

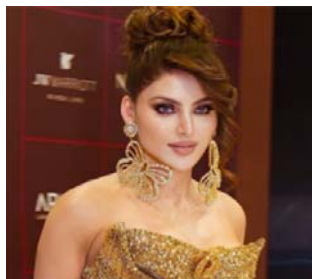


FOG celebrates Diwali 2025 in Fremont

► Details on page 8

Tesla CEO Elon Musk extends Diwali greetings

► Details on page 16



'Diwali brightest with those who matter'

► Details on page 30

DIWALI AT WHITE HOUSE

Trump hosts Diwali celebrations at White House, calls PM Modi 'great person'



WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump hosted a special Diwali event at the White House, where he termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi "a great person" and said he loves "the people of India."

The event was attended by the Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra, the new US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, FBI Director Kash Patel and Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard. Leading business leaders from the Indian diaspora were also part of the celebrations.

Trump lit the diya in the Oval Office, calling it "a symbol of faith in the victory of light over darkness" and extended his "warmest wishes to the people of India."

"It's knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. During Diwali, revelers recall ancient stories of enemies defeated, obstacles removed and captives freed. The glow of the diya flame reminds us to seek the path of wisdom and to work with diligence and to always give thanks for our many blessings," he added.

Details on page 5



Ind-Am Nirav Shah running for Maine Governor

► Details on page 12

Putin-Trump meeting has been postponed

► Details on page 6



Comedy legend Asrani passes away at 84

► Details on page 21

CONTENTS

Bollywood	30-31
Classifieds	29
Community Post	8-14
Cover/Top Stories	5-7
Edit Page	28
Immigration Post	22-23
Info/Highlights	4
Life Style	21
OP-ED	26
TechBiz Post	16-17
Real Estate	24-25
Travel & Hospitality Post	27
Wellness Post	18-20

INDIA POST
SURVEY
survey@indiapost.com

This week's question

Will techies prefer coming back to India?

Last week's result

Will the Pakistan-Afghanistan ceasefire last?

YES 98% NO 2%

Regal Jewels

◆ Biggest selection of 22K Gold Jewelry & Diamond Jewelry
 ◆ We also carry Silver items, Beads & Astrological Stones

AUTHORISED DEALER FOR **MOVADO WATCHES**

2625 W Devon Ave, Chicago, IL 60659
Tel: 773-262-4377 / www.regaljewels.com

NEW HINDI MONTHLY
 by
HINDI CLUB OF ILLINOIS.
 AVAILABLE AT
WWW.HINDICLUB.ORG

Fremont Hindu Temple

3676, Delaware Drive, Fremont, CA 94538

A non-profit, tax exempt religious (501 (C) 3 Tax Exempt 94-2742511) organization

SUNDARKAND PATH

saturday

Oct 25, 2025

10 am -12:30 pm

followed by Priti Bhoj



For sponsorship details and
for future Sunderkand Path
Contact: Madhu Gupta

@ 510 825 5739 or

Temple Admin:

510-659-0655 or

510-413-7644

ALL ARE WELCOME TO DONATE/ SPONSOR

www.fremonttemple.org

Hey California!



The 2025 Statewide Special Election is **NOVEMBER 4th**.

DON'T DELAY, VOTE RIGHT AWAY!



Drop Your Ballot
at a Drop Box



Vote In
Person



Vote-By-Mail
Ballot

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE! - USE IT.



CALIFORNIA
TRUSTED INFO

To find out more visit: **vote.ca.gov.**

NOVEMBER 4, 2025 STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION

4 నవంబర్, 2025 రాజ్యవ్యాప్త విశేష చునావ

4 ਨਵੰਬਰ, 2025 ਰਾਜ-ਵਿਆਪੀ ਖ਼ਾਸ ਚੋਣਾਂ

4 నవంబర్ 2025 రాష్ట్రవ్యాప్త ప్రత్యేక ఎన్నికలు

DON'T WAIT!

इंतज़ार मत कीजिए!
इंतज़ार ना करें!
आलस्यं चेंयकండి!

VOTE NOW!

अभी मतदान करें! हुटे गी वोट पाए! ఇప్పు డే ఓటు వేయండి!



1 (800) 834-6454

ACVOTE.ALAMEDACOUNTYCA.GOV/GO



INDIA POST
The Weekly Newspaper
Serving Indians Worldwide

www.indiapost.com

Romesh & Sunita Japra *Publishers*
Rajesh Verma *Co-Publisher*
Vikram Paul *President*
Krishan Sharma *Mg Director & Joint Editor*
Naresh Sodhi *General Manager*
Amit Saini *IT Director*
Harpreet Singh *Sub Editor*
Ghanshyam Bisht *Supervisor Graphics*

SAN FRANCISCO & SILICON VALLEY
Vidya Sethuraman *Bureau Chief*
Vijay Thapar *CPRO & Advertising*
Ritu Maheshwari *Director Promotions*
Sudesh Kumari *Correspondent*
Arvind Kotha *Sales and Distribution*
Vinita Thapar *Marketing*

WASHINGTON DC
Kris Murthy *Chief Correspondent*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Riyaz Khan *General Manager*

CHICAGO
Ramesh Soparawala *Resident Editor*
A Q Siddiqui *Correspondent*

ST. LOUIS
Ashwin Patel *Correspondent*

NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY
Pinky Kaur *Bureau Chief*
Srirekha N. Chakravarty *Correspondent*
Sukhvinder Saini *Circulation*

BOSTON
Gope Gidwani *Bureau Chief*

CANADA
Paras Nehra *Correspondent*

NEW DELHI
Lakshay Sharma *Web Developer*

MUMBAI
Nidhi Soparawala *Correspondent*
Frank Fernandes *Correspondent*

VADODARA, GUJARAT
Vaidehi Patel *Correspondent*
Priyanka Shah *Correspondent*

PUNJAB
Raman Nehra *Bureau Chief*
Jaswant Singh Gandam *Correspondent*

India Post Copyright©1994 RJ Media Inc, ISSN 1084-3868, is published weekly for \$30 for 52 issues yearly by India Post, 3155 Kearney Street, Ste. 210, Fremont, CA 94538. Application to mail at Periodicals postage prices is pending at Fremont, California and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to India Post, 3155 Kearney Street, Ste. 210, Fremont, CA 94538.

DISCLAIMER
India Post assumes all advertisers to be reliable and responsible for all liability for their claimers



Mission Statement

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:

'Diwali brightest with who matter'



Urvashi Rautela says, "When I'm with my family, it's a festival of warmth, blessings, and gratitude - a time to reconnect with my roots"

30

Lifestyle:

India's luxury watch market



The report noted, India will be among the fastest-growing markets for luxury time-pieces, driven by increasing affluence, aspiration, and changing preferences

21

Cover Story:

DIWALI AT WHITE HOUSE



President Donald Trump hosted a Diwali event at the White House, where he praised PM Modi and said he loves "the people of India"

5

Techbiz:

Elon Musk extends Diwali greetings



Musk shared a Diwali greeting on social media platform X, saying "Happy Diwali", while tagging a post from his company's subsidiary Tesla India

16

Community:

FOG Celebrates Diwali



Festival of Globe Diwali - FOG's mission aligns with the key message of Diwali, which is to build a safe, happy and prosperous community"

8

Travel

Bhopal



Bhopal is famous for the pair of artificial lakes; north of the lakes is the old town with rustic mosques, bustling bazaars and exquisite havelis

27

Immigration:

US clarifies \$100,000 visa fee



Workers who switch to H-1B visa status from other visa categories such as F-1 student status won't be subjected to the \$100,000 fee.

22

Wellness:

Health system in Congo



85% percent of health facilities in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo affected by shortages in medicine; nearly 40% see exodus of health staff

18

INFO-CENTER

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

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

E-SUBSCRIPTIONS & EDITORIAL: Vidya Sethuraman: Tel: 510-491-4867 • e-mail: vidya@indiapost.com
ADVERTISEMENT: Naresh Sodhi: Tel: 510-938-8667 • e-mail: naresh@indiapost.com or nareshsodhi@gmail.com
Graphics Inquiry: E-mail: ghanshyam@indiapost.com

INDIA CORPORATE OFFICE

86-B, First Floor, Shahpurjat, New Delhi - 110049 • Tel: 011-26497769 • E-mail:delhi@indiapost.com

For advertisement rates call the office nearest to you:

SAN FRANCISCO & SILICON VALLEY
3155 Kearney Street, Ste. 210, Fremont, CA 94538
Naresh Sodhi: **510-938-8667**
• e-mail: nareshsodhi@gmail.com
Vidya Sethuraman: **510-491-4867**
• e-mail: vidya@indiapost.com
Arvind Kotha: **408-659-9977**
• e-mail: arvind@indiapost.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
901, E. South St. Unit 256,
Anaheim CA 92805
Riyaz Khan: **562- 881-5342**
e-mail: riyaz@indiapost.com
Shashi Trivedi: **562-441-5511**
e-mail: shashi19@yahoo.com

CHICAGO
2543 W Devon Ave Chicago IL 60659
Tel: **773-973-7394**
e-mail: sramesh@aol.com
NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY
Tel: **510-938-8667** • e-mail: nareshsodhi@gmail.com

For editorial, contact: editor@indiapost.com

DIWALI AT WHITE HOUSE

Trump hosts Diwali celebrations at White House, calls PM Modi 'great person'

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump hosted a special Diwali event at the White House, where he termed Prime Minister Narendra Modi "a great person" and said he loves "the people of India."

The event was attended by the Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra, the new US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, FBI Director Kash Patel and Director of

dent Trump for opening up the White House to mark the festival of Diwali.

"Mr. President, let me start first of all by expressing a deep sense of gratitude for opening up White House, Oval Office, your home to mark Diwali's festival of lights, which is celebrated by one-fifth of humanity.... You are showcasing the strength of diversity through this

ship, so many more millions of Americans are living that dream, and to celebrate here in the Oval Office on Diwali, which you said...is a triumph of good over evil. It's just an incredible honor. It's incredibly humbling. Indian Americans around the world, Indians around the world are thrilled that you are such a profound leader in sharing this diversity with the world," he added.

While speaking to reporters, Trump claimed he spoke to Prime Minister Modi and the two sides are "working on some great deals between our countries."

"I just spoke to your Prime Minister today. We had a great conversation. We talked about trade. We talked about a lot of things, but mostly the world of trade. He's very interested in that," he said.

Trump also reiterated that he had been assured that India is "not going to buy much oil from Russia."

"We just have a very good relationship, and he's not going to buy much oil from Russia. He wants to see that war end as much as with Russia, Ukraine. And as you know, they're not going to be buying too much oil. So, they've got it way back, and they're continuing to cut it way back," he emphasized.

While India has started buying Russian oil in the last few years, China is Moscow's biggest energy buyer.

The Trump administration imposed an additional 25 percent tariff on India in August for purchasing Russian oil while taking no action against China.

On whether he would impose additional tariffs on China for purchasing Russian energy, Trump said Beijing

would likely be paying 155 percent tariffs from November 1 in retaliation for export controls on rare earths.

"As of November 1, China will have about 155 percent tariffs I don't think it's sustainable for them. So, I want to be nice to China, but China has been very rough with us," he noted. *IANS*

PM Modi thanks Trump for Diwali wishes, calls for 'united' fight against terror

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked US President Donald Trump for the Diwali greetings and expressed hope to stand united against all forms of terrorism.

While speaking to reporters during his Diwali Party at the White House, Trump said he spoke to Prime Minister Modi on Tuesday (21 Oct) and the two sides are "working on some great deals between our countries".

"I just spoke to your Prime Minister today. We had a great conversation. We talked about trade. We talked about a lot of things, but mostly the world of trade. He's very interested in that," he said.

PM Modi also took to X and said, "Thank you, President Trump, for your phone call and warm Diwali greetings. On this festival of lights, may our two great democracies continue to illuminate the world with hope and stand united against terrorism in all its forms." *IANS*



National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard. Leading business leaders from the Indian diaspora were also part of the celebrations.

Trump lit the diya in the Oval Office, calling it "a symbol of faith in the victory of light over darkness" and extended his "warmest wishes to the people of India."

"It's knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. During Diwali, revelers recall ancient stories of enemies defeated, obstacles removed and captives freed. The glow of the diya flame reminds us to seek the path of wisdom and to work with diligence and to always give thanks for our many blessings," he added.

The Indian Ambassador thanked Presi-

dent Trump for opening up the White House to mark the festival of Diwali. On behalf of my Prime Minister and my own behalf, wish you and your loved one, very, very happy Diwali greetings, particularly to over 5 million-strong Indian diaspora in the US and I close by making a wish, which is what we do for Diwali. We wish that the light of Diwali continues to shine on your success and on the strength of India," he noted.

FBI Director Kash Patel, one of the most prominent Indian Americans serving in the Trump administration, praised Trump for celebrating Diwali at the White House.

"It's an honor to be a first-generation Indian-American...Under your leader-

hope," Starmer posted on X.

While addressing a joint press conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi following their talks in Mumbai on October 9, Starmer extended warm greetings on Diwali in Hindi.

"Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity as we enter the festive period to wish the people of India joy and happiness and a very Happy Diwali. Diwali ki Shubhkamnaye."

Meanwhile, the UK High Commission in India celebrated Diwali, with embassy officials wearing Indian clothes to mark the occasion. The pictures shared on X show

UK PM Keir Starmer extends wishes to people on Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas

LONDON: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer extended wishes to people on the occasion of Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas.

Recalling his visit to India, Starmer stated that he lit a diya in Mumbai as a symbol of devotion, joy and renewed bonds.

"Wishing Hindus, Jains and Sikhs across Britain a joyful and peaceful Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas. Earlier this month I lit a diya in Mumbai as a symbol of devotion, joy, and renewed bonds. As we celebrate this Festival of Lights, let's keep building a Britain where everyone can look ahead with



UK High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron making rangoli.

Extending wishes to people on X, Cameron stated, "So excited to be celebrating my second #Diwali with my amazing team at UK High Commission in India This year's celebration is extra special - with the visit of Prime Minister Modi to the UK and Prime Minister Keir Starmer to India, the signing of the landmark trade deal, launch of #Vision2035 and so much more! I'd like to wish everyone who's celebrating, an extremely Happy Diwali. May the year ahead be bright and full of joy for you and yours." *IANS*

Trump says he wants to be "nice" to China, but slaps 155% tariffs from Nov 1

REENA BHARDWAJ

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump stated that Washington would continue with their plans to impose a 155 percent tariff on Chinese goods imported into the US beginning November 1, despite expressing his desire to maintain amicable ties with Beijing.

Responding to a question by ANI if tariffs would be considered on China, as it is still Russia's largest oil importer, the US President said, "Right now, as of November 1st, China will have about 155 percent tariffs put on it. I don't think it's sustainable for them."

Trump said while he personally wishes to maintain friendly relations with China, years of one-sided economic dealings have left the US with no choice but to take firm action.

"I want to be nice to China. But China has been very rough with us over the years because we had presidents that weren't smart from a business standpoint... They allowed China and every other country to take advantage of us," Trump added.

The US President noted that his earlier trade deals with the European Union, Japan and South Korea were built on tariffs, which he considers a tool for "national security".

"I made a deal with the European Union. I made a deal with Japan and South Korea. A lot of these deals are great deals. It's about national security. I was able to do it because of tariffs. We're getting hundreds of billions, even trillions, of dollars paid into the United States... We'll start

paying off debt," Trump added.

Trump's announcement underscores the intensifying "secondary tariff" strategy that Washington is deploying against countries perceived to be indirectly aiding Russia's war efforts in Ukraine through its energy trade.

While previous measures targeted India, where a 50 percent tariff was imposed for Russian oil imports, this move conveys a broader escalation toward China, the world's largest importer of Russian crude.

