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City of Los Angeles recognizes Diwali

Details on page 24

PM Modi has farewell meeting with Biden

Details on page 10

## TRUMP SNUBS PAK

Trump's Cabinet picks giving sleepless nights to Pakistan's political and military leadership

ISLAMABAD: Several prominent Pakistani think tanks, policymakers and top government officials have been forced to re-strategize their position and reassess the terms of their relationship with the United States under the incoming Trump administration.

Trump has already announced several names of his new Cabinet with key positions, giving an indirect message to Islamabad that it may not be on his priority list in comparison to New Delhi.



**Donald Trump** 

critical of Pakistan in the past and have had a more considerate view of India.

Pakistani policymakers are keeping a close eye on Trump's choices, indicating the future foreign policy of the US administration. It is believed that Pakistan may not be on the priority list of Trump administration and the US foreign policy.

Senator Marvo Rubio, who has been nominated as the next US Secretary of State, had introduced a bill that supported India and rang alarm bells in Pakistan

Cont'd on page 9

Palestine thanks India for \$2.5 mn financial aid

Nigeria confers its

highest national

honor on PM Modi

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The list includes Secretary of Defense, State, National Security Advisor and the CIA chief who have been

Army headquarters in Rawalpindi.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and other world leaders hold hands as they pose for a group photo during the G20 summit, in Rio de Janeiro. (ANI Photo) Details on page 12





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### TRUMP SNUBS PAK

Trump's Cabinet picks giving sleepless nights to Pakistan's political and military leadership

Cont'd from page 1

The 'US-India Defense Cooperation Act' introduced in the Senate by Rubio, called for an extended defense cooperation with India, to tackle the increasing influence of China in the region. The bill proposed that India should be treated at par with allies, including Japan, Israel, South Korea and NATO, on technology transfers. It also suggested that New Delhi should be provided with security assistance through collaboration in defense, technology, economic investments and civil space.

Rubio's proposed bill also mentioned Pakistan's involvement in sponsoring terrorism against India through various proxy groups, suggesting that Islamabad should not be provided with any US security assistance.

The other important pick by Donald Trump is Mike Waltz, nominated as the National Security Advisor. Waltz has also been critical of Pakistan in the past, calling for putting more pressure on Islamabad to eliminate cross-border terrorism.

Trump's Cabinet nomination also in-

cludes Tulsi Gabbard for the key post of US National Intelligence Director. Tulsi had not only backed India during the February 2019 stand-off between India and Pakistan following the Pulwama terror attack but also has been vocal about Islamabad harboring Al-Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden, who was killed in a US Navy Seals operation in Abbottabad, back in 2011.

John Ratcliffe, who is going to head the CIA, has served as the Director of US National Intelligence during Trump's first term and is known to keep a hawk's eye on Iran and China.

Analysts reckon that all the significant nominations made by Trump do not augur well for the US-Pak relationship going forward. They foresee that the Shehbaz Sharif-led government will face a major challenge at the hands of the Trump administration.

Last week, Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir said that Islamabad would not become part of any bloc in any conflict, a statement that experts believe is an indirect message to the incoming Trump administration. *IANS* 





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# PM Modi thanks Brazilian President Lula da Silva for 'warm welcome' at G20 Summit

RIO DE JANIERO: Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked Brazilian President Lula da Silva for the warm welcome upon his arrival at the venue of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. PM Modi further said that he looked forward to the proceedings at the Summit.

In a post on X, he said, "Looking forward to the proceedings at the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Thankful to President Lula for the warm welcome."

Upon his arrival, President Lula and PM Modi were seen shaking hands and the two leaders interacted.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi appreciated the display of vibrant Indian culture in Brazil as he was warmly welcomed in Rio.

In a post on social media, PM Modi shared visuals on the celebration of Indian culture in Brazil.

The video shared by the PM showed young kids singing Vande Mataram with traditional Indian instruments such as Harmonium being played.

The Prime Minister was greeted with chants of Jai Shree Krishna and also witnessed beautiful Garba performance from



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives a warm welcome from Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on his arrival at the venue of the G-20 Summit, in Rio de Janeiro. (ANI Photo)

the members of the Indian community.

With folded hands, PM appreciated the Vedic chants sung by Brazilians and lauded them.

"A celebration of Indian culture in Brazil! Gratitude for a memorable welcome in Rio de Janeiro...", PM Modi wrote on X.

India and Brazil share a very close and multifaceted relationship both at bilateral level as well as in multilateral fora.

In Brazil, there is a lot of interest in India's culture, religion, performing arts and philosophy. Ramakrishna Mission, ISKCON, Satya Sai Baba, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Bhakti Vedanta Foundation and other spiritual gurus and organizations have chapters in Brazil.

The Indian Prime Minister landed in Brazil after completing the first leg of his threenation tour in Nigeria. In Rio de Janeiro, he was received by Indian officials, including Indian Ambassador to Brazil Suresh Reddy.

At the G20 Summit, PM Modi will represent India as a Troika member, building on the momentum established during India's presidency last year. *ANI* 

# PM Modi has farewell meeting with Biden capping four years of cooperation

RIO DE JANEIRO: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a farewell meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit with US President Joe Biden, who is completing his term in January, capping four years of cooperation.

"Always a delight to meet him", PM Modi posted on X with a picture of them together.

At the G20 conference table, PM Modi was flanked by Biden and Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

PM Modi developed a rapport with Biden and relations grew between the two democracies in the four years of his presidency during which they met personally several times.

In September, PM Modi met Biden at his weekend home in Delaware, where they also held a summit of the Quad with the prime ministers of Australia and Japan.

Biden visited India last year for the G20 summit hosted by PM Modi, during which they also held bilateral meetings.

Biden hosted PM Modi on a state visit to Washington last year showcasing pageantry, and said of PM Modi, "Each time, I was struck by our ability to find new areas of cooperation. Together, we're unlocking a shared future of what I believe to be unlimited potential".

During the visit, the two countries signed agreements for cooperation in defense, climate change, space, and high tech.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets US President Joe Biden at the G20 Summit, in Rio de Janeiro

Significantly, the US agreed to license to India the manufacture of GE F414 engines used in military jets, and the two countries agreed to promote startups in defense industries and to cooperate in

counter-terrorism.

PM Modi and Biden upgraded the Quad, the group for Indo-Pacific cooperation comprising also Japan and Australia, to the summit level.

They also set up the I2U2 group of In-

dia, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States to mirror the Quad on the western side of India.

PM Modi visited Washington in 2021 and had other meetings with Biden in multinational forums and held several phone conversations.

While there were differences between the two countries manifest mainly on Ukraine that did not come in the way of the Biden administration's ties with New Delhi.

The specter of China's threat to the world order and to the Indo-

Pacific has been one of the drivers of closer ties between India and the US, an organic growth through successive US administrations with bipartisan support in both countries. *IANS* 

### PM Modi gifted 'Silofar Panchamrit Kalash' to Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu

ABUJA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a three-nation tour to Nigeria, Brazil and Guyana, gifted the Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, a 'Silofar Panchamrit Kalash' (pot) which is a stunning example of traditional craftsmanship from Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

Made from high-quality silver, and shaped with skill and precision, the 'Silofar Panchamrit Kalash' features elegant engravings typical of Kolhapur's renowned metalwork, with motifs that often include floral patterns, deities, and traditional Kolhapur designs.

The Kalash's handle and lid are crafted to provide ease of use during religious ceremonies, where Panchamrit - a sacred mixture of milk, curd, ghee, honey, and sugar - is served.

Last Sunday, PM Modi met with Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu at the Presidential Villa in Abuja. The two leaders held a meeting at the President's House in Abuja. ANI

### Nigeria confers its highest national honor on PM Modi, says India a global powerhouse under his visionary leadership

ABUJA: Nigeria on Sunday conferred the national honor of Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) on Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his first official visit to the country while emphasizing that India has positioned itself as a global powerhouse under PM Modi's visionary leadership.

Nigerian President Bola Tinubu honored PM Modi after their bilateral meeting held at Abuja's Aso Rock Villa, which serves as the office and residence of the Nigerian Presidency.

The award citation notes that under PM's visionary leadership, India has been positioned as a global powerhouse and his transformative governance has fostered unity, peace and shared prosperity for all.

PM Modi thanked President Tinubu and the people of Nigeria for the honor, which he dedicated to the people of India and to the longstanding friendship between India and Nigeria. "Honored to be conferred with the 'Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger' Award by Nigeria. I accept it with great humility and dedicate it to the



Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu confers Nigeria's 2nd highest honour, Grand Commander of The Order of the Niger (GCON) on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Abuja. (ANI Photo)

people of India," said PM Modi.

The Indian PM is the first foreign leader to be conferred with this award since 1969 when Queen Elizabeth received Nigeria's highest national honor.

"Nigeria values its excellent relationship with India, and we work to deepen and broaden the same to the mutual benefit of our two friendly countries. You represent a very strong commitment in democratic values and norms. You have been doing a good job historically, winning three consecutive elections in a complex society is a feat that we respect so much," said Tinubu.

"I will confer on you today, the Prime Minister of India, Nigeria's National Honor, the Grand Commander of the Order of Niger. This to signify Nigerian appreciation and commitment to India as a partner," he added. Earlier this week, Dominica had announced its highest national honor, the 'Dominica Award of Honor,' for PM Modi in acknowledgement of his pivotal support during the Covid-19 pandemic and his commitment to fostering India-Dominica relations. IANS

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### PM Modi and other world leaders pose for a family photo at G20 summit

RIO DE JANEIRO: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, China's President Xi Jinping, and other leaders posed for a family photo at the 19th G20 Leaders' Sum-

The photo was taken following the launch of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.

The official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, described it as "a photo for posterity."

"A photo for posterity! The #G20 leaders together for 'Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet'," Jaiswal posted on

Earlier in the day, PM Modi welcomed Brazil's initiative to establish the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, emphasizing that the Global South is severely impacted by food, fuel, and fertilizer crises caused by ongoing conflicts. He stressed that their concerns must be prioritized.

"We support Brazil's initiative for a 'Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.' This is an important step towards implementing the Deccan High-Level Principles for Food Security, adopted at the New Delhi Summit," he stated.

During his address at the G20 session on 'Social Inclusion and the Fight Against

ensuring food security, PM Modi noted that the country's approach, based on "Back to Basics and March to Future," is delivering significant results.

He elaborated on measures taken by India to promote women-led development, highlighting that over 800 million people are provided with free food grains, and

"We support Brazil's initiative for a 'Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty.' This is an important step towards implementing the Deccan High-Level Principles for Food Security, adopted at the New Delhi Summit,"

Hunger and Poverty,' PM Modi highlighted India's success in lifting 250 million people out of poverty over the last decade. He also reaffirmed India's support for Brazil's initiative.

Speaking about India's achievements in

more than 550 million people benefit from the world's largest health insurance scheme.

"With respect to the theme of the first session. I would like to share India's experiences and success stories. Over the last

10 years, we have lifted 250 million people out of poverty. Over 800 million people are provided with free food grains. More than 550 million people benefit from the world's largest health insurance scheme. Now, 60 million senior citizens, over the age of 70, will also be eligible for free health insurance," he said.

Prime Minister Modi emphasized that the development of the Global South hinges on decisions made with their unique challenges in mind.

"Countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel, and fertilizer crisis caused by global conflicts. Our discussions can only succeed if we consider the challenges and priorities of the Global South. Just as we amplified the voice of the Global South by granting permanent G20 membership to the African Union during the New Delhi Summit, we will continue to reform global governance institutions," he said. ANI

### Firmly focused on 2047 roadmap, PM Modi and Macron solidify Indo-French strategic partnership

RIO DE JANEIRO: Working jointly towards completion of several key Indo-French goals all the way to 2047, the centenary year of India's Independence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron held extensive discussions on the sidelines of Rio G20 Summit to strengthen the India-France Strategic Partnership.

During their meeting, the two leaders reaffirmed commitment to their shared vision for bilateral cooperation and international partnership, outlined in the Horizon 2047 roadmap and other bilateral declara-

"It is always a matter of immense joy to meet my friend, President Emmanuel Macron. Complimented him on the successful hosting of the Paris Olympics and Paralympics earlier this year," PM Modi posted on X after meeting Macron.

This was the third meeting between the two leaders this year, after President Macron's visit to India as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January and their meeting on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Italy in June.

"We talked about how India and France will keep working closely in sectors like space, energy, AI and other such futuristic areas. Our nations will also work closely to enhance people-to-people linkages," said PM Modi

Over the past few years, the two leaders have cemented their friendship and the bonds between New Delhi and Paris with Macron calling India "a giant in world history with a decisive role to play in the future" under the leadership of Prime Minis-

economic cooperation, including in a wide range of industries, between the two countries.

"It is always a pleasure to meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as our partnership with India is both rich and multifaceted," remarked Macron as he posted a video of him hugging PM Modi.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a bilateral meeting with the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron during G20 Summit at Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil

ter Modi.

Last Monday night, India time, both leaders sat down in Rio de Janeiro to take stock of the progress being made in strategic, cultural, scientific, academic, and

"We reviewed the progress on the initiatives launched during my State visit last January, as well as key international issues," he stated.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

later said in a statement that both leaders commended the progress achieved in bilateral cooperation, including in strategic areas such as defense, space and civil nuclear energy, and committed to accelerating it further with a view to reinforcing their shared commitment to strategic au-

They also reviewed the progress of cooperation on India's National Museum project.

"The two leaders commended the strengthening of trade, investment, and technology ties, including in the areas of digital technology and Artificial Intelligence, as well as India France partnership on Digital Public Infrastructure. In this context, the Prime Minister welcomed the initiative of President Macron to organize the forthcoming Al Action Summit in France," the MEA detailed.

Ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and the situation in the Middle East also figured prominently during the discussions.

