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Americans4Hindus launches new Ohio Chapter

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Apple expands AppleCare+ in India

► Details on page 14



Shehnaaz Gill's message to her younger self

► Details on page 16

INDIA POST
SURVEY
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This week's question

Will EU continue support in funding Ukraine against Russia?

Last week's result

Can Ukraine hold-on occupied Russian territory?

YES 46% NO 54%

INDO-US ECONOMIC SUMMIT

India-US partnership strong, expanding across strategic and economic sectors



CAPT KRISHAN SHARMA
India Post News Service & Agencies

NEW DELHI: The India-US partnership remains strong, stable and is continuously expanding across strategic and economic sectors, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, said at the 22nd Indo-US Economic Summit held recently.

Addressing the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce's event here, the minister emphasized there is no cause for concern regarding the bilateral relationship, and reiterated that the friendship between the two nations stands on firm pillars of democracy, diversity and a shared developmental vision.

Goyal stated that US views India as a trusted partner, and both countries remain committed to expanding trade and commerce. He noted that a comprehensive partner-

ship such as the India-US relationship comprises several elements that may progress at different speeds.

The minister added that negotiations are a continuous process and India must safeguard its interests while balancing the sensitivities of farmers, fishermen, small industries and businesses.

"India has moved from being among the 'Fragile Five' to becoming one of the top five global economies in the last 10-12 years," Goyal noted.

He projected that India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027, citing strong banking systems, low inflation, controlled fiscal deficits, growing consumer sentiment and infrastructure expansion supported by GST re-

forms as key contributors to India's robust economic fundamentals.

Details on page 5



Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal addressing the 22nd Indo-US Economic Summit in New Delhi



'China behind disinformation campaign'

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'India has right to defend its people'

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Delhi: India's Capital of Culture

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Mission Statement

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:

Ranveer Singh poster of Dhurandhar



Ahead of trailer release of Ranveer Singh's action entertainer "Dhurandhar" the netizens were treated with an intense new poster of the movie

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Lifestyle:

cosnovaBeauty Reliance Retail partner

Reliance Retail Limited has entered an exclusive distribution partnership with cosnova Beauty, the Germany-based global cosmetics company, to bring 'essence' India

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INDO-US ECONOMIC SUMMIT



The India-US partnership remains strong, stable and is continuously expanding across strategic and economic sectors, Minister of Commerce and Industry Goyal said

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Techbiz:

India's most expensive

Khan Market remains India's most expensive high street, reflecting resilience said Cushman & Wakefield's 35th edition of its retail report

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Community:

A4H Columbus Chapter



Americans4Hindus (A4H) proudly inaugurated its newest chapter in the State of Ohio in Columbus with Neil Patel designated as President

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Delhi

Capital of India, Delhi is a historic old Delhi and modern New Delhi; with historical monuments to crowded shopping malls, Dilli has multiple personalities

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\$100,000 H-1B fee



The White House defended the H-1B visa policy of \$100,000 application fee is a "significant first step to stop abuses of the system"

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Researchers from IIT Madras and Panjab University have developed a portable, automated device to detect extremely low concentrations of pesticide residues

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INDO-US ECONOMIC SUMMIT

India-US partnership strong, expanding across strategic and economic sectors

CAPT KRISHAN SHARMA

India Post News Service & Agencies

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The minister added that negotiations are a continuous process and India must safeguard its interests while balancing the sensitivities of farmers, fishermen, small industries and businesses.

"India has moved from being among the 'Fragile Five' to becoming one of the top five global economies in the last 10-12 years," Goyal noted.

He projected that India is on track to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027, citing strong banking systems,



Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal addressing the 22nd Indo-US Economic Summit in New Delhi

He outlined the pillars on which India's journey towards 'Amrit Bharat 2047' is progressing: strong macroeconomic fundamentals, inclusive and sustainable growth, and a welfare-driven development model covering 140 crore citizens, the strength of a vibrant democracy and the power of India's demographic dividend led by a skilled and talented youth.

India produces 2.4 million STEM graduates every year and continues to deepen partnerships with several developed countries through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), either concluded or under negotiation.

Goyal said India is an aspirational nation where every child today gets access to basic needs such as food, clothing, housing, healthcare, education, electricity, clean water and digital connectivity, challenges that were widespread in earlier decades.

Several experts speaking at the summit added that, India and the US need to enhance efforts towards harmonization of standards, deployment and adoption of new technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and enhance of supply chains bring in a new era in the bilateral ties of India and the US and the global healthcare space. Highlighting that both the countries have a robust partnership in this key area,

the speakers said that the unique experience of both the countries would prove to be complementary and beneficial to each other.

Dr Suneela Garg, Excellence Community-Medicine, Chairperson, Programme Advisory Committee & Member Governing Council, said, "We do have Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. We cannot move if we do not have a database, the details of our demography. Now we are talking of our elderly population, after some time, when we talk of 2030-2050 onwards, we will have almost 30% of the people who are

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission for a comprehensive growth in India's healthcare space. Dr Sanjeev Singh, Medical Director, Amrita Institute of Medical Faridabad and Chief of Medical Services Amrita Kochi also stressed on the need cross-learning among healthcare professionals, policy makers in both the countries. He also highlighted the fact that given that cost of treatment is significantly higher in the US, India can play a key role in helping the world's largest economy lower the cost of healthcare.

"We have the talent, we have the com-

Goyal stated that US views India as a trusted partner, and both countries remain committed to expanding trade and commerce. He noted that a comprehensive partnership such as the India-US relationship comprises several elements that may progress at different speeds

going to be elderly. This is where again the Indo-US partnership is playing a very important role, then biotechnology and another important area is pandemic preparedness." Dr Upasana Arora, Executive Vice President, IACC & Managing Director, Yashoda SS Hospitals also emphasized on the need for enrollment under

petency and the skill sets, and we provide it at very affordable rate," Dr Singh said. Dr Arora, Executive Vice President, IACC was also of the view that as India imports key healthcare equipment from the US, India doctors and researchers are playing a key role in the global healthcare space including in the US.



low inflation, controlled fiscal deficits, growing consumer sentiment and infrastructure expansion supported by GST reforms as key contributors to India's robust economic fundamentals.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, the minister recalled the statement that India is not merely an emerging market but an emerging model of development.

'Will boost trade, cultural ties': EAM Jaishankar launches two Indian Consulates in Russia

MOSCOW: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar has emphasized that opening of the two new Indian Consulates General in Russia would deepen bilateral engagement and marks a new phase in the relationship between the two countries.

Speaking at the inauguration of Consulates General of India in Yekaterinburg and Kazan in Russia, EAM said, "This is an important day for us, when we are adding two more consulates, consulate generals in this country. And I want to say that over the last few months, consistent work has been underway to establish these consulates, as you heard from the Ambassador at the earliest possible time."

The event was attended by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko, Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar, representatives from the governor's office in Kazan and Yekaterinburg, officials of the Russian government, and several members of the Indian community.

Acknowledging the support extended by the Russian government, EAM Jaishankar expressed gratitude to Deputy Foreign Minister Rudenko as well as to the regional governments of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Sverdlovsk Oblast region.

Highlighting the significance of Yekaterinburg, EAM noted that the region is often called the third capital of Russia due to its industrial importance. He further



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurates Consulate General of India in Yekaterinburg and Kazan in Russia, in Moscow. India's ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar also present. (@DrSJaishankar X/ANI Photo)

stressed that the region--a gateway to Siberia-- is also a hub for heavy engineering, gem cutting, defense manufacturing, metallurgy, nuclear fuel, chemicals and medical equipment.

"The region hosts one of the most prominent international economic forums in Russia, the INNOPROM. The opening of the consulate will give impetus to enable and to strengthen the technological, scientific, economic and trade collaboration between Indian and Russian industries," the EAM emphasized.

"Kazan is one of the most visited cities in Russia. I have had the pleasure of going there myself, after Moscow and St. Petersburg, and with good reason, the region is a multicultural and multi-ethnic hub and acts as a bridge between Russia and the rest of Asia. The consulate will help strengthen people-to-people ties by encouraging cross-cultural exchanges and ITEC participation. Kazan is well known for its oil production and refining for fertilizers, automobiles, defense, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals and electrical equipment," he added.

EAM Jaishankar expressed hope that the Indian diaspora, the business community and especially young students would benefit from the consular services and diplomatic presence of India in the two regions.

"I'm very sure that the opening of these consulates will not only enhance our diplomatic presence in Russia, but will act as a catalyst to further boost trade, to increase tourism, economic, scientific, technology, and even academic and cultural ties between our two countries," EAM stated. *IANS*

Focus on 'effectively utilizing' Chabahar port as Afghan minister begins India visit

NEW DELHI/KABUL: Afghan Industry and Commerce Minister Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi arrived in New Delhi, kicking off the official visit of a high-ranking government delegation from Kabul with the aim of activating and effectively utilizing the capacities of India-developed Chabahar Port in Iran and attracting and drawing more investments.

Welcoming the visiting minister, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated that advancing bilateral trade and investment ties is the key focus of Azizi's visit.

Just ahead of the visiting delegation's arrival in India, Afghanistan's Ministry of Industry and Commerce stated that enhancing bilateral trade through the port will be a key agenda of discussions during Azizi's visit.

"During this trip, the Afghan delegation, while visiting the Pragati Maidan International Exhibition, will meet with high-ranking officials of the Government of India, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets Industry and Commerce Minister of Afghanistan, Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, in New Delhi. (@DrSJaishankar X/ANI Photo)

Commerce besides traders, investors, and honorable members of the private sector of the two countries. The focus of

these meetings is to expand economic cooperation, facilitate trade relations, create joint investment opportunities, and

strengthen Afghanistan's role in the region's transit routes," read a statement issued by the Afghan ministry.

"This trip is evaluated as an important step towards strengthening economic and commercial relations between the two countries, and it is expected that its results will play a significant role in improving communications, boosting trade, and developing transit routes," it added while stressing the need to effectively utilizing the capacities of Chabahar Port in Iran.

Kabul is keen on facilitating transit of goods through India-developed Chabahar port in Iran, especially after increasing border tensions with neighboring Pakistan that has resulted in massive losses for traders on both sides of the Durand Line.

Earlier this month, the Afghan media reported that amidst the rising Afghanistan-Pakistan tensions, the ruling Taliban regime wants to explore Chabahar port's vast potential and sees it as a new "opportunity". *IANS*

India has right to defend its people against terrorism will exercise it: EAM Jaishankar in Moscow

MOSCOW: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar, while addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government meeting in Moscow, once again called for zero tolerance towards terrorism and stressed that there can be "no whitewashing, justification towards terrorism".

"We must never forget that the SCO was founded to combat the three evils of terrorism, separatism, and extremism.

The Council of Heads of Government (CHG) is the second-most important SCO mechanism which meets annually to decide upon major issues of trade-economic cooperation as well as the SCO annual budget. The last meeting of CHG was held in Pakistan in October 2024.

India, EAM Jaishankar said, also strongly believes that people-to-people exchanges lie at the core of any genuine relationship.

ample. India is also willing to extend its considerable experience of heritage conservation in Southeast Asia to Central Asia regarding humanitarian cooperation," he said.

EAM Jaishankar expressed India's strong support for reform-oriented agenda and added that India welcomes centers addressing challenges like organized crime, drug trafficking and cyber security. He further said, "As the organization becomes more diverse, the SCO must be more flexible and more adaptable. To this end, the long delayed decision to make English an official language of the SCO must be prioritized."

Elaborating on India's approach to the trade and economic issues, he mentioned, "We assess the global economic situation to be particularly uncertain and volatile currently. Supply side risks have been aggravated by demand side complexities. There is consequently an urgent requirement to derisk and diversify. This is best done by as many of us forging the widest possible economic links. For that to happen, it is essential that this process be fair, transparent and equitable. India's endeavors to conclude free trade arrangements with many of you here are relevant." *IANS*

It is imperative that the world display zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There can be no justification, no looking away and no whitewashing

These threats have become even more serious in the years that have passed. It is imperative that the world display zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There can be no justification, no looking away and no whitewashing. As India has demonstrated, we have the right to defend our people against terrorism and will exercise it," EAM Jaishankar said in his remarks at the meeting.

"As a civilizational state, India strongly believes that people-to-people exchanges lie at the core of any genuine relationship. Facilitating greater interaction between our intellectuals, artists, sports people, and cultural icons will pave the way for deeper understanding across the SCO. We also have a growing record of collaborative activities with regard to cultural exchanges. The exposition of sacred Buddhist relics in many of your countries is a notable ex-

India to showcase expanding defense, aerospace strength at Dubai Air Show 2025

DUBAI: India is set to showcase an extensive spectrum of its defense and aerospace capabilities at the Dubai Air Show 2025 from November 17-18.

Union Minister of State for Defense Sanjay Seth is leading the Indian delegation at the recent event in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Indian contingent will comprise senior representatives from the Defense Ministry, the Department of Defense Production, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Armed Forces.

During the exhibition, Minister Seth will hold a bilateral meeting with his UAE counterpart to discuss avenues for enhanced defense cooperation.

He will also preside over an industry roundtable featuring around 50 companies from India, the UAE, Australia, the US, Brazil, the UK, and Italy, where discussions will focus on advancing defense technology collaboration and expanding manufacturing prospects in India. *IANS*

India ridicules mired UNSC reform as 'theatre of the absurd'

UNITED NATIONS: Ridiculing the nearly two decade-long futile negotiations to reform the Security Council as "theatre of the absurd", India has called for a constructive approach that adopts a text to move the mired process forward.

"In the 17 years since the IGN format was initiated, it has been reduced to a theater of the absurd", India's Deputy Permanent Representative Yojna Patel said on Tuesday, referring to the Intergovernmental Negotiations on reforming the Council.

"Member states are trapped in an endless cycle of statements and discussions that lead nowhere", she said at a General Assembly meeting on Council reform.

To bring credibility to the reform process, "India reiterates its call for the early start of text-based negotiations with transparent milestones and timelines", Patel said.

She called for "introspection and soul searching" to see why the reform has failed to make progress.

"Are we willing to honestly work for

achieving tangible progress, or are we condemned, like Sisyphus, to be trapped in this endless cycle till eternity?" she asked.

Patel said that India hopes the newly appointed IGN co-chairs would be able to move the discussions to concrete outcomes during the current session.

