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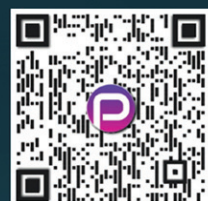


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**This week's question**

Can Pakistan control terrorism from its soil?

**Last week's result**

Will India be able to solve tariff issue with US?

**YES 14% NO 86%**

## INDIA SETS BENCHMARK

*India setting global benchmark for democratic governance: Report*

WASHINGTON: Terming it as a "continuous conversation across identities", a report hailed India's democratic governance while asserting that it demonstrates the resilience of pluralism on an unprecedented scale.

The true measure of a strong democracy, wrote Carmen Hernandez in One World Outlook, is not the absence of disagreement but the ability to regulate disagreement without collapsing into disintegration.

"Nowhere is this truth more starkly embodied than in India. To describe the Indian democratic experiment sim-

ply as 'large' would be an understatement. It is, by every metric, the largest democracy in history: over 1.4 billion people, dozens of major languages, hundreds of dialects, a kaleidoscope of religions, castes, ethnicities, and cultures. Within this extraordinary sea of difference, the country has, for over seven decades, continued to affirm the centrality of the ballot box," the report titled 'Democracy: The Story of Humanity's Boldest Experiment' stated.

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**33rd FOG India Day Festival celebrations**

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### A HISTORIC MOMENT- THE FIRST TIME EVER

The Indian flag being hoisted on top of the Space Needle in honour of India's 79th Independence Day celebrations, in Seattle. Consul General of India in Seattle, along with the Mayor of Seattle, Bruce Harrell, and other select dignitaries from Seattle city, also present. (Consulate General of India, Seattle/ANI Photo) Details on page 9



**Miss Universe 2017 contestant Kseniya passes**

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3155 Kearney Street, Ste. 210, Fremont, CA 94538  
Tel: 510-396-9140 • Fax: 510-790-2806 • e-mail: info@indiapost.com

**E-SUBSCRIPTIONS & EDITORIAL:** Vidya Sethuraman: Tel: 510-491-4867 • e-mail: vidya@indiapost.com  
**ADVERTISEMENT:** Naresh Sodhi: Tel: 510-938-8667 • e-mail: naresh@indiapost.com or nareshsodhi@gmail.com  
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**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
901, E. South St. Unit 256,  
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Riyaz Khan: **562- 881-5342**  
e-mail: riyaz@indiapost.com  
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# INDIA SETS BENCHMARK

## India setting global benchmark for democratic governance: Report

WASHINGTON: Terming it as a "continuous conversation across identities", a report hailed India's democratic governance while asserting that it demonstrates the resilience of pluralism on an unprecedented scale.

The true measure of a strong democracy, wrote Carmen Hernandez in One World Outlook, is not the absence of disagreement but the ability to regulate disagreement without collapsing into disintegration.

"Nowhere is this truth more starkly embodied than in India.

*To describe the Indian democratic experiment simply as 'large' would be an understatement. It is, by every metric, the largest democracy in history: over 1.4 billion people, dozens of major languages, hundreds of dialects, a kaleidoscope of religions, castes, ethnicities, and cultures*

bodied than in India. To describe the Indian democratic experiment simply as 'large' would be an understatement. It is, by every metric, the largest democracy in history: over 1.4 billion people, dozens of major languages, hundreds of dialects, a kaleidoscope of religions, castes, ethnicities, and cultures. Within this extraordinary sea of difference, the country has, for over seven decades, continued to affirm the centrality of the ballot box," the

report titled 'Democracy: The Story of Humanity's Boldest Experiment' stated.

It details further that dictatorships often promise efficiency, one leader, one vision, one command, but they silence the essential truth of human societies: diversity of identity, belief, and aspiration. Democracy, meanwhile, thrives precisely because it recognizes that governance is messy, that truth is multifaceted, and that listening is more powerful than silencing.

Calling India as a "global benchmark", the author highlights how, every five years,

sometimes cynical, still believes that his or her vote carries weight. That faith sustains the system," the report states.

"India's achievement is not just electoral. Its democracy is also cultural, a continuous conversation across identities. It is a land where a farmer in Punjab, an IT professional in Bengaluru, a fisherwoman in Kerala, and a poet in Kolkata can all claim equal dignity in the political sphere. Disputes are plenty. Protests are frequent.



Governments rise and fall. But this churn is not a weakness; it is the very lifeblood of the nation. In managing such vast complexity without fragmenting, India has given the world one of its most valuable lessons: democracy does not require uniformity, only unity in diversity," it added.

Emphasizing that democracy is not a finished structure but an unending con-

versation, Hernandez mentions that India demonstrates the resilience of pluralism on an unprecedented scale.

"When the global discourse on democracy feels bleak, when headlines speak of declining trust in institutions, the rise of illiberal movements, or the erosion of press freedoms, it is worth looking again at the Indian story ... As history moves forward, the battle for democracy will remain ongoing.

Authoritarianism may always tempt, apathy may always threaten participation, and inequalities may always challenge systems of fairness. But for as long as the world can point to examples like India, messy, loud, imperfect, yet enduringly democratic, we can believe in the strength of this bold experiment," the report detailed. IANS

## Pakistan: Radical Islamists set ablaze two Ahmadiyya places of worship

ISLAMABAD: A leading minority group condemned the recent violence against religious minorities in Pakistan, highlighting the recent torching of two Ahmadiyya places of worship by a mob led by leaders of the radical Islamist party Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP).

The Voice of Pakistan Minority (VOPM) mentioned that on the occasion of Pakistan's 78th Independence Day, extremists turned the country's streets into battlegrounds of hate. In Faisalabad district of Punjab province, two Ahmadiyya places of worship were set ablaze by the mob serving as an ugly reminder that in Pakistan, religious

freedom remains an illusion.

Citing police reports, the rights body revealed that more than 300 attackers, armed with rods and bricks, descended on Ahmadiyya worshippers under the cover of Independence Day processions in the Dijkot area.

The VOPM highlighted that their main target was the two mosques built de-

cades before Pakistan criminalized Ahmadiyya worship in 1984. They tore down minarets, delivered fiery hate speeches, and torched the buildings while hurling stones at nearby Ahmadiyya homes.

The rights body stressed that the violent incident left families, including women and children terrorized, while several sustained injuries.

According to the VOPM, the mob was reportedly led by TLP ticket-holder Hafiz Rafaqat, exposing once again how mainstream extremist groups openly incite violence under political and religious banners. It stated that TLP, notorious for its violent street power, enjoys immunity in Pakistan's political and judicial system while minorities pay the price.

"This was no spontaneous riot - it was organized terrorism, with cases now registered under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 and multiple sections of the Pakistan Penal Code. Yet, history shows such cases rarely lead to real accountability. IANS



## Zelenskyy confirms USD 90 bn US weapons plan, says trilateral meeting dates yet to be finalized

WASHINGTON DC: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed plans for Ukraine to purchase USD 90 billion worth of American weapons through European funding as part of its security guarantees, while noting that the dates for a proposed trilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump are yet to be finalized.

"Date? No, no, no. We don't have any date. We just confirmed after this productive meeting with the president and then with all our colleagues and partners, who confirmed that we are ready for a trilateral meeting. And if Russia proposed to the President of the United States a bilateral.

And then we will see the result of bilateral, and then it can be the trilateral. So I said all this show, Ukraine will never stop on the way to peace, and we are ready for any kind of formats, but on the level of leaders," he said.

Zelenskyy made the remarks at a conference following talks with US President Donald Trump and European leaders at the White House.

He said that the discussion included plans for Ukraine to purchase USD 90 billion worth of American weapons through European funding as part of its security guarantees, CNN reported.

Another part of the guarantees would involve Ukraine manufacturing drones, some of which would be purchased by the US, Zelenskyy said, noting that no formal agreement has been reached. The agreement will be formalized over the next week or 10 days.

In a post on X, Zelenskyy wrote, "Today, important negotiations took place in Washington. We discussed many issues with President Trump. It was a long and detailed conversation, including discussions about the situation on the battlefield and our steps to bring peace closer. There were also several meetings in a format with European leaders and the President of



Volodymyr Zelenskyy with US President Donald Trump

the United States."

"We discussed security guarantees. This is a key issue, a starting point towards ending the war. We appreciate the important signal from the United States regarding its readiness to support and be part of these guarantees. A lot of attention today was given to the return of our children, to the release of prisoners of war and civilians held by Russia. We agreed to work on this. The U.S. President also supported a meeting at the level of leaders. Such a meeting is necessary to resolve sensitive issues," he added. ANI

## Trump dials Putin, discusses holding trilateral meeting with Zelenskyy: Kremlin

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin and his American counterpart Donald Trump held a telephonic conversation reaffirming their commitment to continuing direct talks between Moscow and Kyiv delegations.

Confirming the development, Russian President's aide Yuri Ushakov said the conversation took place at the US President's initiative.

According to Ushakov, during the discussions, Trump briefed Putin about the dialogue he had with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and leaders of several European countries in Washington.

During the call, Putin also expressed gratitude to Trump for the hospitality and arrangements at the Alaska Summit, as well as for the progress they were able to achieve towards bringing about a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine conflict.

The Russian Presidential aide said that, among other things, both Trump and Putin discussed the prospect of exploring opportunities for drawing higher-ranking officials from both Ukraine and Russia into the direct talks.

*During the call, Putin also expressed gratitude to Trump for the hospitality and arrangements at the Alaska Summit, as well as for the progress*

"It is quite telling that Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump agreed to keep in touch with one another on the Ukrainian issue and other urgent international and bilateral matters. The President of Russia highlighted the importance of

Donald Trump's personal efforts and commitment to finding solutions for a lasting settlement in Ukraine. The conversation was quite frank and constructive," Ushakov stated.

Meanwhile, after meetings with the Ukrainian President and European leaders, Trump announced he is arranging a meeting between Zelenskyy and Putin in his effort to end the devastating war that has killed hundreds of thousands of civilians and military personnel.

Following the meeting, he called the Russian President and held discussions to hold a trilateral meeting -- Zelenskyy, Putin and Trump -- to discuss the peace talks.

"I called President Putin, and began the arrangements for a meeting, at a location to be determined, between President Putin and President Zelenskyy," Trump said in a post on his social media platform, Truth Social. IANS

## US to work with India to face modern challenges: US Secretary of State

NEW YORK: The US looks forward to working with India to meet modern challenges and ensure "a brighter future", Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a conciliatory Independence Day message amid rising tensions between the two nations.

"The historic relationship between the world's largest democracy and the world's oldest democracy is consequential and far-reaching," Rubio said.

"Working together, the United States and India will rise to the modern challenges of today and ensure a brighter future for both our countries," he said.



Secretary of State Marco Rubio

*"The historic relationship between the world's largest democracy and the world's oldest democracy is consequential and far-reaching. Working together, the United States and India will rise to the modern challenges of today"*

The message of cooperation and partnership came amidst a standoff between the two countries over tariffs and differences over US President Donald Trump's role in ending the Operation Sindoor conflict.

He focused on the Indo-Pacific, where India and the US share challenges from China.

"Our two countries are united by our shared vision for a more peaceful, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific region," he said.

Rubio also mentioned the areas of cooperation in technology and industry that are imperiled by Trump's tariff of 25 percent on imports from India and a threat to add 25 percent if India buys Russia's oil.

He said, "Our partnership spans industries, promotes innovation, pushes the boundaries of critical and emerging technologies, and extends into space".

Another divisive issue that has emerged in relations between the two countries that had been on an upswing is Trump's repeated insistence that he mediated the end to the May conflict between India and Pakistan.

India has insisted that it was resolved by the neighbors themselves, with a phone call from Islamabad's military. IANS



# Putin shares insights with PM Modi on Trump meeting; India reiterates call for peaceful resolution

NEW DELHI: Russian President Vladimir Putin called Prime Minister Narendra Modi and shared his insights about the recent meeting in Alaska with US President Donald Trump over the Ukraine conflict.

PM Modi said India has consistently called for a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict and supports all efforts in this regard.

He thanked the Russian President for the phone call and for sharing his perspective on the Alaska meeting.

"Thank my friend, President Putin, for his phone call and for sharing insights on his recent meeting with President Trump in Alaska. India has consistently called for a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict and supports all efforts in this regard. I look forward to our continued exchanges in the days to come," PM Modi said in a post on X.

India had welcomed the US-Russia Summit meeting and appreciated the

progress made. "India welcomes the Summit meeting in Alaska between US President Donald



Vladimir Putin with Narendra Modi

Trump and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Their leadership in the pursuit of peace is highly commendable," MEA spokesperson had said in a statement on July 16.

"India appreciates the progress made in the Summit. The way forward can only be through dialogue and diplomacy. The world wants to see an early end to the

conflict in Ukraine," the statement added.

While the Summit meeting was anticipated to take about seven hours, it wrapped up in less than three. Trump and Putin addressed a gathering of journalists after the talks with relatively brief pre-prepared statements. Neither leader took any questions, according to Al Jazeera.

