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JD Vance's children sport ethnic wear

► Details on page 42

World leaders condemn Kashmir terror attack

► Details on page 10



Change in cinema individual, not collective

► Details on page 36

INDIA POST

SURVEY
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This week's question

Should India strike terrorist outfits in Pakistan?

Last week's result

Has Trump lost the tariff battle with China?

YES 41% NO 59%

PUNISH PAKISTAN

India vows to bring Pahalgam terror attack perpetrators to justice, announces five big steps to punish Pakistan



Army officials brief Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Pahalgam terrorist attack as he arrives at Baisaran meadow, the site of the attack on tourists, in Pahalgam. (ANI Photo)

NEW DELHI: Asserting that it will be unrelenting in its pursuit of those who commit acts of terror, India has said the perpetrators of Pahalgam terror attack will be brought to justice and their sponsors "held to account" while also announcing several measures against Pakistan which continues to sponsor terror in the Kashmir Valley.

Addressing the media after Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting which lasted for over two hours, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri also announced several measures "recognizing the seriousness" of the terrorist attack, including holding in abeyance with immediate effect the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for

cross-border terrorism".

India also decided to close the Attari Integrated Checkpost - located along the international border between India and Pakistan in Punjab at a distance of about 28 km from Amritsar - with immediate effect.

"Those who have crossed over with valid endorsements may return through that route before May 1," said Misri.

Pakistani nationals will also not be permitted to travel to India under the SAARC visa exemption scheme. Any Specific Purpose Work Visa (SPES) visas issued in the past to Pakistani nationals are now deemed cancelled, and any Pakistani national currently in India under a SPES visa has 48 hours to leave India.

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FM accorded community reception by CGISF

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Arab World condemns terror attack in Kashmir

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Gold touches Rs 1 lakh per 10 grams

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HIGHLIGHTS

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‘Change in cinema individual’



Actress Tamannaah Bhatia shared, any effort to bail cinema out of testing times at the box-office will come from an individual artist

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JD Vance's children sport ethnic wear

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India has said the perpetrators of Pahalgam terror attack will be brought to justice and their sponsors "held to account"

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Gold Rs. 1 lakh per 10 gms

Gold prices reached historic milestone on Tuesday, 22 April, when 24-carat gold touched Rs 1,00,000 per 10 grams first time ever

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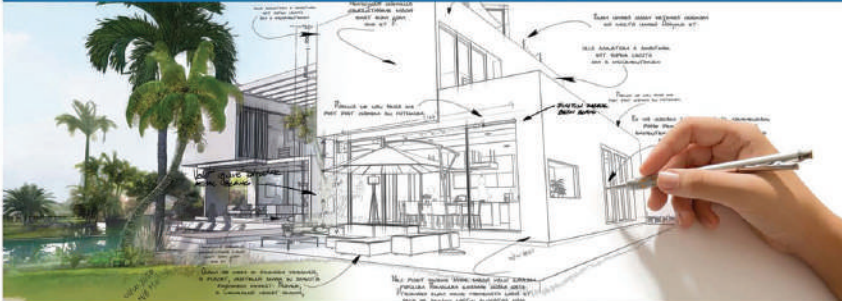
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PUNISH PAKISTAN

India vows to bring Pahalgam terror attack perpetrators to justice, announces five big steps to punish Pakistan

NEW DELHI: Asserting that it will be unrelenting in its pursuit of those who commit acts of terror, India has said the perpetrators of Pahalgam terror attack will be brought to justice and their sponsors "held to account" while also announcing several measures against Pakistan which continues to sponsor terror in the Kashmir Valley.

Addressing the media after Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting which lasted for over two hours, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri also announced several measures "recognizing the seriousness" of the terrorist attack, including holding in abeyance with immediate effect the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism".

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Pakistani nationals will also not be permitted to travel to India under the SAARC visa exemption scheme. Any Specific Pur-

pose Work Visa (SPES) visas issued in the past to Pakistani nationals are now deemed cancelled, and any Pakistani national currently in India under a SPES visa has 48 hours to leave India.

