoted a temple volunteer and the Hindu American Foundation, framing Hindus as hate-crime victims and tying the attack to Sikh separatists. This rare balanced take actually let Hindu voices breathe, unlike the paper's usual anti-Hindu-nationalism crusade. But don't get used to it-articles like this are the

exception, not the rule.

By cherry-picking stories, ignoring history, and sidelining Hindu voices, the LA Times churns out articles that feel like they're written to shame Hindus rather than inform readers. This isn't journalism; it's agenda-driven storytelling that demands a reality check

Contrast that with their September 2022 piece, "Hindu nationalism raises tensions among Indian immigrants," (4)

ing around loaded terms like "militant Hindu supremacy" and accusing Modi of fueling "anti-Muslim sentiment" to rally Hindu voters. Sure, it mentions violence against Muslims and shrinking freedoms, but where's the context? Why do 80% of India's Hindus vibe with Hindu nationalism? The LA Times conveniently skips centuries of colonial oppression, demolished temples, and past governments' minority-pandering policies that sparked a Hindu cultural comeback. Quoting only critics like Aakar Patel from Amnesty International India while ghosting BJP or Hindu voices? That's not reporting-it's propaganda that brands Hindus as the bad guys.

Then there's the January 2024 article, "Controversial Hindu temple opens in Ayodhya, India," (2) about the Ram Temple's opening-a massive win for Hindus. The LA Times slaps "controversial" on it, harping on how it replaced a 16th-century mosque and tying Modi to politicizing religion. It barely nods to Lord Ram's importance to Hindus before diving into opposition boycotts and election angles, framing the temple as a divisive BJP stunt.

which hyped protests against Modi's policies at an Indian Independence Day event in Anaheim. It zoomed in on caste discrimination and Muslim-targeted violence, painting Hindu nationalism as a wedge splitting Indian Americans. One person downplayed religious tensions, but the article leaned hard into critics bashing the BJP's "Hindutva." No mention of why diaspora Hindus cheer Modi's bold policies as a badge of Indian pride. That omission tilts the story, making Hindus look like the problem.

(Author Madhu Hebbar, an engineer, is an IIT graduate, living in the greater Los Angeles area. He is a practicing Hindu and an avid reader who is interested in Eastern philosophies and their general application to Western challenges. He is engaged in coaching youngsters interested in Hindu civilizational history, universal values, and their modern-day relevance. He has contributed to many intellectual engagements for a decade-plus in the Hindu community across the U.S. He is a keen student/observer of the media, trying to understand motives, narratives, and their impact on people and society. Contact: Madhuhebbbar@hotmail.com)

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Dhanaulti

With minimal human intrusion, without overloading or overwhelming your senses or expectations, Dhanaulti slowly seeps into your conscience like a long lost pleasant dream, bringing with it comfort and quiet, and giving you the much needed break from your humdrum routine life.

Located at a distance of 62 km from Mussoorie, this little town in Uttarakhand is an offbeat destination located at a height of about 2200 meters above sea level.

PLACES TO VISIT IN DHANAULTI

Dhanaulti Adventure Park: Sky walk, sky bridge, valley crossing, zip swing, zip line, trekking, rock climbing, rappelling, paragliding, cave exploration and so much more. Just think of an adventure activity and you will find it in Dhanaulti Adventure Park. Happily situated amidst towering hill, snow capped mountains and a magnificent view; it has a perfect mix of leisure and adventure.

Eco Park: Spread over an area of 13 hectares covered in deodar and oak trees, Eco Park is one of the most visited attractions of Dhanaulti. It was developed by the DFO and the citizens of Dhanaulti to create employment opportunities for the poor people, taken up as a measure to reduce poverty. Located at the height of 7800 m above the sea level, this place has enjoyable weather throughout the year. The park is very well maintained and is an amazing place for the kids to hang out with a separate playground for them. A tradition known as memory sapling plantation is followed in the park as a part of which one can plant a sapling in memory of their loved ones.