Putin said his country is committed to ending the war, but the conflict's "primary causes" must be eliminated for an agreement to be long-lasting.

Putin also warned Ukraine and the European Union against throwing a "wrench in the works" and cautioned against attempts to use "backroom dealings to conduct provocations to torpedo the nascent progress," as per Al Jazeera.

Trump praised the "extremely productive meeting", in which he said "many points were agreed to". He said there is a "very good chance of getting there" - referring to a ceasefire - but conceded that there remain sticking points with Moscow, including at least one "significant" one.

He cautioned that it's "ultimately up to them" - referring to Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. "There's no deal until there's a deal," he said. ANI

## India-China relations showing positive trend toward returning to cooperation, says Wang Yi

NEW DELHI: During the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to India, India and China agreed to maintain the momentum of bilateral ties as the countries mark 75 years of their diplomatic ties. The talks between him and EAM Dr S Jaishankar featured several themes such as the changing world situation, challenges to free trade and how New Delhi and Beijing can act as major powers, set an example for developing countries, as reported by Xinhua news.

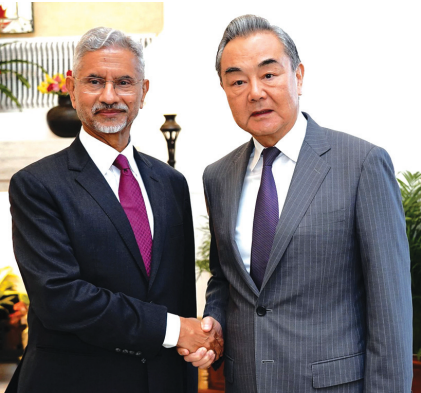
As per Xinhua News, India and China have agreed to maintain momentum of bilateral ties. The consensus came from talks held between Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who is visiting India and EAM Dr S Jaishankar.

According to Xinhua, Wang Yi said that in today's world, the changing situation is evolving rapidly, unilateral bullying practices are rampant, and free trade and the international order face severe challenges. ANI

# No change in India's position on Taiwan: Govt sources

NEW DELHI: India has reiterated its longstanding, clear and consistent policy on Taiwan which facilitates and promotes interactions in areas of trade, investment, tourism, culture, education and other such people-to-people exchanges.

"There is no change in our position on Taiwan. We stressed that, like the rest of the world, India has a relationship with Taiwan that focuses on economic, technology and cultural ties. We intend to continue it," a source in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated less than 24 hours after Beijing claimed that the issue of Taiwan came up for



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar welcomes Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, in New Delhi (@DrSJaishankar X/ANI Photo)

discussion during the meeting between External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New Delhi recently.

The Indian government also facilitates legal employment of Indian workers overseas based on mutual interest.

China claims Taiwan to be a part of its territory that must be reunified with the mainland by force, if necessary. In recent

years, Beijing has increased military exercises in the Taiwan Strait to intensify pressure on Taiwan.

National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval held the 24th round of Special Representatives (SR) dialogue on the boundary question with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

In his opening remarks, NSA Doval mentioned that India-China relations have witnessed an "upward trend" and that the borders have remained peaceful since the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan last year.

"There has been an upward trend. Borders have been quiet. There has been peace and tranquility. Our bilateral engagements have been more substantial. And we are most grateful to our leaders who, in Kazan last October, were able to set a new trend, and we have profited a lot since then," said NSA Doval. IANS

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**FIA Chicago celebrates Bharat's 79th Independence Day at Daley Plaza**

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: FIA Chicago, in collaboration with National India Hub, celebrated Bharat's 79th Independence Day at Daley Plaza, drawing over 120 patriotic attendees, including dignitaries such as Consul General Somnath Ghosh, FIA Trustee Dr. Bharat Barai, Elderwoman Debra Silverstein, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, former MLA Sahab ji, Maharashtra Mandal president Nameeta Vedak, Chetan Rege, Ajeet Singh, Nirav Patel, Ramesh Choksi, and Devesh Pandit.

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**The Wide-Reaching Impacts of Trump's Tariffs Plan**

**VIDYA SETHURAMAN**

India Post News Service

On April 2, President Donald Trump announced "Liberation Day," signaling his intent to impose tariffs on at least 90 countries. Trump has said his sweeping tariffs plan will generate revenue, while also countering allegedly unfair trading practices. Speakers at the ACOM briefing on Aug 15 discussed whether the President can successfully negotiate his tariffs plan, especially in the key economies of China, India, Brazil, and Mexico. Speakers also discussed the impacts of tariffs for American consumers, the labor force, and small businesses.

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**Indian diplomatic missions across globe celebrate I-Day**

SANTIAGO: Several Indian missions worldwide celebrated the country's 79th Independence Day with vibrant events showcasing the strong bonds of culture, heritage, and shared values.

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# COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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August 22, 2025



## 33rd FOG India Day Festival of India celebrates community, culture and unity



**VIDYA SETHURAMAN**

India Post News Service

FREMONT, CA: The 33rd Festival of Globe (FOG) India Day Festival of Fremont lit up the Bay Area this past weekend with vibrant celebrations of culture, community, and diversity. Draw-

ing thousands of residents from across the Bay Area, the festival transformed downtown Fremont into a hub of music, dance, food, and cultural pride.

With 150 booths showcasing businesses, nonprofits, arts, crafts, cuisine, and community



services, the festival offered something for everyone from traditional Indian delicacies to local entrepreneurs and cultural exhibits. The streets of Fremont came alive with the spirit of India, while also highlighting the Bay Area's multicultural vibrancy.

"FOG India Day is more than just a festival - it is a unifying platform that brings together people of all backgrounds to celebrate culture, community, and service," said Dr Romesh Japra, Chairman, FIA. "We are proud to see the event grow year after year, reflecting the strength and diversity of our community."

The festival also featured live performances, parades, and cultural programs, attracting families, youth, and community leaders alike. The grand celebration continues to serve as a symbol of unity and pride for the Indian diaspora and Bay Area residents.

The Festival of Globe (FOG), a nonprofit organization, has hosted the India Day Festival in Fremont for more than three decades. The event has become one of the largest Indian American festivals in the United States, honoring India's Independence Day while showcasing cultural harmony and civic engagement.

Cont'd on page 26





# A historic moment: Tiranga hoisted on Seattle's iconic space needle for the first time ever!

SEATTLE: In a landmark and historic first in Seattle, the flag of India was raised on top of the Space Needle today in honor of India's 79th Independence Day celebrations. Built in 1962 for the World Fair, the Space Needle stands as a symbol of Seattle's skyline and epitomizes the tech-driven future of the US Pacific Northwest region.

Consul General of India in Seattle along with Mr. Bruce Harrell, Mayor of Seattle and other select dignitaries from Seattle city leadership joined in the historic occasion and acknowledged the contributions of the Indian American diaspora in shaping Seattle's journey as a tech hub in the US Pacific Northwest.

A community reception was separately hosted by the Consulate at the scenic Kerry Park, which offered sweeping views of the Seattle skyline, with India's flag on top of Space Needle in the backdrop, where large numbers of Indian American community members turned up to witness the historic sight.

Several US dignitaries graced the Kerry Park reception including U.S. Congressman (WA-9th district) Adam Smith, Chief Justice of the Washington Supreme Court Hon'ble Debra L. Stephens and Superintendent/Director of Seattle Parks & Recreation AP Diaz. Addressing the gathering, US Rep. Adam Smith welcomed the historic celebration, noting that the Indian Tricolor hoisted atop the Space Needle is a tribute to the city's diversity and the strong bonds between India and the Pacific Northwest.

A vibrant cultural segment featuring national anthems, along with a cultural dance performance showcasing the rich diversity of Indian art forms, and a poetic recital by renowned artist and actor Piyush Mishra followed.



US Congressman Adam Smith addressing the gathering at Kerry Park

In a special gesture to honor India's 79th Independence Day in the Greater Seattle area, King County (that covers 39 cities) along with Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma and Bellevue issued official proclamations marking 15 August as India Day.

Separately several iconic buildings in Seattle were also lit up in Indian tricolors. These included the Lumen Stadium, T-

Mobile Stadium, Westin, Seattle Great Wheel and Space Needle. The Indian Flag was also hoisted at the prestigious Tacoma Dome, Tacoma City Hall and at the Headquarters of Tacoma Police and Fire Departments. It may be noted that India opened its 6th Consulate in Seattle (Washington) in November 2023 and has since actively deepened its engagements with the US Pacific Northwest.





# FIA Chicago celebrates Bharat's 79th Independence Day at Daley Plaza

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: FIA Chicago, in collaboration with National India Hub, celebrated Bharat's 79th Independence Day at Daley Plaza, drawing over 120 patriotic attendees, including dignitaries such as Consul General Somnath Ghosh, FIA Trustee Dr. Bharat Barai, Elderwoman Debra Silverstein, Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, former MLA Sahab ji, Maharashtra Mandal president Nameeta Vedak, Chetan Rege, Ajeet Singh, Nirav Patel, Ramesh Choksi, and Devesh Pandit.

FIA President Hemant Patel, in his address, honored freedom fighters and highlighted the enduring strength of Bharat's civilization, emphasizing the cost of freedom and urging celebration with joy and gratitude. He thanked sponsors, media partners, community leaders, 60+ member organizations, youth, performers, volunteers, and special guests-particularly Consul General Ghosh and Dr. Barai-for their support. This year's theme, "150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Patel - The Iron Man of Bharat," honored his courage, sacrifice, and patriotism. Consul General,



by the hoisting of the Bharatiya flag-a striking Triranga moment. Rasika Bandekar, a Bharat Natyam teacher, brought her students to perform dances on patriotic songs. FIA executives and trustees, in-



Debra Silverstein, and Maria Pappas greeted and addressed the attendees, while FIA trustee Rakesh Malhotra and former MLA Sahab Singh highlighted the significance of freedom fighters in their remarks.

The program began with the American and Bharatiya national anthems, followed

cluding Amar Upadhyay, Shailesh Rajput, Rohit Joshi, Anil Singh, Arvind Ankleshwaria, Bhailalbhair, and Rakesh ji, thanked the performers and presented certificates of appreciation.

Despite city constraints on timing, the event concluded flawlessly, celebrating Bharat's independence with pride and unity.

## Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna lead 43rd India Day Parade in New York

CHENNAI: Actors Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna led the 43rd India Day Parade in New York, much to the delight of their fans and film buffs.

Both stars were honored as Grand Marshals at the parade, believed to be the largest Independence Day celebration outside India.

Video clips of the actors greeting the crowds who had gathered for the celebrations have now gone viral on social media.

Earlier, actor Vijay Deverakonda had posted a video clip of the Empire State Building in New York decked in the Indian tricolor on his Instagram page. He wrote, "Absolute honor! Indian tricolors bathe the iconic Empire State Building. Got to light it up on our Independence Day and also experience the beautiful hospitality of Team Empire state and the building's stunning views and stories."

Some fans in particular were excited about the video clips of the parade in which both actors were, for a very brief period, seen holding hands.

The fans were also equally pleased about the effort the actors made to connect with those around them despite the heat.

On the work front, Vijay Deverakonda next has a film with Mythri Movie Makers, which is tentatively being referred to as

VD14. The actor also has another film with the well known production house Sri Venkateswara Creations. The project has been tentatively titled SVC 59.

Rashmika, on the other hand, has a series of interesting projects including "Mysaa", an emotional action thriller, in which the actress reportedly portrays a woman from the Gond community.

Helmed by Rawindra Pulle, the film is being bankrolled by Ajay and Anil Sayyapureddy.

The actress also has director Rahul Ravindran's eagerly awaited entertainer, 'The Girlfriend', in which Rashmika will be seen playing the lead along with actor Dheekshith Shetty.

Actress Rashmika has expressed immense faith

in director Rahul Ravindran and his film 'The Girlfriend'. In a post she penned for the director's birthday, Rashmika wrote, "You are too precious my friend... I still can't believe you've made a film like 'The Girlfriend'... The emotional depth you have, the niceness that you have in your heart flows through every frame," she said and added that she had met him for 'The Girlfriend' and had found "a director, a friend, a mentor a partner in crime for a lifetime who I trust wholly and immensely." IANS



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# The Wide-Reaching Impacts of Trump's Tariffs Plan

VIDYA SETHURAMAN  
India Post News Service

On April 2, President Donald Trump announced "Liberation Day," signaling his intent to impose tariffs on at least 90 countries. Trump has said his sweeping tariffs plan will generate revenue, while also countering allegedly unfair trading practices. Speakers at the ACOM briefing on Aug 15 discussed whether the President can successfully negotiate his tariffs plan, especially in the key economies of China, India, Brazil, and Mexico. Speakers also discussed the impacts of tariffs for American consumers, the labor force, and small businesses.