Assembly President Annalena Baerbock has appointed Permanent Representatives Tareq M. A. M. AlBanai of Kuwait and Lise Gregoire-van Haaren of the Netherlands as the co-chairs of the IGN.

Progress at the IGN is blocked by a small group of countries that call themselves United for Consensus (UfC), which uses procedural maneuvers to block the adoption of a negotiating text that would outline the parameters of discussion and track progress, condemning the process to a Sisyphean fate, as Patel said.

The primary objective of the group led by Italy and comprising Pakistan is to prevent the addition of new permanent members to the Council. *IANS*

'China behind disinformation campaign after Operation Sindoor'

WASHINGTON: The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission, a US Congress-created advisory body, accused China of masterminding a disinformation campaign after Operation Sindoor, as part of its Gray Zone activities to use "fake social media accounts to propagate AI images of supposed 'debris' from planes."

"China initiated a disinformation campaign to hinder sales of French Rafale aircraft in favor of its own J-35s, using fake social media accounts to propagate AI images of supposed 'debris' from the planes that China's weaponry destroyed," it said in its annual report to Congress.

The report also claimed that Beijing "opportunistically" leveraged the India-Pakistan conflict in May to "advertise the sophistication of its weapons, useful in the contexts of its ongoing border tensions with India and its expanding defense industry goals."

India launched Operation Sindoor to retaliate against the Pahalgam attack in April that killed 26 civilians, striking terror installations and military targets inside Pakistan.

In August, Indian Air Force Chief AP Singh revealed that Indian forces had destroyed five Pakistani fighter jets and one, large airborne surveillance aircraft during Operation Sindoor

On India-China ties, the Commission states there is an "asymmetry" between the two sides regarding the resolution of the border issue.

"China leverages high-level, well-publicized dialogues to reach partial resolutions-hoping to open the door for bilateral cooperation on trade and other areas by compartmentalizing the border issue without sacrificing its core interests," while "India wants a sustainable solution to the border issues"

"In recent years, the Indian government has increasingly recognized the seriousness of the threat posed by China at the border," it emphasized.

According to the report, the current terms of bilateral economic cooperation or border resolution agreements were "largely conceptual," with few "specifics or follow-ups" announced by either side. *IANS*

From the fringes of everyday life to the halls of White American power

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

White supremacist ideas once confined to the margins of U.S. society have increasingly entered mainstream political and cultural spaces, shaping debates, influencing policy, and fueling polarization. ACoM briefing on Nov 14 explored how white supremacist narratives and ideologies have become normalized in public discourse, their connections to Christian nationalism and political mobilization, and what this shift means for communities and journalists covering these issues.

Heath Druzin, Journalist and Host of the Extremely American podcast, covering the mainstreaming of extremist and militia movements, as well as Christian Nationalism stated that social media has accelerated the spread of extremist ideologies, making previously unthinkable statements normalized online.

Details on page 10

Indian missions worldwide celebrate International Gita Mahotsav 2025

PORT OF SPAIN: Indian diplomatic missions across the globe marked International Gita Mahotsav 2025, celebrating the timeless spiritual and philosophical teachings of the Bhagavad Gita.

The Gita Mahotsav is celebrated to promote Bhagwad Gita's teachings of duty, righteousness, and knowledge on the Ekadashi (11th lunar day) of the Shukla Paksha (bright fortnight) in the month of Margashirsha (Indian Calendar) when Lord Krishna delivered the eternal sermons of Gita to Arjun on the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the Indian High Commission hosted a spiritual evening of Gita Mahotsav at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation Auditorium in Port of Spain with the wide participation of devotees.

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COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

8 India Post

www.indiapost.com

November 21, 2025



Americans4Hindus launches new Ohio Chapter in Columbus

Historic inauguration marks a major step in Political Empowerment for Hindu Americans



India Post News Service

COLUMBUS, OHIO: Americans4Hindus (A4H), the national political organization dedicated to empowering Hindu and pro-Hindu voices across the United States, proudly inaugurated its newest chapter in the State of Ohio on November 14, 2025, at the residence of Neil Niranjana and Jagruti Patel in Columbus.

In a landmark moment, Neil Patel was formally designated as President of the A4H Ohio Chapter. In his acceptance speech, he pledged full commitment to advancing the Mission and Vision of Americans4Hindus. A former U.S. Senate candidate, Patel announced his dedication to recruiting, endorsing, funding, and campaigning for Hindu and pro-Hindu candidates from School Boards and City Councils to the Ohio Governor's Office.

The evening saw tremendous enthusiasm as numerous Hindu community leaders attended the ceremony and joined A4H as Trustees, Champions, and Members, strengthening the

organization's grassroots base across Ohio.

A special address was delivered by Hon. Niraj Antani, Ohio State Senator, who shared how Americans4Hindus played a meaningful role in endorsing and funding his own campaigns. He urged the gathering to step forward into public service, highlighting the critical need for Hindu American engagement at every level of governance.

On November 15, an A4H delegation met with Vivek Ramaswamy, current Republican candidate for Governor of Ohio. Americans4Hindus formally endorsed him

Americans4Hindus Founder & Chairman Dr. Romesh Japra delivered the Keynote Address, outlining the A4H structure-its Federal Super PAC, Hybrid PAC, and 18 State PACs. He emphasized the importance of cultivating political leaders who can represent Hindu voices in City Halls, State Capitols, and Washington D.C., ensuring fair representation and

meaningful influence.

Engagement with Ohio's Gubernatorial Candidate Vivek Ramaswamy

On November 15, an A4H delegation met with Vivek Ramaswamy, current Republican candidate for Governor of Ohio. Americans4Hindus formally endorsed him. As a proud Hindu American, Ramaswamy pledged to work tirelessly for the people of Ohio and the United

Maryland
Neeraj Kashalkar, President A4H California
Dr. Raman Sood, National A4H Chief Advisor
Sandeep Deswal, National Spokesman A4H
Manan Raval, Vice President A4H

Their presence further highlighted the growing national footprint and unity of purpose within the A4H movement.

About Americans4Hindus
Americans4Hindus (A4H) is a non-partisan, inclusive political action organization committed to ensuring fair representation, advancing pro-Hindu values, empowering community participation, and cultivating political leadership across the United States. Operating as a Super PAC, Hybrid PAC, and Multi-Candidate PAC, A4H is building strong state chapters nationwide to uplift and mobilize the Hindu American community.

For media inquiries, please contact:
Email: info@americans4hindus.org
Website: www.americans4hindus.org

States and affirmed his commitment to addressing the interests and concerns of Hindu Americans statewide.

National A4H Leadership Joins Ohio Events

The inauguration and subsequent meetings were attended by key national A4H leaders, including:

Vidya Mishra, President, A4H

"Creation: From Dashavatar to Elton John" - Taalsutra's Grand Dance-Theatre Production Bridging Myth and Modernity

India Post News Service

SAN MATEO, CA: November 2, The stage of the College of San Mateo Theater transformed into a cosmic canvas as TaalSutra, a Bay Area-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dance company, premiered its magnum opus "Creation: From Dashavatar to Elton John." Staying true to TaalSutra's mission of bringing India's rich art and culture to global audiences, the 1.5-hour multimedia spectacle wove mythology, philosophy, and environmental consciousness into a visually stunning dance-theatre experience.

Featuring a cast of 44 dancers and 2 actors, the production brought together four of India's eight classical dance forms - Kathak, Odissi, Bharatanatyam, and Manipuri - alongside Western classical ballet, in an impressive artistic dialogue. TaalSutra collaborated with Peninsula Ballet Theater, the second longest-running



ballet company in the Bay area, to create a seamless cultural fusion that celebrated both Indian and Western artistic vocabularies.

manity, debating mankind's journey - its triumphs, technological marvels, and artistic achievements - against the backdrop of environmental decay and moral disarray. As Earth retold the myth of the

bound - a testament to art's ability to bridge cultures and inspire transformation.

Conceptualized and directed by TaalSutra co-founders Arundhati Parmar (script writer), Kanika Mitra, Mousumi



Creation unfolded as a cosmic conversation between Earth and the Soul of Hu-

Dashavatar, the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu symbolizing the evolutionary progression of life, it yearned for the arrival of the tenth avatar, the savior destined to restore balance. The Soul, however, proposed a different redemption - that hu-

dancers and Peninsula ballet artists united on stage to the uplifting music of Sir Elton John, symbolizing hope, unity, and renewal. The performance's riot of colors, intricate choreography, and dramatic storytelling left the audience spell-

Bose, and Urmi Chakraborty, Creation stands as a landmark production in the Bay Area's cultural calendar - a vibrant testament to collaboration, creativity, and the enduring resilience of the human spirit.



From the fringes of everyday life to the halls of White American power

VIDYA SETHURAMAN

India Post News Service

White supremacist ideas once confined to the margins of U.S. society have increasingly entered mainstream political and cultural spaces, shaping debates, influencing policy, and fueling polarization. ACoM briefing on Nov 14 explored how white supremacist narratives and ideologies have become normalized in public discourse, their connections to Christian nationalism and political mobilization, and what this shift means for communities and journalists covering these issues.

Heath Druzin, Journalist and Host of the Extremely American podcast, covering the mainstreaming of extremist and militia movements, as well as Christian Nationalism stated that social media has accelerated the spread of extremist ideologies, making previously unthinkable statements normalized online. Furthermore, the public use of derogatory racial language by political leaders has given extremist rhetoric social legitimacy. He cautioned that conspiracy theories repeatedly appearing in mainstream politics today often originate from white supremacist organizations, and the media must identify their vocabu-

lary and expose their true nature.

Matthew D. Taylor, Ph.D., Senior Christian Scholar, Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies (ICJS) pointed out that this ideology is not mainstream Christianity, but rather a political ideology that takes for granted the United States as a Christian nation and regards white Protestant culture as the orthodox ideology of the country. He said that since 2015, Trump has successfully attracted a large number of non-denominational Pentecostal

Since 2015, Trump has successfully attracted a large number of non-denominational Pentecostal churches, bringing some previously marginalized radical religious leaders into the political core and forming a theological narrative that "Trump is God's choice"

churches, bringing some previously marginalized radical religious leaders into the political core and forming a theological narrative that "Trump is God's choice." Against this backdrop, some Christian supremacists even advocate that women should not vote and that the government should legislate entirely based on the Bible. Such exclusive ideas are more diffi-

cult to detect because they are packaged in religious language.

Sanford F. Schram, Adjunct Lecturer in Political Science, Stony Brook University (SUNY) and co-author of *Hard White: The Mainstreaming of Racism in American Politics* stated that white supremacist sentiment did not begin in the President Trump era, but rather accelerated after Obama's election. He pointed out that xenophobic rhetoric existed within the Republican Party as early as the Reagan era,

Devin Burghart, Executive Director of the Institute for Research & Education on Human Rights (IREHR) states that across the United States, the far-right movement had only about 25,000 core members in the 1970s, but today its related online communities have millions. He states that the reason why extremist groups' ideologies can infiltrate the mainstream from the periphery is because a large number of state legislators have joined far-right organizations, allowing fringe conspiracy theories to directly become part of legislation. He warns that the far-right movement not only intensifies racial hatred but also promotes policies such as anti-vaccine, anti-LGBTQ, weakening women's rights, and eradicating Black history education, posing a structural danger to the democratic system.

When discussing how to rebuild trust and safeguard democracy, scholars generally believe that the United States is at a critical juncture. Taylor stated that many countries around the world have experienced democratic regression due to the combination of religion or nationalism with populist movements; the only effective way is to build a coalition that represents the greatest common denominator across ethnic groups and the political spectrum.

EAM Jaishankar meets Indian envoys in New York to review India-US ties

WASHINGTON: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chaired a conference of Indian Consul Generals in the United States, convening senior Indian diplomats from missions across the country to review India-US bilateral cooperation and engagement with the Indian diaspora.

The meeting, held in New York last week, brought together senior diplomats from the Indian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and consulates in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Atlanta, Houston,

Boston, Los Angeles and Seattle.

In a post on X, Jaishankar wrote, "Chaired a Consul Generals Conference in New York today...Reviewed our bilateral ties and support for diaspora activities. Appreciate the commitment and efforts of our Embassy & Consulates to strengthening the India-US partnership."

The meeting was also attended by Indian Ambassador to the United States Vinay Kwatra.

Jaishankar also met with UN Secretary-

General Antonio Guterres for a wide-ranging discussion of the current global situation and multilateralism.

After their meeting at UN headquarters



in New York, Jaishankar posted on X that he "valued his assessment of the current global order and its implications for multilateralism".

"Also appreciated his perspectives on various regional hotspots", he added.

Jaishankar came to New York for a quick visit after wrapping up his Canada trip, during which he participated in the G7 foreign ministers' meeting and met with several foreign ministers, including

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

EAM Jaishankar posted on X, "Good to meet @SecRubio this morning at #G7 FMM. Appreciate his condolences on the loss of lives in the blast in Delhi. Discussed our bilateral ties, focusing on trade and supply chains. Exchanged views on the Ukraine conflict, the Middle East/West Asia situation and

Indo-Pacific."

Jaishankar's meeting with Rubio came days after US President Donald Trump said that the US is very close to signing a trade agreement with India.

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

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Gaining speed at 40,000 feet: Emirates set to operate the world's largest Starlink-enabled international wide-body fleet, bringing ultra-fast connectivity on 232 Boeing 777 and A380 aircraft

- Emirates to offer free, super high-speed Starlink Wi-Fi for its customers starting with its first Boeing 777 commercial flight on 23 November
- Will debut the world's first Starlink-equipped A380 aircraft, and lead the industry with the largest A380 Starlink fleet starting early 2026
- Dubai Airshow visitors can experience Emirates' ultra-fast Starlink Wi-Fi onboard the Boeing 777-300ER aircraft on display
- Accelerated Starlink rollout and uplifting of connectivity builds on Emirates' continuous investments in a superior onboard experience, which includes its retrofit program of A380s and Boeing 777s

DUBAI, UAE: Emirates will deploy Starlink Wi-Fi across its entire in-service fleet, beginning with Boeing 777 aircraft in November 2025 and completing the rollout by mid-2027. The complimentary, ultra-fast service delivers ground-quality internet at cruising altitude, reinforcing the airline's long-standing commitment to industry-leading inflight connectivity.