Apple Orchard Resort: For all fresh fruit fanatics, the Apple Orchard Resort is the home to wide variety of apples that are cultivated and sold here.

Deogarh Fort: Deogarh Fort is another one of the popular attractions in Dhanaulti. Built in the 16th century, the fort has many beautiful palaces and has several murals. The place also has a number of Jain temples in and around the area.

Tehri Dam: Tehri Dam is a popular tourist attraction in Dhanaulti. Boasting of ultra scenic views of the hills in the backdrop and clear waters in the front, the place offers utmost serenity and calm. People usually

come here to enjoy a day out or a picnic amidst beautiful setting.

Camp Thangdhar: The Thangdhar Camp, approximately 14 km away from the main market in Dhanaulti is by far the best adventure camp in the vicinity. Situated at a height of about 8300 feet and surrounded by pine and deodar trees, the camp also graciously provides sightseeing service to the closer tourist destinations. www.holidify.com

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

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India's Unprecedented Retribution Against A 'Rogue State': The Battle Against Terror Should Not Go Unfinished

COL ANIL BHAT (RETD.)

Twenty-five Indian males and one Nepali male, touring with their families in Jammu & Kashmir's popular destination Pahalgam, were cold-bloodedly killed by five Pakistani terrorists on the afternoon of 22 April 2025. The terrorists confirmed the victims were Hindu by forcing them to drop their trousers. One Muslim pony ride operator, who bravely tried to wrestle a weapon from a terrorist to help the tourists escape, was also mercilessly killed. The incident sparked nationwide shock, anger, and an overwhelming demand for retribution.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep anguish and vowed strong action. After consultations with the Home and

At 0144 hours on 7 May 2025, nine terrorist camps belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad in Muridke and Bahawalpur, located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir, were destroyed within 25 minutes-without Indian forces crossing the border.

In retaliation, the Pakistan Army launched unprovoked artillery and small arms fire across the Line of Control (LoC), targeting Kupwara, Baramulla, Uri, and Akhnoor. Thirteen Indian civilians, including four children and one soldier, were killed.

In the 14-day gap between the massacre and Operation Sindoor, Pakistan evacuated many of its 42 terrorist camps and launching pads, anticipating retaliation. Defense Minister

Rahim Yar Khan Base: Strategically near the Rajasthan border.

Sukkur Air Base: Commissioned in 2017 to bolster coastal defenses near Karachi.

Chunian Air Base: 70 km from Lahore, a key installation.

Additional bases at Skardu, Jacobabad, and Bholari were also hit hard.

Reportedly, the Kirana Hills-near the fortified underground nuclear storage site at Mushaf-Sargodha-were struck by a BrahMos missile. According to idrw.org, the strike on Rawalpindi's Noor Khan base sent shockwaves through the Pakistan Army leadership, especially its chief, General Asif Munir. The operation exposed critical vulnerabilities in Pakistan's nuclear deterrence. On 10 May, during these strikes, Pakistan experienced two shallow earthquakes (magnitude 4.0 and 5.7).

According to Reddit's r/IndianDefense Forum, the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration's emergency response aircraft (B-350 AMS) were spotted flying over Pakistan-aircraft typically used for nuclear contamination detection. This coincided with the former U.S. President Donald Trump being mentioned in the "ceasefire" developments on the evening of 10 May 2025.

Chinese Equipment Failure

Reports indicate that Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defense systems-including radar and interception platforms-failed during Operation Sindoor. Platforms like HQ-9 and LY-80, which were supposed to intercept missiles, reportedly failed to detect or engage any Indian threats. The JY-27A radar system, which claims stealth detection capabilities, was ineffective.

(The author is a strategic affairs analyst and former spokesperson, Ministry of Defense and Indian Army) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

At 0144 hours on 7 May 2025, nine terrorist camps belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad in Muridke and Bahawalpur, located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir, were destroyed within 25 minutes-without Indian forces crossing the border

Defense Ministers, the Chief of Defense Staff, service chiefs, and the National Security Advisor, a punitive operation was planned to target terrorist bases. The operation was codenamed Sindoor, referencing the vermilion powder worn by Hindu married women, which is removed permanently upon widowhood-symbolizing the gravity of the loss.