"Both leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues, including the Indo-Pacific. They reaffirmed their commitment to work together to reinvigorate and reform multilateralism and help build a stable international order," the MEA statement added. IANS

### Narendra Modi to become the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Guyana in 56 years

GEORGETOWN: Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Guyana last Tuesday, and it's quite special as it was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the South American nation in 56 years.

Speaking to ANI, High Commissioner of India to Guyana, Amit S Telang hailed the visit and said," The significance of the visit lies in the fact that our two countries have traditionally shared very warm and, I would say historical relations. And this visit, as it is happening after almost five decades, or 56 years to be precise, is a symbol of the deep friendship, the mutual trust, and the kind of cooperation that our two countries have experienced over the years."

He added that India and Guyana have aimed to strengthen cooperation in key areas, including agriculture, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, renewable energy, information and communication technology, and education.

Telang also underlined the strong cultural and historical ties between India and Guyana, noting that nearly 40 percent of Guyana's population is of Indian origin. "We also have an expanding Indian community here in Guyana, which includes students, professionals, and of course, people who are engaged in trade and commerce. There's a lot of excitement, enthusiasm, and optimism about the visit. I'm sure the visit of Prime Minister Modi will create new momentum in our partnership," he said.

He further highlighted India's engagement with CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market) member states, of which Guyana is a part. "India has been working very closely with the CARICOM member states. This is also part of our initiative called the Voice of Global South. During our G20 presidency, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, we

tween India and Guyana comprises a bilateral joint commission at the ministerial

The formal structure of relationship be-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives a warm welcome from members of the Indian diaspora on his arrival, at a hotel in Georgetown, Guyana. (ANI Photo)

" The significance of the visit lies in the fact that our two countries have traditionally shared very warm and, I would say historical relations. And this visit, as it is happening after almost five decades, or 56 years to be precise, is a symbol of the deep friendship, the mutual trust, and the kind of cooperation that our two countries have experienced over the years."

started the initiative of Voice of Global South. Many leaders from CARICOM actively participated in these summits and shared their views," he stated.

level, the fourth session of which was held in Georgetown in May 2008, periodic consultations between the foreign offices, the third round of which was held in Georgetown in July 2011, cultural exchange program and a joint business council between the Federation of Indian

> Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICC) and the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce &Industry (GCCI).

> The cooperation between the two countries in sharing developmental experience is mainly routed through Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) under which fifty scholarships are granted every vear in various courses. Besides, some experts are also deputed to Guyana from time to time on request in specified areas of activity. Several other scholarships are also available to Guyanese to pursue Undergraduate, Post-Graduate, Masters, Medical and other course under ICCR's various scholar-

ship schemes. So far more than 600 scholars from India have undertaken training under ITEC.

India has offered credit facilities to Guyana for use in mutually accepted designated fields, agriculture and information technology, being two of these. Indian companies have also expressed interest in bio fuel, energy, minerals and pharmaceuticals. Total trade turn over remains low, though the trend is positive and en-

The Prime Minister's visit is expected to open new avenues for collaboration, strengthening India-Guyana ties and encouraging regional partnerships. ANI

### Palestine thanks India for \$2.5 million financial aid

NEW DELHI: Palestine has expressed its deep gratitude to India for releasing the second tranche of \$2.5 million financial aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), thus fulfilling its pledged annual contribution of \$5 million for the vear 2024-2025.

In a statement, the Palestinian Embassy said, "We extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of India for releasing the second tranche of \$2.5 million to UNRWA, fulfilling its annual contribution of \$5 million for the year."

The Embassy further lauded India's commitment to humanitarian assistance, stating, "We also acknowledge India's

pledge to continue providing humanitarian aid and medicines to UNRWA, assisting the agency in meeting its responsibilities toward the welfare of Palestinian refu-

Abed Elrazeg Abu Jazer, Charge d'affaires of the Embassy of Palestine. emphasized the significance of the financial support, calling it a "testament to India's unwavering support" for UNRWA's mandate, established in 1949.

"This financial contribution is a critical step in countering Israeli attempts to undermine UNRWA and halt its activities in Palestinian territories," the statement quoted him as saying.

Highlighting the strong historical ties

between India and Palestine, Jazer added, "The Palestinian people deeply value India's support and look forward to its continued backing at both political and material levels until their aspirations for freedom, independence, and the establishment of their own state are realized."

India's Representative Office to Palestine announced the release of the \$2.5 million tranche. Over the years, India has provided financial aid amounting to \$40 million for UNRWA's core programs and services, including education, healthcare, relief, and social services for Palestinian refugees.

"In addition to financial assistance, India remains committed to providing humanitarian aid and medicines to UNRWA, helping the agency fulfill its responsibilities toward the welfare of Palestinian refugees," the Representative Office noted.

The Palestinian Embassy expressed hope that this financial support would continue to strengthen UNRWA's efforts to serve Palestinian refugees, even as they face challenges in the region.

"The Indian contribution reaffirms its enduring commitment to UNRWA's services and the Palestinian cause. We are grateful for this support, which highlights India's role as a steadfast ally in our struggle for independence and self-determination," the Embassy statement concluded. IANS

### **Realty Tidbits**

### Real estate construction cost up 11 pc in India

NEW DELHI: Average cost of real estate construction in India is estimated to have risen up to 11 percent in the last one year, mainly due to a significant surge in labor costs coupled with a moderate price increase in construction materials like sand, brick, glass and wood, a recent report showed.

The cumulative effect of rise in the prices of four key construction materials including cement, steel, copper and aluminum, have been relatively low.

In fact, average cement prices have seen a steep decline of 15 percent, while average steel prices have witnessed a marginal 1 percent decrease over the last 12 months, according to a Colliers report.

"With labor accounting for more than one-fourth of overall construction cost, a 25 percent annual rise in labor costs has stretched construction budgets and impacted operational expenses," said Badal Yagnik, Chief Executive Officer, Colliers India.

Moreover, the need for skilled labor and the associated costs for training, safety and regulatory compliance further add to spiraling labor costs, Yagnik added.

The cost of construction in the residential segment saw an estimated 11 percent annual increase. *IANS* 

# Real Estate Post

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### Hyderabad fastest-growing among 6 Indian cities amid real estate surge

MUMBAI: Among six leading Indian cities, Hyderabad stands out as the fastest-growing one driven by robust infrastructure development and surging real estate demand, a report showed on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Mumbai-MMR maintains steady growth across all metrics, reaffirming its position as India's financial capital, and Delhi-NCR ranks highest for its superior physical infrastructure and governance, according to 'India Prime City Index' report by Knight Frank India.

Cont'd on page 15

# 80 pc of global banks have stable rating outlooks in 2025: Report

NEW DELHI: About 80 percent of global banks will keep on a stable ratings course in 2025 as easing inflation will help borrowers and reduce stresses on harder-hit sectors including commercial real estate, a report showed.

However, S&P Global Ratings said in its report that "we do not envision macro tailwinds will be sufficient to strengthen the credit standing of banks".

Positive ratings movements will more likely be driven by "idio-syncratic country and bank bank-specific factors".

According to credit analyst Gavin Gunning, with the interest rate cycle already turning in numerous banking jurisdictions, "some relief is finally within sight for bank borrowers".

"Banks' asset quality will eventually benefit although the transmission effect will take time and will vary across geographies," he mentioned.

According to the report, credit costs (a gauge of provisioning) will likely keep rising as a percentage of gross loans. This re-

losses will increase by about 7 percent to \$850 billion in 2025. Higher credit losses are within our base case at current rating levels for most banks," the report mentioned.



flects stresses over the past few years, including via a steep and fast increase in policy rates.

"We forecast global credit



The report identified four key downside risks to bank ratings, like a global economic slowdown outside our base case; a worse-than-expected property sector deterioration; a still-high interest rates superimposed upon high government and corporate sector leverage; and emerging risks including new technologies (such as AI), climate change and cyber that could widen credit differentiation, given that adaption to such changes could prove positive or negative.

"The trajectory of the interest rate descent may be weaker than our current economic forecasts indicate," added Gunning.

Previous rises in interest rates were sharp and largely in unison as central banks fought rising inflation.

"In contrast, the trajectory of their descent will be slower and more variable across jurisdictions. Moreover, the recent US election results could tilt inflation risks upward," he noted. *IANS* 

### Delhi-NCR and Mumbai among top 10 markets across the APAC: Knight Frank

NEW DELHI: Delhi-NCR and Mumbai are among the top ten markets in Asia Pacific region (APAC region), driven by demand from Global Capability Centers (GCCs) and India-focused businesses, as observed in Knight Frank APAC Prime Office Rental Index.

Delhi-NCR secured sixth place in the most expensive office space rental market across the APAC region, the latest edition of the Asia-Pacific Prime Office Rental Index for Q3 2024 shows.

Hong Kong special administrative region (SAR) continues to be APAC's most expensive office market during the quarter.

Prime rents in the NCR remained stable in the third quarter (Q3) 2024, while Mumbai and Bengaluru saw year-over-year

In second quarter (Q2) and (Q3) 2024, combined transaction volumes across these three markets hit consecutive all-time highs.



(YoY) increases of 5 percent and 3 percent, respectively, driven by strong occupier demand and limited new supply.

The report noted that the surge reflects optimism about India's economic future, its rich talent pool, business-friendly

regulations, and the ongoing growth of its vast consumer markets.

In Q3 2024, Bengaluru saw the largest volume growth, up 158 percent YoY. Bengaluru's standing as a GCC hub was further supported by the fact that 62 percent of the space traded in the city was from GCCs.

The majority of Mumbai and NCR's business volume was made up of companies that dealt with India.

Prime office rentals in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, and Bengaluru remained robust year-on-year, and rental rates are expected to stay stable over the next 12 months. Overall, 16 out of the 23 monitored cities reported stable or increasing rents yearon-year, up from 15 in Q2 2024.

Notably, Brisbane recorded the highest year-on-year growth in Q3 2024, reflecting a positive trend across many markets. The stabilizing vacancy rates across the region have declined marginally by 0.2 percentage points.

Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said, "The resilience of the Indian economy continues to attract strong global corporate interest, as reflected in the sustained demand across India's major office markets. ANI

# Jains Housing launches a modern residential complex "Jains Aadhya" at Semmenchery, OMR

CHENNAI: In the bustling heart of Chennai's IT corridor, Jains Aadhya has made its grand entry in Semmenchery, OMR, having 468 apartments compiled of both 1 & 2 BHK spacious apartments and it promises to redefine modern urban living with a perfect blend of innovation, comfort, and luxury. With a vision to cater to the evolving needs of today's homebuyers, Jains Aadhya is poised to become a landmark, offering a living experience that is not just a home but a lifestyle upgrade. Here's a closer look at what makes this project a game-changer.

At Jains Aadhya, space is a luxury that comes in abundance. The project boasts one of the highest carpet areas in the market, with an impressive 70 percent of the total area dedicated to livable space. This ensures residents have ample room to enjoy their homes without compromising on comfort or functionality. Whether it's spacious living rooms, large bedrooms, or open balconies, Jains Aadhya offers an environment that enhances everyday living.

Jains Aadhya is not just a place to live; it's a hub of activities designed for all age groups. With over 80+ amenities integrated into the project, residents can indulge in various leisure, wellness, and fitness activities. From a private mini-theatre, a skating track, and video game

rooms for the young and young at heart, to a jacuzzi for relaxation, the range of amenities ensures there's something for everyone. Moreover, EV charging points show that the project is future-ready, catering to the needs of electric vehicle owners.

Understanding the importance of harmony and positive energy in living spaces, Jains Aadhya is

fully Vastu compliant. Every home is thoughtfully designed, with the kitchen, master bedroom, house facing, and bed positioning all aligned to traditional Vastu principles. This ensures peace of mind and enhances the overall well-being of the residents, bringing in prosperity, health, and happiness.

The project is built using the cutting-edge Mivan construction technology, known for its speed, strength, and durability. Mivan

> construction is widely recognized for delivering high-quality homes in record time while ensuring precision in every detail. This means that buyers at Jains Aadhya can expect nothing short of the best, with homes that are built to last and de-

livered on time.

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

# Hyderabad fastest-growing among 6 Indian cities amid real estate surge

Cont'd from Page 14

On the other hand, Bengaluru has demonstrated remarkable socio-economic growth, driven by its thriving service sector that attracts a highly-skilled workforce from across India and beyond.

"India's emergence as a global economic powerhouse is underpinned by the exceptional performance of a select group of cities that have transformed into economic and cultural hubs. Each of the six cities have distinct opportunities to accentuate sustainable and inclusive urban development in the country," said Gulam Zia, senior executive director, Knight Frank India.

The relative strength of Hyderabad is centred in its growing real estate market, scoring highest among the six cities in the real estate parameter.

The city has witnessed the highest growth rate of 10 percent (CAGR) in residential launches over the past decade.

Bengaluru ranks second in real estate but remains the top choice for commercial occupiers, with sustained growth in residential real estate, said the report. The city boasts the highest workforce participation rate in the country at 76 per cent and an unemployment rate of just 1.8 percent - the lowest among the six cities analyzed. *IANS* 

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### Tech News

### '94 pc of Indian firms using GenAl in at least 1 function'

NEW DELHI: Most of the Indian enterprises (94 percent) are now using generative AI (GenAI) in at least one function, the highest percentage globally across 19 countries surveyed, according to a recent report.

However, only 24 percent of Indian respondents believe their GenAl applications are production-ready as respondents across Asia-Pacific cite key hurdles including cost (40 percent), skills (38 percent), governance (38 percent) and quality (33 percent), found the report by Al company Databricks.

More than seven in 10 Indian respondents see AI as crucial to their long-term goals. Despite the momentum, only 29 percent believe investment across technical and non-technical domains is sufficient.

By 2027, 100 percent of all Indian respondents expect GenAI adoption across both internal and external use cases.