Starlink connectivity will enable Emirates customers to stream content, game, make calls, work, and browse social media throughout their journey on both seatback screens and personal devices simultaneously. This seamless integration delivers connected experiences at scale across all cabin classes.

Emirates plans to install Starlink on all its in-service fleet - comprising 232 aircraft in the next two years. The airline has already equipped its first aircraft with Starlink on A6-EPF, the Boeing 777-300ER currently on display at the Dubai Airshow, where visitors can experience high-speed connectivity firsthand while on the ground.

The first Emirates commercial passenger flight with Starlink will depart immediately following the Airshow as A6-EPF re-enters service, marking the start of an accelerated fleet-wide rollout. The airline will fit-out approximately 14 aircraft per month with Starlink, with installation on the Airbus A380 fleet commencing in February 2026.

The airline is primed to install two antennae on each Boeing 777 aircraft, and an industry-first three antennae on each Airbus A380, ensuring the highest levels of connectivity, capacity and coverage across every cabin class for a better customer experience. Emirates will also make Live TV over Starlink available, initially on personal devices and then on seatback screens from late December 2025.

The Starlink Wi-Fi service on Emirates will be free for all customers, across all cabins on Starlink-equipped aircraft, with simple one-click access that requires no payment or special Skywards member-

ship.

Sir Tim Clark, President Emirates Airline said: "Partnering with Starlink is another defining moment in our continuous commitment to ensuring our customers 'fly better'. We're introducing the world's fastest Wi-Fi, elevating what passengers can expect from inflight connectivity, like seamless productivity, real-time communication with loved ones, and uninterrupted connection to their digital lives. But that's just one piece of the transformation happening across our fleet.

"Starlink is being installed in tandem with the most ambitious cabin refurbishment program in aviation including brand new Premium Economy cabins, an enhanced Business Class, refreshed First Class, expanded and upgraded entertainment system technologies, and now, industry-leading connectivity."

Sir Tim added: "Emirates' philosophy is simple but powerful: we strive to deliver consistency. While others peddle a confusing mix of products across a varied fleet, we want all our customers to be able

to enjoy Emirates' best products and not only on certain routes or aircraft types. That's why we're investing so heavily in our retrofit program.

"The most advanced connectivity, exceptional cabins, extensive entertainment, and world-class service from our talented

onboard your Emirates flight, you'll be able to stream, game, and have seamless video calls, just as you can do on the ground. We're excited to transform Emirates' travel experience and support the rapid installation of Starlink while maintaining focus on delivering overall quality of service."

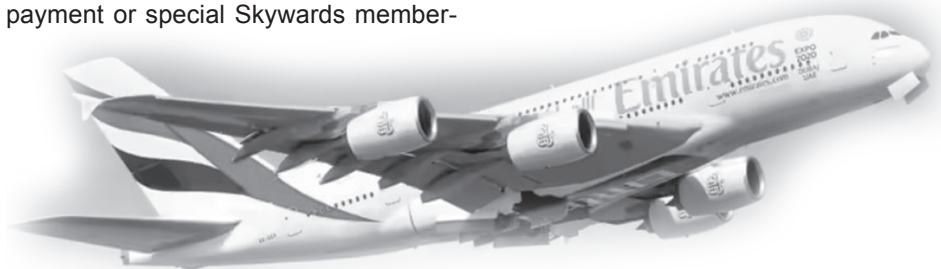
Starlink represents the latest enhancement to Emirates' onboard experience, which includes over 6,500 entertainment channels, the iconic A380 Onboard Lounge, and First Class Shower Spa.

The rollout also reflects the scale of Emirates' nearly 220 aircraft retrofit program. To date, 76 fully refurbished aircraft have entered service featuring Premium Economy, redesigned Business Class, refreshed First Class suites, and elevated finishes throughout.

For more information on the Emirates retrofit program, please visit: <https://www.emirates.com/media-centre/emirates-retrofit-programme/>

Cabin Crew - all of these elements reflect our substantial investment and commitment to raising the bar on what air travel should be."

Chad Gibbs, VP of Starlink Business Operations, SpaceX, said: "With Starlink



Indian missions worldwide celebrate International Gita Mahotsav 2025

PORT OF SPAIN: Indian diplomatic missions across the globe marked International Gita Mahotsav 2025, celebrating the timeless spiritual and philosophical teachings of the Bhagavad Gita.

The Gita Mahotsav is celebrated to promote Bhagwad Gita's teachings of duty, righteousness, and knowledge on the Ekadashi (11th lunar day) of the Shukla

Commission hosted a spiritual evening of Gita Mahotsav at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Co-operation Auditorium in Port of Spain with the wide participation of devotees.

The celebration is one of the precursor events leading up to the 10th International Gita Mahotsav being held in Kurukshetra, India.



Paksha (bright fortnight) in the month of Margashirsha (Indian Calendar) when Lord Krishna delivered the eternal sermons of Gita to Arjun on the battlefield of Kurukshetra.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the Indian High

Commission hosted a spiritual evening of Gita Mahotsav at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Co-operation Auditorium in Port of Spain with the wide participation of devotees.

thoughts on the relevance of Gita in the contemporary world.

"Their words of wisdom, encouragement, and cultural appreciation added immense depth to the celebration of the Bhagavad Gita," the Indian High Commission in Port of Spain posted on X.

Additionally, in China, as part of the International Gita Mahotsav celebrations, Indian Consul General in Shanghai Pratik Mathur felicitated Wang Zhicheng, a renowned scholar of Vedanta and Yoga at Zhejiang University in the Eastern China Region. Wang's acclaimed Chinese translation of the Bhagavad Gita, published in

2015, has been reprinted 17 times.

According to the Indian Consulate General in Shanghai, the latest edition, published in 2025, has garnered strong public interest in the Chinese readership, a testament to the global support for Indian culture and civilizational heritage.

The Indian High Commission in Mozambique marked the occasion at Anand Ashram in Salamanga, about 40 kilometers south of the capital, Maputo.

The program included yoga, prayer, poetry recitation, singing, quiz competition and, concluded with a Prasadi lunch. *IANS*

Verses from Rig-Veda, Bhagavad-Gita to open Memphis City Council

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Prayers will open the Memphis City Council (Tennessee) meeting on December 16, containing verses from world's oldest extant scripture.

Rajan Zed will deliver the invocation from ancient Sanskrit scriptures before the Memphis City Council. After Sanskrit delivery, he then will read the English interpretation of the prayers. Sanskrit is considered a sacred language in Hinduism and the root language of Indo-European languages.

Zed is the President of Universal Society of Hinduism, he will recite from Rig-Veda, the oldest scripture of the world still in common use; besides lines from Upanishads and Bhagavad-Gita (Song of the Lord), both ancient Hindu scriptures. He plans to start and end prayer with "Om", the mystical syllable containing the universe, which in Hinduism is used to introduce and conclude religious work.

Reciting from Brahadaranyakopanishad, Rajan Zed plans to say "Asato ma sad gamaya, Tamaso ma jyotir gamaya, Mrtyor mamrtam gamaya"; which he will then interpret as "Lead us from the unreal to the real, Lead us from darkness to light, and Lead us from death to immortality." Reciting from Bhagavad-Gita, he proposes to urge the Council members and others present to keep the welfare of others always has been bestowed with the World Interfaith Leader Award.

Hinduism, oldest and third largest religion of the world, has about 1.2 billion adherents and moksh (liberation) is its ultimate goal. There are

about 3.2 million Hindus in the USA.

Memphis is best known as the Birthplace of Rock 'n' Roll, Home of the Blues, Soul Music Hub; and for its civil rights history and Graceland; etc. Paul Young is the Mayor of this second-most populous city in Tennessee, incorporated 1826.



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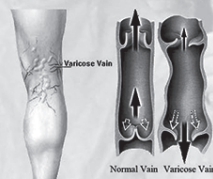


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AAPI to host 19th Global Health Summit in Odisha: Spotlight on TB, Diabetes, Ayurveda, and Healthcare Innovation

Hundreds of Physicians and Global Leaders to Convene in Bhubaneswar, January 9-11, 2026

The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) is set to host its 19th Annual Global Health Summit (GHS) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from January 9 to 11, 2026. This landmark event, drawing hundreds of physicians, researchers, and policymakers from across the globe, will serve as a pivotal forum to address India's most urgent health challenges: Tuberculosis (TB), Diabetes, the integration of Ayurveda with modern medicine, and the adoption of cutting-edge health technology.

Uniting Medical Minds to Advance Healthcare Access

AAPI's mission centers on making quality healthcare affordable and accessible in



Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President of AAPI

India. "Our goal is to strengthen medical collaboration and foster innovation that truly impacts lives," said Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President of AAPI and Chairman of the summit. Renowned for bridging the Indian and US medical communities, the summit will build on this foundation by promoting joint research, mentorship, and the exchange of expertise in oncology, cardiology, infectious diseases, and preventive medicine.

Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Hon. Founder of KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, serves as Chief Patron, with an organizing committee of Odisha's leading healthcare figures, including Dr. Sita Kantha Dash (Chairman, Kalinga Hospital Ltd.), Dr. S. Santosh Kumar Dora (CEO, Kalinga Hospital Ltd.), and Dr. Ajit K. Mohanty (Director General, KIMS). "Bringing together such distinguished leaders ensures the summit benefits from a global viewpoint while addressing local health needs," noted Dr. Chakrabarty.

Summit Themes: TB Eradication, Diabetes Management, Ayurveda Integration, and Innovation

The summit will focus on three major

themes: eradicating Tuberculosis, advancing Diabetes care, and integrating Ayurveda into mainstream medicine. AAPI is pledging active support for the national TB-Free Tribal India campaign, spearheaded by Dr. Manoj Jain. "Our collaboration aims to accelerate progress toward a TB-free India, especially in tribal communities," said Dr. Jain.

Diabetes initiatives, led by Dr. Smitha Joshi, will highlight advances in management and prevention. Meanwhile, the Ayurveda Consortium, coordinated by Dr. Amit Shah and Dr. Arti Prasad, will explore the synergy between traditional practices and contemporary healthcare. "We believe Ayurveda can complement modern medicine and help address chronic diseases more holistically," remarked Dr. Shah.

Innovation is a cornerstone of the summit, with sessions spotlighting the role of artificial intelligence and digital health tools in revolutionizing diagnostics and patient care. "Technology is transforming healthcare delivery, enabling us to reach more patients, faster and more effectively," stated Dr. Santosh Kumar Dora.

Academic Excellence and Distinguished Participation

AAPI's Global Health Summit is lauded for its academic rigor, featuring keynote addresses and sessions led by top physicians and researchers from India and abroad. Topics will span new medical advancements, Continuing Medical Education (CME), Evidence-Based Learning

members, underscoring its national significance.

Addressing Broader Health and Social Challenges

Expanding beyond clinical medicine, the 2026 summit will tackle chronic disease prevention, rural health disparities,



climate change effects, and other global health concerns. The CEO Forum will confront issues such as healthcare equity, ethics, and physician burnout, and the Women's Forum will examine gender bias and leadership in medicine.

"We are committed to addressing not just diseases, but the systemic challenges that impact health outcomes," affirmed Dr. Meher Medavaram, President-Elect of AAPI.

Special sessions will address mental health, childhood obesity, non-communicable disease prevention, and community CPR training, reflecting AAPI's holistic approach to public health.

The summit will also showcase the Collaboration to Eliminate TB in India

projects. "This is a catalyst for impactful partnerships and real-world solutions," said Dr. Sita Kantha Dash.

Global collaboration will be furthered through alumni networking, strategic partnerships with Indian institutions, and the recognition of outstanding achievements via the AAPI Awards. With hundreds of US and international physicians participating, new alliances and projects are anticipated to emerge from the summit.

Odisha: A Symbolic and Strategic Venue

Odisha's selection as host is both symbolic and practical. The state's robust healthcare infrastructure, supported by renowned institutions like KIIT, KISS, and KIMS, provides an ideal setting for advancing medical education and healthcare delivery. "Hosting the summit in Odisha enables us to bring lasting benefits to the region and foster meaningful local collaborations," said Dr. Dr Rabi Samanta.

Social Responsibility and Community Engagement

Community outreach is integral to the summit, with public health education, preventive screenings, and awareness campaigns planned, especially targeting underserved rural and tribal populations. "Improving health outcomes requires engaging communities directly," emphasized Dr. Arti Prasad. AAPI's ongoing efforts in public health underscore its commitment to social responsibility.

Legacy and Future Vision

Since its inception in 2007, AAPI's Global Health Summit has played a crucial role in strengthening Indian healthcare. The 2026 summit is poised to be a milestone, influencing policy, shaping future health agendas, and reinforcing AAPI's legacy as a bridge between India and the United States. "AAPI GHS is an unmatched opportunity to connect with leaders shaping the future of healthcare," concluded Dr. Medavaram. "We look forward to launching new initiatives and continuing the legacy of our organization's leaders."

Registration and more details are available at www.aapiusa.org. Physicians and healthcare professionals worldwide are invited to join the summit in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, January 9-11, 2026, and help define the future of global health. For more details, please visit: www.aapiusa.org

The summit will focus on three major themes: eradicating Tuberculosis, advancing Diabetes care, and integrating Ayurveda into mainstream medicine. AAPI is pledging active support for the national TB-Free Tribal India campaign, spearheaded by Dr. Manoj Jain

(ELS), research methodology, and scientific writing. "Our summit is a launchpad for innovative ideas and medical breakthroughs," said Dr. Ajit K. Mohanty.

Medical students will have the opportunity to participate in Medical Jeopardy competitions and present research posters, fostering scientific exchange and professional growth. The event is expected to welcome high-level dignitaries, including the President, Prime Minister, and Health Minister of India, alongside professors, deans, and National Medical Board mem-

(CETI), with support from the CDC and USAID, sharing updates on TB elimination strategies and future engagement.

Industry, Academia, and Global Partnerships

AAPI's summit acts as a unique nexus for industry and academia. Healthcare companies will present their latest technologies and services via exhibits and product theaters, while academic sessions, chaired by leading physicians, will encourage the launch of collaborative

India's GDP to grow 7.2 pc in FY26, driven by rate cuts, public capex

NEW DELHI: India's economy is expected to grow 7.2 percent in fiscal 2026, driven by rate cuts, regulatory measures, strong monsoon, government capex and surplus liquidity, a recent report said.