Shortly after the Pahalgam attack, Indian Navy's carrier battle groups, surface forces, submarines and aviation assets were deployed at sea with full combat readiness. While the Navy did not do any direct action at Karachi as misreported in Indian television media, its deployment was a reminder of 1971 December when it pulverized Pakistan Navy's assets in Karachi and blockaded Pakistan's sea front.

Precision Strikes Deep Inside

Rajnath Singh later stated that over 100 terrorists were killed, including individuals linked to the 1999 IC-814 hijacking and the 2019 Pulwama attack. Had the operation occurred earlier, Indian forces may have eliminated thousands.

Devastation of Key Airbases

The following Pakistani airbases were heavily damaged:

Mushaf (Sargodha) Air Base: Command HQ of the Pakistan Air Force, hosting F-16s, JF-16s, and Mirage 5As.

Rafiqi Air Base: Hosts Chinese JF-17 and Mirage fighter squadrons.

Murid Air Base: In Chakwal district, housing UAVs and drones used against Indian cities.

Nur Khan Air Base: Located in Rawalpindi, 10 km from Islamabad, suffered heavy strikes.



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OPERATION SINDOOR

Multiple explosions were heard in two big cities of Indian-controlled Kashmir last Saturday, hours after India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire deal; following the US-led talks to end the military confrontation between the nuclear-armed rivals seen in decades. India and Pakistan are currently facing one of the most intense periods of border tensions in recent years, triggered by the launch of Operation Sindoor on May 7, 2025.

Earlier, several explosions reverberated through Jammu city, causing a total blackout just hours after India foiled Pakistan's attempt to target military installations along the border. Reports indicated the presence of loitering munitions in the skies. Similarly, the border town of Jaisalmer also experienced loud explosions during the nights, while blackouts were imposed across western Rajasthan's districts bordering Pakistan, plunging the area into darkness few days back.

Multiple districts of Punjab, Chandigarh, and parts of Haryana, including Panchkula, Ambala, and Sirsa also faced these blackouts. Measures were taken amid rising military tensions following Operation Sindoor and the increasing threat of airstrikes.

The tensions escalated after Operation Sindoor carried out in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people including 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali tourist.

India's strike targeted nine key terrorist-infrastructures linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and Hizbul Mujahideen (HM); spanning locations in both Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

India's military response was aimed at neutralising the operational bases of major terror outfits while consciously avoiding Pakistani military installations. This approach, military officials said, was to prevent an all-out escalation while still delivering a strong message.

Among the targets were JeM's headquarters in Bahawalpur and LeT's base in Muridke. Other sites hit included terrorist locations in Sialkot and Tehra Kalan in Pakistan and Muzaffarabad, and Kotli in PoK. The military described the strikes as "focused, measured, and non-escalatory," aimed solely at terrorist facilities.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, praised the armed forces for their precision and bravery. He expressed pride in the success of the operation and urged continued vigilance against future threats.

Even after experiencing heavy losses and damage to its major defense installations, Pakistan failed to respect the ceasefire that came in to effect soon after U.S. President Donald Trump intervened.

According to Indian navy spokesman, the Indian armed forces will adhere to the understanding reached on the ceasefire, but they "remain fully prepared, ever vigilant and committed to defending the sovereignty and integrity of the motherland."

"Every misadventure by Pakistan has been met with strength. And every future escalation will invite a decisive response. We remain fully operationally ready to launch whatever operations may be required in defense of the nation,"

This clearly shows that India cannot trust Pakistan and must continue to pursue other means to stop the support base and funding channels of terrorism across the border. IMF should be strict in controlling its funding not to be diverted towards such activities. Of course the so called all weather friend of Pakistan, China will do whatever possible to destabilize India. Being heavily punished and cornered by U.S. on tariffs it is looking towards destabilizing neighbors in South East Asia.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author



NALGONDA: Contestants of the 72nd Miss World Festival from the Asian and Oceanic regions marked Buddha Purnima with a cultural and spiritual visit to Buddhavanam, a renowned Buddhist heritage site at Nagarjunasagar in Telangana's Nalgonda district.