Dr. Neale Mahoney, Director of the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research and Professor of Economics at Stanford University pointed out that the most direct effect of tariffs is to push up consumer product prices and business costs. Recent data shows that the pass-

through effect has already emerged, especially affecting small and medium-sized enterprises that rely on imported raw materials the most. He said that U.S. imports account for about 10% of overall consumption. If the average tariff is increased by 15 percentage points, it will push up overall

prices by about 1.5%. Although this does not seem to have a catastrophic impact, for daily necessities such as coffee, toys, clothing and furniture, the price increase

will be very obvious during the year-end shopping season, and consumers have obviously pulled back.

Dr. Anil Deolalikar, Professor of Economics at the University of California Riverside, and Founding Dean Emeritus, UCR School of Public Policy pointed out

that China is currently facing 30% U.S. tariffs and may soar to 145% after November, which will cause a devastating blow to China's manufacturing industry. China's annual exports to the United States total about US\$450 billion, of which iPhones, computers and electronic components are important items. If mobile phone products lose their immunity and are subject to an additional tariff of more than 100%, it

will inevitably lead to large-scale layoffs in China's coastal OEMs. He stressed that China's economy has slowed down significantly in recent years, with youth unemployment rumored to be as high as 25%, and officials even suspended the release of relevant data. Against this background, suffering the impact of high tariffs will exacerbate economic difficulties.

Dilawar Syed, former Deputy Administrator, US Small Business Administration Marcus Bowers, Co-founder of She's Happy Hair emphasized that tariffs have particularly harmed U.S. small businesses. He said that 97% of importers in the United States are small businesses, and two-thirds of small businesses are involved in exports, but they lack the funds and manpower to respond to sudden policy changes. For example, he gave the example of a female owner of a Latin American grocery store who recently received an import tax bill of nearly \$20,000, which was far more than she could bear. She could only consider layoffs or closure of business. According to a survey by the National Small Business Association, 58% of small business owners said economic conditions are worse than last year, and the confidence index hit a 15-year low.

*Recent data shows that the pass-through effect has already emerged, especially affecting small and medium-sized enterprises that rely on imported raw materials the most. He said that U.S. imports account for about 10% of overall consumption. If the average tariff is increased by 15 percentage points, it will push up overall prices by about 1.5%*

## Indian diplomatic missions across globe celebrate I-Day with vibrant cultural events

SANTIAGO: Several Indian missions worldwide celebrated the country's 79th Independence Day with vibrant events showcasing the strong bonds of culture, heritage, and shared values.

In Chile, the Embassy of India in Santiago celebrated the occasion with great enthusiasm, where Indian Ambassador Abhilasha Joshi hoisted the national flag.

She also read out President Droupadi Murmu's address and shared key excerpts from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech delivered from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort, highlighting India's progress, global partnerships, and vision for a Viksit Bharat 2047.

"The atmosphere was filled with patriotic fervor, as the Tricolor fluttered high and Jana Gana Mana resonated in unison. The celebration saw the participation of more than 300 members of the vibrant Indian diaspora and friends of India in Chile, thereby reflecting the deep bonds of culture, heritage and shared values. Moreover, delicious Indian delicacies were being served for all, showcasing rich cuisine and flavors of India," the Indian Embassy said on Saturday (16 August).

The event reaffirmed the collective commitment to India's growth story and the role of the diaspora in strengthening India-Chile ties.

In the US, the Indian Consulate General in New York specially curated a program, themed 'Shakti -- Divine Energy', which brought together Odissi, Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, and contemporary performances by renowned artists from India and the US.

The Consulate General also partnered with the 44th Annual Battery Dance Festival, New York City's longest-running public dance festival to celebrate the occasion.


The celebration highlighted the enduring bonds of culture, creativity, and harmony that India shares with the world.

Additionally, in Houston, Indian Consul General D.C. Manjunath joined board members and representatives of elected officials at an event celebrating the occasion, which saw participation from a large number of the Indian-American community.

The program was organized at India House, the longstanding diaspora partner organization in Houston. /ANS

More community stories on page 26-27

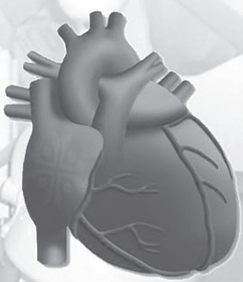
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## Indian Oil inks pact with Air India for supply of sustainable aviation fuel

NEW DELHI: Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Air India recently for the supply of sustainable aviation fuel, in a significant step towards a greener future for aviation in the country.

By integrating certified green fuels into commercial operations, Indian Oil and Air India are together reinforcing India's position as a front-runner in sustainable aviation and energy transition.

Through this MoU, Indian Oil and Air India aim to collaborate on the supply of SAF to meet the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) targets for international flights, ensuring a reliable, transparent, and sustainable fuel supply to support the environmental goals of both companies, the statement said.

As part of its broader strategy to achieve the IATA Net Zero by 2050 target and comply with CORSIA obligations, Air India is actively pursuing initiatives in operational efficiency, low-carbon emissions, and now, sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), the Tata Group airline said. *IANS*



# TechBiz POST

12 India Post www.indiapost.com August 22, 2025

## Nearly 43 pc Indian workers confident about adopting AI tools soon: Report

MUMBAI: Nearly 43 percent of Indian workers are confident in adopting generative and agentic AI into their work in the next two to five years, a recent report said.

In a survey of over 3,000 white and blue-collar workers in India, job site Indeed found that mid-career professionals aged 35 to 54 show the highest confidence in navigating AI-integrated workplaces, with 49 percent reporting readiness outpacing their younger peers aged 18 to 24. *IANS*



## Additional US tariffs to impact \$48 billion of India's exports, govt to safeguard trade: Minister

NEW DELHI: If America imposes additional 25 percent on India, around \$48.2 billion of India's merchandise export to the US is likely to be subject to those tariffs, the Parliament was informed.

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

Further, additional rate of duty of 25 percent with effect from August 27 has been imposed on certain goods exported from India.

"The government has taken note of tariff imposition by the US. It is estimated that around \$48.2 billion of India's merchandise export (based on 2024 trade value) to the US will be subject to the above additional tariffs," Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

He further said that the government is committed to secure



and advance country's national interest and protect the welfare of our farmers, workers, entrepreneurs, exporters, MSMEs and all sections of industry and "take all necessary steps to help mitigate

impact on trade including through appropriate export promotion and trade diversification measures".

It is estimated that around 55 percent of the total value of India's

merchandise exports to the US is subject to the 25 percent first line of US reciprocal tariffs.

No additional tariffs have been imposed on Indian exports to the US in sectors like pharmaceuticals and electronics as yet.

According to the minister, a combination of different factors, such as product differentiation, demand, quality, and contractual arrangements, would determine the impact of reciprocal tariffs on India's exports, including in the textiles sector. *IANS*

*"The government has taken note of tariff imposition by the US. It is estimated that around \$48.2 billion of India's merchandise export (based on 2024 trade value) to the US will be subject to the above additional tariffs"*

## Amazon India announces 1.5 lakh new jobs owing to festive demand

MUMBAI: Online marketplace Amazon India announced it has created over 1.5 lakh seasonal work opportunities in the country due to the increased demand in the festive season.

"These include direct and indirect work opportunities in 400+ cities, including Mumbai, Delhi, Pune, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Cochin, Coimbatore, Indore, Raipur, etc."

Job opportunities were created for thousands of women associates and over 2000 PWDs (differently abled people), and the company has

already onboarded many of these new associates, a release from Amazon India said.

The seasonal jobs are available in fulfillment centers (FCs), sort centers, and last-mile delivery stations.

"Many of these new associates continue their journey with Amazon beyond the festive period, with a significant number returning to work with us year after year," said Abhinav Singh, VP - Operations, India & Australia, Amazon.

"Throughout our operations, we prioritize the safety and well-being of all associates-whether they're working in our buildings or

delivering packages to customers," he said.

"We remain dedicated to fostering a safe, equitable, and empowering work environment that includes social security benefits and supports the financial well-being of all our team," Singh

added.

Amazon has increased the number of Ashray rest centers in India to 100 to support the well-being of its associates in the e-commerce network, the release said.

Further, it claimed to provide

free health check-ups to over 80,000 delivery associates across major cities, offering comprehensive services that include eye, dental, BMI, and physician consultations.

Additionally, an on-site first aid ('AMCARE') facility is available at the fulfillment centers to anyone who needs immediate first-aid attention or rest.

"The Early Access to Pay (EATP) program allows associates to withdraw up to 80 percent of their accrued basic salary within the first 20 days of each month, promoting financial flexibility and wellness," the company said. *IANS*





# Apple clocks 63 pc growth in India exports at \$7.5 billion in April-July: Data

NEW DELHI: Apple saw its iPhone exports from India rise almost 63 percent to \$7.5 billion in the April-July period this year, from \$4.6 billion in the same period last fiscal (FY25), according to latest industry data.

Overall smartphone exports also surged to a new high of \$10 billion in the first four month this fiscal, up 52 percent from \$6.4 billion in the same period in FY25.

When it comes to Q1 FY26, India's smartphone export momentum hit a record high in the April-June period, with shipments reaching \$7.72 billion, up 58 percent from \$4.9 billion in the same period last year. During the quarter, Apple exported \$6 billion worth of iPhones through its contract manufacturers, representing an 82 percent increase from the previous year, as per industry estimates.

Meanwhile, Taiwanese electronics major Foxconn and Apple's key supplier has started production of iPhone 17 at its new Bengaluru factory. This marks a significant milestone for the facility, which is Foxconn's second-largest iPhone manufacturing unit outside China and



has been set up at an investment of around \$2.8 billion (about Rs 25,000 crore).

Apple is betting big on India as a manufacturing hub. The company is expected to scale up iPhone production to 60 million units this year, compared to 35-40 million units in 2024-25. In the year ended March 31, 2025, Apple manufactured 60 percent more iPhones in India, worth an estimated \$22 billion.

Apple CEO Tim Cook recently underlined India's growing importance in the company's global supply chain. After announcing financial results on July 31, he revealed that majority of iPhones sold in the US in June 2025 were made in India.

Moreover, in a major fillip to the 'Make in India' initiative, India's electronics production surged from \$31 billion to \$133 billion in a decade beginning 2014-15.

The electronics exports surged more than 47 percent in Q1 of 2025-26 over the same quarter in 2024-25. *IANS*

## Bharat Connect emerges as global model for bill payments: Report

NEW DELHI: Bharat Connect processed nearly 8 million transactions daily, facilitating 715 million transactions worth Rs 3.14 trillion in FY25 Q3 alone -- a 217 percent year-on-year growth in value over Q3 FY24, a recent report said.

Designed with inclusion at its core, the platform reaches into rural and underserved regions, erasing gaps where physical collection points are limited, Grant Thornton Bharat said in a report in collaboration with NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (NBBL).

For millions, it has become a lifeline by bringing the ease of digital bill payments to villages and small towns, where standing in long queues or travelling miles for payments was once routine.

The economic ripple effects have been profound.

In FY24 alone, Bharat Connect contributed 0.38 percent to India's GDP, driven by increased efficiency, time savings, and reduced reliance on cash payment, the report stated.

By streamlining payments, it has freed up resources - both human and financial - that are now being channeled into more productive avenues.

"India's Bharat Connect is a testament to the country's leadership in digital payment innovation. As a unified, centralized platform, it has not only enhanced trust and accessibility in bill payments but also set a global benchmark," said Dharmender Jhamb, Partner, Grant Thornton

Bharat.

"We believe such models offer a valuable roadmap for economies looking to modernize their financial infrastructure and drive inclusive digital growth," he added.

Globally, Bharat Connect has emerged as a benchmark.

The reports also compared Bharat Connect with systems like BPAY in Australia and SADAD in Saudi Arabia, highlighting its unique scalability, security, and replicability.

While many countries grapple with fragmented payment landscapes, India has shown what's possible when unification meets regulation, the report said.

At the heart of this transformation lies technology-led efficiency.

With just a single integration point for billers and service providers, the platform reduces costs, enhances transparency, and ensures compliance with regulatory standards,

the report stated.

The result is a seamless ecosystem where trust and innovation go hand in hand.

Operated by NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd., Bharat Connect processed over 1.3 billion transactions in FY24.

By 2026, it is projected to handle more than 3 billion annually - an achievement that would place it firmly among the world's most successful centralized bill payment systems, the report highlighted. *IANS*



## India's textile exports to US and Europe crossed \$20 billion in 2024-25: Minister

NEW DELHI: India's exports of textile products to the USA, the EU, and the UK touched the \$20.7 billion mark for the financial year ended on March 31, 2025, the Parliament was informed recently.

The USA and the EU are important markets for Indian textile products.

During the year 2024-25, India's total textile and apparel exports, including handicrafts, to the US were valued at \$10.94 billion, whereas the export of these products to the EU and the UK were valued at \$7.6 billion and \$2.16 billion, respectively, Minister of State for Textiles Pabitra Margherita said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, adding that India has signed an FTA with the UK and is actively engaged in FTA negotiations with the EU.