Some impacts from GDP deflators are expected to fade in FY27, taking real GDP growth to 6.5 percent and nominal growth pace back towards 10 percent, the report from Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) said.

The report said that the room for aggressive RBI rate cuts is limited amid firm growth and inflation undershoot. However, it added that a clear case for reductions could emerge in Q4CY25 if forward risks to growth appear, with prevailing low inflation providing them with the necessary room.

"We expect support from home-grown levers, such as rate cuts, transmission of past reductions, regulatory measures, support for tariff-hit sectors, strong monsoon, low inflation, government capex spending, and surplus liquidity to offset the negative impact from global uncertainties," it said.

The central bank's support is necessary for foreign exchange and bond markets, via open market operations and through ongoing secondary market purchases, it noted. *IANS*

TechBiz POST

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Satya Nadella to visit India from Dec 10-12; to meet top leaders, discuss AI push

NEW DELHI: Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella will begin a three-day visit to India on December 10.

The India-born tech leader will travel to Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai as part of his tour, during which he is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, and other senior government officials. *IANS*



Delhi's Khan Market remains India's most expensive retail location, ranks 24th globally



NEW DELHI: Khan Market in New Delhi ranks 24th globally, maintaining its position as India's most expensive retail location with rents at \$223 per square foot (psf) per year -- up 3 percent year-on-year, according to a report on Wednesday.

While its global ranking slipped slightly from 23rd to 24th, Khan Market remains India's most expensive high street, reflecting resilience and enduring

appeal amid a competitive global landscape, said Cushman & Wakefield's 35th edition of its retail report, 'Main Streets Across the World.'

Notably, India's retail sector has outperformed both the global and APAC averages, registering a 6 percent rental growth (on-year).

London's New Bond Street has been crowned the world's most expensive retail destination for the first time, where rents

have risen by 22 percent in the past year to \$2,231 per square foot per year.

New Bond Street has leapfrogged Milan's Via Montenapoleone (\$2,179 psf/year), which last year became the first European street to top the global rankings, and New York's iconic Upper Fifth Avenue (\$2,000 psf/year).

"India's high streets are demonstrating exceptional resilience

and growing global prominence. Premium destinations like Khan Market, Connaught Place, and Galleria Market are attracting international and domestic brands, driven by rising affluence and evolving consumer preferences," said Gautam Saraf, Executive Managing Director, Mumbai and New Business, Cushman & Wakefield.

With limited mall supply, these high streets have become strategic hubs for retailers seeking visibility and engagement.

"Year-to-date, high streets have accounted for over half of retail leasing activity, underscoring their critical role in shaping India's retail evolution. This transformation reflects a broader trend of premium and experiential retail, positioning India as one of Asia Pacific's most dynamic markets," Saraf added.

India's Tier 1 cities led the rental growth in APAC region, with Gurgaon's Galleria Market recording a 25 percent increase, followed by Connaught Place in New Delhi (14 percent) and Kemps Corner in Mumbai (10 percent). *IANS*

Apple expands AppleCare+ in India, introduces Theft and Loss coverage with new flexible plans

NEW DELHI: Apple has expanded its AppleCare+ protection plans for customers in India, introducing more flexible options, including AppleCare+ with theft and loss for iPhone.

With new monthly and annual subscription choices, users now have greater freedom in how they protect their Apple devices and can keep coverage for as long as they want.

Apple said the updated plans aim to make device protection

easier and more affordable. "AppleCare gives our customers peace of mind knowing that their products are protected and supported by Apple experts," said Kaiann Drance, Apple's vice president of Worldwide iPhone Product Marketing.

"With today's updates in India, we're making it easier and more affordable to get

trusted protection, including access to our most complete coverage for iPhone," Drance added.

The newly introduced AppleCare+ with Theft and Loss covers up to two incidents of theft or loss each year.

Besides offering reassurance in case an iPhone goes missing, the plan also includes all the benefits of

regular AppleCare+.

Users get 24/7 priority support, battery replacement services, and unlimited accidental damage repairs using genuine Apple parts at Apple Stores and authorized service centers. Prices for the Theft and Loss plan start at Rs 799.

Customers can view these protection options and purchase plans directly through the Settings app on their iPhone, iPad, or Mac. *IANS*



India's growth to be driven by domestic demand as external environment stays uncertain: Morgan Stanley

NEW DELHI: India's economic growth will remain firmly anchored by domestic demand even as external conditions stay uncertain, Morgan Stanley said in its 2026 India Economics Outlook, projecting a "continued Goldilocks environment" for Asia's third-largest economy.

The report forecasts real GDP growth of 6.8 percent in FY26 and 6.5 percent in



FY27-28, driven primarily by an uptrend in household consumption, improving urban sentiment, and a broadening investment cycle.

"The growth trajectory will be supported by a broadening of domestic demand, while external demand remains clouded

by uncertainty," the research note states.

Morgan Stanley notes that a pivot in monetary and fiscal policy is helping revive urban consumption, which had softened due to high real interest rates and sluggish hiring trends.

With 100 bps of rate easing in 2025 already transmitted and additional tax reforms, including income tax cuts worth Rs1 trillion and GST rationalization, disposable incomes are rising.

At the same time, rural demand remains buoyant, supported by record agricultural output, favorable rainfall, and rising real wages. The report highlights that real rural wages have grown 3.1 percent in calendar year 2025, till date (CYTD25), compared to 1 percent

in 2024.

Morgan Stanley says India's post-pandemic capex cycle, initially led by public and household investments, is now expanding as private sector spending begins to pick up. Capacity utilization has stayed above the long-term average for the past

year, while new private investments are gaining traction in sectors such as clean energy, data centers, semiconductors, electronics, EVs, industrial real estate and healthcare.

A recent RBI study cited in the report suggests a rise in private project financing to Rs 2.7 trillion in FY26, up from Rs 2.2 trillion a year earlier.

However, services exports remain more resilient, up about 11 percent in CYTD25, but face uncertainties from US immigration policy changes such as the steep hike in H-1B visa fees to USD 100,000 and the proposed HIRE Act, which would impose a 25 percent excise tax on offshore services.

Despite external risks, macro-stability

With 100 bps of rate easing in 2025 already transmitted and additional tax reforms, including income tax cuts worth Rs1 trillion and GST rationalization, disposable incomes are rising

Goods exports remain fragile, growing only 0.9 percent in CYTD25, with sectors such as textiles, leather, and gems & jewelry seeing pressure, especially after the US imposed 50 percent tariffs on several Indian products from August 27. Exports to the US fell sharply, declining 20 percent month-on-month in September.

indicators remain "in the comfort zone," the report notes. CPI inflation is expected to align with the RBI's 4 percent target by FY27, while the current account deficit should remain at or below 1 percent of GDP. Forex reserves and low external debt are projected at 18.3 percent of GDP in FY27, which provides an additional buffer. ANI

Goyal to visit Israel for high-level trade talks, proposed FTA review on agenda

NEW DELHI: Underscoring the growing strategic and economic engagement between India and Israel, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is slated to visit Israel from November 20-22, an official statement said.

Goyal will be accompanied by a 60-member business delegation, facilitated by CII, FICCI, Assocham and Startup India, on the invitation of Minister of Economy and Industry of Israel, Nir Barkat, according to a ministry statement.

Goyal will hold high-level bilateral meetings with senior Israeli leadership. Apart from Barkat, he is also expected to meet a few other ministers.

Discussions are expected to focus on strengthening trade and investment ties, advancing cooperation in key sectors such as agriculture, water, defense, emerging technologies, life sciences, infrastructure, advanced manufacturing and exploring opportunities for enhanced collaboration between businesses of both countries including startups.

"Progress on the proposed India-Israel Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is also ex-

pected to be reviewed," according to the statement.

The minister will participate in the India-Israel Business Forum, involving leading business associations and industry representatives from both sides.

The Forum will include opening and closing plenary sessions, technical discussions, and structured B2B engagements aimed at expanding commercial partnerships, promoting investments, and identifying avenues for joint ventures in priority sectors.

In addition, the fourth edition of the high-level CEOs Forum would also be held with prominent CEOs from both sides.

Goyal is also slated to meet senior leaders from major Israeli companies in fields such as agriculture, desalination and waste water treatment, cyber security, smart mobility, infrastructure among others, and interact with prominent Israeli investors.

In addition to official engagements in Tel Aviv, the program includes visits to key institutions and innovation hubs offering insights into Israel's cutting-edge technological ecosystem. IANS



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal

India's ancient wisdom and global outlook must go hand in hand: MoS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development Dr Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani urged young members of the Indian diaspora in Baku to proudly embrace their dual identity -- balancing India's ancient wisdom with a modern, multicultural worldview.

Addressing a gathering of more than 1,000 Indians in Azerbaijan's capital, he said the diaspora plays a vital role in strengthening India's global presence and shaping its future.

The event brought together professionals from sectors such as oil and gas, hospitality, and commodity trading, along with 380 Indian students studying in the country.

Dr Pemmasani appreciated the strong sense of unity within the community, reflected in the establishment of multiple cultural and student associations, including the Indian Azerbaijan Association, the Azerbaijan Telugu Association, the Baku Tamil Sangham, and the Indian Students Association of Azerbaijan. He said such organizations keep cul-

tural bonds alive even when people live far from home.

Speaking about India's fast-changing landscape, the Union Minister highlighted the nation's progress in digital innovation, renewable energy, space exploration, and economic growth.

He said the Indian diaspora continues to be an important part of this journey, adding that their achievements bring pride to the country, their investments help create new opportunities, and their children act as bridges between different cultures.

"Members of the diaspora remain integral to India's journey, stating that their success enhances India's global standing, their investments generate opportunities, and their children serve as future bridges between cultures," he said.

Dr Pemmasani encouraged the youth to stay connected with India and contribute by sharing knowledge, mentoring young entrepreneurs, and supporting new ideas. IANS

Addressing a gathering of more than 1,000 Indians in Azerbaijan's capital, he said the diaspora plays a vital role in strengthening India's global presence and shaping its future

Rajasthan: 65,490 animals treated via 'unique' initiative

JAIPUR: The Animal Husbandry Department of Rajasthan has taken a "landmark step" in technological innovation by introducing a chatbot-based system for the treatment of sick animals.

This pioneering initiative enables livestock owners to report illnesses, symptoms, and related issues directly to expert veterinary doctors, ensuring prompt medical guidance.

Over the past six months, 82,713 livestock owners have used the platform, resulting in medical assistance for 65,490 animals.

Union Minister of State, Baghel, lauded the initiative and described it as a model worthy of adoption by other states. He praised Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Animal Husbandry Minister Joraram Kumawat for driving this innovation and urged wider implementation of the chatbot system across the country.

Animal Husbandry Minister Joraram Kumawat highlighted that the Rajasthan government is committed to strengthening animal husbandry, the backbone of the rural economy.

Technological interventions like chatbots, he said, are delivering real change by bringing veterinary services directly to livestock farmers.

"Our goal is to ensure medical assistance reaches every livestock owner at their doorstep," he added. *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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www.indiapost.com

November 21, 2025

Indian researchers develop smart portable device to detect toxic pesticides in water, food

NEW DELHI: A team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras and Panjab University has developed a portable, automated optical device capable of detecting extremely low concentrations of pesticide residues in water, food, and the environment that can pose serious risks to human and environmental health.

Conventional laboratory methods for detecting such residues, particularly the commonly used organophosphate Malathion, are expensive, time-consuming, and require skilled personnel.

The new research, supported by the Department of Science and Technology, under its 'Technology Development and Transfer' Program, addressed the challenge by designing a field-deployable, user-friendly device that offers real-time, ultra-sensitive pesticide detection.

The new 'Smart MDD (Malathion Detection Device)' is a colorimetric detection system that employs gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) and comes with an aptamer molecule engineered to recognize Malathion specifically.

The interaction causes a visible color shift -- from red to blue -- indicating the presence of the pesticide, a change that the device's built-in optical system precisely measures. This auto-

lished in the peer-reviewed journal Review of Scientific Instruments.

"This technology can have a significant real-world impact. It can help farmers, food safety

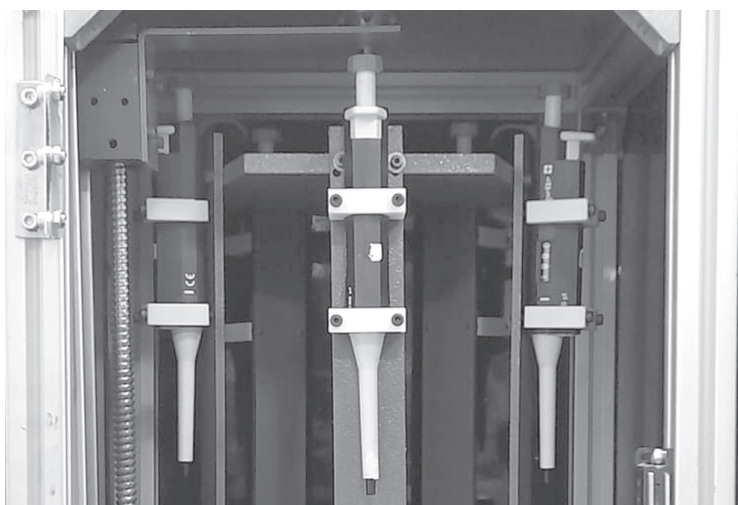
duce, or soil -- thereby ensuring compliance with safety standards and reducing public health risks," Prof. Sujatha Narayanan Unni, Department of Applied Mechanics and Biomedical Engineering, IIT Madras, told IANS.

"It can also aid in tracking pesticide runoff in water bodies, a major environmental concern," Unni added.

The team demonstrated a detection limit of about 250 picomolar and correlation with lab spectrophotometer results -- metrics that are rarely seen in portable devices.

Currently tested under laboratory conditions, the device will next undergo validation with real-world samples such as fruits, vegetables, and field water sources.

"We plan to extend the platform to detect a broader range of pesticides, strengthening its role in sustainable agricultural management and environmental monitoring," Dr. Rohit Kumar Sharma, Department of Chemistry and Centre for Advanced Studies in Chemistry, Panjab University, told IANS. *IANS*



Conventional laboratory methods for detecting such residues, particularly the commonly used organophosphate Malathion, are expensive, time-consuming, and require skilled personnel

mated process eliminates manual handling and enables quick, reliable results, said the team. The findings were pub-

agencies, and environmental regulators rapidly monitor pesticide contamination on-site -- whether in irrigation water, pro-

Nurses are backbone of healthcare system: Govt officials

NEW DELHI: Nurses are the backbone of the healthcare system, said officials at the Health Ministry while sharing India's progress in the Nursing Healthcare System.