Earlier, also Trump, in a post on Truth Social, announced an additional 100 percent tariff on Chinese goods "over and above any tariff that they are currently paying", effective November 1.

The US President noted that the decision was taken after what he described as China taking "an extraordinarily aggressive position on trade" by sending "an extremely hostile letter to the world".

He also said that export controls will be placed on all critical software starting the same day.

"Based on the fact that China has taken this unprecedented position, and speaking only for the USA, and not other Nations who were similarly threatened, starting November 1, 2025 (or sooner, depending on any further actions or changes taken by China), the United States of America will impose a Tariff of 100% on China, over and above any Tariff that they are currently paying. Also on November 1, we will impose Export Controls on any and all critical software," his post read. ANI



US President Donald Trump

Putin-Trump meeting in Hungary postponed, timing undecided

WASHINGTON: A planned meeting in Hungary between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin has been postponed, with no new date set, according to US and Russian officials.

Preparations for a possible meeting in Budapest, Hungary, were put on hold following what was described as a "constructive but inconclusive" phone conversation between US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov earlier this week, the officials said.

Following a phone conversation with Putin last week, Trump said he was ready to meet the Russian leader soon

to seek a breakthrough in efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict. However, the US president told reporters in Washington that he did not want to have "a wasted meeting", Xinhua News Agency reported.

Preparations for a possible meeting in Budapest, Hungary, were put on hold following what was described as a "constructive but inconclusive" phone conversation

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the timing of a possible summit remains undecided, stressing that "serious preparation" would be required before any meeting could take place.

Despite the delay, Russia's special envoy for investment and economic cooperation, Kirill Dmitriev, said on his X account that "preparations continue" for a future summit, adding that the meeting had not been cancelled.

The summit delay followed Trump's meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House last week, where he ruled out a trilateral summit with Russia and Ukraine, citing deep tensions between Moscow and Kyiv.

Trump and Putin met in the US state of Alaska in August, but no deal was reached, and ceasefire negotiations remain deadlocked. IANS

Stronger India-US ties key to counter China, says leading American expert

WASHINGTON: Walter Russell Mead, a leading expert on American foreign policy, has advocated for stronger India-US ties, terming deepening ties with India an "important way" to counter China in the short term and "build a strong defensive coalition for the future."

In an article titled 'India still wants to work with Trump' in the Wall Street Journal, Mead, who is a Distinguished Fellow at the Hudson Institute, believed that despite the recent tensions, "the Trump administration remains well-positioned to take US-India relations to a new level."

"On tech policy, building close ties between the US, India, and friendly countries like Israel and Japan offers a path to countering the Chinese push for leadership in a strategic domain. On regional issues, American and Indian interests are broadly aligned. Chinese efforts to pull countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, the Maldives and Sri Lanka into its orbit threaten both India and the US," he elaborated.

Mead argued that the current bonhomie between the Trump administration and Pakistan isn't likely to "attract much long-term love from Mr. Trump" as Islamabad has a "troubling record" on nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

"In the Cold War, America valued Pakistan as an ally against the Soviet Union. But in the emerging cold war with China, Pakistan has chosen Beijing. It has a troubling record of supporting illegal nuclear proliferation, and its hands are far from clean when it comes to supporting terrorism," he added.

In early October, Mead led a US delegation to India and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior Ministers like Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

After meeting with the delegation, Prime Minister Modi posted on X. "Glad to interact with a US delegation of thinkers and business leaders led by Mr Walter Russell Mead. Value their contribution in strengthening India-US ties and advancing our partnership for global peace, progress and prosperity."

Reflecting on his recent visit, Mead wrote that most Indians hope the new US Ambassador to India, Sergio Goro's mission will be a "success."

"In meetings with Indian government, opposition and business leaders from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on down, your Global View columnist heard a consistent message. India's political and business leaders still want to work with the US," he said.

In the last few weeks, the India-US relationship has stabilized after months of sustained tensions. Trade talks between the two sides are underway to finalize the first tranche of an agreement soon.

Mead also asserted that a failure to resolve the pending issues in India-US ties would be an "indelible blot" on the Trump presidency. IANS

'Pakistan's invasion of Kashmir in October 1947 marked beginning of terrorism in J&K'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's invasion of Kashmir in October 1947 changed the geography and culture of Kashmir. It also marked the beginning of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, a situation which continues to this day, a report has stated.

October 22 is remembered as a "Black Day" in India and is meant to express condemnation for the violence

and displacement started by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir. It was on this day in 1947 that the battle of Muzaffarabad began between the forces of Pakistan-backed Pashtun tribesmen that fought alongside Pakistani army regulars against the J&K State Forces of Maharaja of Kashmir.

"It was Pakistan's first armed attempt to seize and occupy J&K, which continues to this day. Thousands of Hindus and Sikhs were forced to flee PoK, while thousands more were murdered," a report in PJ Media highlighted.

Initially, both India and Pakistan had accepted the J&K offer of a standstill agreement. But on August 24, 1947, Pakistan threatened the Maharaja that 'should Kashmir fail to join Pakistan, the gravest possible trouble will inevitably ensue.' Within two months, Pakistan executed this threat and attacked Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) on October 22.

Enough proof has emerged which has revealed how the Pakistani army and government encouraged tribal communities to target Hindus and other non-Muslims. The operation was masqueraded as raids by tribal invaders. On October 22, the battle of Muzaffarabad was fought between a force of Pakistan-backed Pashtun tribesmen and Pakistani army regulars and the forces of the Maharaja of Kashmir (J&K State Forces), the report detailed.

The Pakistani army then directed the Lashkar members to Mirpur, Uri and Baramulla, who along the way created mayhem with murders, rapes and plunder. More than 20,000 Hindus and Sikhs were slaughtered by the invaders in Mirpur on November 25, 1947. Following the loot and mayhem, the Maharaja of Kashmir signed the Instrument of Accession to India on October 26, 1947, which led to India sending troops in state's defense.

"Kashmir's invasion by Pakistan eventually led to a UN-mediated ceasefire on January 1, 1949. Following the ceasefire, Pakistan remained in control of approximately one-third of the state while the remaining two-thirds were incorporated into India under Article 370 of India's Constitution. IANS

"It was Pakistan's first armed attempt to seize and occupy J&K, which continues to this day. Thousands of Hindus and Sikhs were forced to flee PoK, while thousands more were murdered"

"No American boots on the ground in Gaza," says US Vice President JD Vance during Israel visit to reinforce ceasefire efforts

KIRYAT GAT: United States Vice-President JD Vance, reaffirmed that Washington will not deploy "American boots on the ground in Gaza," reiterating the stance consistently maintained by President Donald Trump.

"There are not going to be American boots on the ground in Gaza. The President of the United States has made that very clear. All of our military leadership has made that very clear," Vance said during a press conference in Kiryat Gat, southern Israel, where a US-led team is supervising the Gaza ceasefire.

Vance noted that the United States would continue to offer "useful coordination" in the peace process.

The Vice President arrived in Israel to bolster ongoing efforts to sustain the truce amid concerns within the Trump administration that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu could reconsider the deal, risking renewed hostilities.

Upon his arrival, Vance toured the Kiryat Gat command center, overseeing the ceasefire, holding private discussions with senior military officials. He was joined by Second Lady Usha Vance and greeted by US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee. ANI

NOVEMBER 4, 2025 STATEWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION

4 ਨਵੰਬਰ, 2025 ਰਾਜਵਿਆਪੀ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਚੁਨਾਵ

4 ਨਵੰਬਰ, 2025 ਰਾਜ-ਵਿਆਪੀ ਖ਼ਾਸ ਚੋਣਾਂ

4 నవంబర్ 2025 రాష్ట్రవ్యాప్త ప్రత్యేక ఎన్నికలు

DON'T WAIT!

इंतज़ार मत कीजिए!
इंतज़ार ना करें!
आलस्यं चेंयकండి!

VOTE NOW!

अभी मतदान करें! हुटे गी वोट पाओ! ఇప్పుడే ఓటు వేయండి!



1 (800) 834-6454

ACVOTE.ALAMEDACOUNTYCA.GOV/GO

Road in NY City renamed Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji Marg honoring legacy

NEW YORK: A stretch of a road in New York has been re-named Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji Marg honoring the ninth Sikh guru's legacy.

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in a post on X called it a "proud moment for the Sikh Sangat".

The Guru is "the epitome of religious freedom and protector of human rights", he said.

Recalling his stay in the multicultural city as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, he wrote on X, "This befitting honor highlights the significance of the Sikh community in Richmond Hill and recognizes the contribution of Sikh heritage to the cultural fabric of New York City".

Lynn Schulman, the city councilwoman, who moved the city council resolution for the reaming said it recognizes "the 9th Sikh Guru's legacy of sacrifice, compassion, and unwavering stand for justice".

"In a HISTORIC first, a NYC Street is named after Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji Marg. 114th St & 101st Ave. in Richmond Hill, home to Gurdwara Makhan Shah Lubana, will now be known as Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji Marg Way, to honor the 9th Sikh Guru's legacy of sacrifice, compassion, and unwavering stand for justice," Schulman posted on X.

The renaming ceremony took place over the weekend on the eve of Deepavali.

Sukhjinder Singh Nijjar, an East Coast Sikh community leader, welcomed the renaming saying it was the local government's appreciation of the Sikh heritage.

"In following the guru's example of service to humanity, the Sikhs in New York immerse themselves in the community through service and this is a recognition of it", Nijjar, who is a former official of the Sikh Cultural Society told IANS.

The stretch of the road is home to Gurdwara Makhan Shah Lubana in the Richmond Hill section of the city's Queens borough. IANS

COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

8 India Post

www.indiapost.com

October 24, 2025



FOG celebrates Diwali 2025 in Fremont



RITU MAHESHWARI
India Post News Service

FREMONT, CA: Festival of Globe (FOG) Diwali - Festival of Lights was celebrated at the sprawling Washington High School grounds on Saturday, October 18th, 202. Diwali is one of the most pious and joyous festivals celebrated across India and the world.

Dr. Romesh Japra, FOG Founder, said, "Diwali represents victory of Good over Evil, and this message is all the more relevant in today's society for all of us to

live in harmony and thrive. FOG strives to bring community together and give them a platform to celebrate our Hindu values, culture and heritage. FOG's mission aligns with the key message of Diwali, which I to build a safe, happy and prosperous community".

This year's FOG Diwali festival consisted of many exciting segments that attracted and enthralled Festival visitors. Hundreds of booths enabled visitors to shop for Diwali. A beautifully choreographed all women cast

Ram Leela was highlight of the event. Hundreds of dancers with ages ranging from 3 years adult participated in dance competitions. Beautiful Laser Dandiya and Laser show extended the event into evening hours where viewers had the evening treat to their eyes.

A beautiful Ramayana Parade was led by several Ramayana characters singing bhajans and attracted large audience.

FOG President Rajesh Verma said, "Bringing together communities and providing exciting ac-

tivities is a huge operational effort. It is only possible because of hundreds of volunteers that support the event."

FOG Diwali Festival is the largest and most recognized event and attracted several local and state elected officials. Mayor Raj Salwan, Assembly member Alex Lee and several council members conveyed their Diwali wishes. New York assembly member Jennifer Rajkumar especially attended the event to greet the community.

Cont'd on page 14



City of Fremont raises Diwali flag to celebrate Festival of Lights



RITU MAHESHWARI
India Post News Service

Fremont City held the Diwali Day flag raising ceremony to celebrate Festival of Lights - Diwali on Monday, October 20th at 12 noon. This was a glorious occasion, attended by a large number of community members dressed in traditional attires with Fremont city Mayor and Councilmembers in attendance. It was of immense significance to all of Indian community as it showcases the community's contributions in making Fremont a culture rich, diverse, safe and happy community.

"Diwali represents the core Indian values of safety, prosperity, and happiness, for all. Diwali is not just for Hindu Americans but for all Americans embodying 'Vasudhaiva Kurumbakam' (the whole world is one family.)"

Addressing the gathering, Mayor Raj Salwan said "Diwali is a festival of joy that signifies victory of Light over darkness and is very relevant today"

FOG Founder, Dr. Romesh Japra said "Diwali represents the core Indian values of safety, prosperity, and happiness, for all. Diwali is not just for Hindu Americans but for all Americans embodying 'Vasudhaiva Kurumbakam' (the whole world is one family.)"

Fremont is the first city in California and perhaps US, to honor Diwali in this fashion.



How to make sure your ballot is secure and counted in California's 2025 special election

SHIRLEY N. WEBCCER, PH.D.

OP-ED

As voters across the state prepare to make their voices heard on Prop 50 - arguably one of the most important elections in California's history - it's essential their ballots are cast with confidence that their vote will be counted securely and on time.

There has been some misinformation surrounding ballots leading up to the Statewide Special Election on Nov. 4, and voters must understand the safeguards put in place to protect every ballot.

California ballots are designed with multiple layers of security. It is against the law to tamper with a ballot. Whether a voter chooses to vote by mail, drop off a ballot at a secure location, or vote in person, rules and regulations ensure ballots are not tampered with.

How to Vote Securely by Mail

Mail ballots are sent to every registered voter in the state. Each envelope is carefully tracked from the moment it's issued, and every ballot returned undergoes signature verification and inspection. Election officials check for any irregularities, such as damage to the envelope, or other signs it was compromised, before the ballot envelope is opened. If there's a red flag, the voter will be notified and corrective action taken.

To make sure a mail ballot is counted, it must be postmarked on or before Election Day, Nov. 4, 2025. In some areas, the U.S. Postal Service may not postmark mail until the following day, so it's recommended to send ballots early. If mailing on Election Day, ask a postal employee at your local post office for a manual postmark to

confirm it was mailed on time.

Secure Ballot Drop-Off

When returning a ballot in person, use only official, county-operated locations. Secure ballot drop boxes are constructed with tamper-resistant materials, locked, and



anchored in place. Each box is regularly emptied by trained, bipartisan election staff following strict chain-of-custody procedures. Ballots can also be returned at any vote center, polling place, or county elections office, where election workers directly accept and track them through the county's system.

Voting Safely at Polling Places and Voting Centers

Voting in person is another secure and reliable option for California voters. Polling places and vote centers are staffed by trained election workers who follow strict procedures to verify each voter, issue the correct ballot, and ensure every vote is properly recorded. Ballots cast in person are immediately placed into secure ballot boxes or scanned using approved voting equipment that is tested and certified before every election.

These locations also provide language assistance, replacement ballots if one was lost or damaged, and same-day voter registration when needed.

Still have Questions and Concerns?

Voters who have questions about their ballots or the security of voting should go to a trusted source such as the Secretary of State's office, which offers voter hotlines in multiple languages including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Thai, and more. Another option is to visit your county elections office. A complete list can be found at sos.ca.gov/elections.

Additionally, the state provides tools to check when your ballot is received and counted, giving voters peace of mind and reinforcing the transparency of the process.

By taking the time to plan your vote, verify your registration, and use official information sources, you strengthen both your voice and the integrity of our elections. Make sure your voice is heard on November 4, 2025.

Author Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. is California Secretary of State

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

California's Special Election: Redistricting, Representation & Resources for Voters

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

California is gearing up for an unprecedented special election on Nov. 4. New congressional districts are on the ballot and the balance of power in Congress. This election is all about representation. President Trump ignited a mid-decade redistricting battle, demanding new congressional maps in Texas to favor the Republican Party ahead of next year's midterms. Now, California is attempting to counterbalance this move through new maps proposed in the upcoming special election. Nonpartisan voting rights experts from Common Cause detailed what this special election means for Californians, the key information voters need to know, and how voters can find nonpartisan help making their voices heard at the polls.