The heritage tour, a significant part of the festival's itinerary, aims to highlight Telangana's rich history and diverse cultural heritage to offer the contestants the region's profound spiritual and historical legacy.

The day's itinerary included a brief stopover at a guest house near Chintapalli, followed by a picturesque photo session at Vijay Vihar, set against the serene backdrop of the Nagarjunasagar reservoir.

The contestants then proceeded to Buddhavanam, a renowned Buddhist theme park developed on the northern bank of the Krishna River, spanning 279 acres.

This project, taken up by the Telangana Government as part of an integrated Buddhist Circuit, is designed to showcase the life and teachings of Gautama Buddha.

The site features intricately carved structures, including the Mahastupa, known for its breathtaking drum and dome carvings, and a virtual hanging sky with lotus petals, offering a

mesmerizing experience.

Upon entering the Mahastupa, a majestic symbol of peace and spirituality, the contestants received a guided tour led by officials from the Archaeological Department.

Dr. Shivanagi Reddy, a representative of the Archaeology and Tourism Department, emphasized the historical and architectural significance of the site, stating,

"Buddhavanam is a testament to India's ancient Buddhist heritage and its role in spreading the message of peace and compassion across the world. It

is a privilege to share this rich history with the world through the Miss World pageant."

The contestants explored the Buddhacharita Vanam, depicting the life of Buddha, Jataka Park, which highlights stories from Buddha's previous lives, Dhyana Vanam for meditation,

and the Stupa Vanam, home to the imposing Maha Stupa, before visiting the Buddhist Heritage Museum, which houses ancient relics and sculptural panels depicting key events from Buddha's life.

In addition to the historical tour, the contestants participated in a meditative session within the Great Stupa, followed by a solemn Baillikuppa Maha Bodhi Puja performed by 25 Buddhist monks, offering a moment of introspection and spiritual connection. ANI

"BUDDHAVANAM IS A TESTAMENT TO INDIA'S ANCIENT BUDDHIST HERITAGE AND ITS ROLE IN SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF PEACE AND COMPASSION ACROSS THE WORLD. IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO SHARE THIS RICH HISTORY WITH THE WORLD THROUGH THE MISS WORLD PAGEANT"



Miss World 2025 contestants dressed in traditional attire pose for a picture during their visit to Ramappa Temple, in Mulugu. (ANI Photo)

Mr. & Ms. Senior Fashion Pageant India 2025 - A Celebration of Grace, Grit, and Glamour

NEW DELHI: The grand finale of Mr. and Ms. Senior Fashion Pageant India, presented by Peach Events and curated by Rekha Desai, took place last evening and marked a historic moment in Indian pageantry. This one-of-its-kind event, which was held at Balgandharva Rang Mandir auditorium in Bandra, marked the celebration of individuals above 55 years of age,

Winners - Female Category:
Winner: Ms. Poonam Pratibha Sharma

1st Runner-up: Ms. Rekha Shah

2nd Runner-up: Ms. Kiran Khurana

3rd Runner-up: Ms. Anita Chadha

Winners - Male Category:
Winner: Capt. Rajesh Yadav

1st Runner-up: Mr. Mayuresh Shirolkar

2nd Runner-up: Mr. Hemant Panda

3rd Runner-up: Mr. Raj Srinivasan

The event was graced by an esteemed jury panel, including Alpana Buch (of Anupamaa fame),



breaking stereotypes around age and beauty.