Speaking at a two-day roundtable on strengthening the nursing workforce in India and Australia, the officials deliberated on best practices.

The event, led by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in collaboration with Edith Cowan University (ECU),



Australia, and Jhpiego, aimed at fostering deeper cooperation to join pathways to build a resilient, future-ready nursing workforce aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"Nurses are the backbone of healthcare," said Akanksha Ranjan, Deputy Secretary (Nursing and Dental), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, while emphasizing the need to build a more resilient and competency-based nursing workforce.

Ranjan also highlighted the gap

in the global nursing workforce.

"While 2.9 million nurses serve globally, the shortage stands at 4.5 million, creating significant global demand and opening pathways for ethical and well-governed nurse migration," the expert said.

"Nurses remain the heartbeat of the healthcare system globally," added

Dr. Deepika Khakha, Nursing Advisor, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health. *IANS*

Researchers use AI to create first 100-billion-star Milky Way simulation

WASHINGTON DC: Researchers combined deep learning with high-resolution physics to create the first Milky Way model that tracks over 100 billion stars individually.

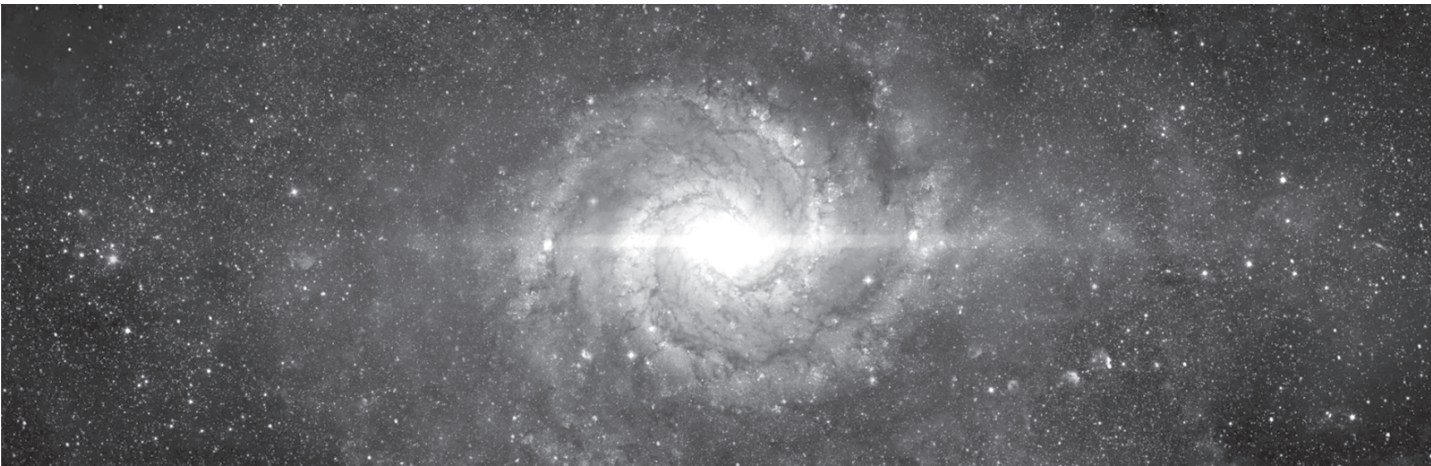
Researchers led by Keiya Hirashima at the RIKEN Centre for Interdisciplinary Theoretical and Mathematical Sciences (iTHEMS) in Japan, working with partners from the University of Tokyo and Universitat de Barcelona in Spain, have created the first Milky Way simulation capable of tracking more than 100 billion individual stars across 10 thousand years of evolution.

Their AI learned how gas behaves after supernovae, removing one of the biggest computational bottlenecks in galactic modeling. The result is a simulation hundreds of times faster than current methods.

The team achieved this milestone by pairing artificial intelligence (AI) with advanced numerical simulation techniques.

Their model includes 100 times more stars than the most sophisticated earlier simulations and was generated more than 100 times faster.

The work, presented at the international supercomputing conference SC '25, marks a major step forward for astrophysics, high-performance computing, and AI-assisted modeling.



The same strategy could also be applied to large-scale Earth system studies, including climate and weather research.

Scientists have not previously been able to model a galaxy as large as the Milky Way while maintaining fine detail at the

level of single stars.

Current cutting-edge simulations can represent systems with the equivalent mass of about one billion suns, far below the more than 100 billion stars that make

The challenge is tied to the interval between computational steps: to capture rapid events such as supernova evolution, the simulation must advance in very small time increments.

up the Milky Way.

As a result, the smallest "particle" in those models usually represents a group of roughly 100 stars, which averages away the behavior of individual stars and limits the accuracy of small-scale processes.

Shrinking the time-step means dramatically greater computational effort. Even with today's best physics-based models, simulating the Milky Way star by star would require about 315 hours for every 1 million years of galactic evolution. ANI



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Piyush Goyal meets Norwegian Health Minister to deepen ties on pharma, tech

NEW DELHI: Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal met with Norwegian Health Minister Jan Christian Vestre to foster ties across healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and technology.

Vestre, the Minister of Health and Care Services, Norway, is on a visit to India to deepen the country's collaboration in the health sector.

"We discussed deepening cooperation across healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and tech-led innovation to deliver quality, affordable, and accessible care for our people," said Goyal in a post on social media platform X, announcing his meeting with Vestre.

Earlier, Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda also held a meeting with Vestre and discussed India's priorities in digital health, human resource development, maternal and child nutrition, and collaborative research on diseases.

Nadda also proposed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for deepening collaboration between the two nations in health, medicine, and drug regulation.

"Met with Jan Christian Vestre, Health Minister of Norway, in New Delhi today. I proposed signing of MoUs for furthering our collaboration in health and medicine, as well as drug regulation," the Health Min-



Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal with Norwegian Health Minister Jan Christian Vestre

"We discussed deepening cooperation across healthcare, pharmaceuticals, and tech-led innovation to deliver quality, affordable, and accessible care for our people," said Goyal

ister posted on X.

"Discussed India's priorities in digital health, human resource development,

maternal and child nutrition, and collaborative research on diseases. Looking forward to advancing our healthcare partner-

ship and further deepening bilateral relations between our two countries," he added.

Vestre, who last year visited India as Norway's Minister of Trade, is also expected to attend the Bengaluru Tech Summit.

Meanwhile, the Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI), signed between the two countries, has successfully completed three phases and is currently in its fourth phase.

The initiative aimed to help India achieve the National Health Policy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and provide crucial technical support to the Health Ministry and National Health Mission (NHM).

In October, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava chaired the annual meeting of the NIPI along with Norway's Ambassador to India, May-Elin Stener.

The meeting aimed to review and approve the NIPI Progress Report 2025 and the budgeted work plans for 2025-26 under Phase IV of the initiative. *IANS*

New genetic tool reveals chromosome changes linked to pregnancy loss: Study

MARYLAND: Pregnancy loss affects up to 25 percent of all pregnancies, with most miscarriages occurring in the first trimester and roughly half caused by genetic or chromosomal abnormalities. But when pregnancy loss occurs three or more times, identifying the underlying cause becomes significantly more challenging, and often remains unknown.

Now, two new studies presented at the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) 2025 Annual Meeting & Expo in Boston suggest that a cutting-edge technology known as optical genome mapping (OGM) may uncover genetic factors missed by traditional methods, offering new hope for families seeking answers.

Researchers at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center investigated whether OGM could detect harmful chromosomal changes in patients with a family history or risk of recurrent pregnancy loss who had previously undergone traditional genetic testing, such as karyotyping or chromosomal microarray analysis, allowing direct comparison between methods. *ANI*

Over 70 Australian schools closed due to possible asbestos contamination

CANBERRA: More than 70 schools in the Australian capital of Canberra were ordered to close due to growing concerns about possible asbestos contamination from decorative sand products.

The government of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) said that 71 of 94 public schools in Canberra and surrounding suburbs would be closed after an audit found widespread use of sand products in which asbestos had been detected.

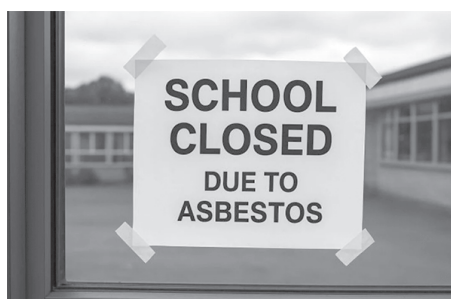
It comes after 24 ACT schools and pre-schools were fully or partially closed for a couple days, with two reopening shortly.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) had issued a recall notice over a type of decorative colorful sand after laboratory testing detected chrysotile asbestos.

The ACCC revealed that asbestos had been detected in four more sand products and said they may cause a risk to public health.

ACT's education minister Yvette Berry told Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) radio that the health risk to students and staff is small but that closures could last several days.

She said that education staff, building service officers and volunteers spent the



weekend identifying and mapping the sand in schools so that assessors can remove it safely.

The ACCC said respiratory asbestos has not been detected in any of the tested

samples and is considered unlikely to be released unless the sand is mechanically crushed or pulverized, Xinhua news agency reported.

According to the World Health Organization, Asbestos is a group of mineral fibers with widespread current and historical commercial uses, but which can cause deaths and serious ill-health in workers and other people who are exposed to these fibers (more than 200 000 deaths globally every year, along with a substantial burden of ill health).

All forms of asbestos have been assessed by WHO as causing several types of cancer, and asbestos also causes chronic respiratory diseases. Because of its use in building materials, anyone engaging in construction, maintenance and demolition of buildings where asbestos has been used is potentially at risk, even many years or decades after the asbestos was put in place. *IANS*



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Trump backs H-1B visas again despite Republican calls to end program

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump once again defended the H-1B visas, saying overseas workers are needed to train American workers.

"If you are going to be making chips, we don't make chips too much here anymore. We are going to be...in a period of a year, we are going to have a big portion of the chip market. But we have to train our people how to make chips. We used to do it, and foolishly we lost that business to Taiwan," Trump said while addressing reporters at the White House.

Last week, Trump, in an interview with Fox News' Laura Ingraham, supported the H-1B visa program.

When asked if his administration planned to deprioritize H-1B visas. He replied, "You do have to bring in talent."

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

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

Trump's comment sparked an intense debate with leading Republican and conservative leaders demanding the scrapping of the visa program. *ANS*

Immigration

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\$100,000 H-1B fee 'significant step to stop abuse': White House

WASHINGTON: The White House defended the Trump administration's H-1B visa policy, telling IANS that the \$100,000 application fee is a "significant first step to stop abuses of the system."

In an exclusive response to IANS, a White House spokesperson said that President Donald Trump has "done more than any president in modern history to tighten our immigration laws and put American workers first."

"The \$100,000 payment required to supplement new H1-B visa applications is a significant first step to stop abuses of the system and ensure American workers are no longer replaced by lower-paid foreign labor," White House Spokeswoman Taylor Rogers told IANS.

She also highlighted the recently launched "Project Firewall" to investigate companies flouting the H-1B visa rules.

"The Department of Labor launched Project Firewall as a new enforcement initiative [initiative] to investigate companies

that have abused the H1-B visa system.

The Trump administration is protecting American workers by restoring accountability in the H1-B process, ensuring that it is used to bring in only the highest-skilled foreign workers in spe-



The \$100,000 payment required to supplement new H1-B visa applications is a significant first step to stop abuses of the system and ensure American workers are no longer replaced by lower-paid foreign labor

cialty occupations and not low-wage workers that will displace Americans." Rogers added.

The White House reaction comes days after US President Donald Trump defended the program, saying it's needed to import talent.

In an interview with Fox News' Laura Ingraham recently, Trump was asked if his administration

planned to deprioritize H-1B visas. He replied, "You do have to bring in talent."

"President Donald Trump has 'done more than any president in modern history to tighten our immigration laws and put American workers first'"

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

Trump's comment sparked an intense debate with leading Republican and conservative leaders demanding the scrapping of the visa program.

Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene posted on X, reiterating her plans to introduce a bill to "ban H1B visas in all sectors" except the medical profession.

"Ending H1B visas will also help the housing market. Ending H1B visas mean more jobs available for Americans and more homes available for Americans...When Americans have good paying jobs they will be able to buy homes as long as they don't have to compete with legally imported labor on visas and rich powerful asset management companies," she added.

However, a leading immigration expert in Washington told IANS that Greene's bill is "one of the most efficient ways to hurt Americans," and would lead to more "preventable deaths."

In an interview with IANS, Sarah Pierce, the Director of Social Policy at Third Way, a think tank, argued that Greene's attempt to target the visa program would "gut access to care overnight."

"Slashing the flow of foreign workers, including the medical professionals her own communities rely on, would gut access to care overnight," she added. *ANS Exclusive*

Indian Sikh pilgrim, who went missing during pilgrimage, marries Pakistani man

CHANDIGARH: A middle-aged Sikh woman pilgrim, who went missing from the group of 1,923 devotees that had travelled to Pakistan this month to celebrate the 'Parkash Purab' (birth anniversary) of Guru Nanak Dev, has reportedly changed religion and married a Pakistani man in Lahore.

A nikahnama and passport copy has surfaced, claiming she is married and has changed her faith.

The pilgrim has been identified as Sarabjeet Kaur, a resident of Kapurthala district in Punjab.

Sikh groups are demanding a probe into her mysterious disappearance.

As per information, she has taken the name Noor Hussain and

married Nasir Hussain of Nayi Abadi Sheikupura in Pakistan.

As per Indian records, the woman travelled to Pakistan on November 4 with a group of 1,923 pilgrims via the Attari border in Amritsar under a bilateral agreement facilitating visits to religious shrines.

The 'jatha' was led by Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj of Akal Takht Sahib. After spending 10 days visiting various gurdwaras in Pakistan, the group of 1,922 returned to India.