"As businesses in India rapidly adopt AI, they are setting a new benchmark for integrating data-driven solutions tailored to the customers' unique needs," said Anil Bhasin, Vice President and Country Manager for Databricks India. IANS

# TechBiz

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### Mall operators in India to clock 12 pc revenue growth in 2024-25: Crisil

NEW DELHI: Mall operators are projected to clock a healthy revenue growth of 10-12 percent during the current financial year (FY25), building on last fiscal

year's 15 percent spurt, according to a Crisil report released 19 November. The growth will ride on contractual rental escalations, improvement in overall occupancy due to ramp-up of the malls launched in the last two fiscals, the full-year impact of malls launched during last fiscal, and an increase in share of tenant revenues supported by consumption growth, among other factors, the report stated. IANS

### Indian economy capable of handling global shocks: RBI Governor

KOCHI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has said that the Indian economy is strong enough to handle any adverse fallout from global

"Today, the growth of the Indian economy presents a picture of stability and strength," Das said while addressing an event at the launch of the Kochi International Foundation here.

The country's external sector is also strong and the current account deficit (CAD) has remained within manageable limits as it presently stands at 1.1 percent of GDP. Earlier, in 2010 and 2011, it was in the range of six to seven percent, he added.

The central bank chief also pointed out that India has one of the largest foreign exchange reserves in the world at about \$675

billion. He further stated that the country's inflation was expected to be moderate despite periodic humps.



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das

India's inflation rose to 6.2 percent in October from 5.5 percent in September because of food inflation, he said.

then it will go back to the forest."

Referring to inflation as an el-

ephant in the room, Das re-

marked: "Now the elephant has

He also pointed out that when the Ukraine war started, inflation went up but the RBI followed the right monetary policy, unlike some other countries, and succeeded in keeping the price spiral in check.

"What we did not do in India is also important. RBI did not print notes because if we start printing notes the problems we are trying to resolve will expand and go beyond handling. In many countries the inflation was deeprooted but ours is moderating," he added.

"We kept our interest rate 4 percent, therefore making our recovery much easier," he pointed out.

Das also highlighted how the RBI is bringing about a transformational change in credit delivery, especially to small entrepreneurs and farmers, through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) launched recently. IANS

### Women in India getting more jobs, higher pay over last 6 years: Center

NEW DELHI: There has been an enhanced engagement of women in economic activity in India, accompanied by a declining unemployment rate and upward trend of educated women in the workforce over the last six years, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics recently.

The Ministry's figures also show a steady increase in the earnings of women across employment categories. Besides, there has been a sharp rise in female labor force participation in rural areas due to an increased participation in economic activities.

The Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the Ministry of Statistics shows that the overall Indian labor market indicators have improved in the last six years. This is reflected in the Worker Population Ratio (WPR), which is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population, increased from 46.8 percent in 201718 to 58.2 percent in 2023-24.

The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) rose significantly from 49.8 percent to 60.1 percent during the same period and unemployment Rate (UR) declined



sharply from 6.0 percent to 2 percent, marking improved job availability and economic stability, according to the data.

According to the Ministry's analysis of the PLFS data pertaining to the female labor force in the country, there have been significant strides in female participation in economic activity across various categories, including rural and urban.

As per the PLFS, the rural FLFPR has increased significantly by 23 percentage points between 2017-18 and 2023-24 (24.6 percent in 2017-18 and 47.6 percent in 2023-24) indicating a rising contribution of women to rural production.

WPR for Women doubled from 22 percent in 2017-18 to 40.3 percent in 2023-24; LFPR for Women increased from 23.3 percent to 41.7 percent and unemployment rate was reduced from 5.6 percent to 3.2 percent. The survey further stated that there has been an upward trend of educated women in workforce. As per PLFS data, around 39.6 percent of total women with education level of post-graduate and above are working in 2023-24, compared to 34.5 percent in 2017-18.

At the same time, 23.9 percent of total women with an education level of Higher Secondary are in the workforce in 2023-24, as compared to 11.4 percent in 2017-18. Further, out of total women educated up to primary level, around 50.2 percent are in the workforce in 2023-24, compared to 24.9 percent in 2017-18. *IANS* 

# Center gives finishing touches to key rail line projects linked to ports in southern states

NEW DELHI: The Centre's Network Planning Group (NPG) which met recently, evaluated major railway infrastructure projects including the 185 km Ballari - Chikjajur Doubling project which aims to connect Ballari, Chitradurga, and Anantapur districts, facilitating the movement of iron ore, coal, cement, and food grains.

An official statement said that the 4th line is expected to support industrial hubs like Jindal Steel, which is plan-

ning to expand production to 24 MTPA while addressing freight demands linked to southern ports.

The project is anticipated to alleviate line saturation, improve efficiency in freight movement and enhance rail capacity.

By connecting remote areas to na-

tional infrastructure, the project is likely to promote socioeconomic growth and attract investments in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. It is also expected to create employment during construction and operation, lower transportation costs for industries, and strengthen integration within India's multimodal logistics network.

The NPG meeting chaired by Additional Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Rajeev Singh Thakur, also evaluated the 147 km Hosur - Omalur rail line doubling project which aims to connect the agro-industrial region of Hosur with the commercial hub of Salem in Tamil Nadu was also taken up at the meeting.

The route is expected to support critical sectors such as cement manufacturing, agro-processing, and automobile logistics while maintaining strong linkages to Bangalore's electronics and IT corridor.

By enhancing multimodal connectivity, the project is likely to link industrial hubs like the Salem Steel Plant,

TNPL, and surrounding SEZs with Bangalore and Salem airports. It is anticipated to address capacity constraints, improve freight efficiency, support tourism, and foster broader regional economic integration.

Besides, the 173.18 km Secunderabad -

Wadi Quadrupling project which aims to construct 3rd and 4th lines between Secunderabad and Wadi, a critical freight and passenger corridor in South Central India was evaluated at the NPG meeting.

The project expects to serve industrial hubs such as Tandur (cement), Sedam, and Nagulapalli (steel), facilitating the movement of coal, cement, and food grains. With current utilization exceeding 114 percent, the project is anticipated to alleviate congestion, enhance reliability, and support freight growth for industries across Telangana and Karnataka. *IANS* 



## India insulated among emerging markets to Trump's proposed tariffs: CLSA's Alexander Redman

"If you are considering

the world is going to be

less friendly to emerg-

ing markets and you are

'underweight' in India,

investors are going to

forgive you for increas-

ing weightage in India,"

MUMBAI: Among the emerging markets (EMs), India has the "least sensitivity" to US President-elect Donald Trump's proposed tariffs and higher interest rates, global brokerage CLSA's chief equity strategist Alexander Redman said on Monday (18 Nov).

Redman, who spoke at the '27th CITIC CLSA India

Forum 2024' here to discuss the "global outlook and the case for India versus China", said foreign investors are likely to run out of excuses for not investing further in India.

"If you are considering the world is going to be less friendly to emerging markets and you are 'underweight' in India, investors are going to forgive you for increasing weightage in India," Redman said.

CLSA last week raised India's allocation to a 20 percent 'Overweight', while

cutting exposure to China. The global brokerage shifted its "tactical allocation" to India from China, citing growing concerns over Beijing's economy and investor sentiment after the US presidential election.

According to Redman, he has been disappointed with

China on account of the potential headwinds that it faces after Trump returns as US president and the surge in 10-year US yields rising up to 4.5 percent, the highest since May.

India has the "moat" against Trump's proposed economic and trade policies, given the domestic flows and lower exposure to US investments, the chief equity strat-

egist said.

"India is one of the markets where you will be forgiven to have a long-term Overweight exposure," he added.

In a recent note, Redman highlighted that among emerging markets, India has the least sensitivity to Trump's proposed tariffs.

"India benefits from relatively low trade exposure to the US, manageable leverage, and a particularly low and declining level of foreign equity owner-

ship," he wrote. The global brokerage believes "Trump 2.0 heralds a trade war escalation" just as exports become the largest contributor to China's growth and India benefits from an "appreciable moat" should trade hostilities between the US and China heat up again. *IANS* 

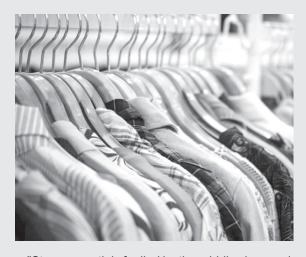
# High-street fashion players looking at India for manufacturing: Report

NEW DELHI: Amid rising private consumption, India's strong growth is rendering it a key global fashion market for 2025, particularly for high-street players for their manufacturing needs, according to a new report.

India's mid-market fashion segment is also expected to grow around 12 to 17 percent in 2025 compared to the projected low single-digit growth of the global fashion market, according to global consultancy firm McKinsey & Company.

One in five respondents in 'The Business of Fashion and McKinsey State of Fashion 2025 Executive Survey' mentioned India as a focus market for 2025

According to the report, India is expected to become the fourth largest economy in 2025, growing at 7 percent year on year, outpacing all other economies. This puts India on track to become the world's third-largest consumer market by 2027.



"Strong growth is fuelled by the middle class and digitization. There are 430 million people in India's middle class - greater than the middle classes of the US and Western Europe combined. It is expected to reach 1 billion by 2050, largely from tier-two and - three cities," the report noted.

In such a scenario, markets such as India are expected to become key sourcing hubs for US and European apparel and textiles. Fashion brands initially turned to Vietnam to reduce their dependence on China, with the value of apparel and textile exports from Vietnam increasing by 35 percent between 2015 and 2020.

"Now, other Asian countries such as India and Bangladesh are also hotspots," the report mentioned

This trend is expected to continue as fashion executives rank Asia growth markets as their top sourcing hotspots for the next five years and regulatory incentives fuel manufacturer capability building in these countries.

"India is expected to play a more prominent role. The Indian government has invested around \$2.5 billion in Production-Linked-Incentives and reforms to Quality Control Orders, while foreign investment has increased 3x since 2019," said the report. *IANS* 

### In Brief

# Cyprus relocates stranded immigrants from buffer zone

NICOSIA: Cypriot authorities have relocated dozens of immigrants from the island's buffer zone to government-run refugee reception centers, ending their four-month standoff in makeshift tents under UN supervision.

Last week, Nikolas Ioannidis, Deputy Minister of Migration and International Protection, confirmed that nearly 70 immigrants from Somalia, Sudan, Congo, Syria, Iran, and Afghanistan were transferred to state facilities, Xinhua news agency reported.

The decision followed agreements with third countries, which will accept an unspecified number of the migrants, loannidis told CyBC state broadcaster.

Those not accepted by other nations will face deportation to their home countries, he added.

The immigrants had entered the buffer zone in mid-June after being transported by human traffickers from the Turkish-controlled northern part of Cyprus.

The buffer zone, separating the island's Greek and Turkish Cypriot parts, has been under the oversight of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) since its establishment following a Turkish military operation against Cyprus in 1974.

Initially, Cypriot authorities refused to allow the migrants into government-controlled territory, citing concerns that the buffer zone could become a corridor for irregular migration. During the over fourmonth standoff, the immigrants were housed in makeshift facilities provided by the UN. IANS

# Immigration Post

**18** India Post www.indiapost.com November 22, 2024

the issue of Rohingyas and ille-

"Elections are coming up in Delhi, and now they are raising the issue of Rohingyas and illegal immigrants."



# Working on BJP's directive: Cong slams LG's order on action against illegal immigrants

NEW DELHI: As Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena issued instructions to the District Magistrates and the Commissioner of Police to identify and take action against illegal immigrants in the capital, Congress

gal immigrants. This is clearly
District the BJP's agenda," Alvi remarked.

He further accused the LG of
acting under the direction of the
BJP-led central government.

questioning why such issues had not been addressed earlier.

"Where was the attention before? If illegal immigrants have come, why wasn't action taken before the elections? Now, the BJP is trying to make this an election issue because they have nothing to show in terms of develop-

ment." he said.

Alvi emphasized that the responsibility for security and illegal immigration in Delhi ultimately lies with the Centre and Home Ministry.

Alvi also condemned the tragic deaths of 10 children in a fire in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi medical hospital.

"When we hear such news, tears come to our eyes and this is not the first time that this has happened. In Uttar Pradesh, children have died in hospitals in Gorakhpur and other places ear-

lier also. Now in Jhansi, 10 children have died. It is very painful to say and hear such things. I want to ask what kind of government is this? The Chief Minister is completely responsible for this. If Yogi Adityanath really considers himself a 'Yogi,' then he should resign after this tragedy. He is not fit to

be the Chief Minister and is not capable of running the government," he concluded.

The directive, sent by LG's office to top officials including Chief Secretary, the Commissioner of Police, and the heads of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), calls for heightened vigil and also remedial action for the encroachments on roads, pavements and parks by the illegal immigrants including Rohingyas.

According to official esti-



Congress leader Rashid Alvi

mates, approximately 20,000 Rohingya refugees are registered in India with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with an estimated 1,100 immigrants living in New Delhi. One of the primary locations for these refugees is the Kalindi Kunj camp. *IANS* 



Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena

leader Rashid Alvi has said it was a politically motivated move. He also accused the LG of acting at the behest of BJP-led NDA govt, months ahead of polls in the national capital.

Congress leader Rashid Alvi, while speaking to IANS, questioned the timing of LG's directive and said that it was politically motivated and was part of BJP's gameplan ahead of elections.

"Elections are coming up in Delhi, and now they are raising

# BJP backs LG's crackdown on illegal immigrants in Delhi

NEW DELHI: The BJP has come out in support of Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG), V.K. Saxena's directive to the Delhi Police and District Magistrates to step up vigilance and coordinate with central agencies to identify and take action against illegal immigrants in the national Capital.

Delhi BJP chief, Virendra Sachdeva has said the party supports the decision and emphasized that the LG's directive was essential for the protection and safety of the national Capital.

He added that the move was for boosting the security of the city, though it might be troubling for the AAP as it affects their vote bank, particularly Rohingya immigrants.