India's exports of technical textiles stood at Rs 24,732.68 crore in FY 2024-25, which represented a 15.53 percent growth over the previous financial year, the minister said.

He also highlighted that India has signed 15 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including the recently signed CETA between India and the UK. These FTAs aim to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, simplify procedures, and address structural issues to make Indian exporters more competitive in partner markets.

The minister further stated that the government is implementing the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles with an approved outlay of Rs 10,683 crore over a five-year period, to promote the production of MMF apparel, MMF fabrics, and products of technical textiles in the country to enable the textile sector to achieve size and scale and to become competitive. *IANS*



**PM announces mission to tackle illegal immigration**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his address from the ramparts of Red Fort, warned against illegal immigration, which is threatening the country.

He announced a demography mission to protect the country from the dangers posed by illegal immigrants.

PM Modi said he would like to alert the nation about the concern, which has now become a challenge. "Under a well-thought-out conspiracy, the country's demography is being changed, and seeds of a new crisis are being sown," the PM said.

The Prime Minister said that the infiltrators are snatching the livelihood of the youth of the country.

"They are targeting our sisters and daughters. They are misleading the adivasis and grabbing their lands. This will not be tolerated," said PM Modi.

The Prime Minister flagged the challenges caused due to demographic changes, especially in the border areas.

He said that the demographic changes in border areas pose a threat to national security.

"It sows the seeds of conflict. No country can surrender before infiltrators. Then how can we?" he said.

PM Modi announced the national mission to tackle what he referred to as a looming danger. "Not to allow such activities is our duty to our ancestors who gifted us an Independent India. So I announce from the ramparts of Red Fort that we have decided to start a high-powered demography mission. This mission will tackle the danger that is looming over India," said PM Modi. *IANS*

**At least 27 migrants, refugees dead in shipwreck off Italy's Lampedusa**

LAMPEDUSA: At least 27 migrants and refugees drowned last week following a tragic shipwreck off the coast of the Italian island of Lampedusa, according to a statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Filippo

*Federal, state, and local law enforcement partners worked together to safely execute search warrants at 14 business premises*



## USCIS assists federal operation targeting Nebraska human trafficking ring at area hotels

OMAHA, Neb.: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provided valuable assistance to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies during a coordinated operation targeting a human trafficking ring operating in Omaha-area hotels.

United States Attorney Lesley A. Woods announced that five people were charged by complaint for a range of federal violations that center around their alleged conspiracy to engage in labor trafficking, sex trafficking, and harboring of aliens at several hotel locations across the Omaha metro area and into central Nebraska. The defendants own, operate, and manage several hotels in the Omaha metro area.

The five charged and arrested are:

Kentakumar Chaudhari, a/k/a Ken Chaudhari, age 36, of Elkhorn, NE;

Rashmi Ajit Samani, a/k/a Falguni Samani, age 42, of Elkhorn, NE;

Amit Prahladbhai Chaudhari, a/k/a Amit, age 32, of Omaha;

Amit Babubhai Chaudhari, a/k/a Matt, age 33, of Omaha; and Maheshkumar Chaudhari, a/k/a Mahesh, age 38, of Norfolk, NE.

Federal, state, and local law enforcement partners worked together to safely execute search warrants at 14 business pre-

mises and two residential locations associated with the defendants.

During the operation, 10 minors were rescued from an alleged labor trafficking conspiracy



*During the operation, 10 minors were rescued from an alleged labor trafficking conspiracy that involved putting children under the age of 12 to work at hotels for long hours with little to no pay*

that involved putting children under the age of 12 to work at hotels for long hours with little to no pay. Seventeen adult victims were also rescued from the same conspiracy. The complaint affidavit details the allegedly exploitative conditions these victims were subjected to while being required to pay the defendants for their lodging at the hotels.

The U. S. Attorney's Office

has alleged that one or more of the defendants were engaged in a sex trafficking conspiracy that allegedly victimized both minors and adults, and multiple defendants are alleged to have main-

the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.

The complaint further alleges one defendant engaged in conversations about the cost to bring someone from India to America and alleges that aliens were being transported by co-conspirators between Nebraska and Washington for the purpose of fraudulently obtaining Washington state driver's licenses for around \$1,000 per document.

U.S. Attorney Woods commended the unparalleled investigative coordination and accomplishment of this case achieved by the combined efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office, the Omaha Police Department, the Nebraska State Patrol, the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Branch, the United States Marshals Service, and the Nebraska State Attorney General's Office. USCIS assistance included furnishing immigration status updates and verifying immigration documentation.

The redacted complaint affidavit contains a more complete summary of the allegations. Every defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

This is an ongoing federal investigation. The FBI requests anyone having additional information on the crimes occurring at these locations or other business locations in Nebraska where similar crimes occurred, contact the Omaha FBI field office.

Protecting the integrity of the immigration process is a priority for USCIS. To report suspected immigration benefit fraud or abuse to USCIS, please use the USCIS Tip Form. *USCIS*

Grandi, marking yet another deadly incident in the perilous Central Mediterranean migration route.

In a post on X, Grandi stated that over 700 refugees and migrants have lost their lives in the Central Mediterranean so far in 2025, while emphasizing the ur-

gent need to enhance all aspects of the response to deal with such situations.

"At least 27 people have drowned in a tragic shipwreck near #Lampedusa. Over 700 refugees and migrants have now died in 2025 in the Central Mediterranean. All responses -- res-

cue at sea, safe pathways, helping transit countries and addressing root causes -- must be strengthened," Grandi stated in his post.

According to UNHCR Italy's Communication Officer, the agency is currently assisting survivors from the wreck. *ANI*



# Pakistan steps up crackdown on undocumented Afghan migrants

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani police have intensified operations in Peshawar, detaining numerous undocumented Afghan migrants as part of a wider crackdown on those without valid legal documentation, Khaama Press reported.

Police in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said they had detained a significant number of undocumented Afghan migrants and suspected armed individuals during coordinated security operations in the city. Authorities claimed weapons and narcotics were seized from those arrested and vowed to continue the campaign, according to Khaama Press.

*The operations were conducted in the Kacha Garhi, Nasir Bagh, and Regi areas. While the exact number of detainees was not disclosed, officials said the drive was part of broader action against undocumented Afghan nationals*

Nasir Bagh, and Regi areas. While the exact number of detainees was not disclosed, officials said the drive was part of broader action against undocumented Afghan nationals.

Khaama Press reported that in recent months, Pakistan has intensified arrests and deportations of Afghan migrants lacking legal documentation, often carrying out house-to-house searches. The campaign has accelerated as visa renewals for Afghan nationals have been suspended for over a month, leaving many who previously

held legal status undocumented and vulnerable to expulsion.

On August 13, the Pakistani government announced the formation of a special committee comprising police and intelligence officials to identify and repatriate Afghans holding Proof of Registration (PoR) cards. The committee will collect and share data from various agencies to locate Afghan migrants and coordinate enforcement actions, Khaama Press reported.

The UNHCR has expressed concern that Pakistan's recent measures have left thousands of Afghans homeless, with many reporting threats, coercion, and mistreatment by police. Rights advocates warn that the continuation of such policies risks worsening an already severe humanitarian crisis, pushing vulnerable Afghan families into deeper insecurity, displacement, and loss of livelihood.

This comes amid reports that over 30,000 Afghan nationals illegally residing in Quetta division have been repatriated to Afghanistan in less than a month, official sources told Dawn.

The Pakistani government had set a July 31 deadline for all illegal Afghans to return to their home country. While many complied, a significant number remained, prompting authorities to launch legal action. Joint teams comprising police, Frontier Corps, FIA, and district administration were formed to carry out the crackdown. ANI

# Naga body urges Manipur Guv to raise FMR, Myanmar border fencing issues with Centre

IMPHAL: A delegation of the United Naga Council (UNC), an apex body of Naga community in Manipur, recently held a meeting with Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla and discussed the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and border fencing along India-Myanmar border.

A Raj Bhavan official said that during the meeting, the 10-member UNC delegation shared their views and concerns on matters related to the FMR and border fencing and requested the Governor to take up both the matters with the Union government.

"The Governor gave a patient hearing to the delegation and informed them that the matter has already been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)," the official said.

He said that the Governor appealed to the members of the Council to maintain peace and restraint while constructive dialogue continues.

The UNC has been opposing the "unilateral abrogation of FMR and construction of border fencing along the In-

dia-Myanmar border".

The Naga body has also announced to start agitation against the Centre's decision. UNC President Ng. Lorho, who led the 10-member delegation to the Governor, said that as resolved in its council meeting, would continue with its agitation plan irrespective of whether a formal invitation for dialogue is extended or not.

The UNC-Governor meeting came in the backdrop of the expiry of the 20-day ultimatum served by the UNC to both the Centre and the state government regarding what it described as the "unilateral abrogation" of the FMR and the ongoing border fencing works.

Meanwhile, Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio while addressing the Independence Day function in Kohima expressed his concern over the Centre's decision to trim down the FMR along the India-Myanmar border from the earlier 16 km to 10 km and limiting movement to nine crossing points. IANS

*"The Governor gave a patient hearing to the delegation and informed them that the matter has already been taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)," the official said*

## Tensions rising in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan against Chinese dominance

NEW DELHI: Tensions are growing in Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region between local communities and the increasingly dominant China-Pakistan trade apparatus, according to reports.

Social media footage widely circulated showed Chinese nationals blocking a key road in protest, and within hours, Pakistani traders responded by staging a sit-in that effectively brought cross-border movement at the Sost town at the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) immigration point to a standstill on July 31.

According to a report in the online publication Zamin.uz, these developments are not isolated. They reflect a deepening discontent in Gilgit-Baltistan over what many local residents view as an exploitative trade relationship—one in which the economic benefits disproportionately favor Chinese interests while local traders are left to navigate a system they say is stacked against them.

Gilgit-Baltistan's traders have been voicing concerns for years, but recent developments underscore just how acute those frustrations have become.

Many in the region argue that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) — a project long hailed by Islamabad as a game-changer — has offered little by way of tangible benefit to the local economy.

Instead, GB residents say they are witnessing their lands used as corridors for foreign economic gain, while their own businesses are suffocated by bureaucracy and an uneven playing field.

A recurring complaint involves the inspection of Pakistani goods and vehicles by customs officials, while Chinese shipments often pass with minimal scrutiny.

One Gilgit-Baltistan trader told a local media outlet that they were required to provide strict documentation and face exhaustive checks, while Chinese goods faced almost no scrutiny at all.

Adding to this imbalance are concerns about labor. Chinese workers employed in infrastructure projects under CPEC are often flown in rather than hired from the local population, leaving many GB residents sidelined despite promises of job creation.

According to the report, the Pak-China Traders Action Committee (PCTAC) has escalated its protest at the Sost Dry Port in Hunza since July 21, demanding an end to what it terms illegal taxation by federal agencies.

The committee, comprising traders, hoteliers, transporters, and local businesses, has blocked the Karakoram Highway in Hunza and Nagar districts, disrupting trade with China. IANS

*Gilgit-Baltistan's traders have been voicing concerns for years, but recent developments underscore just how acute those frustrations have become*



## Bollywood film unit hit by food poisoning in Leh

SRINAGAR: A Bollywood film unit shooting in Ladakh was hit by food poisoning, and over 100 members of the unit were admitted to a hospital in Leh, officials said.

"Over 100 workers of a Bollywood film crew were hospitalized in Leh after a suspected case of food poisoning late 11 August evening," officials confirmed.

The workers of the film unit were engaged in the shooting of an upcoming film when several of them suddenly developed severe abdominal pain, vomiting, and headache.

They were immediately rushed to the Sajal Narbu Memorial (SNM) Hospital in Leh, where doctors said it was a case of mass food poisoning.

An official said that nearly 600 people had meals at the location before the incident occurred.

"Food samples have been collected for detailed analysis to identify the cause," the official added. The hospital authorities said the situation was brought under control after an urgent mobilization of staff from all departments.

"We managed the patient rush effectively. The police also stepped in to regulate the overcrowded emergency ward and prevent panic," a senior doctor said.

Doctors confirmed that all patients are in stable condition, and most of them have been discharged after receiving necessary treatment. *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)*

16 India Post

www.indiapost.com

August 22, 2025

## New ultrasound drug delivery safe, reduces side effects

NEW DELHI: US researchers are building a non-invasive system using ultrasound to deliver drugs anywhere in the body with precision, as well as with reduced side effects.

The new system, being developed by a team of Stanford University researchers, uses nanoparticles to encapsulate drugs along with ultrasound to unleash the drugs at their intended destinations.

In a study published in the journal *Nature Nanotechnology*, the team showed in rats that their system can deliver ketamine to specific regions of the brain and painkillers to specific nerves in limbs. Using a new sucrose formulation, they found that nanoparticles are safer, more stable, and easier to produce.

"Turns out just a little bit of sugar is all you need to make this work," said Raag Airan, Assistant Professor of radiology, Stanford Medicine.