According to immigration records, Sarabjeet Kaur had gone missing from the group. Her name was not found in the records of Pakistan's immigration while exiting, nor in India's immigration

records for re-entry. *ANS*



MEA cautions against job fraud cases as Iran suspends visa-free access for Indians

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs issued an advisory for Indian nationals travelling to Iran, cautioning them against fake job scams. This advisory comes after Tehran suspended the visa-free facility due to a surge in trafficking cases.

The suspension takes effect on November 22, 2025, and applies to all Indian citizens holding ordinary passports.

In the advisory, MEA alerted the Indian nationals about the multiple incidents where the Indian were deceived into travelling to Iran with promises of high-paying jobs. The

ordinary Indian passport holders visiting Iran with effect from 22 November 2025. This measure is intended to prevent further misuse of the facility by criminal elements. From this date, Indian nationals with ordinary passports would be required to obtain a visa to enter or transit through Iran," MEA stated.

"All Indian nationals intending to visit Iran are strongly advised to remain vigilant and avoid agents offering visa-free travel or onward transit to third countries via Iran," MEA added.

In September, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) issued a similar warning to Indian citizens about the risks of travelling to Iran for employment purposes.

In a weekly briefing, Randhir Jaiswal, MEA Official Spokesperson, highlighted that several Indian nationals have fallen prey to

criminal gangs, being kidnapped upon arrival in Iran and held for ransom

"There have been a number of recent cases involving Indian citizens who have been lured to travel to Iran on false promises of employment, or with assurances that they would be sent further to third countries for employment. Upon reaching Iran, these Indian nationals have been kidnapped by criminal gangs and ransoms have been demanded from their families for securing their release," said Jaiswal.

The visa-free entry is exclusively for tourism purposes, valid for 15 days once every six months, and doesn't cover employment. Criminals are luring Indians with false promises of jobs, often collaborating with unscrupulous agents. ANI

"The attention of the Government has been drawn to several incidents of Indian nationals being lured to Iran on false promises of employment or with assurances of onward transit to third countries. These individuals were tricked into journeying to Iran by taking advantage of the visa waiver facility available for ordinary Indian passport holders. On arrival in Iran, many of them were kidnapped for ransom," MEA said in the advisory.

MEA stated that many of these individuals were then kidnapped on arrival, with criminal gangs demanding ransom from their families.

"The attention of the Government has been drawn to several incidents of Indian nationals being lured to Iran on false promises of employment or with assurances of onward transit to third countries. These individuals were tricked into journeying to Iran by taking advantage of the visa waiver facility available for ordinary Indian passport holders. On arrival in Iran, many of them were kidnapped for ransom," MEA said in the advisory.

MEA also noted Iran's decision to suspend the visa waiver facility following the surge in these cases.

"The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has accordingly suspended the visa waiver facility available to

Chile votes in polarized presidential election dominated by crime and immigration

SANTIAGO: Chileans are voting in a presidential election shaped by hardline proposals on crime and immigration, Euro News reported. Four years after electing progressive leader Gabriel Boric, the country is now deeply polarized, with a compulsory voting system adding uncertainty to the outcome.

More than 14 million citizens are eligible to cast ballots to renew the full Chamber of Deputies and nearly half the Senate, a vote seen as pivotal for Chile's political balance, according to Euro News.

Concerns over rising immigration and crime linked to transnational networks have fuelled harsh security rhetoric among candidates. Evelyn Matthei said drug traffickers should be "in jail or in the cemetery," while Franco Parisi has called for "bullet or jail," describing drug trafficking as "narco-terrorism."

The three leading candidates present sharply contrasting visions for Chile's future. Euro News reported that Jose

More than 14 million citizens are eligible to cast ballots to renew the full Chamber of Deputies and nearly half the Senate, a vote seen as pivotal for Chile's political balance

Antonio Kast, 59, of the Republican Party, is making his third bid for the presidency, setting aside earlier polarizing positions to focus on fighting crime and illegal immigration.

Jeannette Jara, 51, a former minister in Boric's administration and a member of the Communist Party, is promising more generous pensions, lower electricity prices, and large-scale housing construction.

Johannes Kaiser, 49, a former YouTube commentator and sitting lawmaker, has questioned vaccination programs, opposed abortion and pledged to withdraw Chile from climate agreements and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

A new compulsory voting law introduced in 2023 could draw millions to polling stations, adding an unprecedented degree of unpredictability to the process, according to Euro News. TikTok has become a crucial battleground, with Jose Antonio Kast enjoying a significant advantage among younger voters. ANI

Emerging Study Abroad Destinations for Indian Students -- Germany, Dubai, Ireland, Japan and the Netherlands Lead the Next Wave

NEW DELHI: As the global higher-education landscape continues to evolve, Jamboree Education shares five emerging destinations for Indian students: Germany, Dubai (UAE), Ireland, Japan, and the Netherlands. These countries are increasingly being chosen as alternatives or complements to traditional destinations such as the US, UK, Canada and Australia; thanks to more welcoming immigration and visa regimes, affordability, promising career prospects, and strong institutional offerings.

Why these destinations are gaining traction

Against the backdrop of "traditional" international destinations like the US, UK, Canada, and Australia presenting a number of challenges, countries that offer high-quality education, affordability, favorable visa/work-back options and strong job opportunities are coming to the fore.

The total number of Indian students studying abroad has crossed the 1.8 million mark in 2025, up from about 1.3 million in 2023.

Within this broad trend, the five destinations we highlight are emerging as particularly compelling. Here's an overview:

1. Germany

Current snapshot:

• For the winter semester 2023-24, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) reported

49,483 Indian students enrolled in German universities - a 15.1% year-on-year rise.

• More recent statements suggest the figure has touched nearly 60,000 Indian students (a ~20% rise) in 2025.

Why Germany stands out:

- Indian students now form the largest group of international students in Germany, overtaking China.
- Low or zero tuition in many public institutions, strong STEM/engineering programs.
- Clear post-study stay/work routes make for a greater influx of international talent.

• Students are attracted by the affordability + quality combination at a time when many traditional destinations are becoming more expensive or restrictive.

What Indian students should keep in mind:

• Though tuition is low, living costs (approx. INR 10L/year) and proof-of-funds (e.g., blocked account) still need to be budgeted for.

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For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Mumbai's real estate sees \$1.2 billion YTD institutional inflows

NEW DELHI: Institutional investments in Mumbai's real estate market crossed \$1.2 billion in the first nine months of 2025, making it the fourth consecutive year the city has surpassed the billion-dollar mark, as per recent report.

This performance signals Mumbai's strong recovery and return to pre-pandemic investment levels, the report from real estate services firm Cushman & Wakefield said.

At the national level, institutional investment inflows across private equity and REITs reached \$4.7 billion year-to-date.

Cushman and Wakefield forecasts the total inflows to touch roughly \$6-6.5 billion in 2025, potentially making it the second-best year on record for India's commercial real estate.

Domestic institutions grew in the past few years, now accounting for 48 percent of inflows between January and September, with foreign investors providing the remaining 52 percent.

This structural shift has helped offset volatility in cross-border capital flows and strengthened the market's stability, the firm noted.

Office assets remain the dominant choice for investors, receiving 35 percent of year-to-date inflows, followed by residential at 26 percent, retail at 12 percent and logistics and industrial at 9 percent. *IANS*

Real Estate POST

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Bedroom and bed direction as per Vastu



Details on Page 23 ►

Maha Cabinet clears new MHADA policy for major affordable housing projects in Mumbai suburbs

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, recently approved a new policy for the redevelopment of Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) housing projects covering areas of 20 acres or more in the Mumbai suburbs.

This policy is expected to significantly promote affordable housing in large numbers for the citizens across Mumbai and its suburbs.

The cabinet decision is crucial as MHADA intensifies its focus on generating a substantial number of housing units in the Mumbai suburbs through cluster redevelopment, a joint venture model for private land parcels, and the 20 percent inclusive housing scheme for private developers.

Major works include the 142-acre Motilal Nagar project and new proposals in Sion, Andheri and Jogeshwari. The plan aims to blend affordable and inclusive housing with the rehabilitation of

existing residents while shaping modern, mixed-use neighborhoods.

The cabinet also cleared a proposal for concept-based iconic city development, meant to guide the proper use of land



held by various authorities in the state, including CIDCO. Under the plan, CIDCO and other agencies will be empowered to create integrated colonies based on approved concepts, covering residential clusters and international commercial zones.

The cabinet approved amendments to the Maharashtra Public Trust Act of 1950. It also agreed to remove defamatory terms from the Maharashtra Begging Prohibition Act. Following recommendations from the Law and

rehabilitation and resettlement matters, to speed up the disposal of pending cases under Section 64 of the 2013 Act on fair compensation and transparency. A release from the chief minister's office said this measure is in-

Justice Department, in line with a Supreme Court order, terms such as leprosy sufferer, leper and leprosy hospital will be removed from Sections 9 and 26 of the 1959 Act.

The cabinet sanctioned new posts to handle land acquisition,

tended to reduce the existing backlog.

It also approved the creation of 339 posts for the Ratan Tata Maharashtra State Skill University, along with 232 teaching posts and 107 non-teaching posts. *IANS*

Telangana CM seeks Centre's help for mega projects

HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy pitched for robust economic growth in the state by seeking the Union Government's assistance in completing game-changing projects like Musi Rejuvenation, Metro Rail expansion, diversion of Godavari water to Hyderabad, and the Regional Ring Road.

Participating in the regional meeting chaired by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Manohar Lal Khattar, the Chief Minister out-

lined the state government's vision to develop Hyderabad as the most happening global city by taking up a slew of infrastructure development projects.

Seeking the Centre's full help,



Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy

the Chief Minister said that many development projects were pending for approval.

He requested the Union Minister to grant permissions immediately and also extend support to Metro Rail phase two, Musi project, Godavari water diversion scheme, and Regional Ring Road works.

The Chief Minister briefed Union Minister Khattar on the zero-carbon emission measures, including promoting EV vehicles in the state.

He said that 3,000 electric buses will be pressed into ser-

vice in Hyderabad next year.

The Future City project, global investments in the new city and the proposed dry port to bolster the state economy were also dis-

the cooperation of the Central government," he said.

He revealed that the state government will release the Telangana Rising Vision Docu-

The Future City project, global investments in the new city and the proposed dry port to bolster the state economy were also discussed in the meeting

cussed in the meeting.

"We are not competing with other states in the country. Our competition is with Singapore, Tokyo, and New York. It requires

ment 2047 on December 9.

"We are working to make Telangana a 1 trillion US dollar economy by 2034 and a 3 trillion-dollar economy by 2047. *IANS*

Bedroom and bed direction as per Vastu

HARINI BALASUBRAMANIAN

A bedroom should be designed to promote sound sleep and rejuvenation. Vastu Shastra can be a useful guide in designing a bedroom space. According to Vastu, a bedroom's design and orientation impact one's mental and physical health. If one faces issues such as sleep problems or conflicts in relationships, checking the Vastu compliance of the bedroom may give some cues.

Besides the right bed direction and sleeping direction, the proper placement of various elements in a bedroom, such as doors, wardrobes, mirrors and wall colors may be crucial in fostering positivity, relaxation and stability in the house. On the other hand, ignoring the Vastu basics may invite unwanted problems such as sleep disturbances, anxiety, health issues and even relationship problems in couples. In this guide, we bring you tips for designing a bedroom to create a harmonious space by balancing the various elements of nature.

As per the ancient principles of Vastu Shastra, the Vastu direction for sleeping that is considered best is the south direction. That is, the head should be towards the south and feet towards the north when you sleep. Similarly, a master bedroom should be placed in the southwest direction, which aligns with the Vastu concepts. Here is a complete guide to designing a bedroom, including useful guidelines for sleeping positions recommended in Vastu.

What is the ideal bedroom direction as per Vastu?

The master bedroom is the room usually designed for the head of the family. Typically, this room is the largest compared to other bedrooms of the house and people use it to store valuables, including money, important documents, etc. Designing a Vastu-compliant master bedroom ensures the overall well-being of the family, boosts relationships and promotes the flow of positive energies in the house.

The ideal directions for a master bedroom recommended in Vastu are:

Southwest: The southwest direction, also called the Nairutya corner, is associated with the earth element, signifying stability, strength and prosperity. A master bedroom in this direction brings financial stability, good health and harmony in the house.

West: If you are unable to design a bedroom in the southwest direction, you can



consider west as an alternate direction for bedroom placement. This will ensure wealth and prosperity.

Northwest: Northwest is another favorable direction for the placement of bedrooms, especially children's bedrooms. For larger plots, Vastu recommends allocating space for a bedroom in the northwest part of the north side near the living

room. This helps boost the flow of positive energies in the area.

North: Designing a bedroom in the north is considered lucky for everyone, especially young students looking for job or business opportunities. However, the bed should not be towards the north as sleeping with the head towards the north is considered inauspicious.

East: A bedroom in the east can be considered if it is not possible to construct it in the other Vastu-recommended directions. An east bedroom is said to give students a sharp intellect and will help them excel in studies. Moreover, east side bedrooms may be more suitable for unmarried children or guests.

Bedroom location as per Vastu

When designing a bedroom in a newly constructed house, it is important to understand the Vastu principles and how they impact our lives. While the southwest direction is the most favorable direction for the placement of a bedroom, it is essential to consider other location factors. For example, if it is a duplex home, the bedroom should ideally be on the first floor as this space brings calmer energies and ensures privacy.

Choose a location that ensures proper ventilation and sunlight for the bedroom. This ensures the room receives a constant flow of positive energies. Typically, bedrooms with attached balconies are considered auspicious as they bring positive energy and promote good health.

www.housing.com

'Finally, my own home': Maharashtra's old woman finds dignity, thanks to PM Modi's housing scheme

NEW DELHI: In the narrow lanes of Dhule city in Maharashtra, an old woman named Santosh Choudhary finally feels free from the constant stress of kaccha house. The reason: she now lives under a secure roof of her own, built with support from the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

For years, Latabai struggled to manage rent from her limited income.

"Our financial condition was very weak. We lived in rented houses for years because we couldn't afford to build our own," she told IANS.

But her life began to change when her application under PMAY was approved.

"My form was selected in 2016. First, I received Rs 60,000, then Rs 40,000, and gradually the full assistance. I am very grateful to PM Modi because, due to this scheme, I finally have my own home," Latabai said.



With the financial help provided under PMAY, she was able to construct a small but strong house -- something she had only dreamed of earlier.

Standing inside her new home, she says the scheme has not just given her a structure of bricks and cement, but also dignity, stability, and a renewed sense of security.