After an intensive four-day grooming session conducted by industry expert Shakir Shaikh, the finalists dazzled on stage in a series of rounds, including a talent round and a Q&A session, showcasing not just beauty and poise but personality and life experience. The evening was hosted by Ms. Simran Ahuja. The winners of the night are as follows

Sujata Mehta, Mr. Sunjay Chhel, Deepak Tijori and Cherag Bambboat Also present as chief guests were actor Manoj Joshi, Adv Ameet Mehta, actress Manmeet Kaur, casting director Manprit Rayat, actress Manpreet Kaur, Hameet Kaur, celebrity stylist Nishankh Sainani, editor of Perfect Woman Magazine Dr. Khooshi Thakkar, among others, who added their star power and support to the inspiring celebration. VMPL/ANI

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Alaya F performs HEADSTAND on a paddleboard

Actress Alaya F decided to push her fitness boundaries yet again as she performed a headstand on the paddleboard.

The "Freddy" actress nailed the headstand as she flaunted her perfect physique in a black two-piece. The diva was surrounded by water, with a beautiful backdrop, including greenery and hills.

"Someone jokingly said, 'You should try a headstand on the paddleboard.'"

Two minutes later, I was upside down in the middle of a river while my friends and family hyped me up from the boat. @konkanexplorersindia."

The video garnered a lot of attention from netizens who penned comments such as, "That someone is always me and look at you go effortlessly on it", "Oh god...Is there anything you can't do?", "Well balance in water love you Alaya", and "Oh goodness!! Bless Bless Bless Bless!! Have to show Samaya this", along with others.

Alaya keeps on shelling fitness goals with such inspiring videos on social media.

Back in February this year, Alaya shared a video of a yummy yet healthy breakfast smoothie on her Instagram.

The 'Jawaani Jaaneman' actress started with some frozen bananas and some frozen berries. IANS

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor, who was recently seen in the box-office bomb, 'Mere Husband Ki Biwi' is celebrating 13 years of his debut. The actor also promised a new version of him set to embrace the screens.

On Monday, the actor took to his Instagram, and shared a carousel featuring photos from his childhood and teenage years. He also penned an open letter to himself.

He wrote, "Dear 26-year old Arjun, You did it. You are standing at the edge of a dream that once felt impossible. I know how many nights you stayed up, watching films, believing somehow that cinema would be your escape, your purpose. You also

worked hard to transform, not just your body but your mind and your spirit. The hours, the discipline, the setbacks, they were all worth it. Stay humble, stay hungry. IANS

Arjun Kapoor CELEBRATES 13 YEARS of his Bollywood debut

TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

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

If my dad doesn't watch my films, I will fight him: Aditi Shankar

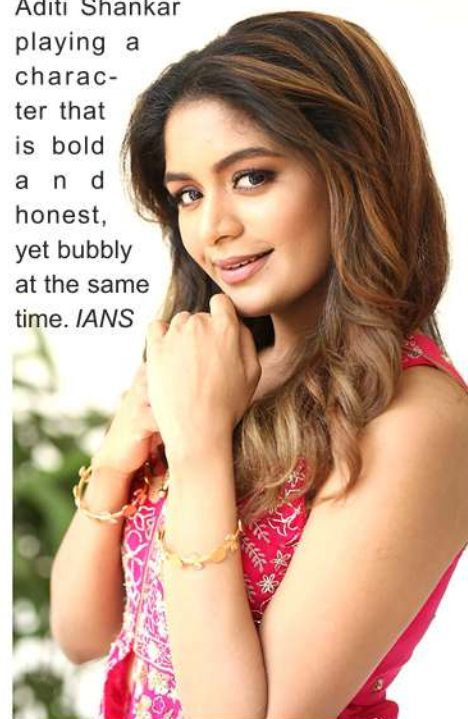
Actress Aditi Shankar, who is also the younger daughter of ace director Shankar, has jokingly disclosed that her dad has no other option but to watch her films and that if he does not watch her films, she would fight him.

The pretty actress, after having made her mark in Tamil cinema, is now all set to debut in Telugu with director Vijay Kanakamedala's upcoming action extravaganza 'Bhairavam'.