Darius Kemp, Executive Director, California Common Cause at the meeting said that district redrawing is not a purely technical issue, but a political project related to "equity and the future." He recalled that in 2008 and 2010,

California took the lead in drawing district districts led by citizen committees to ensure that "voters give priority, not politicians." He stressed: "Our goal is to ensure fairness, transparency and representation at every level. We are working hard to make the voices of all communities truly heard in elections." "Districts cannot be designed to deny communities of color the opportunity to elect their preferred representatives. Over the past 15 years, the representation of African-American and Latino voters has been facing erosion, so reforms in California are particularly critical."

Brittany Stonesifer, Voting Rights and Redistricting Senior Program Manager, California Common Cause provided key information for voters during the briefing. All U.S. citizens and California residents over 18 years old can vote, and those 17 years old can pre-register. "Many people mistakenly believe that criminals cannot vote, but this is only true for those serving time in state or federal prison." Experts at the meeting unanimously emphasized that this special election is not only a politi-

cal event in California, but also a microcosm of the test facing the democratic system across the United States. "This is not a technical issue of drawing lines, but a question of trust in democracy," the meeting concluded.

Dan Vicuña, Senior Policy Director for Voting and Fair Representation, Common Cause said Proposition 50 is a temporary measure designed by California to deal with political manipulation in Texas. "Trump asked Texas this summer to redraw congressional districts to cut five Democratic districts into Republican-controlled districts. California responded with Proposition 50, hoping to maintain the balance of power before the 2026 midterm elections." After the passage of this proposal, it will affect the configuration of congressional districts from 2026 to 2030. Currently, states including Missouri, Kansas, Indiana and other states are also promoting mid-term constituency redrawing, mostly with the aim of weakening the votes of people of color. "We should not let politicians choose voters, but let voters choose representatives," Vicuña emphasized.

Redefining the Latinx Narrative in Times of Crisis

VIDYA SETHURAMAN
India Post News Service

American social media (Acom) held an online briefing on Oct 17th, inviting scholars and media people to discuss how Puerto Rican superstar Bad Bunny used music and cultural confidence to redefine Latino narratives in an era of rising discrimination and frequent deportations, becoming a symbol of ethnic resistance and self-identity. In recent years, discrimination against Latinos has increased in American so-

ciety, and even citizens may be interrogated or deported by ICE law enforcement officers. Against this backdrop, Bad Bunny is using his music and pride in his Puerto Rican identity to not only inspire the community, but also drive the local economy through his 30-day residency in Puerto Rico this year.

Senior entertainment reporter Antonio Mejías-Rentas recalled that in the past, if Latin artists wanted to enter the mainstream market, they often had to record English or bilingual albums. Bad

Bunny was created entirely in Spanish, symbolizing cultural independence and resistance. He pointed out that in the current political climate, speaking Spanish is itself a form of resistance. What used to be seen as a language that identified outsiders is now a symbol of pride in identity.

Frances Muntaner-Negron, a Professor and Director at Columbia University, analyzed that Bad Bunny's success was not accidental, but the result of the shift in demographic structure, technol-

ogy and cultural centers. She pointed out that Latinos account for a very high proportion of the young population in the United States, and that technology allows artists to face audiences directly instead of relying on traditional media. She said that Bad Bunny's works have gradually shifted from issues of gender and cultural identity to exploring social phenomena such as tourism capital, rising housing prices, and forced migration, making his works resonate globally.

Diwali celebrated in Los Angeles with zeal; showcases cultural harmony

LOS ANGELES: Highlighting the India-US friendship and celebrating cultural harmony, the Los Angeles City Hall hosted an event for members of the Indian diaspora and, the Consulate General of India, on the auspicious occasion of Diwali.

The celebration featured the lighting of traditional lamps, music and dance performances, and the handing over of the Diwali proclamation.

During the celebration, India's new Consul General in Los Angeles, K.J. Srinivasa, was welcomed by city council members Nithya Raman, John Lee, and Tim McOskey in the presence of former Los Angeles Mayor and Ambassador of the US to India, Eric Garcetti.

"City Hall of Los Angeles was lit up to celebrate Diwali for the first time ever, symbolizing light, hope & unity. A proud moment of recognition for the Indo-American community and a testament to our partnership & cultural harmony," Indian Consulate General in Los Angeles posted on X on Wednesday (22 Oct).

Addressing the event, Consul General Srinivasa said, "It is indeed a matter of honor and privilege for me to join you all today at this Los Angeles City Hall. This is such a historic occasion, the celebration of Diwali in this iconic city."

He noted that the lighting of City Hall marking the festival of light deeply touched the hearts of millions of Indians and friends of India around the world. Diwali, he said,

celebrates the time of "good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance."

"This celebration here today indeed reflects the inclusive spirit of Los Angeles, a city that embraces all cultures and celebrates their contributions," Srinivasa stated.

Appreciating the vibrant Indian American community, he said that through their hard work, innovation and values, they have become an integral part of the city's



social and economic fabric,

"As we light the ceremonial lamps today to symbolize our collective aspiration for peace, harmony and prosperity, we also reaffirm the growing bonds of friendship between India and the United States and between the people of India and the people of Los Angeles," the Consul General emphasized.

"We want to help this to sustain in the future, may the life of Diwali inspire us to build bridges of understanding and to illuminate the path of progress for all of us here," he added. *IAN S*



Diwali celebrations at Akshardham Temple, New Jersey, brings together culture and community



NEW JERSEY: The festival of Diwali was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervor at the Akshardham, New Jersey.

As per a statement, at BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham in Robbinsville, the celebration of Diwali saw the coming together of devotion, culture, and community come together in harmony, reminding that Diwali is not just a festival of lights, but of shared hearts.

It noted that from October 18 through October 26, Diwali and New Year will be celebrated with the glowing with thousands of diyas, melodies of devotion filling the air, and families gathering in the same spirit that has brightened homes for generations.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump also extended wishes on the occasion of Diwali.

"Today, I send my best wishes to every American celebrating Diwali--the 'Festival of Lights,' Trump said in a statement. "For many Americans, Diwali is a timeless reminder of light's victory over darkness. It is also a time to bring families and friends together to celebrate community, draw strength from hope, and embrace a lasting spirit of renewal. As millions of citizens light diyas and lanterns, we rejoice in the eternal truth that good will always triumph

over evil. To every American celebrating Diwali, may this observance bring abiding serenity, prosperity, hope, and peace," he said.

Sergio Gor, Special Envoy to the President, attended Diwali celebrations at India House alongside Ambassador of India to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

In a post on X, Kwatra said, "Pleasure to host Ambassador and Special Envoy to the President Sergio Gor yesterday at India House for Diwali celebrations before his visit to India."

Diwali is a five-day festival that starts on Dhanteras. On Dhanteras, people buy jewelry or utensils and worship God. The second day is called Naraka Chaturdashi. It is also called Chhoti Diwali or Small Diwali.

The third day of Diwali is the main day of the celebrations.

People worship Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi on this day and offer prayers to bless them with wealth and prosperity.

The fourth day of Diwali is devoted to Govardhan Puja. The fifth day is called Bhai Dooj. On this day, sisters pray for their brothers to have long and happy lives by performing the Tika ceremony, and brothers give gifts to their sisters. ANI

Indian American Nirav Shah running for Maine Governor as Democrat

NEW YORK: Former US federal health official Nirav Shah has announced his run for Governor of Maine, joining the race for the Democratic Party nomination.

"We are at a crossroads and we need a governor with proven leadership experience who is ready to tackle our challenges on day one," Shah posted on X.

"I'm running to feed kids, fix housing, fund healthcare, and fuel growth," he wrote.

Shah is vying to succeed Democrat Maine Governor Janet Mills, who is leaving the state leadership after two terms to challenge Republican Senator Susan Collins in next year's election.

If he is elected, he will be the third Indian American to be elected state governor after Bobby Jindal in Louisiana and Nikki Haley in South Carolina.

Jindal and Haley were both Republicans, while Shah is a Democrat.

A doctor and lawyer, Shah was the principal deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in former President Joe Biden's administration.

Before that, he headed the State CDC and had served as the director of the Illinois State Department of Public Health.

Shah will be facing at least four others competing for the Democratic Party nomination in a state that went with the party in the 2024 presidential election.

On the Republican side, Jonathan Bush, a nephew of former President George H.W. Bush, is seeking that party's nomination.

Shah started his campaign with events in the state's largest city, Portland and in Brunswick.

Afterwards, he said: "I'm overjoyed at the outpouring of support I've received from across the state today." IANS



Nirav Shah

To advertise in **India Post** for
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
please contact
NARESH SODHI 510-938-8667
or Email: naresh@indiapost.com

US Congressmen Krishnamoorthi, Fitzpatrick introduce bipartisan resolution to recognize Diwali's religious, historical significance

WASHINGTON DC: US Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthi and Brian Fitzpatrick on Tuesday (21 Oct) introduced a bipartisan resolution in the US House of Representatives to recognize the religious and historical significance of Diwali, which began on October 20.

According to a press release, the resolution honors Diwali's cultural, spiritual, and historical significance to over three million Indian-Americans, including Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs, and reflects the growing recognition of the Indian diaspora's contributions to the US.

"Diwali celebrates the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil," Congressman Krishnamoorthi said in a statement. "For the millions of Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains here in the US celebrating with friends, family, and loved ones, it's my hope that this bipartisan resolution brings our communities together and inspires us to see the light in the world and overcome the challenges we face."

Congressman Fitzpatrick emphasized the universal values symbolized by Diwali, stating, "Diwali speaks to the en-



US Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthi and Brian Fitzpatrick

thanksgiving and prayer for health, knowledge, and peace.

It underscores the tradition of lighting small oil lamps to symbolize the inner light that dispels the darkness of ignorance, celebrated on the last day of the lunar calendar's final month as a day of

The resolution concludes by expressing the House of Representatives' respect for Indian Americans and the Indian diaspora, appreciating the religious diversity in both India and the United States, and reaffirming the enduring relationship of collaboration and mutual

respect between India and the US. "Recognizing the religious and historical significance of Diwali... [it] expresses deepest respect for Indian-Americans and the Indian diaspora on this significant occasion... Acknowledges and supports the relationship of collaboration and respect between the United States and India," the resolution added.

Diwali is a five-day festival that starts on Dhanteras. On Dhanteras, people purchase jewelry or utensils and worship the gods.

The second day is called Naraka Chaturdashi. It is also called 'Chhoti Diwali' or Small Diwali.

The third day of Diwali is the main day of the celebrations. People worship Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi on this day, offering prayers to bless them with wealth and prosperity.

The fourth day of Diwali is devoted to Govardhan Puja. The fifth day is called Bhai Dooj. On this day, sisters pray for their brothers to have long and happy lives by performing the Tika ceremony, and brothers give gifts to their sisters in return. ANI

"For the millions of Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains here in the US celebrating with friends, family, and loved ones, it's my hope that this bipartisan resolution brings our communities together and inspires us to see the light in the world and overcome the challenges we face"

during human belief that light will always conquer darkness, that truth will outlast fear, and that unity is our strength."

He also praised the Indian-American community's contributions in Pennsylvania and across the nation, calling local Mandirs "critical community pillars of faith, service, and unity."

The resolution highlights Diwali's deep significance for Indian-Americans, noting that the festival is a time for

gratitude and renewal for many Hindus.

The resolution further added that for Sikhs, the festival marks the release of Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh guru, from Mughal captivity. At the same time, for Jains, it commemorates Lord Mahavira's attainment of Nirvana.

The resolution also acknowledges Diwali's importance across Indian-American communities, emphasizing its universal message of hope and unity.

To advertise in India Post for
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
please contact
VIDYA SETHURAMAN 510-491-4867
or Email: vidya@indiapost.com

TRUST your **Heart** to the best for
Cardiac Check Ups
with State of the Art
Diagnostic Equipment

Romesh Japra
M.D., F.A.C.C.

President, Pacific
Cardiology
Associates; Board
Certified Internal
Medicine and
Cardiology

Latest Treatments including ECP
External Counter Pulsations

Varicose Vein Normal Vein Varicose Vein

**EVLT® Laser Treatment for
Varicose Veins**

For appointments, Call:
(510) 790-2202
(510) 887-2202
PACIFIC CARDIOLOGY ASSOCIATES
3155 Kearney Street, Ste. 210, Fremont, CA 94538
www.doctorjapra.com

FOG CELEBRATES DIWALI 2025 IN FREMONT

Cont'd from page 8



FOG CELEBRATES DIWALI 2025 IN FREMONT



Govt to hold Open House on steel import issues

NEW DELHI: Ministry of Steel recently announced, it will conduct an Open House to discuss issues related to the import of steel on October 27 at Udyog Bhavan's Steel Room in the national capital. Companies and associations may present their issues related to steel imports in the Open House, the Steel Ministry said in a statement.



The Open House will be conducted from 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm and specific time slots will be indicated via e-mail. Walk-ins will not be possible due to logistic challenges and only one representative per organization is permitted to ensure wider participation, the statement explained.

The Ministry said that any company or association having issues related to import of steel may send their request on the above e-mail to get confirmed time-slots by 11:00 am of October 24.

While sending the e-mail, following information may be included : Name of the Company/ Association, issue is related to SIMS/NOC/QCO/others, Name and designation of the participant (third party representation not allowed). IANS

Apple CEO Tim Cook shares 'stunning' Diwali image by Mumbai-based photographer

NEW DELHI: Apple CEO Tim Cook extended Diwali greetings to millions of people celebrating the festival of lights across the world, along with sharing an image taken by an Indian photographer with the new iPhone 17 Pro Max.



Cook posted a 'stunning' Diwali picture clicked by Mumbai-based photographer Apeksha Makar on X social media platform.

"Wishing a joyful and healthy Diwali to all celebrating around the world! Thanks to Apeksha Maker for sharing this stunning photo taken on iPhone 17 Pro Max," he wrote. IANS

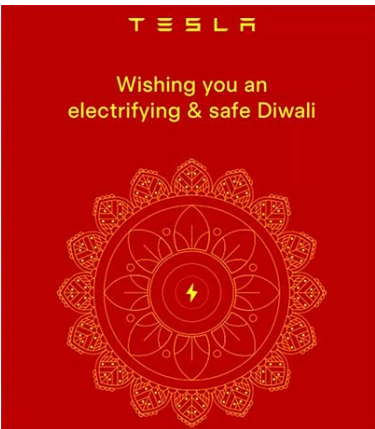
Tesla CEO Elon Musk extends Diwali greetings

NEW DELHI: Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk extended Diwali greetings to Indians and millions of people celebrating the festival of lights across the world.

Musk reposted a Diwali greeting on the social media platform X, saying "Happy Diwali", while tagging a post from his company's subsidiary Tesla India, saying, "Wishing you an electrifying and safe Diwali."

Musk on October 2 became the world's first person ever to reach a net worth of \$500 billion, followed by Oracle's Larry Ellison at a distant second. According to Forbes' billionaires index, Musk's net worth stood at \$500.1 billion on October 2.

His feat came as Tesla shares rose over 14 percent so far this year, closing 3.3 percent higher on 15 October, adding more than \$6 billion to



Musk on October 2 became the world's first person ever to reach a net worth of \$500 billion, followed by Oracle's Larry Ellison at a distant second. According to Forbes' billionaires index

Musk's wealth.

Musk's AI startup xAI was valued at \$75 billion (as of July). xAI was targeting a \$200 billion valuation after a fundraise, although Musk said the company was not

raising capital at that time.

Meanwhile, Tesla has started delivering standard Model Y to its customers in India, while the delivery of the Long Range variant is going to commence soon.

The electric vehicle maker has announced that the new Model Y owners will be provided with a complimentary Wall Connector, allowing convenient installation in their parking space for easy home charging. The Model Y is available at a starting price tag of Rs 59.89 lakh.

In August, Tesla inaugurated its first showroom in the National Capital Region (NCR) at the Worldmark 3 complex in Aerocity, marking the electric carmaker's second retail location in India (after Mumbai).