Latabai is among thousands of women in Maharashtra who have benefitted from the housing scheme, aimed at providing affordable pucca houses to economically weaker families.

For many like her, PMAY has become a path to self-reliance, replacing years of uncertainty with hope and a sense of belonging.

Launched on April 1, 2016, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) is the Centre's flagship mission under the Ministry of Rural Development and is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. IANS



Vastu Tips for a Peaceful Bedroom



For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

Philosophy

SUNYATA (ALFRED SORENSEN)

It did not then occur to me that there is a feminine truth, complementary, but often contrasting and seemingly at war with the masculine truth, different in approach, in function and in fulfilment, both right in their own light, and right in their own wars, or plays, or readjustment.

The division was not clear in my conscious. Truly, I felt that girls and women around me were more noisy with their tongues and desires than were men, more emotional, more volatile and more silly, but also more gentle, and sensitive, and un-mental in their perceptions and their conceptions. So vicariously I lived in their rhythm, vibrating with them in unitive, direct, unmental approach.

I was no stranger to the subtly wilful passive waiting, as the cats waiting on the mouse, nor to the seemingly insincere play and poses, the flutter and the wordiness, which often means or hides something else; the more real or their true purpose. I was not in the least analytical or critical at first, but intuitively,



Sunyata
(Alfred Sorensen)

various aspects, faculties, characteristics and truths complementarily blended? With the complementary opposite harmonized and organically functioning at ease within, the individual can be calmly aware of his Individuum "And they shall again become one flesh."

Not even 'dreamy' the noisy ones would be likely to term me for they did not see my solitude, and with them I seemed attentive, responsive and practical enough, though neither ambitious nor brilliant, but a fairly good listener, even to tedious, subjective tales, patient of ego-antics, tolerant of frailty and foibles, uncondemning of blunders and of "sins".

Some positive assets in the world market seem to be fair competence, fair intelligence, a certain calm balance in success and in calamities, no fuss or flutter, but practical simplicity.

He seemed to be only half a man, who had to search and to lean on a "better-half" for his Wholeness or fulfilment, a prey to fluctuation and to golden chains. And woman, attracted to or attracting a worse half to bully or to obey, finding her support and fulfilment

Highest type of manhood includes womanhood
Often I knew women better than they knew themselves

vibrationally, I came to 'know' the feminine language of being, though I did not speak it or want to speak it.

Often I knew women better than they knew themselves; (so they said) yet I could not myself act a pose or play a part, which was not my own. A very poor actor or artist in forms, yet at times with the intuitive flair, which made me less scratched by the claws in velvety pussy feet, less dulled or excited by the febrile or gentle distilling or nectar, which may well turn into poison.

Uncritical, unanalytical, receptive and 'accepting' yet somehow, when in danger, aware! Not consciously so at the time perhaps, but in after taste or in the inner, dark chamber, where the negative plate might become positive and, make me even analytically aware. But intuition preceded and predominated and, could nearly always be trusted.

Is not really the highest type of manhood that which includes womanhood? Which, within itself, comprises the feminine and the masculine rhythm, their

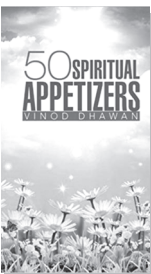
outside herself, she too is but a half Man.

In the ancient garden of pure consciousness two falls occurred, the first, (when man was divided and woman formed from his lost rib) conditioning and causing the other; secondly, when both became analytical and "saw that they were naked" and divided, and so descended into the play of opposites.

Excerpted from 'The Nectar of Sunyata'. The 135th birth anniversary of Sunyata was observed on October 27

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

Vinod Dhawan



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

Jac O'Keeffe

Spirituality teacher based in USA.

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India-Bhutan relationship offers a constructive model for South Asia and a peaceful Himalayan region

IBRAHIM KHALIL AHASAN

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan November 11-12 comes at a delicate moment for South Asia, a region navigating economic pressures, domestic political transitions, and the strategic uncertainty brought by shifting major-power relations. While India and Bhutan share a long-standing partnership rooted in trust, development cooperation, and geographic proximity, Modi's trip carries broader implications for how New Delhi seeks to engage the region and what kind of stability it hopes to cultivate. In many respects, this visit signals continuity rather than change-it reflects India's long-term priorities in maintaining peaceful frontiers and mutually beneficial relations with its neighbors, while acknowledging that South Asia today is no longer the same as it was a decade ago.

Reaffirming A Foundational Partnership

India and Bhutan have nurtured one of South Asia's most resilient and least con-

sis. Nepal experiences frequent political turnover. The Maldives is adjusting to new strategic preferences. Bangladesh faces domestic and external pressures. Pakistan remains economically and politically fragile.

In such a landscape, India's visit to Bhutan sends a message emphasizing stability and predictability. Rather than attempting to expand influence through dramatic initiatives, Modi's approach emphasizes steady engagement-through infrastructure, energy cooperation, connectivity, and people-to-people exchange. South Asian states, large and small, increasingly prefer partnerships that support domestic development and regional peace rather than geopolitical rivalry. India appears to acknowledge this reality by focusing on practical cooperation.

Himalayan Security Without Confrontational Signaling

The Himalayan region remains sensitive for India, Bhutan, and China alike.

The Himalayan region remains sensitive for India, Bhutan, and China alike. Bhutan's ongoing boundary discussions with China have been closely observed across the region, not only for their implications on territorial questions but also for what they signify about evolving regional diplomacy

Bhutan's ongoing boundary discussions with China have been closely observed across the region, not only for their implications on territorial questions but also for what they signify about evolving

tentious bilateral relationships. The partnership is defined by shared cultural ties, geographic interdependence, and decades of development cooperation. Modi's visit, therefore, is a reaffirmation rather than a recalibration. It signals that India sees Bhutan as a key partner in maintaining a stable Himalayan region.

For Bhutan, the visit underscores continuity in its careful diplomacy-seeking economic advancement and diversified external engagement while preserving strong relations with India. Bhutan's foreign policy is rooted in a pragmatic balance: maintaining deep ties with India while gradually exploring avenues for broader international outreach, including dialogue with China. Modi's visit respects this balanced approach.

A Message Of Stability

South Asia today is more fluid and fragmented than in previous decades. Sri Lanka is recovering from the economic cri-

regional diplomacy. Bhutan aims for a peaceful resolution of its boundary issues and seeks to handle both India and China with sensitivity and independence.

Modi's visit, in this sense, does not attempt to counter or overshadow Bhutan's engagement with China. Instead, it affirms India's willingness to maintain open communication and mutual respect regarding Bhutan's sovereign choices. At the same time, the visit quietly reinforces India's interest in preserving stable Himalayan frontiers-a goal broadly shared by all countries in the region.

This balanced approach benefits all sides. It avoids escalatory rhetoric, supports Bhutan's diplomatic autonomy, and aligns with a wider South Asian desire to keep the Himalayan region free from tensions.

(The author is a Dhaka-based independent columnist specializing in South Asian affairs.) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author



cosnova Beauty, Reliance Retail partner to bring 'essence', Europe's No. 1 cosmetics brand, to India

MUMBAI: Reliance Retail Limited (RRL) has entered into an exclusive distribution partnership with cosnova Beauty, the Germany-based global cosmetics company, to bring 'essence', Europe's No. 1 cosmetics brand by units sold, to the Indian market.

According to a joint statement, the collaboration strengthens RRL's growing beauty portfolio and will introduce essence's vibrant range of high-quality, affordable, and cruelty-free makeup products to consumers across India.

The launch will be enabled by Reliance Retail's integrated omnichannel ecosystem, making the essence range of products accessible nationwide across online platforms, beauty stores, and partner retail formats.

As the official distributor, RRL will expand the brand's reach across premier beauty destinations throughout India,

the statement noted.

Founded in Germany in 2002, essence is celebrated globally for its "Make Beauty Fun" philosophy, believing that make-up should be available for everyone.

Having over 80 percent of its products manufactured in Europe, 'essence' blends innovation with highest quality standards, all while ensuring affordable prices everyone loves, it added.

responsible choice for conscious consumers," the joint statement read.

With its arrival in India, essence aims to inspire a new wave of creative self-expression by beauty experimentation, encouraging consumers to mix, match, and play with products that make makeup a joyful part of everyday life for everyone.

This launch reflects Reliance Retail's commitment to offering the best global beauty experiences to Indian consumers, bringing together fun, inclusivity, and sustainability under one brand, it said. Reliance Retail Limited (RRL) is a subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL).

RRVL, through its subsidiaries and affiliates, operates an integrated omnichannel network of 19,821 stores and digital commerce platforms across Grocery, Consumer Electronics, Fashion and Lifestyle and Pharma consumption baskets. ANI

THE LAUNCH WILL BE ENABLED BY RELIANCE RETAIL'S INTEGRATED OMNICHANNEL ECOSYSTEM, MAKING THE ESSENCE RANGE OF PRODUCTS ACCESSIBLE NATIONWIDE ACROSS ONLINE PLATFORMS, BEAUTY STORES, AND PARTNER RETAIL FORMATS

"essence updates around half of the product range twice a year and introduces regularly trend editions inspired by the latest beauty and lifestyle trends. Its commitment to 100% cruelty-free practices and dedication to sustainability - including 100% vegan ingredients, eco-friendly packaging and micro plastic particles free formulas - makes it a

ANUSHKA SEN COLLABORATES WITH GRAMMY WINNING-AMERICAN MUSIC PRODUCER FOR DEBUT SINGLE

MUMBAI: Actress and content creator Anushka Sen is now set to debut as a musician with her debut single, 'Chameleon' and said that it is a song born out of change.

The track marks the intersection of Anushka's multi-faceted creative evolution and the world-class production of Grammy-winning American producer Ken Lewis.

Lewis, who is two-time Grammy Award winner and a 8 time nominee, has worked with some of the biggest global artists including Taylor Swift, Kendrick Lamar, Kanye West and has given 79 Billboard no ones.

Speaking about the journey behind her debut as a singer and the emotion driving this song, Anushka shares, "Music has been woven into my life for as long as I can remember, but I never truly imagined I would one day create a song of my own and put it out into the world."



"Chameleon came to me at a time when I was reassessing who I am and who I want to become. It's a song born out of change, the kind of change that feels scary but necessary. Throughout my life, people have expected me to stay in one mold or continue doing only what I'm known for, but I've never believed in limiting myself like that."

Anushka said that every phase of her journey has taught her something new, and "music is the next space where I want to grow, explore, and experiment fearlessly."

Chameleon was recorded during her recent trip to the USA, with Lewis bringing his signature global sound.

She added: "A big part of this dream comes from my childhood. I grew up around music, my mother has been my earliest teacher, and she's the person who quietly planted this love for singing in me." IANS

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RANVEER SINGH THE 'THE WRATH OF GOD' IN POSTER OF DHURANDHAR

Ahead of the much-awaited trailer release of Ranveer Singh's action entertainer "Dhurandhar" recently, the makers have treated the netizens with an intense new poster of the protagonist from the movie.

The image shows Ranveer in his rugged avatar with long hair and a bushy beard. He can be seen running with a rifle in his hands. The intensity in his eyes makes his appearance even more menacing.

Promising to take charge as 'The Wrath of God', Ranveer captioned the post, "I am The Wrath of God (Crossed Swords Emoji) #DhurandharTrailer Out Today at 12:12 PM. In Cinemas 5th December. (sic)."

Originally, the trailer launch event was scheduled to take place on November 12; however, the makers later decided to postpone the event to November 18 due to unforeseen circumstances.

The makers had issued a statement saying, "As a mark of respect to the victims and families of yesterday's Delhi blasts as well as to be sensitive to the delicate situation concerning the health of our beloved Shri Dharmendra ji, the Dhurandhar trailer launch scheduled for tomorrow stands postponed. The revised date and details for the trailer launch will be shared soon. Thank you for your understanding. Jio Studios, B62 Studios & Team Dhurandhar (sic)."

Before unveiling the trailer of Aditya Dhar's directorial, the makers have been sharing character posters for the lead cast of the drama, including Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, and Arjun Rampal. *IANS*

THE IMAGE SHOWS RANVEER IN HIS RUGGED AVATAR WITH LONG HAIR AND A BUSHY BEARD. HE CAN BE SEEN RUNNING WITH A RIFLE IN HIS HANDS. THE INTENSITY IN HIS EYES MAKES HIS APPEARANCE EVEN MORE MENACING



TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

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

Shehnaaz Gill's message to her younger self: I AM PROUD OF YOU

Actress-singer Shehnaaz Gill, who is basking in the success of her maiden production "Ikk Kudi", has reflected on her long journey, offering advice to the version of her from ten years ago and to the woman she hopes to become in the next decade.

Looking back at her early struggles, Shehnaaz told IANS that she would tell her younger self only one thing: "Well done, Shehnaaz Gill. I am proud of you. You are doing so well in life. What I wanted to achieve in life, you are doing that. God bless you always. Keep on growing."

She also spoke about the road ahead, stressing that she doesn't want success to make her complacent.

"Shehnaaz, don't think that you become something.

You still have to do so much hard work in your life. Keep going. Keep working hard. Never stop."

In a candid warning shaped by her experiences, the actress noted: "Don't get influenced by anyone. Be smart. People can be bad. They will try to suppress you. They will try to spoil your mind." *IANS*

Ruhi Singh on 'Masti 4': Every film has a different flavor

Actress Ruhi Singh recently spoke about her upcoming adult comedy "Masti 4," addressing any hesitations audiences might have about the genre.

In an exclusive interview with IANS, she highlighted that every film has its own unique flavor and assured that 'Masti 4' is packed with humor, making it the perfect stress-busting watch for those looking for some lighthearted fun.

When asked about how mindful audiences should be, while watching an adult comedy, Ruhi Singh explained, "It's a genre. Masti has always had its own audience. Every film has a different flavor, and this one is packed with humor. If you're stressed and want to have a good time without overthinking, Masti 4 is perfect. Go to a theatre, laugh your heart out, and enjoy."

Speaking about her pairing with Aftab Shivdasani in the film, the actress mentioned, "Aftab is an absolute charmer-gentle, polite, and genuinely sweet. My friends, my family, my mom-we've all been fans. I was thrilled to work opposite him."