The BJP leader argued, "While the decision may affect the AAP's political interests, it is in the interest of the safety and security of Delhi and its people. We should welcome such decisions for the greater good of the capital city."

Acharya Pramod Krishnam

also echoed Sachdeva's sentiments and stated that strict action should be taken against all illegal activities, acknowledging the seriousness of the situation.

He highlighted that addressing this issue is required but it is not enough, it is just part of a much larger problem facing the nation, population control.

"Illegal immigration is not the only challenge, managing the population growth in the country is a growing concern," he said. *IANS* 

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### DHS to supplement H-2B Cap with nearly 65,000 additional visas for fiscal year 2025

Increase will help address the need for seasonal workers and reduce irregular migration

WASHINGTON: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the Department of Labor (DOL), announced that it expects to make an additional 64,716 H-2B temporary nonagricul-

tural worker visas available for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, on top of the congressionally mandated 66,000 H-2B visas that are available each fiscal year. These additional H-2B visas represent the maximum permitted under the authority provided by Congress and are identical to the additional temporary visas provided in FY 2024. DHS, in coordination with DOL, has authorized supplemental cap numbers in FY 2017, FY 2018, FY 2019, FY

2021, FY 2022, FY 2023, and FY 2024 in accordance with the time-limited statutory authority granted for each of those fiscal years by Congress.

American businesses in industries such as hospitality and tourism, landscaping, seafood processing, and more turn to seasonal and other temporary workers in the H-2B program to help them meet demand for their goods and services. The supplemental visa allocation will help address the need for seasonal and temporary workers in areas where too few U.S. workers are available, willing and qualified to do the temporary work and address the labor needs of American businesses.

Consistent with prior years, the Department is publicly announcing its plans to make these supplemental visas available early in FY 2025-just as it did in FY2023 and FY2024-to ensure American businesses with workforce needs are able to plan ahead and find the seasonal and other temporary workers they need. At the same time, DHS and DOL have put in place robust protections for American and foreign workers alike, including by ensuring that employers first seek out and recruit American workers for the jobs to be filled, as the H-2B program requires, and that foreign workers hired are not exploited by unscrupulous employers.

"The Department of Homeland Security is committed to further growing our nation's strong economy," said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas. "By maximizing the use of the H-2B visa program, the Department of Homeland Security is helping to ensure the labor needs of American businesses



are met, keeping prices down for consumers while strengthening worker protections and deterring irregular migration to the

The H-2B supplemental rule would include an allocation of 20.000 visas to workers from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Colombia, Ecuador, or Costa Rica and a separate allocation of 44,716 supplemental visas that would be available to returning workers who received an H-2B visa, or were otherwise granted H-2B

The H-2B visa program permits eligible employers to hire noncitizens to perform temporary nonagricultural labor or services in the United States. The employment must be of a temporary nature, such

> as a one-time occurrence, seasonal need, peakload need, or intermittent need. Employers seeking H-2B workers must take a series of steps to test the U.S. labor market. They must obtain certification from DOL that there are not enough U.S. workers who are able, willing, qualified, and available to perform the temporary work for which they seek a prospective foreign worker, and that employing H-2B workers will not

adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers. The maximum period of stay in H-2B classification is three years. A person who has held H-2B nonimmigrant status for a total of three years must depart and remain outside of the United States for an uninterrupted period of three months before seeking readmission as an H-2B nonimmigrant.

DHS and DOL are committed to protecting H-2B workers from exploitation and

The supplemental visa allocation will help address the need for seasonal and temporary workers in areas where too few U.S. workers are available, willing and qualified to do the temporary work and address the labor needs of American businesses

status, during one of the last three fiscal years. The regulation would allocate the supplemental visas for returning workers between the first half and second half of the fiscal year to account for the need for additional seasonal and other temporary workers over the course of the year, with a portion of the second half allocation reserved to meet the demand for workers during the peak summer season.

abuse, and to ensuring, consistent with the law, that employers do not refuse to hire or appropriately recruit U.S. workers who are able, willing, qualified, and available to perform the temporary work.

Additional details on H-2B program safeguards, as well as eligibility and filing requirements, will be available in the temporary final rule when published and on the USCIS webpage. USCIS

### **UN** warns armed violence deepens humanitarian crisis in Sudan

UNITED NATIONS: UN humanitarians warned that the escalating armed violence in Sudan is putting tens of thousands of people at risk and deepening the humanitarian crisis.

In less than a month, more than 343,000 Sudanese have been displaced across Aj Jazirah State, south of Sudan's capital, Khartoum, amid escalating clashes and continued insecurity, according to the International Organization for Migration.

Most of them have fled to the neighboring states of Gedaref and Kassala, where the United Nations and humanitarian partners are working with host communities to provide emergency assistance, including food, shelter, health care, psychosocial services, water, sanitation and hygiene support, reports Xinhua news agency.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned that armed violence in Aj Jazirah State is putting the lives of tens of thousands of people at risk.

An assessment carried out by the office last week found that many of the displaced Sudanese arriving in Gedaref and Kassala had walked for days with nothing but clothes on their backs. They are now sheltering in the open, including children, women, the old and the sick.

OCHA said the people who have fled the fighting in Aj Jazirah urgently need tents, plastic sheets, heaters, mattresses, medicines, and food. Gedaref has also seen an increase in cholera cases following the latest wave of displacement.

"It's been over a year and a half of unimaginable suffering, brutal atrocities and widespread human rights violations," said Dominique Hyde, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) director of external relations, earlier this month. "Every day of every minute, thousands of lives are shattered by war and violence away from the world's attention."

UN humanitarians repeated their call for the protection of civilians and safe passage for those fleeing, stressing that under international humanitarian law, civilians must be able to access the support they need to survive, whether they leave or stay.

### Health Line

## US reports new E. coli outbreak linked to carrots

LOS ANGELES: The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has warned of a new E. coli outbreak linked to organic carrots.

At least 39 people infected with the disease have been reported from 18 US states. Among them, 15 people have been hospitalized, and one person has died, according to the CDC, as reported by Xinhua news agency.

Interviews with sick people and trackback findings show that organic whole and baby carrots sold by Grimmway Farms are making people sick, said the center.

Grimmway Farms, which was located in California, has recalled multiple sizes and brands of bagged organic baby and whole carrots last Saturday.

The CDC requested the public not to eat any recalled bagged organic carrots and to wash items and surfaces that may have touched the recalled organic carrots using hot, soapy water or a dishwasher.

E. coli are bacteria found in many places, like the intestines of people and animals. Most kinds of E. coli are harmless, but some can make people sick.

People infected with E. coli may experience severe stomach cramps, diarrhea, and vomiting. Most people recover without treatment after five to seven days. Some people may develop serious kidney problems and would need to be hospitalized. *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)

**20** India Post www.indiapost.com November 22, 2024

# Trump names Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as US Secretary of Health and Human Services

WASHINGTON: US President-elect Donald Trump has announced Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as the new US Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS).

"I am thrilled to announce Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as The United States Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS)," Trump said last week in a post on X.

"For too long, Americans have been crushed by the industrial food complex and drug companies who have engaged in deception, misinformation, and disinformation when it comes to Public Health," the post mentioned.

Kennedy Jr. is the nephew of the 35th President of the US, John F Kennedy.

He is the founder of the Waterkeeper Alliance -- the world's largest clean water advocacy group -- and served as its longtime chairman and attorney.

Trump highlighted that the safety and health of all Americans is the most important role of any Administration, and HHS

will play a big role in helping ensure that everybody will be protected from harmful chemicals, pollutants, pesticides, pharmaceutical products, and food additives that have contributed to the

In a post on X, Kennedy Jr. thanked Trump for his leadership and courage and outlined his commitment to advancing his vision to make America healthy again.

"Thank you @realDonald



Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

overwhelming health crisis in this country.

"Kennedy will restore these Agencies to the traditions of Gold Standard Scientific Research, and beacons of Transparency, to end the Chronic Disease epidemic, and to Make America Great and Healthy Again!," he added.

Trump for your leadership and courage. I'm committed to advancing your vision to Make America Healthy Again. We have a generational opportunity to bring together the greatest minds in science, medicine, industry, and government to put an end to the chronic disease epidemic," Kennedy Jr. said.

"I look forward to working with the more than 80,000 employees at HHS to free the agencies from the smothering cloud of corporate capture so they can pursue their mission to make Americans once again the healthiest people on Earth," he added.

"Together we will clean up corruption, stop the revolving door between industry and government, and return our health agencies to their rich tradition of gold-standard, evidence-based science. I will provide Americans with transparency and access to all the data so they can make informed choices for themselves and their families. My commitment to the American people is to be an honest public servant. Let's go!" he said.

Trump won a second term as President of the US after securing 295 electoral votes in the 2024 presidential election, defeating Democratic rival, Kamala Harris, who garnered 226 votes. This makes Trump the first US president since 1892 to return to office after losing a previous election. *IANS* 

### Study finds how hormone therapy can reshape the skeleton

NEW DELHI: Skeletons of men and women vary in size and proportion. For instance, men typically have broader shoulders while women have a wider pelvis. According to new research, skeletal size may be altered by gender-affirming hormone therapy only if puberty has also been suppressed during adolescence.

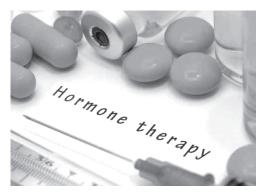
The study, presented at the European Society for Pediatric Endocrinology Meeting in Liverpool and carried out by

Amsterdam University Medical Center (UMC) in the Netherlands, not only help researchers further understand the roles sex hormones play on the skeleton but may also improve counseling on gender-affirming treatment in transgender individuals.

Gender-affirming hormones are used to better align an individual's physical appearance with their gender identity.

What's more, puberty blockers can be used to delay or prevent the changes associated

with puberty in transgender youth. However, how sex hormones affect the skeleton such



as the shoulders and pelvis of transgender individuals is still unclear.

To investigate this, researchers from Amsterdam UMC analyzed data on the shoulder and pelvis dimensions of 121 transgender women and 122 transgender men who were either undergoing gender-affirming hormone

therapy - with or without previously taking puberty blockers - or had not taken any therapy.

The researchers found that only transgender men who had been treated with puberty blockers from early puberty, followed by hormone therapy, had broader shoulders and a smaller pelvic inlet (upper opening of the pelvis) compared to untreated individuals, while transgender women had smaller shoulders only after treatment from early puberty. IANS

# Oral contraceptives do not raise BP in women during intense workout: IIT Madras study

CHENNAI: Oral contraceptives do not increase the blood pressure response in women during large muscle exercise (like cycling or running), according to a recent study led by researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras.

Oral contraceptives or birth control pills are taken by

women to prevent pregnancy and reduce acne, menstrual cramps, and the risk of ovarian cysts.

Although certain oral contraceptives are known to raise resting blood pressure, the exercise blood pressure response during intense exercises is not currently well understood.

In addition, research has been ambiguous on whether hormonal fluctuations during the menstrual cycle influence blood pressure.

The researchers, including from the University of Minnesota, US, found that both oral contraceptive use and general fluctuations in endogenous ovarian hormone (like estrogens) in young women (20-25 years of age), did not influence blood pressure.

The results were similar with lower body exercise and

activation of skeletal muscle sensory neurons -- known to contribute to exaggerated blood pressure responses in people with cardiovascular diseases.

"The findings of this study have wide application and are important as it sheds light on the influence of oral contraceptives on blood pressure response to exercise in

> women," said Dr. Ninitha A.J., Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras

> Exercise can acutely increase blood pressure due to increased sympathetic nerve activity (fight or flight) from skeletal muscle sensory neurons known as 'Exercise Pressor Reflex' (EPR).

The EPR results in an increase in blood flow from the heart to the skeletal muscle to meet the needs of the

muscle. The EPR is known to be greater in males compared with premenopausal females and is also known to be exaggerated in people with cardiovascular disease.

Estrogens are cardioprotective, they reduce sympathetic activity and increase blood flow to the skeletal muscle via nitric oxide bioavailability. *IANS* 

### US confirms first case of Clade I mpox in California

LOS ANGELES: The US confirmed its first case of Clade I mpox, a more aggressive strain, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

The person diagnosed in the state of California recently travelled from Eastern Africa and was treated shortly after returning to the US at a local medical facility and released, Xinhua news agency reported.

The health agency said last week, the new strain mpox's risk to the general US public remains low, while the new case is related to an ongoing outbreak of Clade I mpox in Central and Eastern Africa.

Since release, the affected person has been isolated at home and is not on treatment specific for mpox, and symptoms are improving, according to the agency.

Clade II mpox, another strain primarily responsible for the global outbreak in 2022, has been circulating in the US since then.

The agency advised the public to avoid close contact with people with symptoms of mpox or their used materials and to get vaccinated.

According to the agency, people with mpox often get a rash that may be located on hands, feet, chest, face, mouth, and/or near the genitals, including the penis, testicles, labia, vagina, and anus.