The Foreign Secretary also announced

"Five support staff of the Service Advisors will also be withdrawn from both High Commissions. The overall strength of the High Commissions will be brought down to 30 from the present 55 through further reductions, to be effected by May 1," said Misri.

the injured. The CCS recorded its appreciation for such sentiments, which reflect zero tolerance for terrorism," the Foreign Secretary said.

Reviewing the overall security situation, the CCS also directed all forces to main-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), in New Delhi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, EAM Dr S Jaishankar and other officials are also present. (ANI Photo)

tain high vigil. "It resolved that perpetrators of this attack will be brought to justice and their sponsors held to account. As with the recent extradition of Tahawwur Rana, India will be unrelenting in the pursuit of those who have committed acts of terror or conspired to make them possible," remarked Misri. IANS

that the defense, military, naval, and air advisors at the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi have been declared persona non grata and have a week to leave India. Similarly, India will be withdrawing its own defense, navy and air advisors from the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, with these posts in the respective High Commissions deemed annulled.

The CCS, he said, was briefed in detail on the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, in which 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen were killed and several others sustained injuries.

"The CCS condemned the attack in the strongest terms and expressed its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and hoped for the early recovery of

tain high vigil.

"It resolved that perpetrators of this attack will be brought to justice and their sponsors held to account. As with the recent extradition of Tahawwur Rana, India will be unrelenting in the pursuit of those who have committed acts of terror or conspired to make them possible," remarked Misri. IANS

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World leaders condemn Kashmir terror attack, extend unstinting support to India

NEW DELHI: World leaders strongly condemned the dastardly terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir and extended unstinting support to India, with US President Donald Trump stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the "incredible people of India, have our full support and deepest sympathies".

Strong messages of condemnation of the terror attack came from leaders in different parts of the world including the US, Russia, UAE, Israel, Singapore, France, Sri Lanka and Iran.

Trump said the United States stands strongly with India against terrorism.

"Deeply disturbing news out of Kashmir. The United States stands strong with India against Terrorism. We pray for the souls of those lost, and for the recovery of the injured. Prime Minister Modi, and the incredible people of India, have our full support and deepest sympathies. Our hearts are with you all!" Trump said on his social media platform Truth Social.

US Vice President JD Vance, who is on a visit to India, extended his condolences to the victims of the devastating terrorist

attack in Pahalgam.

"Usha and I extend our condolences to the victims of the devastating terrorist attack in Pahalgam, India. Over the past few days, we have been overcome with the beauty of this country and its people. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they mourn this horrific attack," Vance said in a post on X.

The US State Department also strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Kashmir.

"Deeply disturbing news out of Kashmir. The United States stands strong with India against Terrorism. We pray for the souls of those lost, and for the recovery of the injured. Prime Minister Modi, and the incredible people of India, have our full support and deepest sympathies. Our hearts are with you all!" Trump said

"Nothing can justify such a heinous act killing tourists and civilians. Our thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. We continue to monitor the situation and call for perpetrators to be held ac-

countable," it said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin extended his condolences to President Droupadi Murmu and PM Modi over Pahalgam terror attack.

According to the Russian Embassy, President Putin reiterated Russia's commitment to further increasing cooperation with Indian partners in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

"Esteemed Mrs President, Esteemed

and injuries to innocent people.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) affirmed that the UAE expresses its strong condemnation of these criminal acts and its permanent rejection of all forms of violence and terrorism aimed at undermining security and stability in contravention of international law.

The Ministry expressed its sincere condolences and sympathy to the government and people of India, and to the families of the victims of this heinous attack, as well as its wishes of a speedy recovery for all the injured.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said she was deeply saddened by the terror attack and expressed solidarity with the government and people of India.

"Deeply saddened by the terrorist attack that occurred today in India, which caused numerous victims. Italy expresses its closeness to the families affected, the injured, the Government and all the Indian people," she said in a post on X.

Iran strongly condemned the terror attack and extended condolences to the government and people of India.

"The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in New Delhi strongly condemns the terrorist attack in the city of #Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which resulted in the death and injury of a large number of innocent people. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the government and people of India, especially to the families of the victims of this attack, and wish a speedy recovery and good health to the injured," the Iranian Embassy said in a post on X.