Several other global tech industry leaders also extended their Diwali wishes during the day. Apple CEO Tim Cook shared wishes along with sharing an image taken by an Indian photographer with an iPhone 17 Pro Max. Google CEO Sundar Pichai also extended his greetings for the festival of lights. IANS

Tata Motors sells over 1 lakh vehicles in 30-day festive season

NEW DELHI: Amid robust festive demand post reduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on automobiles, Tata Motors said it has delivered over 1 lakh cars within the last 30 days from Navratri to Deepawali, since the tax reforms came into effect on September 22.

The Tata Group's automobile manufacturer saw a massive 33 percent Year-on-Year (YoY) surge in sales during this period, with SUVs continuing to dominate the market.

"Over the 30 days from Navratri to Diwali, we have achieved a landmark milestone

with over 1 lakh vehicle deliveries, reflecting a robust 33 percent growth compared to the same period last year. Our SUVs continue to lead this momentum - with the Nexon registering over 38,000 retail sales, an impressive 73 percent growth, while the Punch clocked 32,000 units, growing 29 percent Year-on-Year," said Shailesh Chandra,

Managing Director and CEO, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd.

The company's EV portfolio, too, showed strong traction, with over 10,000 EVs retailed during this period, an uptick of 37 percent.

"Meanwhile, Tata Motors' full portfolio of cars and SUVs has supported this surge further, reinforcing our strategic commitment

to product leadership, market relevance and delivery excellence in this pivotal festive window.

"Furthermore, we believe this performance sets the tone for the rest of the fiscal year, especially as we gear up for exciting new launches this year, complemented by sustained customer enthusiasm," Chandra added.

Earlier, an industry estimate

showed that automakers clocked record-breaking deliveries, crossing the 100,000 mark within just 24 hours on the occasion of Dhanteras.

As per the estimate, robust festive demand and the positive impact of GST 2.0 reforms, the auto sector saw one of its strongest single-day performances in years. IANS



UPI transactions surge to Rs 94,000 crore daily in Oct, set record for festive month

NEW DELHI: The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is witnessing a festive season boom, with the average daily transaction value in October jumping 13 percent over September to reach Rs 94,000 crore, according to data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). With more than a week still left in the month, UPI is on track to post its highest-ever monthly performance, driven by Diwali spending and recent GST rate cuts.

This marks one of the strongest month-on-month growth trends for UPI in the past few years.

UPI, which powers nearly 85 percent of all digital payments in India, has also seen its daily transaction volumes hit new highs.

On the eve of Diwali, UPI recorded an all-time high of 740 million transactions in a single day.

The average daily volume for the month so far has been 695 million, up more than 6 percent from September's record of 654 million.

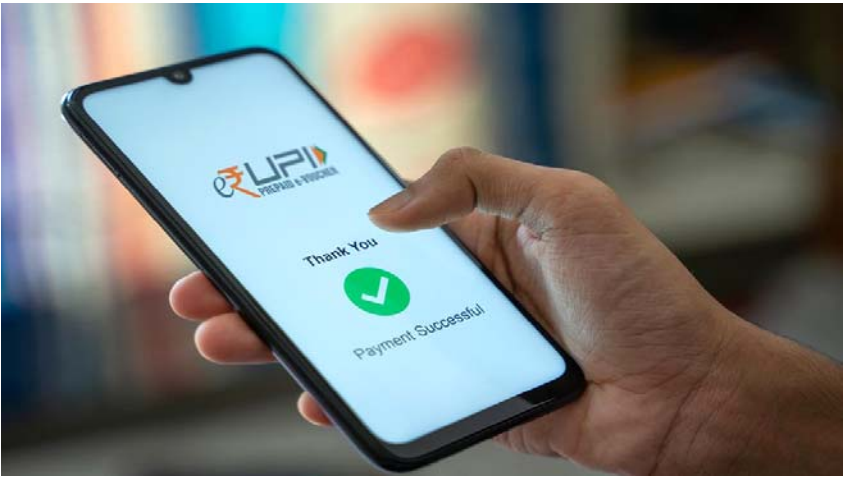
The festive season has always been a strong driver for UPI growth. Last year too, both Dusshera and Diwali falling in October had boosted digital payment activity.

This year, while Dusshera was in September, Diwali celebrations on October 20 appear to have powered another surge.

By October 20, UPI crossed the Rs 1 lakh crore mark, in daily transaction value six times this month -- double the number of days compared to September.

Typically, most payment platforms see peak activity at the start of the month due to salaries and EMI payments, after which spending tends to dip.

UPI transactions often fall to around Rs 60,000 crore in



daily value by mid-month. Given the strong momentum, experts believe October could set an all-time record for UPI.

Monthly transaction value is expected to cross Rs 28 lakh crore for the first time, surpassing the current record of Rs 25 lakh crore. *IANS*

Diwali sales hit record Rs 5.40 lakh crore over GST reforms, robust consumer demand

NEW DELHI: Buoyed by GST reforms and strong consumer demand, India saw Diwali sales reach Rs 5.40 lakh crore in goods and about Rs 65,000 crore in services across the country, industry figures showed on 21 October, marking the highest-ever festival season turnover in the country's retail and trading history.

This marks a 25 percent increase over 2024 festive

ness and increased purchase momentum.

About 72 percent of surveyed traders reported higher sales volumes directly attributable to reduced GST, according to the survey.

Consumers expressed greater satisfaction with stable prices amid festive demand, aiding consumption continuity post-Diwali.

The non-corporate and non-agricultural sector has emerged as a central pillar of India's growth, driven by 9 crore small businesses, crores of small manufacturing units and the largest base of consumers.

"The Diwali trade surge is estimated to have generated temporary employment for nearly 50 lakh people across logistics, transport, retail assistance, packaging, and delivery," the data showed.

Enhanced rural and semi-urban purchasing power contributed nearly 28 percent of overall sales, highlighting deep economic penetration beyond metros.

"Diwali 2025 has set a new benchmark in India's retail and trading economy - symbolizing the fusion of tradition, technology, and trust in Indian enterprise," said CAIT, adding that this year's Diwali stands as a major milestone in building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. *IANS*



sales (Rs 4.25 lakh crore) from the Navratri to Diwali period, according to CAIT Research and Trade Development Society, the research wing of the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT).

Mainline retail accounted for nearly 85 percent of total sales, indicating a strong revival of the brick-and-mortar market, the survey showed.

The reduction in GST rates across key consumer and retail categories such as confectionery, home decor, footwear, and ready-made garments, consumer durables and daily use items significantly improved price competitive-

Over one-third of Indian employees in Zoho, Apple, NVIDIA from tier 3 colleges: Report

NEW DELHI: Over one-third of Indian employees at major tech firms such as Zoho, Apple, and NVIDIA graduated from the country's tier 3 colleges, a recent report said.

This highlights a shift towards skills-based hiring, the report from Blind, an anonymous social media app, said, based on its survey of 1,602 Indian professionals.

The survey categorized colleges based on the NIRF 2025 rankings into tier 1, tier 2, tier 3, and overseas institutes.

"While traditional financial firms still place value on college names, major tech firms tend to prioritize skills. At companies like Zoho, Apple, NVIDIA, SAP, and PayPal, where many respondents said college



had no influence on their careers, an average of 34 percent of surveyed employees were Tier 3 graduates," the report said.

Traditional financial and tech firms such as Goldman Sachs, Visa, Atlassian, Oracle, and Google continued to rely on campus recruitment, with an average of 18 percent of respondents being tier 3 graduates.

While 59 percent of tier 3 alumni and 45 percent of overseas graduates considered their college education merely a line on their resume, the vast majority of tier 1 and tier 2 alumni attributed their career development to campus recruitment.

As many as 15 percent of tier 3 alumni reported significant salary benefits from their education, while 74 percent indicated it was helpful only in the early stages or not at all.

Around 53 percent of overseas graduates reported that college had little or no effect on their earnings.

Blind said that 41 percent of surveyed professionals graduated from tier 1 colleges such as IITs, IISc, top IIMs, BITS Pilani, etc., 30 percent from tier 2 colleges, 25 percent from tier 3 and 4 percent from overseas institutions. *IANS*

Rising air pollution to spike respiratory diseases, stroke, warn experts

NEW DELHI: Even as the national capital woke up to toxic air on October 20 morning with the Air Quality Index (AQI) falling to the "very poor" category, health experts warned an increase in respiratory diseases, stroke, and heart attack, among others.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 335 at 8 am on Diwali morning after people burst crackers on the eve of the festival of lights, causing severe noise pollution and blanketing Delhi-NCR in smoke.

The CPCB's forecast for the coming days indicates a similar trend, with the air quality expected to deteriorate further into the "severe" category on Tuesday and Wednesday (Oct 21 & 22).

"Increased exposure to air pollution has both acute short-term and long-term impacts on health. Short-term impacts include exacerbation of asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), shortness of breath, and itching in the eyes. Long-term exposure leads to cardio-respiratory diseases, stroke, heart attack, dementia, and mental health issues," Dr Harshal R Salve, Additional Professor at the Centre for Community Medicine at AIIMS, New Delhi, told IANS.

The expert noted that children and the elderly more than 60 years, and those with pre-existing illnesses are more vulnerable to the impact of air pollution. *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)

18 India Post

www.indiapost.com

October 24, 2025

UN sounds alarm over collapse of health system in Congo

Photo: UNICEF/Jospin Benekire



UNITED NATIONS: Eighty-five percent of health facilities in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are affected by shortages in medicine, while nearly 40 percent have seen an exodus of health staff, a UN spokesperson said.

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is "sounding the alarm over the collapse of the health system in

North and South Kivu, where hostilities continue to impact civilians and devastate critical civilian infrastructure," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, at a daily briefing recently.

In North Kivu alone, UN partners working in health reported that about a third of all health facilities in the province's conflict zones have been destroyed, looted or abandoned, leaving mil-

lions of people with extremely limited access to healthcare, while the remaining facilities are overwhelmed and face critical shortages of essential supplies, including kits for survivors of sexual violence, cholera treatments and just basic routine vaccines, he said.

"This is happening as the province battles deadly epidemics," said the spokesperson.

Since the beginning of the

year, health partners have recorded over 8,600 cases of cholera, 8,000 cases of mpox, and more than 10,500 cases of measles, which have already claimed dozens of lives, Xinhua news agency reported.

UN partners on the ground estimated that without urgent action, more than 6,000 preventable deaths could occur between now and the end of the year, and projected a potential 40 percent increase in maternal mortality in the hardest-hit areas, according to Dujarric.

Noting that the \$2.5 billion Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for the DRC is currently just 16 percent funded, he said UN health partners urgently need \$6 million to procure essential supplies and maintain these life-saving services.

"Urgent measures are needed to ensure the continued functioning of healthcare facilities in all areas affected by the crisis in the eastern part of the DRC. Additional funding is required to prevent a greater tragedy," said the spokesperson. *IANS*

Dr. Reddy's Srikakulam plant gets VAI status from USFDA, inspection now closed

NEW DELHI: Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Dr. Reddy's Laboratories recently announced its manufacturing facility in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, has received a "Voluntary Action Indicated" (VAI) status from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA).

The company shared this information with the stock ex-

changes and said it received the Establishment Inspection Report (EIR) on October 20.

According to the company, the inspection by the USFDA is now officially closed. The VAI classification means that the US health regulator found some issues at the facility, but it does not plan to take any regulatory or administrative action at this time.

"We wish to inform you that

the company has received the Establishment Inspection Report (EIR) on October 20, 2025. The USFDA has classified the inspection outcome as 'Voluntary Action Indicated (VAI),' it said, adding the inspection is officially closed.

This status is considered better than an "Official Action Indicated" (OAI), which could lead to stricter consequences such as

warning letters or import alerts.

Earlier, Dr. Reddy's had reported that the Srikakulam facility underwent both a Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) inspection and a Pre-Approval Inspection (PAI) by the USFDA.

Following the news, shares of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories closed 2.10 percent higher at Rs 1,282.40 on 21 October. *IANS*

Ayurveda Day transformed from national observance into a global health movement: CSIR-NIScPR

NEW DELHI: Ayurveda Day has transformed from national observance into a global health movement, said Dr Naresh Kumar, Chief Scientist, CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR).

Speaking during the 10th Ayurveda Day celebration at the institute last week, the scientist highlighted the remarkable global expansion of Ayurveda.

The occasion marked a significant milestone in promoting Ayurveda, as a holistic approach to health and well-being rooted in sustainability and natural living.

The celebration was also commemorated by a NIScPR SVASTIK lecture under the umbrella of the national initiative #SVASTIK (Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge) to communicate scientifically validated traditional knowledge to society.

Kumar also emphasized the need for Ayurvedic practitioners and researchers to counter misinformation and prevent adulteration, advocating for standardized formulations, evidence-based integration, rational marketing, and public awareness.

He also appreciated the #SVASTIK initiative, which disseminates traditional knowledge among the public with a scientific outlook.

linked to lifestyle and stress, Patel underscored "the importance of balanced nutrition, mindful eating, and ethical living through the concepts of ?ch?ra Ras?yana

such as ?ch?rya N?g?rjuna.

He also spoke about the growing global recognition of Ayurveda as a comprehensive system of health care.

Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, an eminent organic chemist, CSIR and former Director of CSIR-NIScPR emphasized that a holistic perspective that integrates the natural, social, and spiritual sciences forms the foundation of India's scientific heritage.

She pointed out that false information frequently misrepresents traditional knowledge in the digital age, highlighting the importance of clear communication, scientific validation, and educational inclusion.

Ayurveda Day was earlier celebrated on Dhanteras every year, in honor of Lord Dhanwantari, the physician of the gods. The date, based on the lunar calendar, used to vary every year.

Hence, the Ministry of Ayush designated September 23 as Ayurveda Day, giving the ancient knowledge system a universal calendar identity and enabling greater participation at the global level. IANS



Dr Kishore Patel from the CCRAS-Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), New Delhi delivered an insightful NIScPR SVASTIK lecture on the foundational principles of Ayurveda.

Explaining the causes of diseases

and Sadv?tta for achieving holistic well-being".

Rajesh Kumar Singh Roshan, Controller of Administration, CSIR-NIScPR elaborated on the historical roots of Ayurveda and the contributions of ancient physicians



Find the

HEALTHIEST VERSION

of yourself with the most

COMPREHENSIVE CARE



MONISH SODHI M.D.

BOARD CERTIFIED FAMILY PHYSICIAN

UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

"It's like having a doctor in the family"

The Quality care you need

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



For appointments, Call:

(510) 790-2202

PACIFIC CARDIOLOGY & MEDICAL ASSOCIATES

3155 Kearney Street, Ste. 210, Fremont, CA 94538

Nagaland University researchers find plant compound to treat diabetic wound, foot ulcers

NEW DELHI: Researchers at the Nagaland University have identified a naturally occurring plant compound called 'Sinapic acid' as a powerful therapeutic agent that can significantly enable wound healing in patients with diabetes.

A diabetic wound is a slow-healing sore, most often a foot ulcer. Also known as diabetic foot, it raises the risk of nerve damage (neuropathy) and poor blood circulation, foot ulcers, infections, and amputation in severe cases.

The study, published in the journal *Nature Scientific Reports*, demonstrated that oral administration of Sinapic acid can accelerate diabetic wound healing in preclinical models.

Sinapic acid is a naturally occurring antioxidant found in various edible plants.

The research established that the compound works by activating the SIRT1 pathway, which plays a crucial role in tissue repair, angiogenesis, and inflammation control.

The discovery marks a major advance-



ment that could result in safe, natural, and effective treatments for diabetic wound management.

"Diabetes mellitus remains one of the world's most pressing chronic diseases, affecting hundreds of millions globally.

Among its serious complications is delayed wound healing, often resulting in diabetic foot ulcers, infection, and, in severe cases, amputation. Existing synthetic drugs have shown limited efficacy and often cause undesirable side effects," said

Prof. Pranav Kumar Prabhakar, Head, Department of Biotechnology, School of Engineering and Technology, Nagaland University.