The incubation period is three to 17 days. IANS



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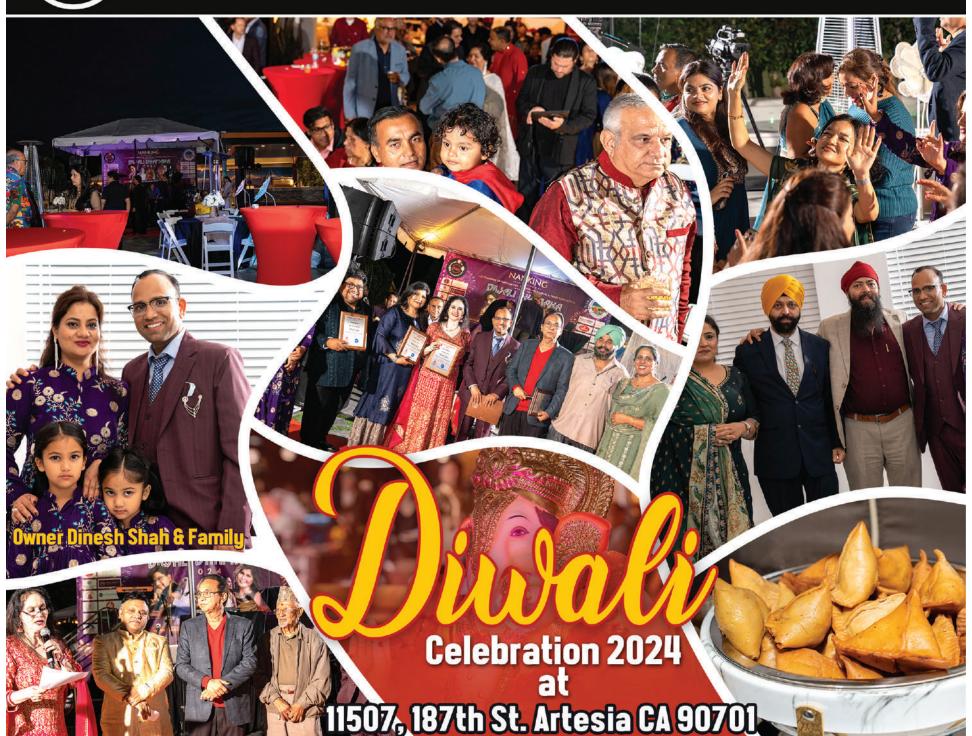
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### Desi News

### Chath Puja celebrations in Los Angeles

India Post News Service

The marvelous glow of the setting sun was greeted with generous chants of worship amongst hundreds of So-Cal residents of Indian origin at the Newport Dunes in Los Angeles County, as they gathered to celebrate the first ever Chath Puja Mahaparv in Los Angeles - to create a much coveted, nostalgic and eternal atmosphere for a 4-day festival called Chhath Puja.

Chhath Puja is a revered Hindu festival celebrated throughout the world - originating in the Hindu heartland of India - and a grand celebration in many states from North India Bihar, UP, New Delhi and many many more.

Chhath Puja also known as Dala Chhath, is dedicated to the Sun God, Surya, and his consort, Usha. It is a way of expressing gratitude to the Sun God for sustaining life on earth and seeking blessings for the well-being of family and friends. The 4-day festival is deeply rooted in the belief that the Sun has healing properties and is a symbol of prosperity and good health, marks the sixth day of the Hindu lunar calendar month of Kartika.

Details on page 26

# COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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November 22, 2024

California's fentanyl task force helps seize over 1.7 million fentanyl pills in October

Details on page 30

# City of Los Angeles recognizes Diwali with historic proclamation

India Post News Service

LOS ANGELES: In a significant moment for cultural recognition, the City of Los Angeles hosted a presentation and issued a proclamation in honor of Diwali, the festival of lights. Led by Councilmembers Nithya Raman and John Lee, the event celebrated Diwali's message of light triumphing over darkness, and good over evil, for Angelenos of all backgrounds.

"Diwali is a vibrant festival, symbolizing the victory of light over darkness, and good over evil," said Councilmember Raman in her address, highlighting the universal significance of the celebration. Councilmember Lee also spoke to the spirit of Diwali, adding, "As we light our



diyas today, let us remember that we have the power to bring light into the lives of others."

The ceremony featured a traditional invocation by Pundit Balmiki Sharma, who chanted Rigvedic mantras, bringing an authentic touch of cultural heritage to the proceedings.

Sunil Agrawal, President of the India Association of Los Angeles, expressed gratitude on behalf of the Indian community, thanking Councilmembers Raman and Lee for the proclamation. "By adopting this resolution, the City of Los Angeles has not only acknowledged the significance of Diwali, but it has also

reaffirmed its commitment to embracing cultural diversity as a source of strength," said Agrawal. "This recognition is a powerful reminder that when we celebrate our differences, we build a stronger, more united community. It is through understanding and celebrating the cultural traditions of others that we foster compassion, respect, and inclusivity."

Agrawal also marked the occasion by presenting each councilmember with a box of traditional Diwali sweets and a small memento, symbolizing goodwill and the spirit of sharing that Diwali embodies.

Notable community members in attendance included Raman Chadha, Manmohan Chopra, and Pramesh Shah from IALA, Naren Jhala from Valley Hindu Temple, Latesh Bhambani from Art of Living, Ganesh Narayanaswami from Isha Foundation, who joined the celebration, representing the broader Indian American community and their contributions to the cultural landscape of Los Angeles.

This event, the first Diwali recognition in the Los Angeles City Council's history, represents a meaningful step in embracing and celebrating the city's cultural diversity.

### Caltrans awarded \$5.6 mn for cutting-edge technology to improve safety and reduce travel times

ORANGE COUNTY:
Caltrans has been awarded a
\$5.6 million grant from the U.S.
Department of Transportation
(DOT) as part of the 2023 Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) program to provide real-time, critical information to drivers by connecting vehicles and roadside equipment with cellular networks.

"Caltrans is poised to lead the future of transportation by pioneering intelligent, technology-driven solutions that make our roads safer and reduce travel times," said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. "Real-time information provided through electronic highway message signs and other means will give drivers the heads-up they need to avoid congestion and have more reliable commutes."

This funding will build upon Caltrans' efforts to advance connected vehicle (CV) technology's safety features, data accuracy, and communication.

Objectives of the project include expanding the accuracy and reach of real-time information messages to drivers; assuring compatibility of various CV hardware and applications; deployment of video analytics at intersections to support pedestrian and cyclist safety; and supporting multiple CV technologies and communications media such as 5G and satellite to ensure all road users benefit.

For more information about California's transportation investments, visit RebuildingCA.ca.gov and build.ca.gov.



### Diwali celebration at Illinois, Capitol



India Post News Service

CHICAGO: A vibrant Diwali celebration was held at the Illinois State Capitol Building, organized by the NACC (North Americans Cricket Council), IUSA Media, AASOA (Asian American Store Owners Association), and USICF (US Indian Community Foundation) in collaboration with various supporting organizations.

The event drew over 100 members of the Indian American community from across the Midwest, creating a remarkable ernor J.B Pritzker.

As part of the festivities, the proclamation message formally recognized the contributions of Hindu Americans by declaring October as Hindu Heritage Month in the state. This declaration highlights Illinois' commitment to celebrating diversity and fostering an inclusive environment.

Consul General Somnath Ghosh, in his address, praised the efforts of the organizers for making the event a historic one, further acknowledging the cultural impact



Anna Moeller, and several others.

The elected officials emphasized the importance of cultural exchange and the role of Diwali in fostering deeper community connections. They highlighted how such celebrations promote mutual understanding and strengthen the social fabric by bringing people from diverse backgrounds together.

Vote of Thanks was proposed by Nirav Patel (AASOA). Subbu Iyer also took the opportunity to thank all the special guests, the community leaders and co-hosts present at the event including Ajeet Singh, Amitabh Mittal of USICF, Phani Krishna of

IUSA Media, Gaurav Tuteja of Rajshi Events, Joy Shah of Rapid Rasoi, and Roshan Patel of World Power Solutions, Lakhindra Sharma of APCL and supporting organizations including but not limited to IABC, FIA, ICO, EKA, GID, Diaspora Connect.

During the event, several officials participated in the ceremonial lamp lighting and reflected on the universal values of Diwali, such as righteousness, duty, and the eternal triumph of good.

The celebration at the Capitol interfaith harmony further enriches the social tapestry of the region.



gathering that underscored the unity and cultural richness of the diaspora. The celebration was attended by several distinguished officials, who joined hands with community members to honor the spirit of Diwali.

The master of the ceremony was Prachi Jaitly. The event featured celebra-

tion of Diwali by offering prayers by the priests, and the announcement of the proclamation in the beginning of the session by the priest, declaring October as the Hindu Heritage Month in the State of Illinois signed by Gov-



of Diwali in promoting unity and peace. NACC chairman Subbu Iyer along with his wife Vibha Iyer extended his thankful remarks for State Representative (56Th District) Michelle Mussman for all the help to make this event possible.

The event was graced by notable political figures, including Senators and U.S.

Representatives such as House Majority Leader Robyn Gabel, Representatives Michelle Mussman, Sen. Ram Villivalam, Rep. Jennifer Sanalitro, Dominik Bronakowski, Nicole Laha, Barbara Hernandez, Harry Benton,

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## Chath Puja celebrations in Los Angeles

India Post News Service

he marvelous glow of the setting sun was greeted with generous chants of worship amongst hundreds of So-Cal residents of Indian origin at the Newport Dunes in Los Angeles County, as they gathered to celebrate the first ever Chath Puja Mahaparv in Los Angeles - to create a much coveted, nostalgic and eternal atmosphere for a 4-day festival called Chhath Puja.

Chhath Puja is a revered Hindu festival celebrated throughout the world - originating in the Hindu heartland of India - and a grand celebration in many states from North India Bihar, UP, New Delhi and many

Chhath Puja also known as Dala Chhath, is dedicated to the Sun God, Surva, and his consort, Usha. It is a way of expressing gratitude to the Sun God for sustaining life on earth and seeking blessings for the well-being of family and friends. The 4-day festival is deeply rooted in the belief that the Sun has healing properties and is a symbol of prosperity and

a nostalgic recollection of their childhood memories, as one of the most significant festival was being celebrated as a community for the first time! The entire atmotimes over, with the divine chants and songs filling the atmosphere, and the hearts of all participants. It filled a sense of spiritual cleanliness and fulfillment as the



sphere turned surreal with the chants of 'Jai Chhathi Maiya' at the Newport Dunes waterfront. The 11 vratees, and about 200+ attendees to this grand religious event, made this a memory of a lifetime for everyone.

Rituals in Chhath Puja

Day 1: Nahay Khay (5th November, 2024)

The festivities kicked off with devotees taking a ritualistic dip in holy rivers, followed by the preparation of a traditional meal. The day is marked by cleanliness, purity, and the anticipation of the days to come.

Day 2: Kharna (6th Nov, 2024)

On the second

day, fasting devotees - Vratis - prepared 'kheer' (a sweet dish made from jaggery and rice) and offered it to the Sun God during the evening.

Day 3: Sandhya Arghya (7th Nov, 2024)

This was a day of intense devotion, where vratis - who observe a day-long fast, sans even a sip of water - gathered with friends and family at the riverbanks of Newport Dunes at sunset to offer 'arghya' to the setting sun. These offerings included fruits, sugarcane, special prasad 'thekua' and other traditional items. The atmosphere became electrifying with devotional songs, rhythmic beats, and a sense of communal harmony and unity among the participants.

Day 4: Usha Arghya (8th Nov, 2024)

The final day witnessed devotees returning to the ghats before sunrise to offer arghya to the rising sun. The magical aura of golden sunrise was enhanced multiple

vratis then proceed for 'paarun' - a custom to break their 36hr long fast.

Organized under the auspices of BJ Friends organization, the festivals were remarkably well planned and well thought of. The ceremonies extend from sunset to the sunrise, and hence require elaborate arrangements along with special attention

to cleanliness & purity. Newport Dunes management was generous enough to pay apt attention to minute requirements for the event.

The organizing team received Goodwill Messages wishing the Best for the event from all corners in India. Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Mr Vijay Kumar Sinha sent a written note of appreciation for the entire team.

A first time vrati, Mrs. Suchita Jha from Fontana, celebrated this occasion with her friends and family. She thanked Lord Sun



this tradition which runs long in her family back in India. Ajay Jha, her husband has been very supportive of her decision, and considers it a blessing that the festival could be organized at such a grand scale here in Los Angeles.

Another vratee, Mrs Parul, after their longtime dream of owning a house came true, she thought of making it a 'home' by starting a tradition herself, which has been thriving in their family in India for decades. Filled with childhood memories, the festival she says fills them with a divine energy.

Mrs Shweta, also a vratee, says she is very excited to see this level of participation in a tradition so close to the heart of Hindus. It's a dream come true.

Mrs Anamika Sharma, a 3 time vratee, is very happy that this time she has so many co-vratees, and a huge participation reinstates the age old sense of devotion even in a foreign land.

The event concluded with the prasad vitaran, distribution of the offerings to all devotees, and photographs of all ecstatic

Rajeev Kumar Singh, one of the lead



organizers, mentioned that compared to the last year with one vratee, this year their efforts have been able to congregate a huge participation, specially with the sense of one community.

Anita, another volunteer adds on that they could not imagine that a response of this scale was even possible here in a land so far away from our roots. She is mesmerized by the grandeur and calls it a blessing of Chhathi Maiya - the deity honoring this festival.

Rajeev Kumar from Cerritos, another key organizer along with Sathish Kumar, thanks all volunteers who selflessly came forward to make this event a grand success. And with the level of participation this year, they are very positive that Indian festivals and the environment need not be missed by our people here, and can definitely be recreated here with the efforts and participation as exhibited in this event.



good health, marks the sixth day of the Hindu lunar calendar month of Kartika.

Chhath Puja boasts an impressive history that dates back thousands of years. It is believed to have its roots in the Mahabharata, one of the two major Sanskrit epics of ancient India. The festival's origins can be traced to the era of the Pandavas and Draupadi, making it a time-

This year - the 4 day festival was very special for the Indian origin residents of Southern California as they had gathered to plan and organize it at such a grand scale for the first time in many many decades few of the participants have been residing here.