Ambassador of France to India, Thierry Mathou, said his country stands in solidarity with India in the fight against terrorism. ANI



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Mr Prime Minister, Kindly accept the sincere condolences over the tragic consequences of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, whose victims were civilians - citizens of various countries. This brutal crime has no justification whatsoever. We expect that its organizers and perpetrators will face deserved punishment. I would like to reiterate our commitment to further increasing cooperation with Indian partners in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Please convey words of sincere sympathy and support to the near and dear ones of the deceased, as well as wishes for a speedy recovery of all injured," President Putin said.

The United Arab Emirates strongly condemned the terrorist attack that targeted tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in dozens of deaths

Arab World condemns terror attack in Kashmir; stands firm with India

NEW DELHI: The countries of the Arab world have united in their stance against the heinous terror attack which took place in Pahalgam on Tuesday and have strongly condemned the terrorist act.

The Crown Prince of Kuwait, Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah offered condolences to President Droupadi Murmu "on the tragic loss of life caused by a terror attack targeting tourists in Pahalgam".

The statement further noted that the Crown Prince expressed his condolences over the victims and wished speedy recovery for the injured.

On the Pahalgam terror attack, the statement issued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry said, "The Kingdom affirms its firm stance in rejecting all forms of violence, extremism, and targeting of civilians. The Kingdom also extends its sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims, and the government and people of the Republic of India." ANI

"Attack came in wake of successful elections, economic growth, development", says MEA

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) held a special briefing in the wake of the dastardly Pahalgam terror attacks. It was informed that during the briefing to the Cabinet Committee on Security (CSS), cross-border linkages of the terrorist attack were brought out.

The remarks were delivered by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to the media, 23rd April evening.

He informed that the CSS met under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister and was briefed in detail on the terrorist attack on April 22.

He told the media that CCS reflected its appreciation for the "strong expressions of support and solidarity received from many Governments around the world, which have unequivocally condemned this terror attack. The CCS recorded its appreciation for such sentiments, which reflect zero tolerance for terrorism."

Misri noted, "In the briefing to the CCS, the cross-border linkages of the terrorist attack were brought out. It was noted that this attack came in the wake of the successful holding of elections in the Union Territory and its steady progress towards economic growth and development."

As per the MEA, the Pahalgam terrorist attack saw the

death of 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen, with a number of others who sustained injuries.

A day after a dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), which lasted over two hours.



Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri

The meeting was attended, among others, by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Amit Shah, who chaired a security review meeting in Srinagar, visited the site of the terror attack in Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam.

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) team also visited the attack site to support the Jammu and Kashmir

(J-K) Police in probing the terror attack.

Security forces have launched search operations to track down the terrorists responsible. Security has also been heightened.

The Pahalgam terrorist attack has been one of the biggest terror attacks after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. Following the terror attack, security forces have launched search operations to track down the terrorists responsible. ANI

25 Indians, one Nepali citizen killed in Pahalgam terror attack

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet Committee of Security (CCS) was briefed in detail on the terrorist attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir in which 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen were killed.

The CCS meeting, which lasted over two hours, was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing a special press conference, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the CCS condemned the attack in the strongest terms and expressed its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and hoped for the early recovery of the injured.

"The CCS was briefed in detail on the terrorist attack on 22 April 2025 in Pahalgam, in which 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen were killed. A number of others sustained injuries," Misri said.

He said strong expressions of support and solidarity have been received from many Governments around the world, which have unequivocally condemned this terror attack.

"The CCS recorded its appreciation for such sentiments, which reflect zero tolerance for terrorism," he said.

Misri said in the briefing to the CCS, the cross-border linkages of the terrorist attack were brought out. It was noted that this attack came in the wake of the successful holding of elections in the Union Territory and its steady progress towards economic growth and development. ANI

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Kashmir erupts in protests against Pahalgam killings, tourism likely to be hit

SRINAGAR: In a strong display of unity and collective grief, Kashmir Valley on Wednesday erupted in protests against the Pahalgam killings.

The protests and shutdown marked the

march condemning the tragic killing of tourists.

A march was taken out, which witnessed massive public participation with people from all walks of life gathered in

lence are met with zero tolerance.

The march stood as a powerful testament of Kashmiris standing against violence and their unwavering commitment to peace, justice, and communal harmony.