"I also admire all the other actors-Riteish Deshmukh is brilliant, and Vivek Oberoi sir is unforgettable. Arshad Warsi sir has been my favorite for years. Meeting him on set made me very happy. Working with such talented people felt incredible."

When asked about her decision to join "Masti 4," Singh explained that the main reason was the film's stature as a major franchise releasing in theatres. IANS

Shraddha Kapoor's PERTINENT QUESTION FOR PHOTO EDITORS

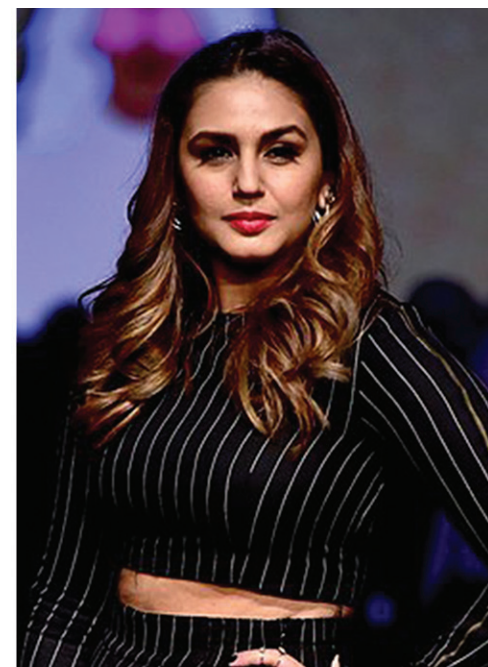
Bollywood star Shraddha Kapoor, who was last seen in 'Stree 2', has a very interesting query for all the Photo editors of the world.

The actress took to her Instagram, and shared a series of pictures from her photoshoot. In the pictures captured in mid-close up, the actress can be seen fully decked up wearing a blue colored top, as she rounded up her looks with demi-fine jewelry from her own brand.

She wrote in the caption, "Yeh photoshop wale maathe ka til kyun nikal dete hain". The actress is also known for her wit and quirkiness, and her posts on social media are a testament to the same. Shraddha was recently seen devouring 'gajar ka halwa' while getting ready, seated on her makeup chair in her makeup room.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Shraddha

Kapoor is set to voice the animated character of Judy Hopps in the Hindi version of 'Zootopia 2'. Bringing the beauty of her cuteness through her voice, Shraddha seems to be the perfect choice to portray the lovable Judy. IANS



Huma Qureshi on success & failure: I'M ABLE TO ENJOY MY WORK

In a journey spanning over a decade in the Hindi entertainment industry, actress Huma Qureshi, whose latest release is "Maharani 4," talked about her understanding of success, recognition and failure, which she says has not dramatically transformed over the years but has steadily grown into something healthier and more grounded.

Huma, who made her debut in 2012 with "Gangs of Wasseypur", has had her share of hits and misses with films such as Ek Thi Daayan, Dedh Ishqiya, Badlapur, Jolly LLB 2, Kaala, Leila, Viceroy's House, Dobaara: See Your Evil, Bell Bottom, Double XL, Tarla, Army of the Dead and Monica, O My Darling to name a few.

Looking back at her journey, Huma shared that the real shift has been an internal one.

"It's not transformed. I think it's become better. I've connected with myself more as an artist and as a person, as a woman," Huma told IANS.

The actress added that she now approaches her work without the emotional baggage that often comes with the industry.

"I think I'm just able to function without any of the baggage. I'm just able to enjoy my work and have fun and really. I mean, I can't complain," added the actress.

The fourth season of "Maharani" has brought in two new names Rajeshwari Sachdev and Darsheel Safary. IANS



Red Fort blast: India facing a new form of Jihad?

SRIJAN SHARMA

On 10 November, after nearly a decade, India witnessed its first major terror attack in the heartland, beginning in the national capital, killing 13 people and injuring more than 20. The largest bomb strike since the 2006 Mumbai train bombings has blurred what were once clear red lines on terrorism against India. The Red Fort blast must be viewed as a serious warning-possibly the beginning of a new phase of

lence. No terror outfit has claimed the Red Fort attack. This suggests an evolving form of subversive terrorism-blending direct and indirect methods such as sabotage, institutional infiltration, front groups, kidnappings, and targeted assassinations.

Echoes Of IM-SIMI Era

This shift recalls the pattern seen with the Indian Mujahideen (IM) and the Students Islamic

groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Bangladesh-based Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami. This support facilitated the emergence of the Indian Mujahideen in 2003. It ushered in a new phase of indirect attack methods, where the main outfit enabled bombings without direct involvement.

The ISI's infamous Karachi Project used LeT and other groups to train Indian youth. They were indoctrinated, trained in IED construction using locally available materials, and deployed into Indian cities-with the aim of leaving no visible Pakistani footprint and creating a band of radicalized Indian Muslims. This method fuelled the bombings in Jaipur, Pune, and Ahmedabad (2005-2010).

The cases of Sayed Zabiuddin Ansari (Abu Hamza)-who taught Hindi to the 26/11 attackers and relayed instructions via VoIP-and Yasin Bhatkal, co-founder of IM and perpetrator of multiple blasts, illustrate this pattern.

Spotters played a key role by identifying vulnerable youth-often blue-collar workers-whose grievances could be exploited for radicalization.

Rise Of White-Collar Terror

For perhaps the first time in India's terror landscape, an entire module of white-collar, professionally educated recruits appears to have carried out a major attack. This marks a disturbing evolution in terror strategy.

This new phase involves a hybrid of indirect and inspired terrorism, where online propaganda by groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed and LeT motivates self-radicalized individuals-often lone wolves-to execute attacks.

(The author is a national security analyst specializing in intelligence and security analysis with experience at leading think tanks) South Asia Monitor

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The Red Fort blast must be viewed as a serious warning-possibly the beginning of a new phase of jihad targeting India-marked by several significant shifts in the terror cycle

jihad targeting India-marked by several significant shifts in the terror cycle.

A New Shift in Terror Strategy

Three key shifts emerge from the horrific attack in Delhi.

First, terror "gloves are off." The audacity to strike India's heartland-a pattern common in the early to mid-2000s-had diminished after 2014 as the focus shifted to Kashmir. Its return is alarming.

Second, the tone and nature of terror modules have changed. Earlier, attacks were directly claimed by outfits or splinter groups that recruited openly and took responsibility.

Third, the present trend reflects greater complexity and si-

Movement of India (SIMI), where radicalization centered on youth and students, who formed the core of these organizations. Both groups targeted urban centers and executed high-impact serial bombings to create maximum shock.

SIMI-originally set up for religious education and reform-radicalized along communal lines during the 1990s and early 2000s. Inspired partly by the 1979 Iranian Revolution, the organization rejected secularism and democracy. About 90% of its members were university-educated youth and the group supported extremist ideologies through violent "social" activism.

Following the ban on SIMI, it received support from external



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FUNDING VARSITY CRUCIAL

A major setback to Trump administration came recently with a US District Judge order to stop, freezing or, threatening to withhold federal grant funds; to the University of California; as part of a nationwide pressure campaign to impose a raft of policy changes on elite colleges. The Judge sided with a coalition of faculty groups and employee unions that had accused the administration of trying to silence faculty research and speech.

The judge voided the administration's termination in late July of about \$584 million, in federal grants for research projects at the University of California at Los Angeles, over allegations that campus leaders failed to stop harassment of Jewish and Israeli students.

The Trump administration has targeted dozens of colleges and universities with funding freezes as part of a crackdown on diversity programs and complaints of anti-Semitism during campus protests over Israel's war in Gaza. The Ivy League's Harvard, Brown and Cornell, have been other high-profile targets of the initiative.

The Judge also concluded that the "retaliatory conduct" was unconstitutional. As it is well known that every great university system, both public and private, is built on predictable government support.

In the US, private universities like Stanford, MIT and Caltech each receive hundreds of millions of dollars annually from federal agencies. Every grant carries an overhead, often between 40 and 60%, to support laboratories, staff, maintenance and compliance systems. These overheads sustain the invisible infrastructure that keeps research alive. Without them, even the wealthiest private universities would struggle to survive.

India on the other hand has taken a very different approach. Research grants rarely include realistic overheads, and often none at all. Public institutions may receive less than 10%, while private universities are sometimes required to provide co-funding to qualify for government grants. In effect, the overheads are negative. Instead of being supported for taking up research, universities must spend their own resources to participate. Many private institutions hesitate to take government projects simply because they cannot afford to subsidize them. Without adequate overheads, universities cannot maintain advanced laboratories, retain skilled staff or build compliance systems. This policy flaw has prevented India from building a strong and sustainable research culture across both public and private institutions.

Until the 80s even Japan was far behind in funding research in the universities, they were mostly dependent on America's innovation and partly from Western Europe. They finally realized and started to fund. The same happened with China. China on the other hand got help from Japan and concentrated on increasing its manufacturing base. They had the advantage of cheap and skilled labor, which Japan and US did not. Besides, China also sent Tech Spies to the US and Europe to further enhance their technology without investing much in their own innovation. However, they too have now changed. With the economic prowess they now command, China also started to invest in research and development in their universities and labs.

Trump administration's policy to cut research funding will put America way behind rest of the world. US superiority over rest of the world is only because of its leadership and progress in technology and, freedom to venture the unknown.

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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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Delhi

"India's Capital of Culture and Chaos"

The capital of India, Delhi is a cosmopolitan city with a historic old Delhi and the modern New Delhi. From historical monuments to crowded shopping malls, from an extensive network of the modern metro system to Delhi University campus, Dilli has multiple personalities and is considered to be the city with a heart.

The narrow, winding lanes and by lanes of old Delhi are a testament to the former Mughal rule. Old Delhi houses one of the country's oldest and busiest markets - Chandni Chowk.

Take time to explore historical monuments such as the Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb and Purana Qila if you want to explore the Mughal History. Delhi has famous temples scattered all across the city, a few noteworthy ones being the Akshardham Temple, the Lotus Temple (also known as the Bahai Temple), and the ISKCON Temple.

People in Delhi love to eat, and tourists will find themselves spoilt for choice between the multitude of dishes on offer at every corner of every street. From kebabs and tikkas to Chhole Bhature, Delhi is a melting pot of diverse cultures, and this fact is reflected in the culinary palette of the city. There are a number of cafes and restaurants for the travellers.

Central Delhi is the concentration of the country's po-

litical power, and the must-visit places here include the Connaught Place, drive from outside of Rashtrapati Bhawan on Raisina Hill (visitors are not allowed to go inside), the Rajpath, and the India Gate. The best place to visit this area is in the evening, as all the buildings are lit up, and you can see the Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate shining brightly.

Delhi is a shopper's paradise with some colorful bazaars and upscale markets. The wide variety of markets in Delhi ensures that travellers go back home with double the luggage they came with!

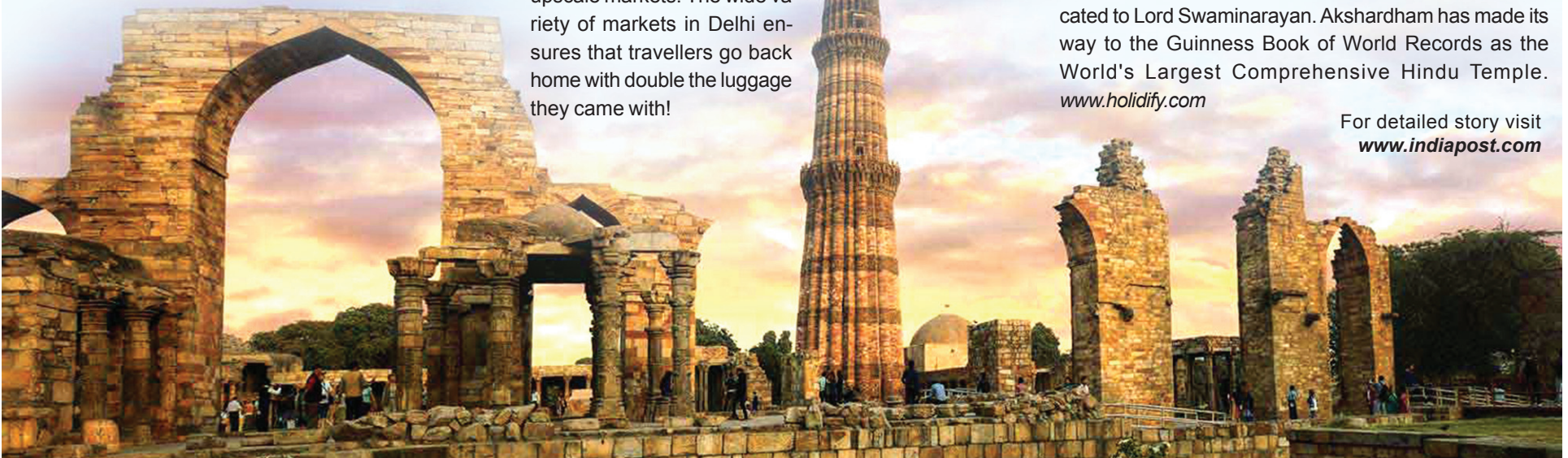
PLACES TO VISIT IN DELHI

India Gate: The All India War Memorial, popularly known as the India Gate, is located along the Rajpath in New Delhi. Rajpath was renamed Kartavya Path in September 2022. The imposing structure of India Gate is an awe-inspiring sight and is often compared to the Arch de Triomphe in France, the Gateway of India in Mumbai and the Arch of Constantine in Rome. This 42-meter tall historical structure was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and is one of the largest war memorials in the country. India Gate is also famous for hosting the Republic Day Parade every year.

Lal Quila: The Red Fort is a historical fortification in the old Delhi area. Shah Jahan constructed it in the year 1639 as a result of a capital shift from Agra to Delhi. Used as the main residence of the emperors of the Mughal dynasty, this imposing piece of architecture derives its name from its impregnable red sandstone walls. In addition to accommodating the emperors and their households, it was the ceremonial and political center of the Mughal state and the setting for events critically impacting the region.

Akshardham Temple: An epitome of Indian culture, spirituality, and architecture, Akshardham Temple is a famous Hindu temple and a spiritual-cultural complex. Also known as Swaminarayan Akshardham, it is dedicated to Lord Swaminarayan. Akshardham has made its way to the Guinness Book of World Records as the World's Largest Comprehensive Hindu Temple. www.holidify.com

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