With vibrant attires, faces brimming with hope and hearts filled with devotion to the eternity, they gathered in numbers which was never seen at this occasion in Los Angeles. For many participants, it was for the blessings all through the year, and herself fortunate enough to be able to start



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# Counterintelligence expert Kash Patel, close to Trump under consideration to head FBI

NEW YORK: Counterintelligence expert Kash Patel, who is close to US President-Elect Donald Trump, is reportedly

under consideration for appointment to head the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) after having been passed over for the

(ILRC) said the negative economic impact

of mass evictions cannot be ignored. Data

show that immigrant workers account for

about 4% of the U.S. labor force, and their

absence may lead to stagnation in certain

industries, especially agriculture and ser-

vice industries. In addition, the tightening

of immigration policies will lead to further

delays in the application and approval pro-

Julia Gelatt, Associate Director of our

U.S. immigration policy program, Migration

Policy Institute (MPI) added that immigrant

deportations could lead to a decline in the

U.S. gross domestic product, while weak-

ening businesses' dependence on labor

and causing economic uncertainty. She

emphasized that changes in immigration

policy need to balance economic needs

with social equity.

the United States.

cess, exacerbating labor shortages.

leadership of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

If he gets the job, he will likely be the highest-ranking Indian American in the administration even though it is not a Cabinet post and no names from the community have emerged as of last Saturday for the remaining Cabinet-level jobs.

Media reports say that several Trump loyalists are pushing the appointment of Patel, who has called for "drastic measures" to reshape the FBI.

Patel had close ties with Trump who considered him one of his policy specialists, and they both share the view that Trump had won the 2020 election but was unlawfully deprived of the presidency and that there should be retribution for those they consider responsible.

During his campaign, Trump endorsed Patel's proposals to reshape government in his book, 'Government of Gangsters', a title that reflects both their views that a cabal of "Deep State" operatives was running the country behind the scenes.

Patel had served as the Deputy Assis-

tant to the President and Senior Director f o r Counterterrorism (CT) at the National Security Council (NSC), before becoming the chief of

staff to the then
Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher
Miller, his final job in the first Trump administration.

His appointment to head the FBI, the powerful domestic intelligence service, is by no means certain as there are others in the running and opposition to him from the more establishment types in the Republican party and government.

Nearing the end of his first term, Trump had sought to appoint Patel as the deputy director of the CIA, but was foiled by opposition from the then-head, Gina Haspel.

The then-Attorney General William Barr also shot down a proposal to appoint him as the Deputy Director of the FBI.

Christopher Wray, who Trump appointed to a ten-year term as the FBI Director in 2017 and who was retained by President Joe Biden, will have to be fired or voluntarily resign for Trump to nominate a new head.

The job required confirmation by the Senate.

Patel started off as a public defender the government-paid lawyer for poor defendants - and made his jump to the prosecution side as a trial attorney for the Justice Department's National Security Division which handles terrorism-related cases, and as the liaison to the military's Joint Special Operations Command.

According to a Defense Department biography, Patel worked with the command "to conduct collaborative global targeting operations against high-value terrorism targets" and oversaw the elimination of Islamic State terror group's and al-Qaeda's leaders.

That helped him build his expertise on terrorism and led to his next career move as the national security advisor to the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee.

His work there to unravel the claims of Russia's interference in the 2016 election on behalf of Trump, and on the FBI's questionable wiretaps of Trump's campaign staff drew the attention of the White House and Trump's allies.

Patel had close ties with Trump who considered him one of his policy specialists, and they both share the view that Trump had won the 2020 election but was unlawfully deprived of the presidency and that there should be

retribution for those they consider responsible

# Future Immigration situation at the US

#### VIDYA SETHURAMAN

India Post News Service

President-elect Donald Trump's early cabinet appointments signal that border security and immigration restrictions will be a central focus of his administration. In the EMS Briefing on Nov 15 immigration experts broke down Trump's immigration priorities and explored the potential consequences for immigrants and the nation as a whole.

Jeremy Robbins, Executive Director, American Immigration Council pointed out that there are many obstacles to the implementation of the program, including insufficient human resources, lack of detention facilities and high financial costs. He estimated that if the deportation plan is fully implemented, it may require tens of billions of dollars in budget investment and result in the loss of millions of workers from the United States, which will seriously affect the U.S. economy.

Greg Chen, Senior Director of Government Relations for the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) said mass evictions would not only strain resources but could also have an impact on the work of local law enforcement agencies.

Elizabeth Taufa, Policy Attorney & Strategist, Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Experts believe that border control policies may become stricter, including strengthening the "Remain in Mexico" policy and extending the waiting time for asylum applications. Many experts warn that this will increase pressure on the border and trigger more legal and humanitarian disputes. But this discussion made it clear that the immigration issue is not only a legal issue, but also related to the economic development and social harmony of

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He joined the White House as the Senior Director for Counterterrorism in the National Security Council with also the rank of Deputy Special Assistant to the President.

Trump expanded it, placing Patel among his "top Ukraine policy specialists."

Politico reported that according to former White House sources Patel had direct access to Trump, to the chagrin of other officials.

He rapidly rose to become a principal deputy to Richard Grenell, the acting director of national intelligence, with his next stop at the Defense Department.

Patel, who uses an abbreviated version of his first name Kashyap, is the son of Gujaratis who came to the US from East Africa, and in his book, he speaks of a deep connection to India. Patel's view of the government establishment, like Trump's, is colored deeply by distrust and suspicions that it has its own agenda and is loyal to external forces. *IANS* 

# Diwali and the Aftermath of Mental Health

PRASHANT GUPTA

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE OF YOU,** 

WHO MADE IT TO SUCH LISTS. ANYONE IN

YOUR SHOES, SARIS & SHERWANIS

**WOULD BE JUST AS EXPRESSIVE AND** 

SELF-DISPLAYING. WHILST I WOULD HOPE

ONCE IS ENOUGH, SO BE IT IF YOU GET A

PERSONAL KICK OUT OF IT POSTING

**EVERY DAY** 

ow does one get invited to this/that party? Who do I need to contact? Am I not worthy? But I am also in entertainment, and I am also successful and a trailblazer. Am I not a social media influencer? I just became a CEO, but I am also this or that. WHY DIDN'T I GET INVITED? THESE are the many thoughts running through the minds of thousands of South Asians across the USA who didn't get onto the guest list of this year's

most happening Diwali parties, and suddenly, the festival of light is creating a mental health darkness.

Not only am I writing this letter in my capacity as someone who knows he's (in)credible enough to be on such high-profile guest lists, but more so as a mental health advocate who cares to offer a perspective of a counseling nature to those

overwhelmed and feeling a lack of self-worth. There are hundreds of recent studies to validate the fact that the greatest crisis in the realm of Mental Health adversity is the epidemic of loneliness. And this isn't as simple as having no one to meet Friday night. This is a result of not knowing who to trust, who to talk to, the guilt of being a burden if you share your feelings, the fear of being judged for being vulnerable by opening up, and, most prevalent, SOCIAL MEDIA posts making one feel that their life is less glamorous and less important.

Congratulations to those of you, who made it to such lists. Anyone in your shoes, saris & sherwanis would be just as expressive and self-displaying. Whilst I would hope once is enough, so be it if you get a personal kick out of it posting every day. The need to do that says more about your need to create a sense of self-importance, and unfortunately, it does have a lingering effect on those who care to follow you for better reasons. I do not doubt that whilst many of you are arrogantly proud of being at these functions, a few are humbled, as well. Humble request, though, if I may - Please be as mindful of spreading the light, not just the limelight. Holding the fabric of our community together is a lot more important than posting about the fabric you're wearing.

To those not on the lists and possibly mentally overwhelmed, angry or feeling 'small,' please don't. I know as many people inside that circle as I do outside of it, and I can tell you that we're all harboring similar anxieties, insecurities, needs, desires, and conversations. I've been on the inside, and my three strongest observations have been: No one's life has changed by being there, most of the guests were busy trying to grab the attention of those who didn't yet give them importance and enjoying the moment lost the battle to "let's post about this on Social Media." In the grand scheme of things, much has to do with who you know, not what you've accomplished. But even more important is to know that every industry, event, and society has gatekeepers. You're either liked or dis-

liked by that gatekeeper, or perhaps unknown to him/her, and neither defines you. Getting invited is strongly suggestive of a power- play, and it's as prevalent amongst South Asians in the US, as it is in Bollywood. Again, I've seen it from both sides. Which is why, on a side note, I detest the pretentious unity or desi-pride many boast of. It's an I-Me-My & MINE society, period. It's not HUM AUR TUM, it's HMMMM, aur tum? So please use your time well

and ...

Go within, light that light ... write, or stand in the sun when bright, but do your work with all your might, and please don't question your worth over a week or a night! Believe me when I say that none of this is wrong or right, and you just be your own light.

It's alright.

I close this letter by shar-

ing a revelation that the true essence of Diwali is not Lakshmi Pooja, which is expressed through candles and incense to stacks of cash and iron-made safes. It is by spreading the light through charity, counseling a loved one, and being there for someone whom you can help out of the darkness.

Mental Health is the most significant adversity of our times, and I'd like to shed light on how many non-profit organizations across Long Island are genuinely advocating for, and practically serving anyone facing a mental health crisis. South Asian immigrants are facing immense levels of depression due to language barriers, homesick-



Prashant Gupta

ness, and specific cultural obligations that prevent them from living life to the fullest. Of the many organizations, I personally commend and support The Mental Health Association of Nassau County in Hempstead, for its push for Mental Health First Aid training and showing the path of healing through recovery and respite. The many programs they have created showcase their wholesome awareness of the crisis and 360 degree approach to curbing it. The goal from now until the end of 2025 is to create an integrated system of HOPE through empowering every student, professional, social worker, and larger business and government entities to become a Mental Health Approved Workspace. This is the absolute most essential enterprise on Long Island to support, as curbing mental health crises is directly correlated with an increase in public safety and economic prosperity.

Belated Happy Diwali, and LOVE & LIGHT always!

An OPEN LETTER from Actor, Producer, Publisher
and Mental Health Advocate, Prashant Gupta



# California's fentanyl task force helps seize over 1.7 million fentanyl pills in October

India Post News Service

SACRAMENTO: Governor Gavin Newsom today announced the continuation of the state's effort to address the fentanyl crisis, with the California National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force supporting the seizure of 1,541 pounds of illicit fentanyl in October. These seizures included over 1.7 million fentanyl pills at an estimated street value of \$11.9 million.

"California continues the intensive work of keeping fentanyl out of our communities, helping law enforcement seize over 204% more fentanyl last month than the month prior. I thank the California National Guard and law enforcement for their diligent and lifesaving work at our ports of entry and across the state."-Governor Gavin Newsom.

How we got here

In June, Governor Newsom doubled down on the deployment of the Cal Guard's Counterdrug Task Force by more than doubling the number of service members supporting fentanyl interdiction, and seizing other drugs, at California ports of entry from 155 to nearly 400.

In 2023, the Governor increased the number of Cal Guard service members deployed to support drug interdiction at California ports of entry along the border by approximately 50%. Fentanyl is primarily smuggled into the country by U.S. citizens through ports of entry.

Cal Guard's coordinated drug interdiction efforts in the state are funded in part by California's \$60 million investment over

Addressing the opioid crisis

California is taking aggressive action to end the fentanyl and opioid crisis. The Governor's Master Plan for Tackling the Fentanyl and Opioid Crisis provides a comprehensive framework to deepen the impact of these investments, including aggressive steps to support overdose prevention efforts, hold the opioid pharmaceutical industry accountable, crack down on

working to hold Big Pharma and drug traffickers accountable in this crisis.

In August, California launched the Facts Fight Fentanyl campaign to educate Californians on the dangers of fentanyl and how to prevent overdoses and deaths. This effort will provide critical information about fentanyl and life-saving tools such as naloxone.

As part of Governor Newsom's Master Plan for Tackling the Fentanyl and Opioid Crisis, over-the-counter CalRx®-branded naloxone is now becoming available across the state. Through the Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP), CalRx®-branded over-the-counter (OTC) naloxone HCL nasal spray, 4 mg, will be available for free to eligible organizations through the state or for sale for \$24 per twin-pack through Amneal.

In support of President Biden's bilateral cooperation agreement with China on counternarcotics, the Governor spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping in October about combating the transnational shipping of precursor chemicals used to create fentanyl.

"California continues the intensive work of keeping fentanyl out of our communities, helping law enforcement seize over 204% more fentanyl last month than the month prior. I thank the California National Guard and law enforcement for their diligent and lifesaving work at our ports of entry and across the state."

-Governor Gavin Newsom

four years to expand Cal Guard's work to prevent drug trafficking by transnational criminal organizations. This adds to the Governor's efforts to address fentanyl within California, including by cracking down on fentanyl in communities across the state, including San Francisco.

drug trafficking, and raise awareness about the dangers of opioids, including fentanyl.

The state launched opioids.ca.gov, a one-stop tool for Californians seeking resources for prevention and treatment, as well as information on how California is

### California launches new rebates to help cut home energy costs

What you need to know: Eligible Californians can apply to save thousands of dollars on home energy costs through rebates now available to homeowners as part of a federal rebate program. This is the first of two federal programs rolling out in California to make efficient, comfortable, and climate-resilient homes more affordable, and to cut pollution.

India Post News Service

SACRAMENTO: Governor Gavin Newsom announced today that qualified California homeowners can save money on energy bills and make their homes more energy efficient through new heat pump rebates.

In addition to saving money on energy bills and increasing energy efficiency, the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEEHRA) aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve indoor air quality.

Income-qualified, single-family homeowners may receive rebates of up to \$8,000 to reduce the cost of purchasing and installing a new, energy-efficient home heating and cooling heat pump. Rebates for multifamily building owners for a wider array of electric appliances became available on October 8, and rebates for single family homeowners became available on November 12, 2024.

"Thousands of dollars are now available for California homeowners to install heat pumps, making your home more energy-efficient and reducing your energy

bills by hundreds of dollars each year. With these new rebates made possible by the Biden-Harris administration, Californians can save money and take real climate action." -Governor Gavin Newsom

Californians can find more programs to save money and take climate action at

tricity use by up to 75%, compared to electric resistance heating such as furnaces. They also work as air conditioners, which an increasing number of Californians now need due to the effects of climate change. HEEHRA helps put this dual-use clean technology within reach of more Californians."