During a press conference that was called by the unit of Bhairavam as part of the film's promotions, the actress was asked if her father watched her movies. The cheerful and bubbly actress said with a laugh, "He has no other option. If he doesn't watch my films, I will fight him."

'Bhairavam', which features Bellamkonda Sai Srinivas, Manoj Manchu and Nara Rohit in the lead along with Aditi Shankar, Anandi and Divya Pillai, will have Aditi Shankar

playing a character that is bold and honest, yet bubbly at the same time. IANS





Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt expressed gratitude and respect for the sacrifices of Indian soldiers and their families, especially mothers who raised them.

Alia took to Instagram, where she shared a note. It read: "The last few nights have felt... different. There's certain stillness in the air when a nation holds its breath. And over the past few days we've felt that stillness. That quiet anxiety."

"That pulse of tension that hums beneath every conversation, behind every news notification, around every dinner table."

Alia spotlighted the stark contrast between our safety and the constant danger faced by soldiers protecting us.

"We have felt the weight of knowing that somewhere, out there in the mountains, our soldiers are awake, alert, and in danger. While most of us are tucked into our homes, there are men and women standing in the dark, guarding our sleep with theirs. With their lives. And that reality... it does something to you. Because you realize this isn't just bravery." IANS

Alia Bhatt:
Behind every uniform
is a mother who
hasn't slept

SHEHNAAZ GILL: 'NOOR' CELEBRATES EVERY WOMAN'S STRENGTH AND BEAUTY

Actress Shehnaaz Gill, whose recently released track 'Noor' along with Harrdy Sandhu, has called the track, a celebration of every woman's strength and beauty.

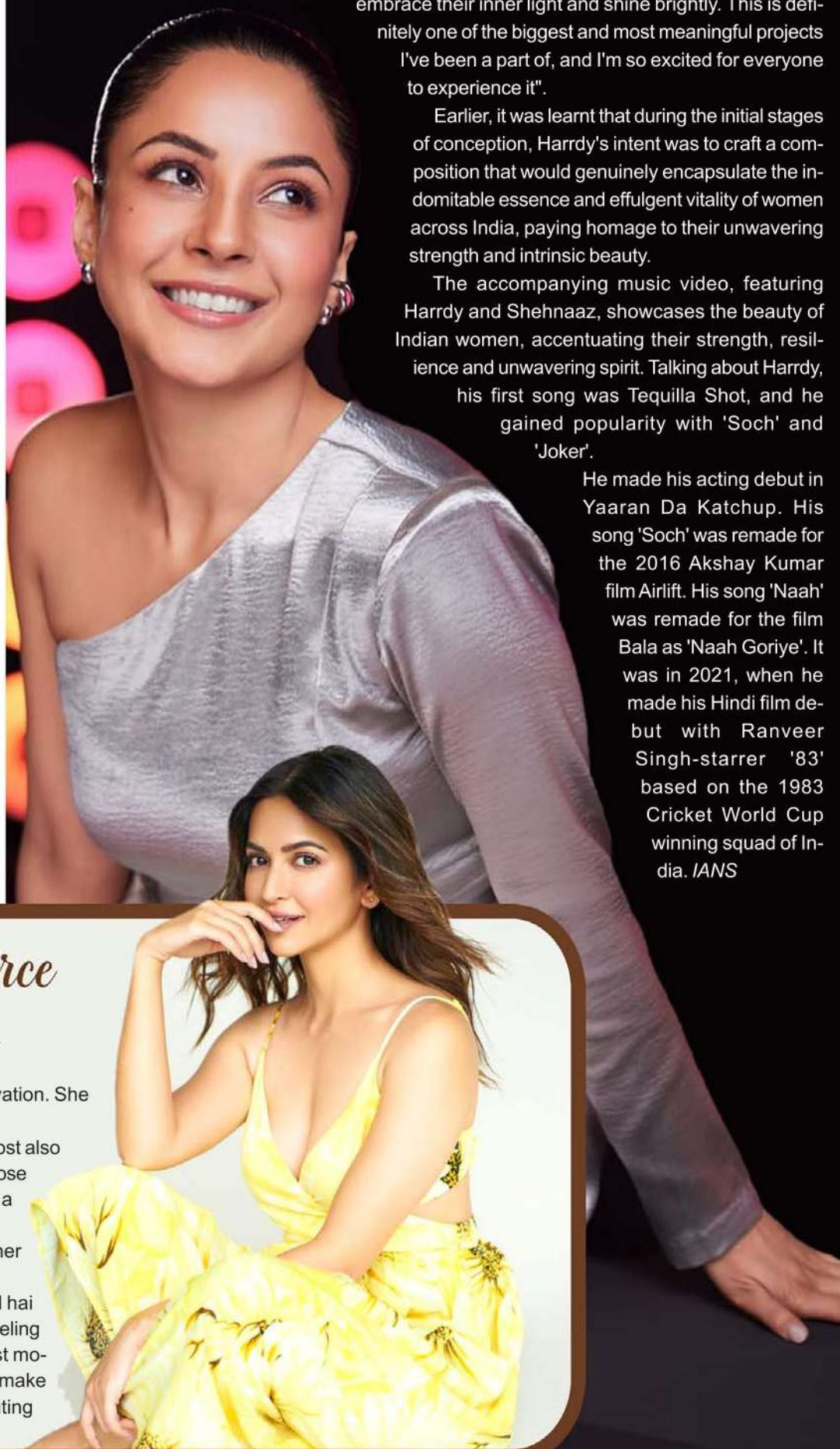
The actress told IANS, "Working with Harrdy on 'Noor' has been an absolute delight! He's such a talented artist, and the energy on set was just incredible. This song is so much more than just a track; it's a celebration of every woman's strength and beauty. I'm also so grateful to UMGB for bringing us all together and creating this amazing platform".