"We found that a lower dose (20 mg/kg) was more effective than a higher one (40 mg/kg), a phenomenon known as 'Inverted Dose-Response.' This result not only optimizes dosage strategy but also has significant clinical implications for future drug development," he added.

Importantly, the discovery will help reduce the risk of amputation and accelerate recovery in diabetic foot ulcers and providing an affordable, natural oral therapy, improving accessibility for patients in rural and resource-limited settings.

The research developed robust preclinical evidence that Sinapic acid enhances wound healing, improves metabolic health, and mitigates oxidative stress in diabetic models. The next phase includes pilot clinical trials, said the researchers. *IANS*

Study shows earlier menopause, poor heart health can affect brain

NEW DELHI: Women experiencing earlier menopause can affect heart health, and can together affect brain and cognitive performance, according to a recent study.

While previous studies have established that earlier menopause is associated with a higher risk of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's dementia later in life, little is known about the combined impact of earlier age at menopause and reduced cardiac function on brain and cognitive outcomes, the team said.



Reduced cardiac function can affect brain health by limiting the essential supply of oxygen and nutrients to the brain. This reduced blood flow can damage brain tissue, contribute to silent strokes, and increase the risk of dementia, underscoring the critical connection between heart and brain health.

The new study suggests that an early menopause negatively influences the associations between cardiac function and

gray matter volume, white matter hyperintensity burden, and cognitive performance.

"We still don't fully understand how menopause, and especially earlier menopause, affects brain aging. By examining the intersection of heart and brain health, we were keen to shed light on this important but often overlooked area of research," said lead author Tallinn Splinter, from the University of Toronto, Canada.

The study, presented at the ongoing 2025 Annual Meeting of The Menopause Society in Orlando, involved more than 500 participants to investigate whether earlier age at menopause influences the association between cardiac function and brain.

Cardiac function was assessed using resting left ventricular ejection fraction measured on cardiac MRI. Brain MRI was used to quantify grey matter volume and white matter hyperintensity burden.

Cognition was assessed with standardized neuropsychological tests. *IANS*

Covid mRNA vaccine may be used to fight lung, skin cancer

NEW DELHI: The breakthrough mRNA vaccine that enabled the world to fight Covid-19 may also be used to fight cancers of the lung or skin, according to a study.

Researchers from the University of Florida and the University of Texas called it a defining moment in a decade-plus of research testing mRNA-based therapeutics designed to "wake up" the immune system against cancer.

In their study, presented at the ongoing 2025 European Society for Medical Oncology Congress in Berlin, the team shared that the patients with advanced lung or skin cancer who received a Covid-19 mRNA vaccine within 100 days of starting immunotherapy drugs lived significantly longer than those who did not get the vaccine.

The findings from an analysis of more than 1,000 patients' records are preliminary, but if validated in a randomized clinical trial now in design, the study could have a widespread clinical impact.

"The implications are extraordinary -- this could revolutionize the entire field of oncologic care," said senior researcher Elias Sayour, pediatric oncologist at the

University of Florida.

"We could design an even better non-specific vaccine to mobilize and reset the immune response, in a way that could essentially be a universal, off-the-shelf cancer vaccine for all cancer patients."

Short for messenger RNA, mRNA molecules are found in every cell and carry the genetic information needed to make proteins.

To find out if the Covid mRNA vaccine works like the nonspecific vaccine, the team analyzed existing data from patients with Stage 3 and 4 non-small cell lung cancer and metastatic melanoma treated at MD Anderson from 2019 to 2023.

The most dramatic difference was seen in patients not expected to have a strong immune response, based on their tumors' molecular makeup and other factors.

"The results from this study demonstrate how powerful mRNA medicines truly are and that they are revolutionizing our treatment of cancer," said Jeff Collier, a leading mRNA scientist and professor at Johns Hopkins University, US. *IANS*



India's luxury watch market set to grow 11-12% annually as affluence rises: Report

NEW DELHI: India's luxury watch market is poised for strong expansion, with annual growth estimated at 11-12 percent, supported by the country's rising affluent base and growing wealth among high-net-worth individuals (HNIs), according to a recent report by SOIC Research.

The report noted that India will be among the fastest-growing markets globally for luxury timepieces, driven by increasing affluence, aspiration, and changing cultural preferences.

It stated, "India will surely be among the fastest-growing markets... The growth of luxury watches in India will increase steadily by 11-12 percent a year."

The study highlighted that as India's affluent

class expands, luxury watch sales are increasing in tandem, fuelled by the growth of HNIs and ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNIs).

This surge is also supported by structural drivers such as rising per capita income, rapid urbanization, growing consumer aspiration, and the desire to reflect status and prestige through ownership of luxury products.

Celebrity endorsements, a growing population of workingwomen, and ambitious young consumers are further accelerating the trend toward premiumization.

The report data pointed out that India's luxury

watch market has witnessed a notable shift in recent years as consumers increasingly trade up from entry-level fashion watches to premium, high-end, and ultra-luxury timepieces.

The share of luxury and high-end watch sales has jumped significantly from 48 percent in FY20 to 70 percent in FY25, showing that Indian buyers are gravitating toward more exclusive and higher-value brands.

The report also revealed a sharp rise in the average selling price (ASP) of luxury watches, which has more than doubled over five years.

The ASP climbed from Rs 84,000 in FY20 to Rs 2.04 lakh in FY25, reflecting both strong pricing

power and growing consumer preference for premium products.

The prices rose steadily each year: Rs 1.10 lakh in FY21, Rs 1.49 lakh in FY22, Rs 1.59 lakh in FY23, and Rs 1.90 lakh in FY24, indicating consistent momentum in the luxury segment.

According to the report, this rapid expansion is being driven not only by rising wealth but also by the increased availability of global luxury brands in India.

With both penetration and prices moving upward, the luxury watch market continues to demonstrate strong growth potential. ANI

India will surely be among the fastest-growing markets... The growth of luxury watches in India will increase steadily by 11-12 percent a year

Comedy legend Asrani passes away at 84: Remembering the man who made generations laugh

MUMBAI: Bollywood has lost one of its comedy legends, Asrani, the man who made generations laugh.

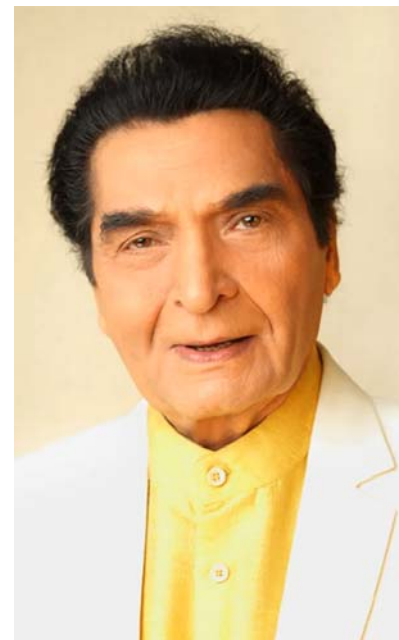
Govardhan Asrani, fondly known as Asrani, passed away on Monday (October 20) at the age of 84. A fixture of Hindi cinema for more than five decades, Asrani has surely left behind an irreplaceable legacy built on laughter, and impeccable comic timing.

His manager, Babu Bhai Theeba, confirmed the news to ANI, saying the veteran actor breathed his last at 3 PM at Arogya Nidhi Hospital in Juhu. His cremation took place at 8 PM the same evening at the Santacruz crematorium through electric cremation.

Born on January 1, 1940, in Jaipur, Asrani grew up in a middle-class Sindhi family. His father ran a carpet business, but young Govardhan had little interest in trade. Instead, he found his calling in the performing arts. He completed his schooling at St. Xavier's School and later graduated from Rajasthan College, all while supporting himself by working as a voice artist in Jaipur.

It was during his college years that Asrani's fascination with acting began to take shape. From 1960 to 1962, he trained under 'Sahitya Kalbhai Thakkar' before joining the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune in 1964, a decision that would soon shape the course of his life.

Asrani made his debut in 1967 with 'Hare Kaanch Ki Choodiyan,' where he played the friend of actor Biswajeet. He went on to appear in several Gujarati films as a lead actor before finding his footing in Hindi cinema.



What followed was a career that few in Bollywood history can match, over 350 films spanning genres, generations, and eras. While he could play serious and supporting roles with equal ease, it was his comic flair that made him a fan favorite.

From the 1970s through the 1990s, Asrani was a familiar face on the big screen, the kind of actor who could make even a small scene hold weight. His collaboration with Rajesh Khanna remains one of the most successful in Bollywood, with the two appearing together in over 25 films between 1972 and 1991.

Among his many memorable performances are those in 'Chupke Chupke,' 'Chhoti Si Baat,' 'Rafoo Chakkar,' 'Bawarchi,' 'Koshish,' and 'Mere Apne,' films that remain as delightful to watch today as when they were first released.

But if one role immortalized Asrani forever, it was his portrayal of the eccentric jail warden in Ramesh Sippy's 1975 classic 'Sholay.' With his rolling eyes, military hat, and exaggerated English, Asrani's "Hum angrezon ke zamaane ke jailer hain!" became a line that outlived the movie itself, repeated in classrooms and theatre halls, and still lives on in rooms for generations. ANI

Good News for Music Lovers

Join Music Classes

SUR-BAHAR

ALKA BHATNAGAR

SANGEET PRABHAKAR MASTERS IN MUSIC

TRAINING CLASSES AVAILABLE FOR:

- Hindustani Classical Music
- Hindustani Light Music
- (Dhol, Ghazal, Bhajan and Folk song)
- Karaoke and Film Songs (Old & New)
- Voice Modulation Technique
- Group & Private Lessons at your place

OUR PROGRAMS

- Concerts with Top Singers & Musicians
- Mehfil Shows of Ghazals
- Bhajan Concerts
- Graduation/Wedding/Mehendi Parties
- Live Show/DJ

Classes Available at Sunnyside, Walnut Creek & San Jose

For more information regarding shows & classes contact: email: alkabhatnagar21@gmail.com

Tel: (510) 790-9254 • Cell: (510) 468-6929 • website: www.alkabhatnagar.com

Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers

On September 19, 2025, the President issued a Proclamation, Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers, an important initial step to reform the H-1B nonimmigrant visa program. Under the Proclamation, new H-1B petitions filed at or after 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on September 21, 2025 must be accompanied by an additional \$100,000 payment as a condition of eligibility.



In accordance with section 1(c) of the Proclamation, for H-1B petitions subject to the Proclamation, petitioners must submit a copy of the proof of the payment from pay.gov or evidence of an exception from the fee from the Secretary of Homeland Security at the time of filing the H-1B petition. Petitions subject to the \$100,000 payment that are filed without evidence of payment or the grant of an exception will be denied.

For additional information on the requirements of the Proclamation and how to pay the \$100,000 payment, see the H-1B Specialty Occupation Webpage. USCIS

WASHINGTON: The US Chamber of Commerce, the country's biggest business organization, has sued the Trump administration over the



\$100,000 H-1B visa application fee, calling it "unlawful". In a lawsuit filed in a district

Immigration

POST

US clarifies \$100,000 H-1B visa fee exempts current holders

WASHINGTON: In a major relief for foreign workers on H-1B visas, the US Department of Homeland Security has issued new guidance on the \$100,000 application fee, providing a series of exemptions and carveouts.

According to the new guidelines, workers who switch to H-1B visa status from other visa categories such as F-1 student status won't be subjected to the \$100,000 fee.

H-1B workers applying for an amendment, change of status, or extension of stay within the United States won't be subjected to the hefty payment. Moreover, all the current H-1B visa holders won't be prevented from entering or leaving the United States.

The proclamation only applies to new visa petitions who are outside the US and do not have a valid H-1B visa. It also provided an online payment link for new applications.

The clarification comes just two days after US Chamber of Commerce, the country's biggest business organization, sued the Trump administration over the



new rules, calling it "unlawful." In a lawsuit filed in the district court in Washington last week, the plaintiff argued the visa fee, if implemented, will "inflict significant harm on American busi-

nesses" and force them to "either dramatically increase their labor costs or hire fewer highly skilled employees for whom domestic replacements are not readily

available." It added that Trump's September 19 proclamation was "plainly unlawful" and a "boon to America's economic rivals." It was the second major do-

H-1B workers applying for an amendment, change of status, or extension of stay within the United States won't be subjected to the hefty payment

mestic legal challenge to new H-1B rules, after a group of unions, education professionals and religious bodies sued the Trump administration on October 3.

While signing the proclamation in September, Trump had said the "incentive is to hire American workers."

The proclamation caused immense confusion as it seemed to suggest that it would impact the current H-1B visa holders who may face hurdles in returning to the United States.

The White House issued a clarification to IANS on September 20, saying that this is a "one-time fee" that applies only to new visas and not renewals or current visa holders.

India-born workers received over 70% of the total approved H1-B visas in 2024, primarily due to a huge backlog in approvals and high number of skilled immigrants from India. IANS

US Chamber of Commerce sues Trump administration over H-1B visas

mestic replacements are not readily available."

It added that Trump's September 19 proclamation is "plainly unlawful" and a "boon to America's economic rivals".

"The Proclamation is not only misguided policy; it is plainly unlawful. The President has significant authority over the entry of noncitizens into the United States. Still, that authority is bounded by statute and cannot directly contradict laws passed by Congress," it added.

Neil Bradley, Executive Vice President of the US Chamber of Commerce, issued a statement saying that the visa fee would make it "cost-prohibitive for US

employers" to "access the global talent" and the US economy would "require more workers, not fewer".

The Chamber represents approximately 3,00,000 direct members and indirectly repre-

rules, after a group of unions, education professionals and religious bodies sued the Trump administration on October 3.

In a lawsuit filed in the Northern District of California,

"The Proclamation is not only misguided policy; it is plainly unlawful. The President has significant authority over the entry of noncitizens into the United States"

sents the interests of more than three million companies and professional organizations in the United States.

It's the second major domestic legal challenge to new H-1B

the plaintiffs had argued that Trump's proclamation was riddled with "multiple errors" and "ignores the benefits of the H-1B visa program to the American economy." IANS

Madhav Immigration Pvt. Ltd. wins "Best MSME 2025" National Award

NEW DELHI: In a remarkable achievement that reflects the growing importance of the immigration and work visa sector in India, Madhav Immigration Pvt. Ltd. has been honored with the prestigious "Best MSME 2025" National Award. The award was presented by Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi, Hon'ble MSME Minister, Government of India, during the Bharat Nirman 2025 initiative, powered by HT Media Group.

This national recognition was awarded under the Employment Creation & Skill Development category, specifi-

pathways and avoiding fraudulent practices -- a critical need in today's rapidly growing global mobility landscape.

Receiving the Best MSME 2025 Award in the Immigration & Work Visa Sector places Madhav Immigration among the top agencies in India, reaffirming its position as a national leader in work visa and immigration services.

Speaking on the achievement, the leadership team stated, "This national award is not just a recognition of our work, but a reminder of our responsibility to continue guiding Indian youth towards global opportunities through transparent and legal means."

Looking ahead, the company has announced plans to expand its work visa services to more countries, launch immigration awareness programs in rural and semi-urban regions, and build strategic partnerships with overseas employers and institutions.

This national recognition was awarded under the Employment Creation & Skill Development category, specifically highlighting Madhav Immigration's outstanding contribution to the Immigration and Work Visa sector

cally highlighting Madhav Immigration's outstanding contribution to the Immigration and Work Visa sector.

According to company information, over the years, Madhav Immigration Pvt. Ltd. has emerged as a trusted name in the Work Visa, Work Permit, Work Abroad, and Study Abroad services space. The company has successfully guided thousands of Indian candidates to legitimate overseas opportunities, ensuring that each step of their immigration journey remains transparent and legal.