The researchers found that a 5 percent sucrose solution inside the nanoparticles made them

relatively stable in the body, yet responsive to ultrasound stimulation.

That means that even when the nanoparticles are delivered into the bloodstream and travel

tial to make a wide range of drugs safer and more effective.

"We can maximize the therapeutic effect and minimize the off-target effects," Airan said.

Initially, the nanoparticles con-

response to ultrasound.

Finally, they tried sugar. After testing different types and concentrations of sugars, the researchers found that 5 percent sucrose added to the liquid core achieved the best balance of ultrasound response and stability at body temperature.

The researchers then tested the drug delivery system in rats, comparing animals that were given an injection of free, unencapsulated ketamine with those given ketamine encapsulated in nanoparticles with 5 percent sucrose.

When the researchers applied ultrasound to a particular brain region, the nanoparticles delivered about three times as much drug to that region as to other parts of their brain -- demonstrating targeted drug release.

If the system works in humans, clinicians may be able to isolate the emotional effects of ketamine -- to treat depression, for example -- while blocking the dissociative effects of the drug, the researchers said. *IANS*



throughout the body, most of the drug is released only where it's needed. A narrow beam of ultrasound, externally applied, pinpoints the target, releasing the drug.

Such a system has the poten-

sisted of a polymer shell filled with a liquid core of uncommon chemical compounds. But as it did not work, the team tried adding a variety of common substances to the liquid core, from polymers to salts, to modulate its

## IIT Kharagpur launches healthcare and technology school to train youth as health professionals

KOLKATA: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur has established a dedicated training center - School for Skills: Healthcare & Technology - within its campus to train rural and semi-urban youth as allied health professionals, said a statement issued by the institute.

The school will initially accommodate 150 students per year, offering short-term cer-

tificate courses aligned with the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), including General Duty Assistant, Emergency Medical Technician - Basic, and Phlebotomist.

Affiliated with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the programs will offer certifications issued by the Healthcare Sector Skill Council.

*The inaugural batch will commence classes in November this year, with plans to expand multiple courses in the coming years*

The inaugural batch will commence classes in November this year, with plans to expand multiple courses in the coming years. The initiative is expected to generate employment in the health sector, empower women, uplift economically weaker sections and strengthen community resilience.

IIT-KGP Director, Prof. Suman Chakraborty said, "The

School for Skills: Healthcare and Technology at IIT Kharagpur is more than a training hub. It is a catalyst for change. By combining skill development with cutting-edge technology, we aim to build a healthcare workforce that can serve the last mile, transform rural healthcare delivery and contribute to the nation's vision of inclusive growth." *IANS*



# Govt extends support to indigenous AI-powered blood testing device for primary healthcare

NEW DELHI: The Technology Development Board (TDB), under the Department of Science and Technology, granted its support to an indigenously developed AI-powered blood testing device for primary healthcare, the Ministry of Science and Technology said recently.

The TDB signed an agreement with

tests simultaneously, reducing patient waiting time, and setting up commercial-scale manufacturing. This next-generation Mobilab will include tests such as hemoglobin, creatinine, bilirubin, cholesterol, triglycerides, uric acid, glucose, and gamma-glutamyl transferase (GGT), among others," the Ministry said.

cer.

"Ensuring quality healthcare access in rural and remote regions is a national priority. This project not only addresses affordability and accessibility but also demonstrates India's capability in developing indigenous, AI-powered diagnostic solutions for primary healthcare," said Rajesh

Primary Healthtech, founded by alumni of IIT Guwahati, is working to develop affordable diagnostic technologies for underserved populations.

The company holds a patent for "a transmittance-based system/kit for point-of-care quantification" transferred from IIT Guwahati and has filed over six



New Delhi-based Primary Healthtech for the project titled "IoT-enabled point-of-care blood testing device for affordable and accessible healthcare powered by AI/ML algorithms."

"The project will focus on enhancing the current prototype (M1) to perform five

Mobilab, developed previously by the company, is a portable, battery-operated clinical chemistry analyzer device created by Primary Healthtech. It is IoT-enabled and powered by AI/ML algorithms, capable of testing over 25 parameters related to the kidney, liver, heart, vitamins, and can-

Kumar Pathak, Secretary, TDB.

The collaboration also underscores TDB's commitment to fostering indigenous healthcare innovations aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat and advancing India's presence in affordable medical technologies globally.

additional patent applications related to integrated mixers, assay development, centrifuges, and proprietary optical systems. The device has already undergone trials on 10,000 patients and recently received a CDSCO manufacturing license.

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# Highly sensitive people more likely to experience depression, anxiety: Study

NEW DELHI: People with sensitive personalities are more likely to experience mental health problems like depression and anxiety, according to a recent study.

The study, led by Queen Mary University of London, defined sensitivity as a personality trait that reflects people's capacity to perceive and process environmental stimuli such as bright lights, subtle changes in the environment, and other people's moods.

The research, based on a meta-analysis of 33 studies, revealed there was a significant, positive relationship between sensitivity and depression and anxiety. The findings, published in the journal *Clinical Psychological Science*, noted that highly sensitive people are more likely to experience depression and anxiety compared to those who are less sensitive.

"We found positive and moderate correlations between sensitivity and various mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, agoraphobia, and avoidant personality disorder," said Tom Falkenstein, a psychotherapist and a doctoral student at



Queen Mary University of London. "Our findings suggest that sensitivity should be considered more in clinical

practice, which could be used to improve the diagnosis of conditions," he added.

Falkenstein said that around 31 per cent of the general population are considered highly sensitive, and the findings show they are more likely to respond better to some psychological interventions than less sensitive individuals.

For example, people with more sensitive personality traits may be more likely to benefit from treatment plans that involve techniques such as applied relaxation and mindfulness, which can also prevent relapse.

"Therefore, sensitivity should be considered when thinking about treatment plans for mental health conditions. Our work shows it is crucial that the awareness of sensitivity is improved among mental health care professionals, so clinicians and practitioners can recognize the trait in their patients, and tailor treatment to their sensitivity," the researcher said. *IANS*

Queen Mary University of London. "Our findings suggest that sensitivity should be considered more in clinical

## Covid can accelerate ageing in blood vessels by 5 years in women: Study

NEW DELHI: A Covid-19 infection can accelerate ageing in blood vessels around five years, particularly in women, according to research.

As blood vessels age, it can make arteries stiffer -- raising the risk of cardiovascular disease, including stroke and heart attack, explained the researchers.

Bruno said.

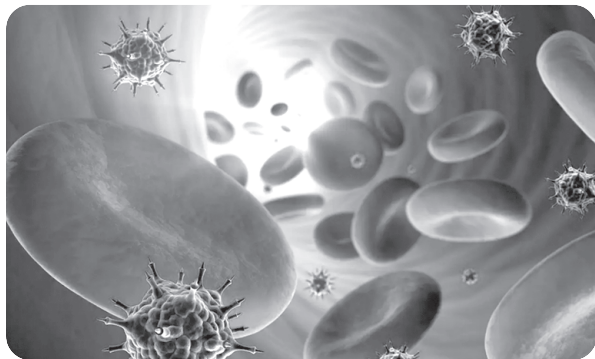
The study, published in the *European Heart Journal*, included 2,390 people from 16 different countries (Austria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Turkey, the UK, and the US) who were recruited between September 2020 and February 2022.

The results showed that all three groups of patients who had been infected with Covid, including those with mild Covid, had stiffer arteries compared to those who had not been infected.

The effect was greater in women than in men and in people who experienced the persistent symptoms of long Covid, such as shortness of breath and fatigue.

Notably, people who had been vaccinated against Covid generally had arteries that were less stiff than those of the unvaccinated. Over the longer term, the vascular ageing associated with Covid infection seemed to stabilize or improve slightly.

The Professor noted that one reason for the difference between women and men "could be differences in the function of the immune system". *IANS*



"We know that Covid can directly affect blood vessels. We believe that this may result in what we call early vascular ageing, meaning that your blood vessels are older than your chronological age and you are more susceptible to heart disease," said Professor Rosa Maria Bruno from Université Paris Cité, France.

"If that is happening, we need to identify who is at risk at an early stage to prevent heart attacks and strokes,"

## Study explains why loss of smell is associated with Alzheimer's disease

NEW DELHI: Brain's immune cells may explain why a fading sense of smell is an early signal for Alzheimer's disease even before cognitive impairments manifest, according to a study.

Researchers at DZNE and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) in Germany revealed that the brain's immune response seems to fatally attack neuronal fibers crucial for the perception of odors.

These olfactory dysfunctions arise because immune cells of the brain called "microglia" remove connections between two brain regions, namely the olfactory bulb and the locus coeruleus, they noted in the paper published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

These findings, based on observations in mice and humans, including analysis of brain tissue and so-called PET scanning, may help to devise ways for early diagnosis and, consequently, early treatment.

"The locus coeruleus regulates a variety of physiological mechanisms. These include, for example, cerebral

blood flow, sleep-wake cycles, and sensory processing. The latter applies, in particular, also to the sense of smell," said Dr. Lars Paeger, a scientist at DZNE and LMU.

"Our study suggests that in early Alzheimer's disease, changes occur in the nerve fibers linking the locus coeruleus to the olfactory bulb. These alterations signal to the microglia that affected fibers are defective or superfluous. Consequently, the microglia break them down," Paeger added.

Specifically, the team found evidence of changes in the composition of the membranes of the affected nerve fibers: Phosphatidylserine, a fatty acid that usually occurs inside a neuron's membrane, had been moved to the outside. *IANS*







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## Godrej Properties' net debt jumps 42 pc in Q1 FY26

MUMBAI: Real estate major Godrej Properties has seen its net debt rise sharply by 42 per cent in the June quarter (Q1 FY26) to Rs 4,637 crore, compared with Rs 3,269 crore in the same quarter of the previous financial year.

The increase comes as the company continues to aggressively expand its housing portfolio to tap into strong demand in the real estate market.



According to the company's latest investor presentation, the debt-to-equity ratio increased to 0.26 from 0.19. Despite the rise, the firm said its leverage remains at a comfortable level.

Speaking to analysts, Godrej Properties Managing Director and CEO Gaurav Pandey said the company has capped its net debt at Rs 10,000 crore.

He explained that even at this level, the debt-to-equity ratio would only touch around 0.5, which the company considers manageable.

Pandey added that the firm has sufficient cash flow from operations and borrowing capacity to support its short-term requirements. *IANS*

# Real Estate POST

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August 22, 2025

Rapid redevelopment essential for a slum free Mumbai: CM Fadnavis

Details on Page 21 ►



## Works on 74 projects commenced in Andhra Pradesh capital Amaravati

AMARAVATI: Work on 74 projects in the greenfield Andhra Pradesh capital Amaravati has commenced, while tenders have been issued for works worth Rs 50,552 crore, officials said.

The Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) has proposed works worth Rs 81,317 crore.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu recently reviewed the progress of the capital construction, land allocations to various agencies, and other pending matters with officials from the CRDA and the EDC.

Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana, municipal authorities, CRDA, EDC officials, and representatives from the contracting firms engaged in capital works were present at the meeting.

The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure that the construction of the Amaravati capital is completed in a record time. He emphasized that work should be completed six months ahead of



schedule.

Reiterating his vision of developing Amaravati into the world's best livable city, he reviewed the progress of infrastructure development in LPS layouts, as well

as the construction of residences for ministers, MLAs, officials, employees, and judges; road networks; utility ducts; trunk infrastructure; and flood-control measures.

*CM, Naidu recently reviewed the progress of the capital construction, land allocations to various agencies, and other pending matters with officials from the CRDA and the EDC*

CM Naidu instructed the contractors to execute these projects in a faster mode without compromising the standards of quality.

The Chief Minister emphasized that progress in the capital should be visible to the public. He committed to conducting monthly reviews of capital construction. He made it clear that, should timelines slip, responsibility would lie with both the contractors and officials concerned. Additionally, he announced that work will be monitored in real time and urged projects to proceed in "autopilot mode".

Regarding returnable plots, the Chief Minister called for measures that would not inconvenience farmers. He stressed the need to address farmers' concerns without impacting the master plan.

Responding to this, Minister Narayana assured that the issue will be assessed and resolved within a week.

Contractors also informed the Chief Minister that materials such as iron and other supplies brought during the previous government were pilfered, and sand stockpiles meant for construction were removed by past administrators. *IANS*

## Chawl redevelopment project: Maha CM Fadnavis hands over 556 flats at Worli in Phase 1

MUMBAI: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis last week handed over 556 flats under the Worli BDD (Bombay Development Directorate) Chawl Redevelopment Project in Worli.

Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chairperson of the Legislative Council Neelam Gorhe, Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha, Minister Ashish Shelar, among others were also present.

"Today was a special day for

the families who have been living in BDD Chawl in Worli for many generations. Before the distribu-

tion of flats in the two rehabilitation buildings, which have been completed in the first phase of



the BDD Chawl redevelopment project, the building was inaugurated by Chief Minister

Pawar. They also inspected the building and the flats," said a government release.