She further mentioned, "'Noor' is truly special to me - it's a message I deeply believe in, and I hope it inspires women everywhere to embrace their inner light and shine brightly. This is definitely one of the biggest and most meaningful projects I've been a part of, and I'm so excited for everyone to experience it".

Earlier, it was learnt that during the initial stages of conception, Harrdy's intent was to craft a composition that would genuinely encapsulate the indomitable essence and effulgent vitality of women across India, paying homage to their unwavering strength and intrinsic beauty.

The accompanying music video, featuring Harrdy and Shehnaaz, showcases the beauty of Indian women, accentuating their strength, resilience and unwavering spirit. Talking about Harrdy, his first song was Tequilla Shot, and he gained popularity with 'Soch' and 'Joker'.

He made his acting debut in Yaaran Da Katchup. His song 'Soch' was remade for the 2016 Akshay Kumar film Airlift. His song 'Naah' was remade for the film Bala as 'Naah Goriye'. It was in 2021, when he made his Hindi film debut with Ranveer Singh-starrer '83' based on the 1983 Cricket World Cup winning squad of India. IANS



Kriti Kharbanda discloses source of her Monday Motivation

Actress Kriti Kharbanda disclosed the source behind her Monday Motivation. She revealed that being around her loved ones is her ultimate fuel.

The diva took to her Instagram handle and dropped a goofy selfie. The post also included two pictures of Kriti playing with a little girl; however, she did not disclose the face of the little munchkin. The 'Guest ion London' actress also shared a picture of a jar of pickle, along with an image of a delicious dessert.

Kriti further penned a note expressing her feelings when she is around her loved ones.

"#familytime - my favorite #mondaymotivation and that last picture, fuel hai mere fire ka! Feeling the energy of your loved ones around you is the best feeling no? They always find a way to show you a silver lining even in your darkest moments! (I'm not saying I was in a dark place, but u get the point I'm trying to make here right?) Ho gayi energise ab kaam karte hain! How's your Monday treating you!? Batao :)," she wrote. IANS



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Theme: Unity & Liberty

(Celebrating 150th Birth anniversary of Sardar Patel)

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