"Thousands of dollars are now available for California homeowners to install heat pumps, making your home more energy-efficient and reducing your energy bills by hundreds of dollars each year. With these new rebates made possible by the Biden-Harris administration, Californians can save money and take real climate action." -Governor Gavin Newsom

climateaction.ca.gov.

"We're excited to announce that owners of single-family homes may apply for HEEHRA rebates on the purchase and installation of an energy efficient heat pump HVAC," said CEC Commissioner Andrew McAllister. "These units make homes more comfortable and can reduce elec-

The rebates are made possible by the Biden-Harris administration's historic Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and is managed by the California Energy Commission (CEC). The CEC is distributing the first phase of funds through TECH Clean California.

"California was an early mover in set-

ting up and launching their Home Energy Rebates. Now, mere weeks after making the program available for multifamily buildings, they are expanding it to single-family homeowners," said Keishaa Austin, Principal Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of State and Community Energy Programs. "Starting today, thanks to the California Energy Commission's continued commitment to the residents it serves, lowand middle-income Californian homeowners can apply to save thousands of dollars on energy-saving heat pump HVAC units."

Who qualifies, and for how much

California homeowners with household incomes between 80% and 150% area median income (AMI) will be eligible for up to \$4,000. Those with incomes less than 80% AMI will be eligible for up to \$8,000. Applicants can find their AMI here and begin their application here.

The rebates can be added to other incentives for even more savings on home electric appliances and equipment.







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### **Philosophy**

#### SUNYATA (ALFRED SORENSEN)

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

The division was not clear in my conscious. Truly, I felt that girls and women around me were noisier with their tongues and desires than were men, more emotional, more volatile and more silly, but also more gentle, and sensitive, and un-mental in their perceptions and their conceptions.

So vicariously I lived in their rhythm, vibrating with them in unitive, direct, unmental approach. I was no stranger to the subtly wilful passive waiting, as the cats waiting on the mouse, nor to the seemingly insincere play and poses, the flutter and the wordiness, which often means or hides something else; the more real.

I was not in the least analytical or critical at first, but intuitively, vibrationally, I came to 'know' the feminine language of being, though I did not speak it or want to

became analytical and "saw that they were naked" and divided, and so descended into the play of opposites.

Good and evil for what? Aesthetically the hermaphrodite is a type of perfection, an idea or truth, which has haunted the imagination of man above the common run like Michelangelo, Shelley, and Whitman. Physiologically we all still have the rudiments of the other sex.

We have developed from some hermaphroditic organism in the dim past, and it may be that we move toward hermaphroditic fulfilment in the dim future.

Perhaps we cannot stay calmly and balancedly in unitive mode of experiencing unless that harmonious, hermaphroditic Wholeness is achieved within. We meet physically hermaphroditic types among fellow-pilgrims. Are they reversions, freaks or sports of perfection? Are they to be pitied or envied or neither?

Physique is, however, not so important. As the psyche is so much vaster and so much more important than the mere physical tools, which we use, so also the hermaphroditic psyche seems to be the one thing needful.

# There is a feminine truth, different in approach

Is not really the highest type of manhood that which includes womanhood?



Sunyata (Alfred Sorensen)

speak it. Often I knew women better than they knew themselves; (so they said) yet I could not myself act a pose or play a part, which was not my own.

Is not really the highest type of manhood that which includes womanhood? Which, within itself, comprises the feminine and the masculine rhythm, their various aspects, faculties, characteristics and truths complementarily blended?

Probably we cannot experience the Natural state unless we are momentarily psychically whole.

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

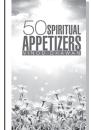
In the ancient garden of pure consciousness two falls occurred, the first, (when man was divided and woman formed from his lost rib) conditioning and causing the other; secondly, when both

The pattern is what egos would term the hermaphrodite: the male and the female truths and characteristics functioning complementary well within one psyche. The bodily tools may well remain male or female, but the psyche must be aware in harmonious wholeness of its Self, freely functioning in the unitive mode of experiencing.

Excerpted from 'The Nectar of Sunyata'. The 134th birth anniversary of Sunyata (Alfred Sorensen) was observed on October 27

#### **50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS**

Vinod Dhawan



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# The Third Eye: Judicial corrective for a social malady

С РАТНАК

he October 18 order of the Supreme Court on child marriage and the arguments it heard on October 21 in the case about the legal validity of the so-called 'marital rape', are both significant so far as they pertained to a possible intervention of judiciary in matters that weighed in individual's rights against the mandate set by socio-cultural outlook and customs.

A three-judge bench headed by the then Chief Justice of India D. Y. Chandrachud, filled a loophole in the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, when it declared on October 18 that child 'betrothals' used as a clever ploy to duck punishment under the Act, violated basic rights of 'free choice, autonomy and childhood' and urged the Parliament to outlaw them.

Showing a deep understanding of the nature of this social malaise the apex court placed emphasis on 'prevention', saying that 'prosecution' alone was ineffective in

and realization of the importance of 'education for all', the average family still fell for the social malady of following a differential between a boy and a girl when it came to spending its resources on their upbringing.

If child marriage is indefensible from all angles then the apex court was expected to ban it for all communities; it seems however, that the Supreme Court did not want a judicial diktat to settle a socio-political problem and favored an evolution of law in this regard through the Parliamentary process, as would befit a democratic dispensation.

The Supreme Court judgment is remarkable for the reason that it puts judiciary and the society on the same side of the fence in prescribing a multifaceted approach to deal with a social ill that had continued to affect millions of young girls and boys despite the presence of a law-

- PCMA 2006, criminalizing child marriage.

The ruling calls for stronger enforcement and enhanced accountability. Significantly, it recognizes that both girls and boys suffered

The Supreme Court taking note of this, declined to extend the child marriage ban to all faiths leaving it to Parliament to legislate on it but as already mentioned, did recommend prohibition on child betrothals that were favored by some communities in the name of protecting the girl child

bringing about a social change. It pointed out that PCMA was a social legislation which needed the collective efforts of all stakeholders for its success.

The Centre had moved the PCM (Amendment) Bill in December 2021, seeking precedence of the Act over personal laws which was pending with the concerned Standing Committee of Parliament.

The Supreme Court taking note of this, declined to extend the child marriage ban to all faiths leaving it to Parliament to legislate on it but as already mentioned, did recommend prohibition on child betrothals that were favored by some communities in the name of protecting the girl child. This practice somewhere reflected in the innate thinking in society about considering a girl as a 'burden' to be passed on to someone else through marriage.

Even with the advancement of society towards acceptance of a 'small family'

because of child marriage: girls faced physical and emotional abuse while boys were exposed to new pressures and responsibilities that altered their entire course of life.

The Supreme Court ordered the appointment of dedicated Child Marriage Prevention Officers (CMPOs) across the districts to focus on the prevention of child marriages and also specially empowered District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to prosecute individuals who facilitated or promoted such marriages. On the whole, the Supreme Court admirably underlined the need for a shift in social attitudes on child marriage while endorsing stringent legal measures against the malady.

(The writer is former Director of the Intelligence Bureau) IANS

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author



### After Telangana's notice to Diljit Dosanjh, singer challenges states to ban liquor

HYDERABAD: Taking a dig at Telangana government for its direction to not sing songs promoting liquor, Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh has announced that if all states in the country declare themselves dry states, he would never sing songs on liquor.

you for this love, but please

He challenged the state governments to stop giving liquor contracts. He also suggested the state governments declare dry days at least on the day he is scheduled to perform in their state, saying that he would then not sing songs about liquor.

The singer said this during the concert in Ahmedabad, two days after he performed in Hyderabad.

He also claimed that he does not consume alcohol. "There are thousands of Bollywood songs



one attending live events to re-

on liquor. I hardly sang a couple of songs on liquor. I don't consume alcohol. Bollywood artists advertise liquor but I don't do it," he said

The Telangana government had served a notice to Diljit Dosanjh, directing him to not sing any songs promoting alco"There are thousands of Bollywood songs on liquor. I hardly sang a couple of songs on liquor. I don't consume alcohol. Bollywood artists advertise liquor but I don't do it"

hol, drugs, and violence during the 'Dil-Luminati' concert in Hyderabad.

Diljit was also directed to not let children on stage during his

District welfare officer of the Department of Welfare of Women and Children, Disabled

and Senior Citizens, Rangareddy district, served the notice on November 7.

**TELLING ANYONE."** 

The notice was issued after a complaint by a Chandigarh-based professor, Panditrao Dharenavar, against Dosanjh to prevent him from singing such songs at the live show.

The complainant submitted

video evidence of Diljit singing songs promoting alcohol, drugs, and violence during the live show at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on October 26 and 27.

At the Hyderabad show, he modified lyrics to his chartbusters 'Lemonade' and '5 Taara' to follow the direction of the Telangana government. *IANS* 







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# Pakistan's Afghanistan aspirations: From strategic depth to strategic despair

**ZAHID ARIA** 

akistan is pursuing a series of strategic interests in Afghanistan. These include countering India's influence in Afghanistan, accessing Central Asia through Afghanistan territory, establishing a subservient state in Kabul, securing access to water from rivers originating in Afghanistan and flowing into Pakistan, countering Pashtun nationalism through the Islamization of Pashtun society on both sides of the Durand Line, neutralizing Afghanistan's claims over the Durand Line, and establishing strategic depth in Afghanistan.

To achieve these objectives, Pakistan has used a range of strategies, from soft to hard policies. Pakistan's policy toward Afghanistan can be divided into two phases. The first phase spans from 1947 to 1979, during which Pakistan, as a newly formed nation-state,

Pakistan's role in Taliban's creation

During the Soviet invasion, Pakistan became a safe haven for anti-Soviet forces. These forces were divided into seven factions, each with varying degrees of relationships with Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies. Among these factions, Jamiat-e-Islami (Islamic Society), led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, and Hizb-e-Islami (Islamic Party), led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, were the two most prominent groups. Pakistan maintained varying levels of ties with these factions, with Hizb-e-Islami being the closest to Pakistan's military and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

The Afghan-Soviet war lasted for a decade (1979 - 1989), during which hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives, and many more were left

To achieve these objectives, Pakistan has used a range of strategies, from soft to hard policies. Pakistan's policy toward Afghanistan can be divided into two phases. The first phase spans from 1947 to 1979, during which Pakistan, as a newly formed nation-state

sought to achieve its goals through soft policies. However, during this period, Afghanistan was politically and militarily stable, providing limited opportunities for Pakistan to employ hard policies.

Instability began when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, and the West began supporting Afghanistan Mujahideen fighting against the Soviet Army and the pro-Soviet state in Afghanistan. The Soviet invasion marked the beginning of the second phase of Pakistan's Afghanistan policy, which continued until 2021. During this time, Pakistan sought to secure its interests through the use of hard policies.

disabled or paralyzed. The country's infrastructure was devastated, leaving Afghanistan in ruin. In 1989, the Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan, and in 1992, the pro-Soviet government was overthrown by the Mujahideen. Following the collapse of the Communist regime in Kabul, the Mujahideen formed a government. However, internal conflicts among the Mujahideen factions, along with Pakistan's dissatisfaction over Ahmad Massoud and Burhanuddin Rabbani-prominent figures from the Tajik ethnic group-gaining control in Kabul, led to a civil war.

The civil war eventually re-

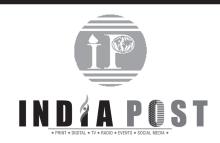
sulted in the emergence of a new movement in 1994, known as the Taliban, originating from the south of the country. The Taliban, composed madrassa students, promised to end the civil war and restore law and order in Afghanistan. The Taliban movement was indeed a brainchild of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). When Pakistan's military establishment lost hope in Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's ability to capture Kabul from Massoud and Rabbani, they supported the formation of this new group, drawing on Afghan-Soviet war veterans, and called them the Taliban. The Taliban proved effective more Hekmatyar's forces, taking control of Kabul in 1996 and driving Massoud and Rabbani's forces into the northern part of the country.

Despite their success in marginalizing the Kabul regime, the Taliban failed to gain widespread international recognition due to their radical policies, connections to al-Qaeda, and extensive human rights and women's rights violations. The only states that recognized the Taliban regime (1996-2001) were Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

During the first Taliban rule (1996-2001), Pakistan achieved some of its strategic objectives in Afghanistan, though not all. The 9/11 attacks and the subsequent overthrow of the Taliban in 2001 marked a setback for Pakistan's Afghanistan policy. However, despite the Taliban's removal from power, Pakistan did not lose confidence in the group.

(The author is a Ph.D Scholar, Department of Defence and National Security Studies, Panjab University, Chandigarh) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



# WHEN WILL THE WARS END?

The war in Ukraine will soon have done 1000 days. War in Gaza has been on for more than a year. There is neither respite nor an indication of these two major conflicts ending soon. However, suddenly soon after Trump's victory, there seemed to be some hope as leaders across the world started to speak of peace in the region. First, German Chancellor Schulz had a conversation with Putin, the first such chat in two years, where he urged Moscow to engage in negotiations with Kyiv. Second, Zelenskyy himself has said that the war should end through diplomatic means next year. What changed? Trump won, that's what. He's made it clear he won't support open-ended military supplies to Kyiv, and Kyiv has started singing differently.

As we have argued, arms supplies prolong wars. Biden chose not to see this. Supplying weapons to Ukraine in 2022 was right. Without this Ukraine would have been overrun and its population massacred. But after Kyiv liberated Kherson and Kharkiv, it was in a position of strength in 2023. That's when US could have backed a realistic plan to end the war. Instead, it took the call to continue supplying weapons to Ukraine but also restricted their use. This created a situation where Russia as the bigger country could slowly regain the momentum on the battlefield. Today, Russia is willing to sacrifice its people for land, and Ukraine is willing to give up land to save its people. The only explanation for this strange stance is that the West wanted to weaken Russia. But given Russia's massive nuclear arsenal this was a wrong strategy. Instead, with casualties mounting, both Kyiv and Moscow felt they had to show gains for their losses, spiking hopes of talks.