It further added that with the inauguration of two rehabilitation buildings it was a fulfillment of the dream of houses for BDD residents.

Under the Worli BDD Chawl Redevelopment Project, beneficiaries who are currently residing in 160-sqft rooms are being relocated to 2 BHK ownership flats of 500 sq. ft. carpet area, free of cost. *IANS*



## Israeli Finance Minister to approve 3,000 E1 homes, vows to 'bury' Palestinian state idea

TEL AVIV: Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich announced plans to advance tenders for the construction of over 3,000 housing units in the contentious E1 settlement area, located between Jerusalem and Ma'ale Adumim in the West Bank, The Times of Israel reported.

Smotrich declared that the move would "bury the idea of a Palestinian state", adding that the plan has the backing of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The project has been frozen for decades amid fierce opposition from the international community, who fear the new settlement neighborhood would prevent the estab-

According to The Times of Israel, the proposed construction of a new neighborhood for the Ma'ale Adumim settlement in the E1 zone has been a longstanding source of concern for the international community. Such development would effectively split the West Bank into northern and southern sections, obstructing the possibility of establishing a contiguous Palestinian urban area linking East Jerusalem with Bethlehem and Ramallah, a vision the Palestinians have long seen as central to the foundation of their future state.

Smotrich said in a speech that Netanyahu supports his move. "He backs me up in everything concerning Judea and Samaria, and is letting me create the revolution," Smotrich said at an event in Ma'ale Adumim organized by the Yesha Council, the umbrella organization representing local authorities in settlements.

Smotrich, who holds a junior ministerial position within the Defense Ministry that gives him significant influence over settlement construction, said the approvals for the long-frozen E1 settlement project are a response to a wave of Western countries that have an-

nounced or floated plans to recognize a Palestinian state at the United Nations next month.

"Today, anyone in the world who tries to recognize a Palestinian state will receive an answer from us on the ground," he declared. "Today, we are writing a historic chapter in the story of the redemption of the people of Israel in their land."

Smotrich boasted that "after 20 years of delays... the traffic jam has been broken [and] the E1 plan is underway," adding that the government is "fulfilling the promise and connecting Ma'ale Adumim with a strategic, security and demographic connection, which ensures our united capital for generations." *ANI*



lishment of a contiguous, viable Palestinian state, as per The Times of Israel.

"Approval of construction plans in E1 buries the idea of a Palestinian state and continues the many steps we are taking on the ground as part of the de facto sovereignty plan that we began implementing with the establishment of the government," Smotrich said in his recent statement.

"After decades of international pressure and freezes, we are breaking conventions and connecting Ma'ale Adumim to Jerusalem. This is Zionism at its best, building, settling, and strengthening our sovereignty in the Land of Israel," said Smotrich, who is also a minister in the Defense Ministry responsible for the West Bank civilian issues.

## No future for 'Future City', says KTR on CM Revanth Reddy's dream project

HYDERABAD: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao has said that there is no future for 'Future City' proposed by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, as the lands acquired for Hyderabad Pharma City cannot be diverted.

"No Future for this so-called 'Future City'! A classic example of what happens when a clueless leader runs the State. Revanth first scrapped Hyderabad Pharma City then floated an imaginary Future City on the same lands. As per the Land Acquisition Act 2013, land acquired for a particular public purpose cannot be diverted for real estate initiatives for the benefit of friends and family," Rama Rao said in a post on 'X' recently while reacting to media reports about legal hurdles for the Chief Minister's ambitious project.

The former minister said he had warned about this two years ago in the state Assembly. "After spending hundreds of crores on PR blitz, today even officials admit serious legal hurdles Public money wasted. Farmers betrayed.

Citizens fooled," he added.

CM Revanth Reddy has been aggressively pushing for Future City, proposed as the fourth city after Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Cyberabad.

"I will develop the city in a great manner that people will remember for 100 or 1000 years in future. Former CM Chandrababu Naidu developed Hi-tech City; YS Rajashekhar Reddy constructed the Outer Ring Road. Quli Qutub Shah laid strong foundation by constructing Charminar. Likewise, my name will also be etched in history forever," the Chief Minister said at the CREDAI property show on August 15.

He also dismissed the allegation of KTR that he floated the idea of Future City for his and his family's benefit.

"Some people are calling Future City a 'Four Brothers City'. You are all my brothers; I am designing it for your benefit. I don't care about others' comments," he told the real estate developers. *IANs*

## Rapid redevelopment essential for a slum free Mumbai: CM Fadnavis

MUMBAI: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the implementation of speedy redevelopment is necessary to make Mumbai slum-free.

To make Mumbai slum free, the projects should be completed in a time-bound manner, avoiding delays.

Speaking at an event recently, the Chief Minister said, "If we want to make Mumbai slum-free and carry out redevelopment quickly, we cannot have projects dragging on for decades. Once a project starts, the plot should be readied within a year to a year and a quarter, and the rehabilitation building should be constructed within the next year. Only then will the dream of a slum-free Mumbai come true."

He emphasized that this transformation can be achieved through new ideas, new technologies, and an innovative approach.

CM Fadnavis said that large-scale redevelopment is currently underway in Mumbai. The first phase of the BDD Chawl redevelopment has been handed over to residents.

"People who lived for nearly 100 years in 161 sq ft houses are now getting 500 sq ft flats. This is the largest urban redevelopment project in Asia. Along with redevelopment, slum redevelopment offers another major opportunity for Mumbai.

*"People who lived for nearly 100 years in 161 sq ft houses are now getting 500 sq ft flats. This is the largest urban redevelopment project in Asia. Along with redevelopment, slum redevelopment offers another major opportunity for Mumbai."*

offers another major opportunity for Mumbai. Cluster development is also creating new possibilities. Today, Mumbai boasts world-class architecture, iconic buildings, and excellent amenities," he remarked.

He further said that the latest technologies available worldwide should be brought to Mumbai. In the construction sector, such technology now allows an 80-storey building to be built in just 120 days. Major infrastructure projects are also underway in Mumbai.

"The Bandra-Versova Sea Link project is 60 percent complete and will be finished within the next two years. Work is also in progress to extend the sea link to Dahisar, and later to Bhayandar. The Western Expressway currently carries 60 percent of Mumbai's traffic; a parallel connection from the sea link to Bhayandar-Vasai-Virar is being developed and will later be extended to the port. All this will open up the entire northern belt for the real estate industry," he added.

CM Fadnavis said that when preparing Mumbai's new development plan, the city's diversity and its coastal location meant that many rules, military, naval, and forest regulations would have to be considered. *IANs*



LOS ANGELES: Russian model and former Miss Universe contestant Kseniya Alexandrova has passed away at the age of 30.

Kseniya died on August 12, weeks after an elk hit her car's windshield in a freak accident.

Kseniya sustained severe brain injuries from the incident, which occurred in July, while she

was driving, when the animal suddenly jumped onto the road.

Her agency, Modus Vivendis, also confirmed the news via a statement on Instagram.

"It is with deep sorrow that we announce that our colleague and friend, model Kseniya Alexandrova, passed away last night. Kseniya was bright, talented

the pleasure of knowing Kseniya," the post read.

"From the moment it jumped out to the impact, a split second passed. I didn't have time to do anything," Alexandrova's husband told Rossiyskaya Gazeta in a statement translated from Russian.

He recalled that Alexandrova

## Miss Universe 2017 contestant Kseniya Alexandrova dies in car accident

was driving in Tver Oblast, Russia. She later died in the hospital due to complications from her injuries on August 12, People reported, citing information from Russian news source Rossiyskaya Gazeta.

Alexandrova sat in the passenger seat while her husband

and extraordinarily bright. She knew how to inspire, support and give warmth to everyone around her. For us she will forever remain a symbol of beauty, kindness and inner strength. We sincerely mourn and express our deepest condolences to her family, friends and everyone who had

was unconscious after the impact, adding, "Everything was covered in blood."

Alexandrova represented Russia in the Miss Universe pageant in 2017. She was also first runner-up in the Miss Russia competition earlier that same year. ANI

## Vir Das on Indian comedy's global reach: Not even close

MUMBAI: International Award winner Vir Das, whose work in standup comedy has been loved across the globe, feels that Indian comedy hasn't gone global yet, but as India's cultural influence grows, it will, and he hopes to contribute to that rise.

Asked if he believes Indian comedy has reached the global platform, Vir told IANS: "Not even close, not even close. I think you will see, as India becomes an undeniable global cultural power, that Indian comedy will reach massive heights - and I hope to be a small part of that."

Vir, who has appeared in approximately 35 plays, over 100 stand-up comedy shows, 18 films, eight TV shows and six comedy specials, has humorously described his career as "a disaster," but defines success in simple terms.

Talking about his career has been quite the thing, pat came the reply from Vir: "Quite a disaster, yes."

**What does success mean to you at this point, now that you have fans worldwide and have been honored with several accolades including an Interna-**

.....  
 "NOT EVEN CLOSE, NOT EVEN CLOSE. I THINK YOU WILL SEE, AS INDIA BECOMES AN UNDENIABLE GLOBAL CULTURAL POWER, THAT INDIAN COMEDY WILL REACH MASSIVE HEIGHTS - AND I HOPE TO BE A SMALL PART OF THAT."  
 .....



Vir Das

**tional Emmy Award?**

**Vir said:** "Free biscuits. I think if you're able to show up anywhere in the world and there is a tray of biscuits waiting for you, I think that's success you can maintain. Some days tickets will sell, some days tickets will not sell. But if biscuits are around, you'll be alright."

The 46-year-old stand up star was feted with the Disruptor Award at the 16th edition of IFFM. IANS

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



Kseniya Alexandrova

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## Philosophy

SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI

If you say Ananta is atma, there is nothing mystic about it. If you say 'Bliss', it becomes mystical, because it is now open to the question - what kind of bliss? People have words. They say 'ineffable' bliss. Is it like grilled cheese - when you put cheese between bread slices and grill it, the melted cheese come out. Will bliss come out like that?

If atma is 'ineffable', why talk? It does not make sense. You put the people on a big trip. Ananda has to be Ananta.

It is svarupa-ananda and not vrtti-gata- ananda.

Saccit has nothing to do with vritti. That Saccit is the only thing which exists; therefore it is Ananta, limitless. Suppose you say Bliss - how do you ever know what is "atma bliss"? How is it different from "Ice-cream Bliss" or "Hawaii Bliss"?

One person says, "Yesterday in meditation, I experienced Bliss". How to know? You have to go to a Guru. It is a matter of knowing I am Saccidananda.



Swami Dayananda

you cannot have any degree of ananda. "Tasya priyameva sira modo daksina paksah" - in all of them, the svarupaananda is present. That is what you are seeking. That is sat-cit, that is ananda, which is you.

This word ananda has really caused a lot of confusion in the minds of seekers as well as teachers (acaryas).

Sukha (happiness) and duhkha (sorrow) are opposites, and therefore are mutually opposed. When one is, the other is not. When I am happy, I am not sad, and when I am sad, I am not happy. But the truth is, the self that is sat and cit sustains every condition

(vrtti) of the mind, like the water every wave. Whether the condition of the mind is pleasant or unpleasant, it is sustained not only by sat cit, but also ananda, because sat cit is ananda.

The non-recognition of this fact commits a person to seeking such an experience [of happiness] as often and for as long as he or she can have it. The ?astra stops this pursuit by revealing that the

## Ananda is not bliss; it is limitlessness

*Ananda cannot be imagined or conceived but it can be communicated*

One fellow puts B in uppercase, another puts all letters in the word Bliss in uppercase - BLISS. That is why, I say Ananda is limitlessness - it has the same meaning of Ananta, limitlessness, wholeness, pur?atvam. It cannot be imagined or conceived but it can be communicated, clearly, by negating time-wise, space-wise and object-wise limitations, because it happens to be the self-evident you.

Limitlessness, wholeness is different from bliss. Bliss is vrtti-gata ananda, an experiential joy, known through a thought modification. After translating bliss you have to negate it and say "it is not this bliss or that bliss" and say it is "Ineffable bliss". You have to say, it is not experienced bliss - then what bliss is it?

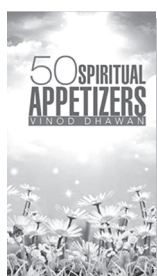
"Not experienced bliss" - how could you ever say that? Then why does ?astra use the word Ananda? Because the jiva is not after sat or cit, but after ananda. Everyone wants ananda. What you seek is yourself. Every experience of empirical ananda enjoys the presence of svarupananda. Without svarupananda,

atman one is seeking is oneself. Ananda is never displaced by any condition of the mind, because it is the nature (svarupa) of atman, like sat and cit. An unhappy condition of the mind is sustained by consciousness, which is sat. If this is true, it is ananda that sustains the unhappy condition as well as the happy condition. In which case, ananda cannot mean bliss.