Unlike many agencies that focus only on processing, Madhav Immigration has built its reputation on trust, legal compliance, and awareness. The company actively educates individuals about identifying genuine immigration

ment, with India witnessing a surge in demand for work visas and international job opportunities, this national award not only highlights Madhav Immigration's contribution but also cements its reputation in Google searches and public discourse related to:

- Best Immigration Agency Award 2025
- Best MSME Award in Immigration and Work Visa Sector
- Work Visa and Work Permit Services in India

Through this recognition, Madhav Immigration Pvt. Ltd. continues to set new benchmarks for India's immigration and work visa ecosystem -- combining credibility, impact, and vision for the future. ANI

Over 60 South Korean nationals detained in Cambodia over online scams return home, face probes

YEONGJONGDO: A total of 64 South Koreans who had been detained in Cambodia over alleged online scams arrived home recently on a chartered flight, and most of them would face criminal probes as suspects, police officials said.

The large-scale repatriation came after the torture death of a South Korean college student who was lured to work by a criminal ring in Cambodia that triggered public outrage in South Korea.

The Korean Air plane carrying them arrived at Incheon International Airport at 8:35 a.m., about five hours after leaving Techo International Airport near Phnom Penh.

Their arrival came days after a South Korean government response team was dispatched to Cambodia to assist the Korean nationals implicated in online scams run by local crime organizations.

The South Korean nationals were reportedly placed under arrest once they boarded the plane and were set to

The Korean Air plane carrying them arrived at Incheon International Airport at 8:35 a.m., about five hours after leaving Techo International Airport near Phnom Penh

be taken to police stations nationwide for investigations into their alleged involvement in criminal activity.

Under the law, detention warrants can be carried out inside national flag carriers as they are considered part of South Korean territory.

In August, a South Korean university student was found to have been tortured and killed in Cambodia, a month after he was lured to the country by a job scam, Yonhap news agency reported.

The case put a spotlight on the growing number of nationals lured to Cambodia with high-paying job offers and then forced to work in online scams targeting South Koreans, often under confinement and violence from crime rings.

The returnees are accused of involvement in online scams at criminal complexes in Cambodia, with 59 of them being detained after a crackdown by Cambodian authorities, while the rest were rescued after reporting their confinement. IANS

TerraTern Launches 1 Crore Scholarship Fund to Empower India's Nursing Workforce

BENGALURU: TerraTern, an AI-powered global mobility startup, today announced the launch of a landmark 1 Crore scholarship fund dedicated to empowering India's skilled nursing workforce. This strategic initiative aims to bridge the global healthcare talent gap by providing financial aid and a technology-driven pathway for Indian nurses to secure international careers in high-demand countries like Germany, Australia, and Canada.

The announcement comes as the global healthcare sector faces a critical shortage of skilled professionals, a gap that India's vast and talented nursing community is uniquely positioned to fill. However, financial barriers, complex visa procedures, and a lack of streamlined guidance often hinder their ambitions. TerraTern's scholarship fund directly addresses these challenges, combining financial support with its sophisticated AI-powered platform to create a seamless, transparent, and effective route to global employment.

A Visionary Investment in India's Healthcare Talent

Since its inception, TerraTern has been at the forefront of revolutionizing immigration through technology. Founded by serial entrepreneur Divyansh Chaudhari, former co-founder of IELTSMaterial.com (acquired by CollegeDekho Group), TerraTern has rapidly established itself as a leader in the global talent mobility space.

"The future of global talent mobility isn't just about moving people; it's about empowering them with the right tools, insights, and confidence," said Divyansh. "This 1 Crore scholarship is more than just financial aid; it's an investment in the incredible potential of Indian nurses. By integrating this fund with our AI-driven platform, we are eliminating the guesswork and anxiety from the process, providing a data-driven, personalized roadmap to success."

This initiative builds on TerraTern's proven track record, which includes securing over 10,000 visa approvals, facilitating 8,000+ job interviews, and maintaining an exceptional 99.7% visa success rate.

(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.)

MP to build 25,000 homes for police personnel; recruit 7,500 cops annually

BHOPAL: In a significant push towards infrastructure development and public safety, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced the construction of 25,000 residential units for police personnel under the Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana.

The ambitious housing initiative will be backed by an investment of Rs. 5,700 crore, aimed at providing affordable homes to eligible police beneficiaries across the state.

Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav, while addressing a gathering of police personnel on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, emphasized the government's commitment to inclusive growth and welfare for the police personnel.

"We are determined to ensure housing for all. Our police personnel perform their duties in the face of all odds, in all weather.

"The Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana will transform the lives of thousands of families of police personnel by offering them dignified living spaces," he stated.

The scheme is expected to be rolled out in phases, with priority given to low-rank police personnel.

In tandem with the housing initiative, the state government has also unveiled a robust recruitment plan for the police force.

Dr Yadav announced that 7,500 vacancies will be created annually across various ranks—from Constables to Sub-Inspectors as several posts are lying vacant in various police stations.

"We are serious about strengthening law enforcement. These recruitments will be carried out every year, and all vacant posts will be filled within the next three years," the Chief Minister affirmed.

The move is expected to bolster public safety and improve response times across urban and rural areas. It also opens up substantial employment opportunities for youth in Madhya Pradesh, aligning with the state's broader goals. *IANS*

PMAY acting as change agent with demonstrated wealth effect: SBI report

NEW DELHI: At least 1.2 crore houses have been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) and PMAY-U 2.0 (till August 25), and the scheme is acting as a change agent with it becoming a catalyst for enhanced discretionary and even non-discretionary spending with a demonstrated wealth effect, financial stability and well-being, a recent SBI report said. *IANS*



Things to know before renting as a student in India

DHWANI MEHARCHANDANI

Renting a house is often the first real step toward independent living for many students in India. Whether you are moving to a new city for college or shifting closer to campus for convenience, finding the right accommodation involves much more than just comparing rents. From understanding your housing options and budgeting realistically to knowing your rights as a tenant, there are several factors to consider before signing a rental agreement. Here's a comprehensive guide on what students should know before renting in India to make their stay comfortable, safe, and stress-free.

TIPS TO RENT AS A STUDENT IN INDIA

Before you begin house-hunting, it's important to understand the basics of renting as a student. The following tips will help you make informed choices, avoid common pitfalls, and find accommodation that truly fits your academic and personal needs.

1. Understand your accommodation options

The first decision every student faces is choosing the type of accommodation that best fits their lifestyle and budget. Student housing in India has evolved significantly, from traditional PGs to modern co-living spaces.

Paying Guest (PG) accommodation or hostels: These are popular among students because they are affordable and usually include meals, house-keeping, and utilities in the rent. They're ideal for those who prefer a structured environment with minimal responsibilities. However, they may have strict rules



about visitors or curfews.

Co-living spaces: Co-living spaces have become a growing trend in metro cities such as Bengaluru, Pune, and Delhi NCR. They offer furnished rooms, Wi-Fi, recreational areas, and community events, combining convenience with a social atmosphere. These are slightly costlier than PGs but come with added comfort and flexibility.

Independent flats or shared apartments: For students who

College-approved or on-campus housing: Many universities and colleges maintain a list of verified PGs or hostels nearby. Opting for college-approved housing ensures better safety and compliance with rental norms.

2. Set a realistic budget

Before shortlisting properties, set a clear and practical budget. Rent is only one part of your monthly expenses and students often underestimate additional costs.

keeping.

Daily living expenses: Factor in groceries, food delivery, local transport, and miscellaneous costs like laundry or repairs.

Emergency fund: Keep aside at least 10-15% of your monthly budget for unforeseen expenses such as medical needs or urgent travel.

Creating a financial plan early ensures you don't run short of funds midway through the semester.

3. Choose the right location

The right location can significantly impact your college experience. Proximity to your campus should be your top priority, but you should also consider safety, connectivity and convenience.

Commute and connectivity: Choose a neighborhood with good public transport access, such as metro stations, bus stops or shared auto routes.

Essential amenities: Look for local grocery stores, clinics, pharmacies and eateries within walking distance. www.housing.com

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

From understanding your housing options and budgeting realistically to knowing your rights as a tenant, there are several factors to consider before signing a rental agreement

value privacy and independence, renting a flat or sharing one with friends can be a good option. While this offers greater freedom, it also comes with additional responsibilities like managing bills, cooking, and maintenance.

Rent and security deposit: Most landlords charge a refundable security deposit, typically ranging from one to six months' rent, depending on the city.

Utilities and maintenance: Check whether the rent includes electricity, water, Wi-Fi, or house-

India ranks 6th worldwide in live Branded Residence Projects: Report

MUMBAI: India's prominence is growing in the global branded residences market, as it ranks 6th worldwide in live projects and contributes 4 percent to the global supply of branded residences, a recent report said.

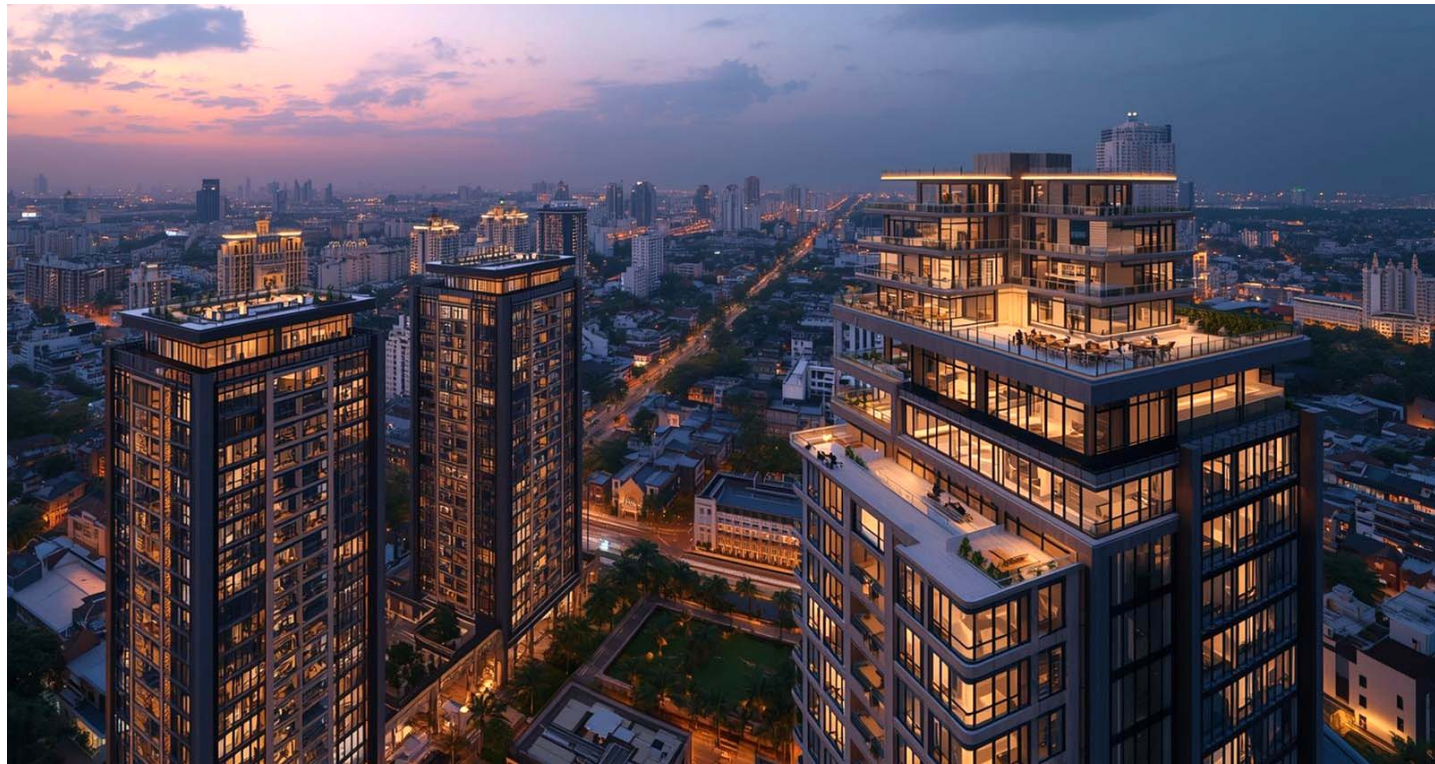
The country also ranks 10th globally in the pipeline of upcoming branded residential projects, accounting for 2 percent of future supply.

"India's position highlights its growing, but still nascent, role in the segment compared to global leaders like the USA, UAE, and UK. Importantly, the country's rising wealth base is fuelling future demand," Knight Frank said in the report.

In 2024, India was home to nearly 85,698 individuals with a net worth of over \$10 million, representing 3.7 percent of the global high-net-worth population.

This expanding affluent base is fuelling demand for branded residences that blend global brand prestige with culturally attuned design and world-class amenities.

"India's branded residence sector is still relatively young but is rapidly making its mark on the global stage. Ranking 6th worldwide for live projects and backed by a fast-expanding wealth base of nearly 86,000 ultra-rich individuals, India represents one of the most significant pools of



future demand for branded living," Knight Frank India Chairman and Managing Director, Shishir Baijal, said.

What makes the market unique is the way these residences blend international brand prestige with culturally nuanced design and services, appealing to buyers who seek exclusivity, security, and a truly global lifestyle, Baijal added.

Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, and Pune lead India's branded residence landscape, while Goa and Uttarakhand are emerging as key lifestyle and second-home destinations.

According to the report, the country's rapidly evolving real estate ecosystem, coupled with its strong luxury demand, positions India as one of the fastest-

growing frontiers for branded developments in the Asia-Pacific region.

From landmark high-rises in Mumbai and NCR to emerging leisure destinations like Goa and Uttarakhand, branded residences are set to redefine the meaning of luxury living in India, Baijal said.

The report was prepared by surveying 83 countries. *IANs*

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana proving to be a boon for the poor in Shajapur

SHAJAPUR: The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), an ambitious initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is proving to be a major boon for the poor in Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh.

Under this scheme, beneficiaries are provided with financial assistance to construct permanent houses, allowing them to lead a safe and dignified life. Implemented on a large scale across the country, the scheme has benefited millions of underprivileged families. Those who were once forced to live in slums or mud houses are now realizing their dreams of owning a permanent home.

Beneficiaries have expressed their gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that the scheme has become a pillar of support for the poor. They shared that the initiative has not only given them

concrete houses but also renewed hope and confidence in their lives.

Many beneficiaries have voiced their desire for the scheme to continue for years to come, so that even more families living in poverty can benefit from it. They praised the government's commitment to

uplifting the underprivileged and described the scheme as a significant gift from the Prime Minister.

Launched on April 1, 2016, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) is the Centre's flagship mis-

sion under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). PMAY-G aims to provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all houseless households and those living in kutcha or dilapidated houses. *IANs*



Himachal focuses on tribal development; 35,000 families benefitted

SHIMLA: The Himachal Pradesh government has accelerated tribal development with an investment of more than Rs 3,000 crore in the past two-and-a-half years in the state, government officials stated.

This intervention has directly benefited more than 35,000 tribal families through improved infrastructure, enhanced access to education and healthcare, livelihood generation programs and better social services, an official statement said.

New roads, bridges, residential schools, health facilities and community-based interventions are steadily transforming the socio-economic landscape in the state.

The Tribal Area Development Programme has been implemented on a strong financial footing with budgetary provisions of Rs 855 crore in 2022-23, Rs 857.14 crore in 2023-24, Rs 890.28

crore in 2024-25 and a proposed Rs 638.73 crore for 2025-26.

Major civil works, including roads, bridges, transport infrastructure and public buildings, accounted for Rs 290.58 crore in 2022-23, Rs 287.99 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 62.92 crore in 2024-25, with Rs 125.06 crore allocated for 2025-26.

Recognizing the challenge of service delivery in high-altitude and sparsely populated areas, the state government has strengthened basic public services in remote hamlets.

Health sub-centers have been upgraded, mobile outreach and referral units deployed, while drinking water and electricity supply have been made more reliable.