Kharge said on Wednesday that J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has conveyed to him that Kashmir's economy has collapsed following the Pahalgam terror attack.



Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti along with supporters protest against the Pahalgam terror attack, in Srinagar



People hold a candlelight vigil for the victims of Pahalgam terror attack, in Srinagar (ANI Photo)

first Valley-wide complete shutdown against terrorism in over 35 years, with people from all walks of life taking to the streets to denounce the bloodshed.

Civil society members, traders' federation, transport association, staff members from government offices, and citizens gathered and participated in a protest

solidarity, holding placards and banners expressing their anguish and support for the victims and their families.

The protestors urged the authorities to swiftly identify and bring to justice those responsible for the heinous act, and demanded stringent action under the full ambit of the law, ensuring such acts of vio-

Meanwhile, the attack on tourists has also been widely condemned across all the schools of Kashmir, and in this connection, condolence meetings and special prayers were offered in favor of all the deceased tourists during the morning assemblies.

A divisional-level condolence meet was held in the conference hall of the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir.

The attack is also likely to affect the tourism-based local economy, which has been gaining momentum in the last few years.

Earlier, Congress President Mallikarjun

"The summer season has just begun, and this is the time when tourists start visiting the region. Tourism is also the biggest source of income for J&K, especially Kashmir. They depend entirely on tourism income. Omar Abdullah told me that this year's economy has collapsed. He also said that tourism is their main source of livelihood and that they are devastated by this attack," said the Congress President, addressing a press conference at the Congress Headquarters in Bengaluru.

At least 26 tourists were killed after gunmen opened fire on innocent civilians in Baisaran in Jammu and Kashmir. IANS

Trump speaks to PM Modi, expresses full support to India

JEDDAH: US President Donald Trump held a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday (Apr 23) and offered his condolences at the loss of lives in a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. Trump condemned the terror attack in Pahalgam and expressed full support to India to bring to justice the perpetrators of this "heinous attack."

In a post on X, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, stated, "President Donald Trump @realDonaldTrump @POTUS called P M @narendramodi

and conveyed his deepest condolences at the loss of innocent lives in the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir. President Trump strongly condemned the terror attack and expressed full support to India to bring to justice the perpetrators of this heinous attack. India and the United States

stand together in the fight against terror."

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has also offered support to India. In a post on X, Rubio wrote, "The United States stands with India."

He made the statement in response to the post shared by the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs in the US State Department on the terror attack in Jammu

and Kashmir, calling for holding the perpetrators accountable.

"The United States strongly condemns the terrorist attack in Kashmir. Nothing can justify such a heinous act killing

tourists and civilians. Our thoughts are with those who have lost their loved ones. We continue to monitor the situation and call for perpetrators to be held accountable," the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs in the US State Department posted on X. ANI



Pahalgam terror attack: PM Modi arrives in Delhi after cutting short his Saudi visit

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday after concluding his visit to Saudi Arabia. PM Modi was on a two-day State visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. However, he cut short his visit following the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

PM Modi skipped the official dinner hosted by Saudi Arabia and decided to cut short his visit, according to government sources.

During his visit, PM Modi held talks with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The two leaders co-chaired the second India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council (SPC) in Jeddah.

PM Modi invited Mohammed bin Salman to visit India for the third meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council. The two leaders reviewed the progress of the work under the SPC framework and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation.

The two leaders exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, as well as the ongoing India-Saudi Arabia cooperation under the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC).

Mohammed bin Salman condemned the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam and expressed his condolences on the innocent lives lost in the attack. PM Modi and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince vowed to combat terrorism tooth and nail. ANI

Pope Francis will always be remembered as beacon of compassion, humility and spiritual courage: PM Modi

NEW DELHI/VATICAN CITY: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was deeply pained by the passing of Pope Francis, who died on Easter Monday at the age of 88 at his residence in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta.

Fondly recalling his meetings with the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, PM Modi said that Pope Francis will always be remembered as a beacon of compassion, humility and spiritual courage by millions across the world.

"Deeply pained by the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. In this hour of grief and remembrance, my heart-felt condolences to the global Catholic community. Pope Francis will always be remembered as a beacon of compassion, humility and spiritual courage by millions across the world," PM Modi said in his condolence message.