*Excerpted from arshavidya.in. The 95th birth anniversary of Swami Dayanand was celebrated on August 15.*

### 50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

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"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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## The Tianjin Calculus: Modi, Xi, and the unfinished chapter of the 21st Century

JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY

In April 1955, at the Bandung Conference in Indonesia, leaders from newly independent Asian and African states gathered to imagine a world outside the Cold War binary. Among them were Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai, two men who then spoke the language of a "third force" between the superpowers. They shook hands, smiled for the cameras, and signed on to the spirit of "Panchsheel"- five principles of peaceful coexistence.

Seven-and-a-half years later, Chinese troops poured across the Himalayas. Whatever Bandung had promised dissolved in the snow-laden battlefield of 1962.

The war redrew the map of India's foreign policy, welding a reflexive suspicion of China into the country's strategic DNA. Even today, when questioned, Indian strategists will say the "real enemy" is across the northern border and Pakistan a mere distraction.

*The war redrew the map of India's foreign policy, welding a reflexive suspicion of China into the country's strategic DNA. Even today, when questioned, Indian strategists will say the "real enemy" is across the northern border and Pakistan a mere distraction*

Since then, the triangle connecting New Delhi, Beijing, and Washington has shifted shape more than once. In the 1970s, India tilted toward Moscow; by the 1990s, toward the United States.

In between, China rose from poverty to become the world's second-largest economy, and the U.S.-India "strategic partnership" was cast as a bulwark against that new found strength of Beijing's rise.

### Changing Equations, Seminal Summit

However, fast forward to 2025, the equation is changing again - and Tianjin may be the point where the lines start to bend. At the end of August, Narendra Modi and Xi Jinping will meet in the northern Chinese port city of Tianjin, their first substantial face-to-face since the Galwan Valley clash of 2020.

When Indian and Chinese soldiers clashed in close quarters with improvised weapons in an incident that killed soldiers on both sides and froze bilateral relations

for half a decade.

Officially, the latest encounter is about "normalizing" relations after partial troop disengagement along the contested Line of Actual Control.

But no one in Beijing, New Delhi, or Washington believes the agenda will stop at just high-altitude patrol routes.

In the background is a much larger question: Can the dragon and the elephant find enough common rhythm to dance, even briefly, in a multipolar order that is already under construction?

### Twin Shadows Over Tianjin

Tianjin will be held under the shadow of not only Galwan but also India's history of clashes with Communist China in the past. The brief but deadly war of 1962 and the pushback in 1967 at the Nathu La Pass will remain touchstones in the national narrative: moments when the Himalayan frontier went from remote abstraction to violent reckoning.

The other big shadow which will be on everyone's mind will be that of the tariffs unleashed by US President Donald Trump.

In late July, Trump imposed punitive tariffs on \$86.5 billion of

Indian exports, effectively doubling the rate to 50 percent. Officially, the move was punishment for India's refusal to halt purchases of discounted Russian oil.

Unofficially, it was also a major setback for Prime Minister Modi, who had invested years, and much political capital, cultivating a personal "bromance" with Trump, even to the extent of campaigning for him on American soil.

The rift deepened when Trump offered preferential trade terms to Pakistan just weeks after a major terror attack in Kashmir.

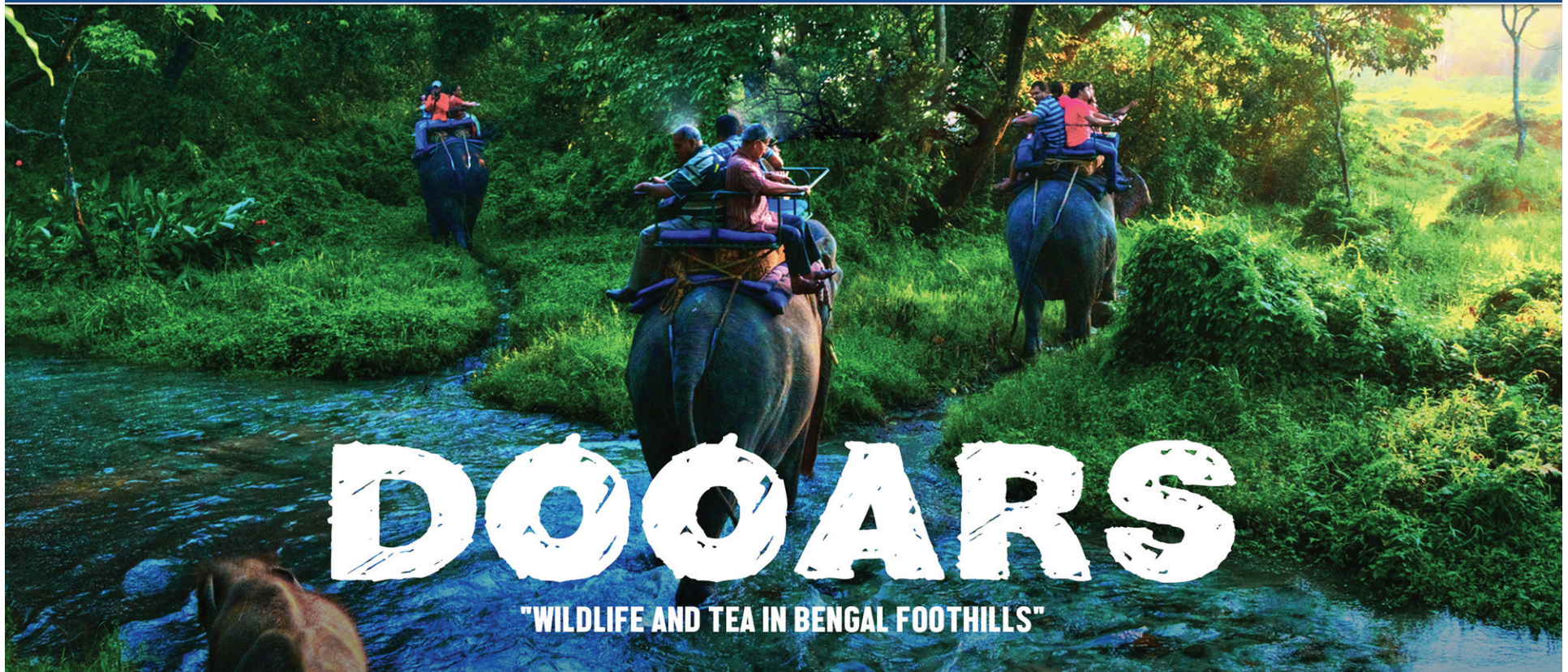
For South Block, the home of India's Ministry of External Affairs, the message seemed unambiguous: Washington's affection can be transactional, and its pressure subtle.

*(The author is a senior journalist and strategic analyst who specialises in the political economy)* South Asia Monitor

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

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





**S**tarting from river Teesta in the East to river Sankoshi in the west, Dooars is a local name given to the floodplains of Northeast India around Bhutan. The name 'Dooars' has emerged from 'door' as Dooars is the gateway to Bhutan.

Dooars comprises of several towns and districts in this region including Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Siliguri, etc. Geographically, Dooars is blessed with such brilliance in its relief, imagine, the mighty range of mountains of the Eastern Himalayas in the backdrop, a band of thick forests, rich in species of Flora and Fauna, continued with tea gardens, and cut here and there by water body. Somewhere in the middle of all this is Dooars. The gateway you wouldn't want to cross heartlessly.

#### PLACES TO VISIT IN DOOARS

**Mahanada Wildlife Sanctuary:** Mahanada Wildlife Sanctuary is a must if you are into wildlife. Located at the foothills of Himalayas in the Terai region, it is spread across the lower catchment area of river Mahanada.

With a thick forest cover, Mahanada homes rare species of animals like one horn Rhino, Bison, Elephants, Tigers, Leopards, Sambar and Cheetals.

**Sumsing and Suntalekhola:** 81km from Siliguri, this place is considered heaven for Nature lovers, two forest bungalows in the middle of a forest, with hills in the backdrop and the constant splashing noise of the numerous

streams as they flow, step out of the bungalow and listen to early morning chirping of birds and whispers of the forest as it tells something to the noisily moving river water.

**Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuary:** Located at a distance of about 20 km from the Gorumara National Park,



this Wildlife Sanctuary is another spectacle of nature's magnificence. With Kanchanjungha and other Himalayan peaks painted across its backdrop, tourists can see a wide diversity of animals like elephants, gaur, and leopards in their natural habitat.

Do not visit the Sanctuary in the rainy season, as it stays closed to visitors from June to September. Overnight accommodations are also available in the Rest House

**Latpanchore:** A small village at the top of a hill top on the Mahanada Wildlife Sanctuary, surrounded by forest and rich in the Cinchona plantation, a British bungalow in the middle of this, which now serves as a forest bungalow.

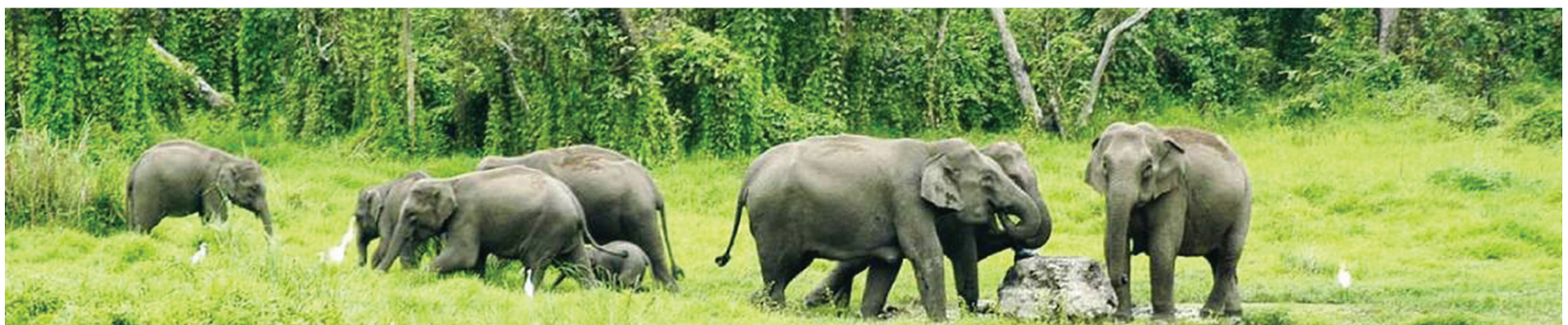
It is as much vintage as it is heaven like to stay here. Trekkers trek from here up to Namthing Pokhri. Sunrise from the Aahal Pick is a delight to watch, so soothing and unreal.

#### BEST TIME TO VISIT DOOARS

Known for having pleasant weather throughout the year, Dooars is best when visited in the winter season, i.e. between September and May. Some visitors prefer visiting the town during the festive days in the winter season to witness the colors, the enthusiasm, excitement and unity in the city celebrated in their unique ways.

#### HOW TO REACH DOOARS

Bagdogra airport is the nearest to Dooars. It is a small domestic airport with flights running from the major cities of the country. Just 12kms from the town, taxis and buses are available from Bagdogra to Madarihat/ Dooars. [www.holidify.com](http://www.holidify.com)





33rd FOG India Day Festival of Fremont celebrates community, culture and unity





# 33rd FOG India Day Festival of Fremont celebrates community, culture and unity



## FOG India Day celebrates young talent at Kids Corner

The FOG India Day celebration, held on Saturday, August 16th, featured a vibrant Kids Corner that showcased the artistic skills of young participants. The highlight of the event was a coloring contest for kids, which drew enthusiastic participants across various age groups.

The winners of the coloring contest were:

**Age Group: 4-6**

- 1st Place: Sai Yashasvi Shukla
- 2nd Place: Riaan
- 3rd Place: Tanisha

**Age Group: 7-9**

- 1st Place: Rhuthvika
- 2nd Place: Yavin Raj
- 3rd Place: Inaaya

**Age Group: 10-12**

- 1st Place: Vihaan
- 2nd Place: Anshika
- 3rd Place: Sahasra

Special thanks to Megha Mocherla and Mayukh Suri for coordinating the Kids Corner and making the event a success. Congratulations to all the winners and participants!





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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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# US Positioning on Crypto Currency has implications for BRICS and South Asia

PARTHA PRATIM MITRA

In recent months policy discussions have focused on the United States' increasingly assertive trade policies and their impact on global supply chains and economic stability. A new dimension in this debate is the rise of US dollar-pegged stablecoins and the digital financial infrastructure that supports them. The Trump administration's promotion of crypto assets and US dollar-pegged stablecoins, combined with regulatory moves in Singapore, South Korea and Hong Kong, have generated worldwide interest. Stablecoins are digital tokens pegged to another asset, often a sovereign currency. US dollar-pegged stablecoins are backed one-to-one with dollars or liquid dollar assets and are redeemable at

lar-pegged tokens without interacting with the US or any banking system. In times of stress, mass redemptions could trigger run on treasuries, destabilizing short-term funding markets, weakening the tools of monetary authorities and potentially spreading shocks across global financial markets. The stablecoin market presently is estimated to be around US\$250 billion, backed by roughly US\$180 billion in US Treasuries and other short-term liquid assets.