Livelihood support linked to horticulture, animal husbandry and value-addition of local produce has helped stabilize incomes of tribal households, the state government said. *IANs*

Philosophy

JEAN KLEIN

The mind cannot change itself; the wilful ego is only one aspect of the mind. It can never bring about a change by analyzing and choosing, excusing, explaining, criticizing or concluding.

Most of the time action is only reaction caused by fear, anxiety and desire. These are aspects of a mind which works like a kaleidoscope which can only rearrange a fixed number of pieces, a mind sustained by the ego, the already known, memory.

Through global vision all will, all intention is abandoned leaving only silent awareness, total presence. This silent presence frees us from the patterns fabricated by the ego, thus opening out before us a whole new world of energies.

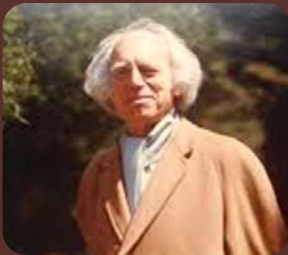
We divide time into determined periods that we call past, present and future, but when we think of the present it is already part of the past. The only present that really exists is presence. The notion of time comes into existence as thoughts succeed one another.

many others; it has no reality in itself. Whether we think of the past or the future, in reality it is always now. We know time only as a succession of thoughts, based on memory. When we clearly recognize memory as being only a thought, the illusion of time leaves us.

Without an object there is no subject, nor subject without an object. When we are actually perceiving, the subject is absent, it is only afterwards that we say: "I have seen, I have heard." The subject and object are two separate thoughts.

We can only entertain one thought, physical activity or sensorial perception at a time. Thought, memory and time arise from still awareness-they are pure expressions of ever-present eternity. Each perception is an entirely new world, of which the body and psyche are a part.

The world is created anew with every new thought. We often try to master the mind, to quiet it through concentration, but with clear-sighted vision we soon realize that concentration and distraction belong equally to the divided mind.



Jean Klein

We cannot master mind by means of the mind

When we think of the present it is already part of past

Silent consciousness is ever present, whether we are thinking or not. If things were otherwise, how could we possibly talk of an absence of thought? Reality becomes a living presence when in non-directed awareness we see error for what it is. It then vanishes, revealing truth and presence. We experience this instantaneously.

It is in this all-present awareness, free of all willing, free of all choosing, that we see error in its true light. Seen in a flash of lightning truth becomes a clear-sighted, luminous certainty. Truth is, and is its own proof, its only proof. It shines forth resplendently, eliminating what is false.

Cause and effect are only a way of thinking common to everyday life. When we think of the cause there is no effect, when we think of the effect, the cause ceases to exist; no two things can exist simultaneously. In the same way, the distinction between subject and object, comparing likes and dislikes, is nothing but memory.

Memory is only a thought amongst

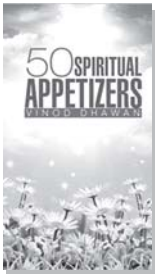
We cannot possibly master the mind by means of the mind. Concentration only gives rise to a fixation, imprisoned like a canary in a cage. Silent awareness is beyond dispersion and concentration.

Once seen in this light, the mind gives up striving and agitation dies away, giving way to living presence. If we succeed in stopping thoughts by concentration we nonetheless remain in a state of conflict.

Excerpted from 'I Am'. The 113th birth anniversary of Jean Klein was observed on October 19

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

Vinod Dhawan



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

Jac O'Keeffe
Spirituality teacher based in USA.

Available on AMAZON, FLIPKART

Demographic Dividend: Why South Asia Is Not Able to Fully Reap It

PARTHA PRATIM MITRA

The concept of a demographic dividend was introduced in the late 1990s to describe the interplay between changes in population age structure and rapid economic growth in East Asia. It refers to the accelerated economic growth triggered by a sharp decline in fertility and a resulting rise in the working-age population. This period, typically lasting 20 to 30 years during a country's demographic transition, occurs when the proportion of working-age people increases relative to dependents. With fewer births each year, the working-age population grows faster than the young dependent population.

East Asia benefited from a virtuous cycle linking income growth and fertility decline, while South Asia remains caught in a low-level population-income trap.¹

The Four Dividends of Demographic Change

For analytical and policy purposes, demography can be viewed as generating four kinds of dividends. The first dividend

Source: World Bank (2024). Fertility rate, total (births per woman).

South Asia's fertility has largely converged around replacement level (?2.0), with Maldives (1.6) and Bhutan (1.5) below replacement. Pakistan (3.6) and Afghanistan (4.8) remain outliers.

Key takeaway: Most South Asian countries are nearing demographic maturity, but uneven fertility decline-especially in Afghanistan and Pakistan-delays full entry into the dividend window.

Dependency Ratio

Source: World Bank (2024). Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population).

Dependency ratios vary widely: Afghanistan is high (83%), while Maldives (32%) and Bhutan (38%) are low. South Asia overall (47%) is lower than high-income countries (55%).

Key takeaway: South Asia's dependency balance is relatively favorable, though variation within the region highlights uneven readiness to reap the dividend.

For analytical and policy purposes, demography can be viewed as generating four kinds of dividends. The first dividend arises when the working-age population grows faster than dependents, expanding the labor force

Elderly Population (65+)

Source: World Bank (2024).

South Asia's elderly population is 7%, compared with 20% in high-income countries. Sri Lanka (12%) has the most advanced aging profile, while Afghanistan (2%) and Pakistan (4%) remain young.

arises when the working-age population grows faster than dependents, expanding the labor force. The second dividend comes from higher savings and investments as more people work and plan for the future. Extensions to the concept include the third dividend, domestic demand growth from rising GDP, and the fourth dividend, which is sustained development driven by effective policy and investment in human capital.²

Key takeaway: Most South Asian economies still face limited aging pressure, but Sri Lanka will need to prepare early for age-related policy challenges.

Working-Age Population (15-64)

South Asia's working-age share (68%) exceeds that of high-income countries (65%), with Maldives (76%) and Bhutan (73%) leading.

Demographic Indicators in South Asia: A Comparison with High-Income Countries

Understanding South Asia's demographic transition requires examining fertility rates, dependency ratios, and age structures. These indicators reveal both the opportunities and constraints the region faces in realizing its demographic potential. While fertility has declined and the share of working-age population is rising, contrasts with high-income economies show gaps in aging, dependency, and savings capacity.

Fertility Rate

Key takeaway: The region holds a demographic advantage, though Afghanistan and Pakistan lag behind due to slower fertility transition.

Young Population (0-14)

South Asia's youth share (25%) remains high compared to high-income economies (16%). Afghanistan (43%) and Pakistan (37%) remain youthful, while Bhutan (21%), Sri Lanka (22%), and Maldives (20%) are closer to global norms.

(The writer is a retired Special Secretary, Government of India) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

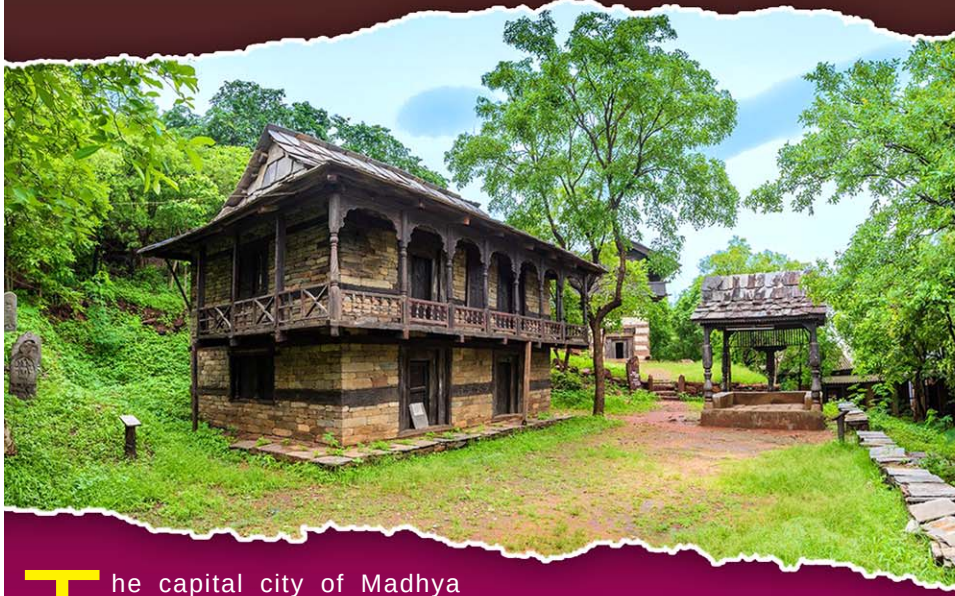
Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

Travel & Hospitality Post

October 24, 2025

www.indiapost.com

India Post 27



The capital city of Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal is famous for the pair of artificial lakes (Upper Lake and Lower Lake) that split the city. Towards the north of the lakes lie the intriguing old town with rustic mosques, bustling bazaars, serpentine alleys and exquisite havelis. To its south is the new town with swanky infrastructure, shopping complexes and wide roads. It is this contrast that makes Bhopal an exquisite blend of the old and the new, the past and the present, the rustic and the classy.

Bhopal is replete with majestic mosques which showcase classic Mughal architecture exemplified by the Taj-ul-Masjid (one of the largest in India, built by the third female ruler Bhopal had, Shah Jahan Begum), and Moti Masjid. The city will catch your attention through its breathtakingly beautiful havelis and museums as well as Nawabi food that is an absolute delight for foodies. Tragically, Bhopal is also a reminiscence of a world's worst industrial disaster in the chemical plant of Union Carbide that was responsible for at least

8000 deaths from the explosion alone.

PLACES TO VISIT IN BHOPAL

Upper lake: The capital city of Madhya Pradesh holds a significant number of lakes hence widely known as Bhopal the city of lakes. Upper Lake is the most significant lake of Bhopal commonly known as the Bhojtal. It's the oldest human-made lake in the country that lies on the west of Bhopal. The locals also call it Bada Talab. Serving around 30 million gallons of water the lake is a primary source of potable water to the residents of the city.

Van Vihar: Located in Bhopal, Van Vihar is a National Park and a Zoological Space that operates under the guidelines of the Central Zoo Authority. It is located just adjacent to the Upper Lake in Bhopal, near

Shymala Hills. The animals here are kept closest to their natural habitats, making it a haven for people who love nature. You can spot a vast variety of animals including leopards, cheetah, Neelgai, panthers, etc. as well as birds such as kingfishers, bulbuls, wagtails, and some migratory species. The best time to visit here is between July and September when the chances of seeing a white tiger are the highest.

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya: Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, the national museum of Anthropology, is majestically situated on the Shymla Hills, the upper lakefront of Bhopal. The museum presents the integrated story of the culture and evolution of mankind. The highlight of this museum is

the fact that it's the only one to have painted rock shelters with its post-colonial repertoire of tribal folk, art and culture. Besides, as a perk, the museum houses audiovisual archives, an extensive collection of ethnographic specimens and computerized documentaries.

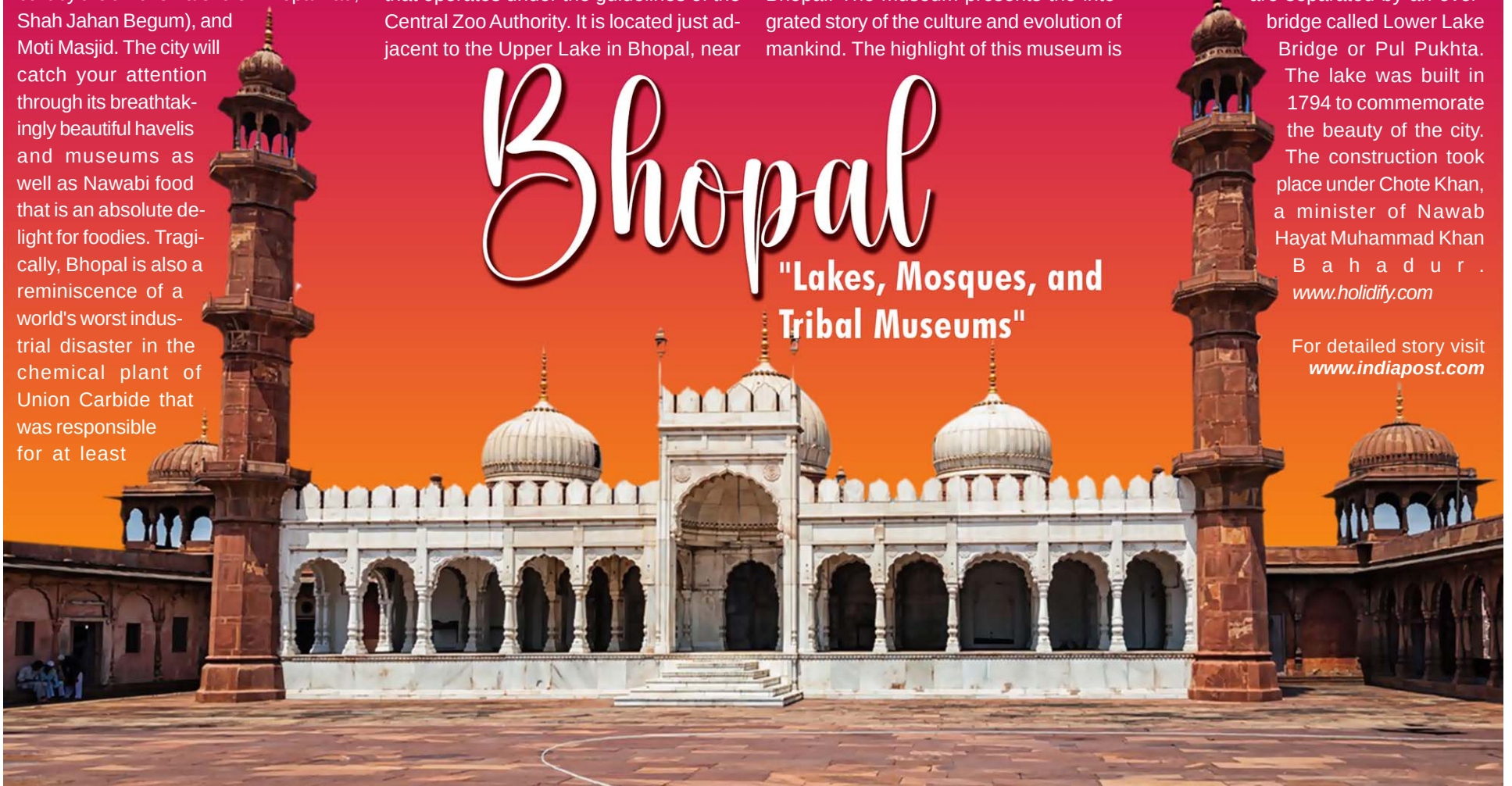
Lower Lake: Known as the 'City of Lakes', Bhopal has a great fusion of picturesque beauty, modernity, and classic architecture. It has two most beautiful lakes namely, Upper Lake and Lower Lake. The Lower Lake is also known as

Chhota Talab. The two lakes are separated by an overbridge called Lower Lake Bridge or Pul Pukhta. The lake was built in 1794 to commemorate the beauty of the city. The construction took place under Chote Khan, a minister of Nawab Hayat Muhammad Khan Bahadur. www.holidify.com

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Bhopal

"Lakes, Mosques, and Tribal Museums"



The Third Eye: Emerging importance of the Pak-Afghan belt

DC PATHAK

Afghanistan, once described as the 'geographical pivot of history', is once again living up to that reputation as signs of the return of the Cold War could be seen on the Afghan horizon.

In the rivalry between the British and Russian empires in the 19th century, called the 'Great Game', Afghanistan was the key to Central Asia, and was eventually looked upon as a buffer between the two competing powers.