The greater openness for talks now shows that even the threat of turning off the weapons tap can facilitate negotiations. Therefore, both the West and the China-Iran-North Korea coalition are guilty of prolonging the conflict through endless weapon supplies to Kyiv and Moscow. Trump got it right. This war can only end through negotiations. And endless weapon streams only help defense companies, not the cause of peace.

However, Trump's support to Israel's war against Hamas and war in Lebanon may see spite in conflict and may further escalate the war. His pledge to give Tel Aviv a blank check and fully support its military operations in Gaza through weapon supplies can't end this conflict. Israel, no matter what it does, can't eliminate Hamas or the Palestinian desire for statehood. Therefore, Trump's position will only make the West Asia situation worse. If he really wants to be seen as someone who promotes peace, he must apply the same logic, to both Ukraine and Gaza. The biggest losers in this whole game are weapon manufacturers and the Trump promise during his campaign to bolster.

Trump and Musk bonhomie will further complicate matters around the world in business and politics. Musk's closeness with Chinese leadership and Trump's potential tariffs against China will surely bring new surprises. The new world order waits!!



iger Shroff, who is basking in the success of his recent release 'Singham Again' has thrilled fans with the announcement of 'Baaghi 4', the next installment in his popular action franchise.

The actor, took to his Instagram account to share the intense and "bloodier" first look of the film.

Tiger shared a gripping poster of himself sitting on a toilet seat with a knife in one hand, and bottle in another.

Along with the pictures, the actor added a caption that read, "A darker spirit, a bloodier mission. This time he is not the

Check out the poster

'Baaghi 4' will be directed by Kannada filmmaker A Harsha, which marks his Bollywood debut.

The film is produced by Sajid Nadiadwala under the Nadiadwala Grandson banner and is set to hit theatres on September 5, 2025.

The 'Baaghi' franchise started in 2016 with the release of the first film, directed by Sabbir Khan. It was an action-packed thriller inspired by the 2004 Telugu movie 'Varsham' and the 2011 Indonesian film The Raid: Redemption. The movie featured Tiger Shroff, Shraddha Kapoor,

The second installment, 'Baaghi 2', came out in the year 2018. ANI

big respect for her. IANS

and Sudheer Babu in

lead roles.



Ranveer Singh says 'he

TOP TEN

HINDI FILM SONGS

1 Aaj Ki Raat : Stree 2

2 Tauba Tauba: Bad Newz 3 Zaroorat Se Zyada: Vedaa

4 Tainu Khabar Nahi: Munjya 5 Sajni: Laapataa Ladies

9 Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam:

6 Soulmate: Ek Tha Raja 7 Khoobsurat: Stree 2

8 Ishq: Ishq

**Bad Newz** 

10 Taras: Munjya

C peaking at a recent event, Ranveer Singh opened up about his journey into parenthood, describing it as an indescribable source of immense happiness.

A video making rounds on social media captures an overjoyed Singh sharing his experience as a new father. In the clip, he could be heard saying, "I have been on daddy duty for a long time now. I am ready to let loose with you all. That infinite happiness I'm experiencing right now. I wish I had the words to express what it's like, but, there are no words, in any language, that can describe this happiness."

> The '83' actor also spoke about his wife and actress Deepika Padukone. He said, "When you feel sadness and share it with someone, it lessens. And when you experience happiness and share it, it doubles. It's like magic." IANS

has been on daddy duty'



ora Fatehi and Yo Yo Honey Singh have teamed up for the music video titled "Payal."

Recently, the makers released the teaser of the song on social media, captioning it: "It's time for the next BIG THING. THE OFFICIAL MUSIC VIDEO OF #Payal by @yoyohoneysingh featuring @norafatehi & @paradox.here drops tomorrow. From the album #Glory #tseries #BhushanKumar @mihirgulati @rdmmedia @itsrdm." In the teaser, both Nora and Honey look promising, generating excitement for the upcoming release.

Earlier, Yo Yo Honey Singh shared a behind-the-scenes reel, revealing that they filmed the music video in bone-chilling -3 degrees Celsius. He praised Nora for her dedication, calling her "legendary" and "super hard-working." He said, "While other dancers, even those from Europe, have refused to perform in this freezing cold, Nora was still eager to shoot. I have

NORA & HONEY SINGH **PAYAL' TEASER** 

azon pri

India Post 37 November 22, 2024



# BollywoodShaadis.c(>m



### sushmita sen on POWER OF AUDIENCE

Bollywood actress Sushmita Sen, who was last seen in the third season of the streaming series 'Aarya', once recollected how she experienced the power of the audience.

A recently resurfaced video of the actress shows her talking about the film 'Main Hoon Na'. The actress recounted how the director of the movie, Farah Khan called her apologizing for slashing down her parts in order to weave a taut narrative.

Sushmita said, "Farah Khan called me, my director and said, 'Sush I've seen the final edit and I have to apologies to you. Shah Rukh Khan, of course has the role, you're barely there'. So I'm just like, 'Well that's okay, Farah, we had a deal, you kept through the promise, I kept through, it's done yeah, don't worry about it'. But inside I was thinking, 'Oh I'm barely there in the film'".

However, Sushmita saw things changing after the screening of the film, as she "The said. screening happens and I don't know why Yash ji was calling. So I pick up the phone and I hear him saying, 'What have you done bacche, what have you done? I couldn't take my eyes off of you, it's just the interval, I hope you are in the second half in every frame".

"From that response I knew something had changed. The reaction of the audience was so intense that the first poster of 'Main Hoon Na' all over Bombay had Zaid, Amrita and Shah Rukh Khan. By Saturday after the film had released, there was SRK and me on every hoarding. That is the power of people and audience and I have huge respect for that", she added. IANS

Bhumi discovers her sister is getting married

A ctress Bhumi Pednekar recently took to social media to share a heartfelt post reflecting on her past few weeks.

Last week, the 'Toilet: Ek Prem Katha' star posted a series of

photos along with a caption offering fans a glimpse into her life over the past few days. Sharing the post, Bhumi wrote, "Past few days: From being on set to finding out my soul sister is getting married, to meeting my friends like family after many months, to spending the day redoing the house, to just living my life. It was," followed by sparkle emojis.

From sharing candid selfies and dropping

a video of her doing makeup to dancing at a club, the 'Bhakshak' star gave fans a sneak peek into her fun-filled days. Bhumi had earlier posted a series of glamorous photos, writing, "Selfie Game Going #Monday." In the images, Bhumi was seen striking differ-

ent poses. IANS



# PM Modi praises Vikrant Massey starrer 'The Sabarmati Report'

rime Minister Narendra Modi praised the recently released Vikrant Massey starrer 'The Sabarmati Report', a movie based on the Godhra traincoach burning incident of 2002. He said it is good that the "truth" is coming out.

The prime minister was replying to an X user who had praised the movie and tagged him with a video of the film's trailer. The movie was released last week "Well said. It is good that this truth is coming out, and that too in a way common people can see it. A fake narrative can persist only for a limited period of time. Eventually, the facts will always come out!," PM Modi wrote on X.

The movie is based on the burning of S-6 coach of Sabarmati Express near Godhra station (Gujarat) on February 27, 2002. At least 59 Hindu devotees returning from Ayodhya were burnt to death in the incident, which led to the riots in the state later. *ANI* 





elugu superstar Allu Arjun and actress Rashmika Mandanna, who are set to reprise their iconic roles in the upcoming movie, 'Pushpa 2: The Rule', impressed the audience in Patna with their linguistic skills in Hindi considering both the actors work in south Indian cinema and Hindi is not their first language.

The actors attended the mega trailer launch of 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' in Patna, and welcomed the audience.

Allu spoke to a huge crowd present at the event and entertained them with his efforts in Hindi. He said, "My salute to the land of Bihar. I have come to Bihar for the first time. Thank you so much for your love and welcome. Pushpa never bows down, but for the first time today, Pushpa will bow down for your love. I have come here for the first time on this great land of Bihar. I'm really touched by the love that you have showered upon us and thank you is not enough for that. I bow my head in front of you all for your love".

> Rashmika, who is a bit more fluent in Hindi spoke with the audience at the event, and also tendered an apology for running a little behind the time for the unveiling of the trailer.

The actress said in Hindi, "Thank you. I would like to welcome all of you to Pushpa's Srivalli, at the 'Pushpa 2' trailer launch event. I know that we have taken a little more time, but I can promise you that it's all worth it. IANS

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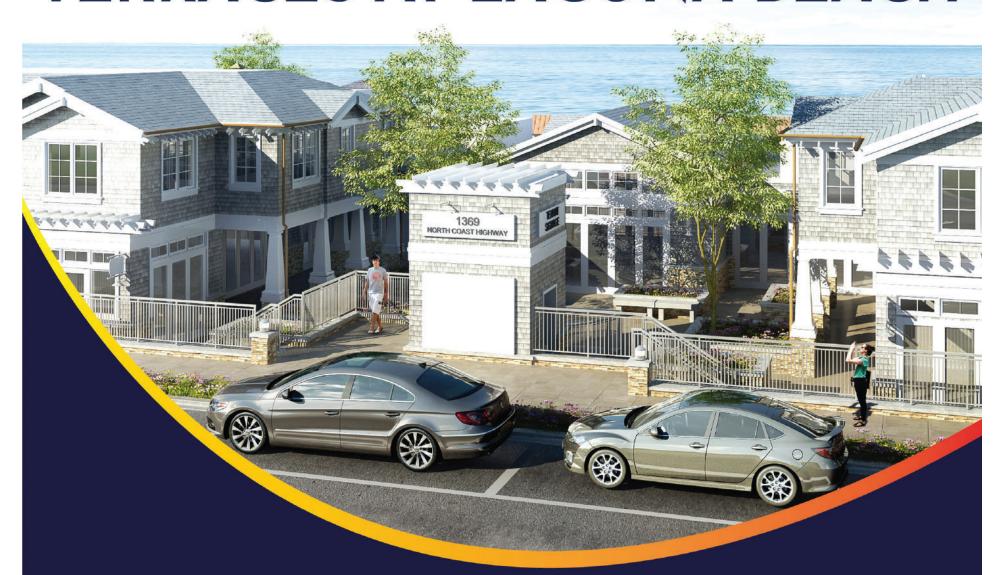
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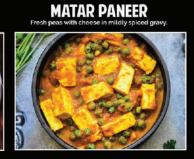


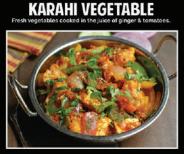






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# Trave Mospitality Post

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ying on the western coast, Goa is India's smallest state and unlike any other, known for its endless beaches, stellar nightlife, eclectic seafood, world-heritage listed architecture. Spread across just 3,702 km, Goa lies in the Konkan region. It is a far cry from the hippie haven or a beach getaway, and one of the only few destinations that is open 24x7. The 'laidbackness' (susegad) of Goa attracts as many international tourists as it does Indians, or even more so.

The Goans are quite friendly towards

tourists and celebrate many festivals

42 India Post

throughout the year, the most famous being the New Year and Goa Carnival. While the seafood is excellent, Goa has one of the best nightlife in India with trendy bars, beach shacks, elegant cafes and many clubs and discotheques. Thanks to lower alcohol prices in the state, Goa is also great for younger tourists with relatively tighter pockets.

For those of us perpetually confused between North Goa and South Goa, this might help - the state of Goa is divided into

North Goa and South Goa. While North Goa is the nightlife hub where all the touristy beaches, flea markets, and beach shacks

are located, South Goa is the land of luxurious resorts and laid-back beach vibes.

Having been a Portuguese territory for almost 450 years, the Portuguese architecture is nowhere as prevalent as in Goa - visit

one of the many whitewashed churches, crumbling forts or spectacu-

lar churches. The yellow houses with purple doors, ochre colored mansions and, oyster shell windows is what completes the kaleidoscope of Goan architecture.

Panjim, the capital city located in the center overlooks the calm Mandovi River where the famous floating casinos of Goa are docked. The center is well connected with an international airport and roads and trains run from North to South part of Goa. With a coastline stretching for over 100 kilometers, Goa has stunning beaches. While Baga and Calangute are more popular among the Indian family crowd, Anjuna and Arambol draw a lot of foreign tourists. The beaches in South Goa are relatively lesser explored, but some of them like Agonda and Palolem are more beautiful.

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

Calangute Beach: Situated 15 km from Panjim, Calangute Beach is the longest beach in North Goa, stretching from

and popularity, it is a hub for tourists and backpackers from all over the world.

November 22, 2024

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

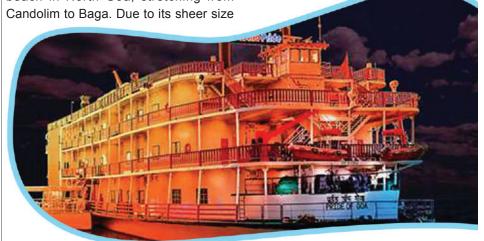


Fort Aguada: Fort Aguada is a 17th-century Portuguese fort looking out at the confluence of Mandovi River and the Arabian Sea. The crumbling ramparts of the fort stand on the Sinquerim Beach, approximately 18 km from Panjim. The highlight of the fort is a lone four-story lighthouse (which is one-of-its-kind in Asia) and a stunning view of the sunset.

Basilica of Bom Jesus: The Basilica of Bom Jesus Church located in Goa is one of a kind in India and is known for its exemplary baroque architecture. Built in 1594 and consecrated in 1605, the building of this church coincides with the beginning of Christianity in India. The church is located in Old Goa in Bainguinim about 10 km away from Panjim. The oldest church in Goa, it holds the remains of St. Francis Xavier, a special friend of St. Ignatius Loyola with whom he founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). www.holidify.com

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