The recent legislation called "Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for US Stablecoins of 2025" or the GENIUS Act of 2025 marks the beginning of the United States' first major legislative step towards regulating stablecoins. With this

ments could be a major source of vulnerability, particularly when issuers are licensed by state authorities. Critics have pointed out that from a systemic perspective, the GENIUS Act's main shortcoming is its failure to deal effectively with the inherent risk of stablecoin runs when there is a crisis of confidence in the crypto system, because it prevents regulators from prescribing strong capital, liquidity, and other safeguards.

### Perceived Challenge from BRICS nations

The GENIUS Act 2025 must be seen in the context of not only establishing the legal legitimacy of the crypto industry but the global context of establishing the reserve status of the US dollar which has been increasingly challenged by certain countries. The BRICS group of nations got directly involved in the US trade war with imposition of high tariffs on imports from Brazil and India, countries that were accused of pursuing "anti-American" policies due to their growing trade relations with China and Russia.[iv] The status of the US dollar as a world reserve currency became an integral part of the trade war discourse with the US President Donald Trump accusing the BRICS nations as trying to replace the dollar with another reserve currency.

In November 2024, BRICS countries held their 16th summit in the Russian city of Kazan. The BRICS group currently consists of 10 member countries: the original five -Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa and five new members admitted in 2024-25 -Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in early 2025.

(The writer is a retired Special Secretary, Government of India. Views expressed are personal)  
South Asia Monitor

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*The autonomy enjoyed by crypto asset issuers raises concerns for monetary policy transmission where, a person with a smartphone can transact in dollar-pegged tokens without interacting with the US or any banking system.*

face value despite their occasional deviation from the currency peg. They are considered as near-cash equivalents - programmable, transferable and globally accessible. These tokens are widely used for settling crypto asset trades, facilitating international remittances, an important source of foreign earnings for South Asia and providing a dollar alternative in some developing economies. Their 24/7 transferability, near-instant settlement and low transaction costs also make them attractive for foreign exchange transactions.

The autonomy enjoyed by crypto asset issuers raises concerns for monetary policy transmission where, a person with a smartphone can transact in dol-

lar-pegged tokens without interacting with the US or any banking system. In times of stress, mass redemptions could trigger run on treasuries, destabilizing short-term funding markets, weakening the tools of monetary authorities and potentially spreading shocks across global financial markets. The stablecoin market presently is estimated to be around US\$250 billion, backed by roughly US\$180 billion in US Treasuries and other short-term liquid assets.

The risk of the crypto industry comes from the business model which it follows. Such a business model essentially involves the capture of the spread between what the stablecoin issuers pay on their currencies (which is zero interest under the GENIUS Act) and what they can receive in returns when they invest their reserves, just like a bank. Major incentives for stablecoin issuers are prompted by their propensity to invest at least some of their reserves in riskier assets to get higher returns. Such invest-



## INDIA POST EMPOWERING INDO-AMERICANS

While India celebrated its 79th Independence Day functions at Red Fort in New Delhi, India; the Indian diaspora all across the world, especially in the United States, settled and living in all the major US cities, tries to remember the freedom of India from British colonial rule. The community comes together with full gusto and enthusiasm, and makes it a point to join in this annual celebration with parades and melas.

Amongst the best of these celebratory events takes place in the Silicon Valley headed by a renowned cardiologist and publisher of India Post Media Group, Dr Romesh Japra. This year marks the 33rd anniversary of this Silicon Valley area celebration, which includes a massive colorful parade and a community Mela depicting Indian culture, art and the diversity of India's heritage. Dr Japra and the Indian community realize that while it was a good idea to promote community culture and traditions, for the benefit of the next generation of Indians in US, it is equally important to empower the Diaspora community with a voice and support in Washington D.C..

To fill this void, a non-partisan Political Action Committee (PAC), Americans4Hindus (A4H) was born; dedicated to politically empower American Hindus and pro-Hindus, including Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists and other like-minded communities that uphold Hindu values of equality, tolerance and diversity.

To ensure that Hindu Americans have a strong voice in governance, policymaking, and public discourse, A4H actively promotes political awareness, leadership and representation and, the mission is to advocate for issues that impact Hindu and Dharmic communities in the U.S. along with strategic initiatives, community engagement, social media promotions and advocacy. They strive to protect and celebrate Sanatan Dharma and in United States of America.

Through impactful campaigns, A4H works to influence policies that promote religious freedoms, cultural understanding and justice.

A4H has also set-up the Rajneeti Academy, which offers free training on American politics, preparing future community leaders to make a real difference by donating, volunteering and spreading awareness-to help shape a better, more inclusive future for the community in US. Americans4Hindus furthers its cause by influencing and supporting 200 election-campaigns to support pro-Hindu candidates be elected at local, state and federal levels.

A4H encourages American Hindus & pro-Hindus to be part of the political process and to advocate Hindus & pro-Hindus to gain Citizenship, register to Vote, and get out to Vote and, to be counted and also to promote youth participation in the mainstream political process.

Additionally, they aim to address the Diaspora community's concerns, including Hindu hate, Hinduphobia, immigration, misrepresentation of Hinduism in the mainstream education system so that incidents like what happened in Bangla Desh and several other countries across the world, do not happen.

As India is fast approaching the landmark to become the third largest economy of the world it has no constructive voice in United States. While several Indo-Americans individually have done extremely well in their chosen careers in U.S. mainstream, they seldom get involved and engage within the political arena. A4H was formed and is committed to fill this void.

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





## ANKITA LOKHANDE TO WOMEN WHO'VE BEEN TOLD SHE IS TOO MUCH

**P**opular television actress Ankita Lokhande said 'keep shining' to every woman who has been told she is too much.

Dropping a string of sizzling photos of herself posing in a black bodycon jumpsuit, the 'Pavitra Rishta' actress shared on her IG: "To every woman who has ever been told she's too much. Too loud, too ambitious, too bold. Thank you for never dimming your light. Keep shining. The world needs more of your fire. #noneedofvalidation."

Despite being a strong-headed woman herself, Ankita badly misses the presence of her late father, Shashikant Lokhande.

Last week she remembered her father on his death anniversary with a special post. Ankita said that while it has been three years since her dad left for heavenly abode, it still feels like yesterday.

She took to her Instagram handle and posted a throwback family picture featuring Ankita, her mother, and her late father.

Some wounds don't get healed.. You just learn to hold them gently.. Three years have gone by, yet it still feels like yesterday. *IAN S*

## Ananya on Italy's impact on her style

**B**ollywood actress Ananya Panday has revealed that Italy had a huge impact on her style and that she came back wanting to experiment more, trust her instincts, and not shy away from bold silhouettes.

Asked what's one travel destination that had a big impact on your style and why, Ananya told IANS: "I'd say Italy! Being in one of the world's fashion capitals was incredibly inspiring - the energy, the style, the way people carried themselves with such ease and confidence. I came back wanting to experiment more, trust my instincts, and not shy away from bold silhouettes or unexpected pairings."

Ananya said that the trip didn't just refresh her wardrobe; it reshaped how she expresses herself.

"Even now, I revisit those memories when I need a creative spark - they've earned a permanent place on my mood board and in my mindset," said Ananya.

Revealing her go-to style and beauty hacks when she's on the move or traveling for shoots and holidays, Ananya said that she wants to be comfortable yet still be "put together."

"When I'm traveling, whether it's for work or a getaway, I want to feel comfortable but still put together," said Ananya, who has hosted Airbnb's Original experience.

"I always pack versatile basics that I can mix and match: a great pair of denims, oversized shirts, statement accessories, and a blazer that works for both day and night. On travel days, comfort is key, so you'll find me in sweatpants and sneakers, especially while taking a long flight, settling into a cozy Airbnb or exploring a new city."

Beauty wise, shared a secret.

"Beauty-wise, a dewy skin tint, mascara, and a lip and cheek tint go a long way. I also swear by a hydrating mist, a good SPF, and under-eye patches for early call times. Oh, and dry shampoo is a must. It's a game changer," she said. *IAN S*



## TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

- 1 Saiyaara: **Saiyaara**
- 2 Barbaad: **Saiyaara**
- 3 Dhun: **Saiyaara**
- 4 Qayde Se: **Metro ... In Dino**
- 5 Zamaana Lage: **Metro ... In Dino**
- 6 Aur Mohabbat Kitni Karoon: **Metro ... In Dino**
- 7 Laal Pari: **Housefull 5**
- 8 Tum Ho Toh: **Saiyaara**
- 9 Tu Hain Toh Main Hoon: **Sky Force**
- 10 Pardesiya: **Param Sundari**

## Prajakta Koli not 'avid watcher' of horror or paranormal genres

**C**ontent creator and actress Prajakta Koli, who essays the role of a paranormal investigator in the recently released psychological-horror streaming series 'Andhera', is not much acquainted with the horror genre.

The actress recently spoke with IANS, and shared that she experienced a fair bit of rocky roads while embarking on the journey for the show but quickly regained her ground courtesy the show creator and director.

She told IANS, "I'm very new to this and especially to this genre. I'm not an avid watcher of horror or paranormal thrillers. So, I actually began with leaning on the source material. *IAN S*





## REGENA CASSANDRA ON HOW SHE GOT HER DEBUT FILM

Actress Regena Cassandra, who is awaiting the release of her upcoming film 'The Wives', directed by Madhur Bhandarkar, has a photographic memory. The actress recently spoke with IANS, and walked down the memory lane, as she recollected how she got her first film.

Regena even remembers the outfit she wore at the time during the audition. The actress made her debut with 'Kanda Naal Mudhal' at the age of 14, and has an interesting story behind her getting cast for the film. The film was helmed by V. Priya, who was once an assistant of acclaimed director Mani Ratnam. The film also marked her directorial debut.

She told IANS, "Well, that's my favorite memory. It's embedded in my mind forever, with visuals and all (laughs). I even remember what I wore the day I went to audition for it. I had worked with Priya ma'am prior to 'Kanda Naal Mudhal' for a documentary. I must've been 8 or 9 years old. We lost touch after. Cut to five years later I get called for an audition and I go. I finished the audition and the team asked me to wait to meet the director. She walked out, both of us squealed, and the rest is history".

She further mentioned, "I was so happy I got to work with her for debut. It's such a sweet memory. Both our firsts. 'Kanda Naal Mudhal' launched me into a world which at that time had no clue would end up being my career. Acting wasn't my career option. It was something I considered a hobby IANS



## PRIYA BAPAT SAYS OTT HAS GIVEN HER CHALLENGING ROLES

Actress Priya Bapat, who leads the investigation in the recently released psychological-horror streaming series 'Andhera', has said that working on OTT has been a very rewarding experience for her.

The actress spoke with IANS during the promotional run of the show, and shared that while she has been working in the Hindi and Marathi cinema for over 20 years, it's the OTT, which has given her the opportunity to try meatier parts.

She told IANS, "I feel that I think I have got more meaty parts and more challenging roles in the space of OTT now even from the time I started be it 'City of Dreams' or 'Andhera', every show that I have done so far has given me a lot more. Everything I did and learnt in my Marathi industry and from the cinema that I did, I think more than the box-office, OTT really has been challenging, experimenting and it's a great space to be". IANS

## Priyanka Chopra: 'Kaminey' turning point in my career

As "Kaminey" turned 16 in Hindi cinema, global star Priyanka Chopra Jonas reminisced about how the film became a turning point in her career after Vishal Bhardwaj offered her the role of Sweetie Bhope.

Priyanka took to Instagram, where she shared a string of stills from the film, which stars Shahid Kapoor in a dual role and is set against the backdrop of the Mumbai underworld.

The actress recalled how the role of Sweetie Bhope was offered to her while she was filming Dostana in Miami.

"Sweetie Bhope. I was filming for Dostana in Miami, Florida with @tarun\_mansukhani directing and @bachchan and @thejohnabraham starring. One cool evening after we wrapped shoot, I saw a missed call from Vishal Bhardwaj. What?? I had wanted to work with him forever and never thought he would cast me because of my "commercial" image at the time."

She added: "He said he'd like to come see me, and he did. To Miami. I remember him telling me the story and I said, "Well, she has approximately 8 scenes." And he said, "With us working on it, it will end up being so much more. Trust me. And I did

He promised he would make something incredible for me after this in appreciation for doing the part."

The actress in all honesty said that she was just "greedy to work with him."

"A few years later, we did 7 Khoon Maaf."

The actress added: #Kaminey remains a turning point in my career. I learned so much from the master @vishalbhardwaj, how to research, prepare and then surrender to the part."

Talking about Shahid, she said: "@shahidkapoor was sensational in his double role. #AmolGupte was unforgettable. I also met @mubinarattonsey for the first time in this set. Those were the times. 16 years ago! Thought I'd share the experience. Have any of you watched it?" IANS







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