The emergence of the Kabul Emirate in 2021 has again created a situation where the Afghan regime was being cultivated by China and Russia, while US President Donald Trump had sought Pakistan's collaboration in establishing a deep-water American Naval Base at the Port of Pasni on the Arabian Sea.

The US move is meant to counter the impact of Gwadar Port on the coast of Baluchistan near the Persian Gulf, which had come

viet Union and then the US, to withdraw from its territory, and in both cases, this was achieved through an "asymmetric war" of attrition.

Following the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979, the militant opposition to the invasion was first internal -coming from the Islamic terror groups controlled by Pakistan, ISI, primarily Hizbul Mujahideen (HuM), the storm troopers of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan - but was soon joined in by MI6 and CIA as Pakistan was known to be an ally of the US-led West.

The anti-Soviet armed campaign in Afghanistan was run on the war cry of Jihad and was fully supported by the US.

However, the internal resistance could not wear down Soviet troops effectively enough, compelling Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, to send the Taliban to Afghanistan in 1993 to clear the mess there.

Taliban were a "radical" Islamic force comprising the products of

rior British power.

However, it left the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa- Afghanistan belt radicalized, and the effect of that can be seen even today.

In both KP and Baluchistan, there is a lot of unrest against the ruling dispensation of Pakistan because of the pro-US character of the Pakistani army.

Coming back to the Taliban, they swiftly took control of Kabul with their ruthless drive and, with Pakistan's backing, established the Emirate in Afghanistan in 1996.

The Taliban-Al Qaeda regime, however, soon bared its fangs against the US and allowed Osama bin Laden a free hand- Osama was a close relative of Mulla Umar, the Emir.

Reportedly, Afghan territory was also used in the planning of the 9/11 terror attack that resulted in the US-led "war on terror" in Afghanistan and the ouster of the Taliban Emirate in late 2001.

The stationing of the American troops in Afghanistan later faced a simmering opposition from the Taliban and became a political burden for the US. Pakistan mediated in the talks of Taliban with US at Doha- the capital of Qatar, a US ally- in the Biden administration, and in 2021, the US withdrew its troops from Afghanistan, permitting the return of the Kabul Emirate.

An uncertain relationship has since continued between the US and Taliban because the latter cannot shed its extremist and radical character. Meanwhile, the Sino-Pak strategic alliance allowed a 'give and take' arrangement between China and the Taliban, by which China extended its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to Afghanistan as economic assistance, and the Taliban agreed not to raise issues of Muslim minorities in China, particularly in Uzbekistan next door.

(The writer is a former Director Intelligence Bureau) IANS

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com



OPERATION SINDOOR JUST A TRAILER

India's Defense Minister Rajnath Singh has asserted that "every inch of Pakistan's territory" lays within the range of the BrahMos missile, adding, what transpired during Operation Sindoor was "just a trailer." Speaking after flagging off the first batch of BrahMos missiles manufactured at the new BrahMos Aerospace facility in Lucknow, in the State of U.P., Singh said the missile system had moved far beyond the trial stage and now stands as the strongest practical proof of India's national security preparedness.

"BrahMos proved its effectiveness during Operation Sindoor. Victory has become our habit. What happened during that operation was just a trailer, and even that made Pakistan realize what India is capable of. If India could give birth to Pakistan, I need not say what else it can do," the Defense Minister stated. He described BrahMos as a key pillar of the armed forces and a symbol of India's capability to turn its strategic ambitions into reality.

The BrahMos Aerospace facility in Lucknow, inaugurated on May 11, is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure for missile integration, testing and quality assurance. The first batch of missiles from this facility marks a significant milestone for the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) and India's push for self-reliance in defense manufacturing. He revealed the BrahMos team had signed contracts worth approximately Rs 4,000 crore with two countries in the past month. He noted that, in the coming years, experts from around the world would visit Lucknow, transforming the city into a hub of knowledge and leadership in defense technology.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir warned India, demanding New Delhi to resolve disputes while cautioning "there is no space for war in a nuclearized environment." Speaking at the passing-out parade of cadets at the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul, Abbottabad (the city where U.S. marines found Osama bin Laden), Munir said, Pakistan would respond far beyond expectations to any provocation, reported by several media. He added, "We will never be intimidated or coerced by your rhetoric and shall respond decisively, beyond proportion, to even a minor provocation without any qualms. The responsibility for any escalation, which could have catastrophic consequences for the region and beyond, will rest entirely with India." He continued, "Should a fresh wave of hostilities be triggered, Pakistan would respond much beyond the expectations of the initiators. This is Munir's second nuclear warning to India in just two months. In August, during a speech to the Pakistani Diaspora in Tampa, Florida, he said, "We are a nuclear nation. If we think we are going down, we will take half the world down with us."

Munir's remarks come amid recent cross-border clashes with Afghanistan. The act resulted in mass casualties on both sides. Pakistan has accused Afghanistan of allowing militants to plan attacks against the country from its soil, including the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which has been responsible for multiple assaults within Pakistan's borders. In response, Pakistan recently conducted airstrikes in Afghanistan, claiming 17 lives, of which 3 were cricketers. It seems Munir's rhetoric and assertions came no sooner than Pakistan molly codling with Trump at recent international platforms.

The US move is meant to counter the impact of Gwadar Port on the coast of Baluchistan near the Persian Gulf, which had come up as an extension of the Chinese-managed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)

up as an extension of the Chinese-managed China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). India has to watch out for developments in the Pakistan-Afghanistan region, which was a breeding ground of Jihad- based violence primarily exploited by Pakistan for cross-border terrorism against India. The maneuverings of Pakistan to remain in the good books of the US, China and Russia - all at the same time - also deserved to be taken note of.

The recent political history of Afghanistan will help to clarify what India could or could not expect from this country of a checkered past.

Afghanistan had the distinction of having compelled the Army of the two Superpowers, first the So-

Deobandi Madrasas in Pakistan that followed the extremist form of Islam and carried the legacy of the Wahhabi "revolt" of the 19th century against the British encroachment on 'Muslim lands'.

The leading Ulema of the times, including Al Tijani in Algeria, Abdul Wahab in Arabia and Shah Waliullah in India, had all given a call for Jihad against the West, attributing the political decline of Islam to the alleged deviation of the rulers from the path of puritanical religion.

Radical Islamic Terrorism thus goes with 'Islamic Revivalism'. The Jihad, whose epicenter was in the then North West Frontier Province (NWFP), lasted many years but failed against the supe-

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

UdupiPalaceToGo.com



UdupiPalaceToGo.com

UDUPI PALACE

SOUTH INDIAN CUISINE



**COME IN TO ENJOY GREAT VEGETARIAN FOOD
CATERING IS OUR SPECIALITY**

2543 W Devon Ave, Chicago, IL 60659
Hours open: 11:30am to 9:30pm

(773) 338-2152

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

*NBCTeacher
Chicago, IL*

Evia Travel Inc

5862 N Lincoln Ave Chicago IL 60659

*We offer best fares to Europe
India, Pakistan, Bangladesh*



"Talk to Experts Save Time & Money"

773-506-8100

Check Fares online www.eviatravel.com
Email: sid@eviatravel.com
ARC-IATAN APPROVED

HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT?

Share your story and news item!
Submit your request online
[http://www.indiapost.com/
user-submitted-posts/](http://www.indiapost.com/user-submitted-posts/).

For more information call
Vidya at **510-491-4867** or
email vidya@indiapost.com

INDIA POST

• PRINT • TV • RADIO • DIGITAL • SOCIAL MEDIA • EVENTS

To advertise in India Post for
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
Please contact
Naresh Sodhi
510-938-8667
or Email:
naresh@indiapost.com

Vidya Sethuraman
510-491-4867
or Email: vidya@indiapost.com

For Classifieds Ads Call

NORTHERN CA
(Naresh Sodhi)
Tel: 510-938-8667
nareshsodhi@gmail.com

(Vidya Sethuraman)
Tel. 510-491-4867
vidya@indiapost.com

(Arvind Kotha)
Tel. 408-659-9977
arvind@indiapost.com

SOUTHERN CA
(Riyaz Khan)
Tel: 562- 881-5342
riyaz@indiapost.com

(Shashi Trivedi)
Tel: 562-441-5511/
shashi19@yahoo.com

CHICAGO
(Ramesh Soparawala)
Tel: 773-973-7394 /
Fax: 773-973-7396
sramesh@aol.com

**NEW YORK /
NEW JERSEY**
Naresh:510-938-8667

NEWS

at your DESKTOP

JOIN HANDS
with India Post Newsweekly to save our Mother Earth
and save our environment.

GO PAPERLESS

Sign up for e-paper subscription at
www.indiapost.com

for more information contact:
+1 510 491 4867
mail@indiapost.com

INDIA POST

• PRINT • DIGITAL • TV • RADIO • EVENTS • SOCIAL MEDIA •



URVASHI RAUTELA SAYS, 'DIWALI BRIGHTEST WITH THOSE WHO MATTER'

Actress Urvashi Rautela sees the festival of Diwali as something more than just lights, decor, and festive glamour. For her, it's about the people who fill those moments with meaning.

Revealing what the auspicious festival signifies to her, the 'Daaku Maharaaj' actress said, "For me, Diwali is all about celebrating with people who truly matter. When I'm with my family, it's a festival of warmth, blessings, and gratitude - a time to reconnect with my roots. And when I celebrate with my film fraternity, it becomes a celebration of creativity, togetherness, and shared dreams. Both hold their own kind of light, and together they make my Diwali truly meaningful."

Urvashi holds close to her heart some fond family traditions, such as lighting the diyas with her loved ones, offering prayers, and expressing gratitude for the year gone by.

Before stepping out to be a part of the glamorous Diwali parties and the industry festivities, the 'Great Grand Masti' actress loves to start her day at home, spending time with those who helped shape her journey and grounded her values.

Urvashi further uses Diwali to reconnect with her roots, believing it to be the real essence of the festival. Despite a hectic schedule during the festival, the diva prioritizes time with her family. Her day includes preparing festive meals, decorating the home, and performing the Lakshmi puja with those close to her.

Just like her time at home, Urvashi equally enjoys her Diwali celebrations within the film fraternity.

For her, such gathering signifies a space of shared goals, creative bonding, and the joy of celebrating collective milestones. According to Urvashi, the warmth from friends and colleagues adds a different sparkle to the season.

Work-wise, Urvashi will be a part of Kamal Haasan's highly anticipated sequel 'Indian 3', which will be made under the direction of S Shankar. *IANS*



CHITRANGDA SINGH FROM HOSPITAL: 'HOPING TO BE BACK RUNNING LIKE A HARE SOON'

Actress Chitrangda Singh, who is currently hospitalized, shared a picture and said that "she will be back running like a hare soon."

Chitrangda took to Instagram stories, where she posted a picture from a hospital bed to showcase her recovery journey.

In the image, the actress is seen resting in bed with a medical drip attached to her hand and wrote: "Hoping to be back running like a hare soon!"

However, the actress did not reveal the reason behind her hospitalization.

The actress' latest release is "Housefull 5", which also stars Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Riteish Deshmukh, Sonam Bajwa, Nargis Fakhri, Sanjay Dutt, Jackie Shroff, Nana Patekar, Fardeen Khan, Chunky Pandey, Johnny Lever, Shreyas Talpade, Dino Morea, Ranjeet, Soundarya Sharma, Nikitin Dheer, and Akashdeep Sabir. *IANS*



TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

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

Manisha Koirala turns to stillness, yoga

Veteran actress Manisha Koirala reflected on her approach to handling uncertainty and confusion in life, sharing how she always finds her grounding in yoga.

Manisha took to Instagram, where she shared a picture collage of her doing yoga. In the images the actress was performing Anjaneyasana and Sukhasana.

"When life feels uncertain and the mind races in confusions..I turn to stillness. In that stillness,

I turn again to yoga - not as exercise, but as a way of returning home. Balance isn't something I find, it's something I return to (sic)," wrote Manisha as the caption.

Talking about womanhood, she added: "Here's to womanhood (never an easy ride), to life, to friendship, and to aging with grace. Here's to choosing people who add meaning to our lives." *IANS*

Rani Mukerji: Honor to salute Indian Police Force via my film 'Mardaani'

On Indian Police Day (21 October), actress Rani Mukerji saluted the unwavering courage and relentless dedication of the police force. The National Award-winner called it an honor to do so through her film franchise 'Mardaani'.

The actress, who is set to reprise her role as the fearless cop Shivani Shivaji Roy in the third installment of the franchise, said "It is an honor for me to salute the Indian Police Force through my film franchise Mardaani and I also look forward to every opportunity possible to salute the hard work of the police across the country by participating in as many of them."

She added: "In every corner of our nation, there are cops protecting people, risking their lives, sacrificing their personal time to keep us safe. Words cannot do justice to the work that the police force of our country does to put our nation and the people first."

Rani said on Indian Police Day, she salutes the "unwavering courage, relentless dedication, and selfless service of the Indian Police Force who protect and uphold justice for every citizen of India."

"We should never forget that behind the uniform, there is a human being who chose to do good, chose the path of selfless service and decided that the country comes first. We should never forget that they are also someone's son, daughter, husband, wife, father, mother."

"I respect the force with all my heart and I will make it a point to say this loudly to every Indian."

Praising their selfless courage, Rani shared: "What a cop does is simply exemplary. They leave their homes with no certainty of returning back. IANS



David Beckham recalls DIWALI with Sonam Kapoor, Anand Ahuja

Football legend David Beckham recalled celebrating Diwali in India a few years ago with Bollywood fashionista Sonam Kapoor and her husband Anand Ahuja. Beckham took to his Instagram stories, where he had shared the post, which was later re-shared by the actress. In the image, Sonam and Beckham are seen posing together during Diwali celebration. The football legend could be seen holding a plate filled with Indian food, including roti, sabzi and sweets.

The text overlay read: "Loved celebrating Diwali with great company (& great food!) in India a few years ago @sonamkapoor @anandahuja."

It was in 2023, when Beckham visited India and Sonam played the perfect host to him. Sonam and Anand had hosted a grand welcome party for the former English footballer at their residence in Mumbai.

In other news, Sonam recently shared a glimpse from her family's intimate Dhanteras celebration.

Sharing a video montage, she captioned her post as, "Our hearts (and home) are glowing a little brighter this Diwali. From our little family to yours - wishing you love, laughter & light. Anand, Sonam & Vayu."

In the video, Sonam is seen dressed in a heavily embroidered maroon and red ensemble adorned with traditional silver jewelry and bangles.

The actress looked elegant as she performed the rituals alongside her husband, Anand, who was seen dressed in an ivory kurta-pyjama.

The son, Vayu, dressed in a white embroidered kurta, was also seen sitting close to his parents during the puja, adding an adorable charm to the family portrait.

Sonam married Anand in May 2018 after dating for nearly four years.

The couple welcomed their first child, Vaayu Kapoor Ahuja, in August 2022. IANS



Americans4Hindus

(A non-partisan Super PAC and Hybrid PAC)

**Hindu voters must Vote and Empower
Democracy with Hindu Value.**

**Hindu US Citizens must vote in local elections at
School Board, Council, Mayor, Supervisor,
Assembly, Senate, Governor and Federal positions.**

REGISTER TO VOTE

<https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration>

**INCREASE THE AWARENESS AND IMPORTANCE OF
VOTING AND GETTING OUR VOICE HEARD**

ENCOURAGE AND HELP HINDUS TO GAIN US CITIZENSHIP

MOTIVATE HINDUS TO GET OUT TO VOTE

Join Americans4Hindus to highlight the need and opportunity for us to make a difference.

TO DONATE FOR ABOVE CAUSES

Text HINDU to 888 444 8774 and donate

<https://secure.anedot.com/americans4hindus/donate>

DONATE BY CHECK: PLEASE WRITE A CHECK PAYABLE TO AMERICANS4HINDUS

For more information visit

www.americans4hindus.org