"From a young age, he devoted himself towards realizing the ideals of Lord Christ. He diligently served the poor and downtrodden. For those who were suffering, he ignited a spirit of hope. I fondly recall my meetings with him and was greatly inspired by his commitment to inclusive and all-round development. His affection for the people of India will always be cherished. May his soul find eternal

peace in God's embrace," he added.

Pope Francis, who had been suffering from respiratory ailments and pneumonia for a long time, passed away at 7:35 am on Monday (April 21), Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Camerlengo of the Apostolic Chamber, announced Monday afternoon, India time.

During his meetings with the late Pope, PM Modi had always admired his commitment to serve people and had also extended an invitation to him to visit India at an early date.

"Met Pope Francis on the sidelines of the G7 Summit. I admire his commitment to serve people and make our planet better. Also invited him to visit India," the Prime Minister posted on X after meeting the Pope at the G7 Summit's Outreach Session in Borgo Egnazia, last year.

In October 2021, the Pope received PM Modi during a private audience at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican, which was also the first meeting between an Indian Prime Minister and the Pope in more than two decades.

It was in June 2000 that late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had last visited the Vatican and met the then Pope, John Paul II. IANS



Rahul Gandhi faces criticism for 'attacking' EC in US

BOSTON: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's attacks on India's election system came under harsh criticism early this week.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that Gandhi's repeated attempts to malign India's democracy and spread false statements on foreign land deserve strong condemnation.

"His actions reflect the frustration of repeatedly losing elections", he said in a post X while reacting to Gandhi's remarks in Boston against the Election Commission.

Gandhi, whose party was soundly rejected by voters in last year's Maharashtra election, winning just 16 seats, said, "It is very clear to us that the Election Commission is compromised, and it is very clear that there is something wrong with the system."

The BJP posted on X, "Every foreign trip of Rahul Gandhi follows the same script: land, defame India, question democracy, return. His tours have become nothing more than anti-India events."

Repeating his party's alibi for its defeat, Gandhi claimed, "More people voted in the Maharashtra Assembly elections than there are adults in Maharashtra."

He asserted that the high voter turnout was impossible and that the Election Commission refused to share videos or information with his party. IANS

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Industrial and warehousing demand in India up 15 pc in Q1 2025

BENGALURU: Industrial and warehousing demand across the top eight cities in India remained robust at 9 million square feet (sq ft) in Q1 2025 with 15 percent annual growth, a recent report showed.

Delhi-NCR and Chennai led the demand, cumulatively accounting for around 57 percent of the overall leasing in Q1. The demand for Grade A industrial & warehousing space was particularly impressive in Delhi-NCR, according to a Colliers report.

Across the top eight cities, engineering sector drove demand this quarter, contributing to about 25 percent of the overall industrial and warehousing space uptake, followed by e-commerce with 21 percent share.

Both these sectors have surpassed the demand from Third Party Logistics (3PL) players, the usual frontrunner. While Chennai and Bengaluru saw strong traction from occupiers in the engineering space, demand from e-commerce players remained significant in Delhi-NCR and Mumbai, the report mentioned.

Automobile players also picked up significant Grade A industrial and warehousing space at 1.3 million sq ft. These are healthy signs of overall growth *ANS*

India stays world's fastest growing economy at over 6 pc growth as IMF slashes forecast for 127 countries

NEW DELHI: India continues to remain the world's fastest-growing major economy and the only country expected to clock over 6 percent growth in the next two years, according to an IMF report released 22 April, which has trimmed the growth forecast for over 120 countries.

IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath said, "Our April 2025 World Economic Outlook projects significantly weaker global growth at 2.8 percent for 2025 with growth downgrades for 127 countries making up 86 percent of world GDP." *ANS*

Gold touches Rs 1 lakh per 10 grams for 1st time

NEW DELHI: Gold prices reached a historic milestone on Tuesday, 22 April, as the rate of 24-carat gold touched Rs 1,00,000 per 10 grams for the first time ever.

According to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), the price of 24-carat gold rose sharply from Rs 96,670 to Rs 1,00,000 per 10 grams -- a jump of Rs 3,300 within 24 hours.

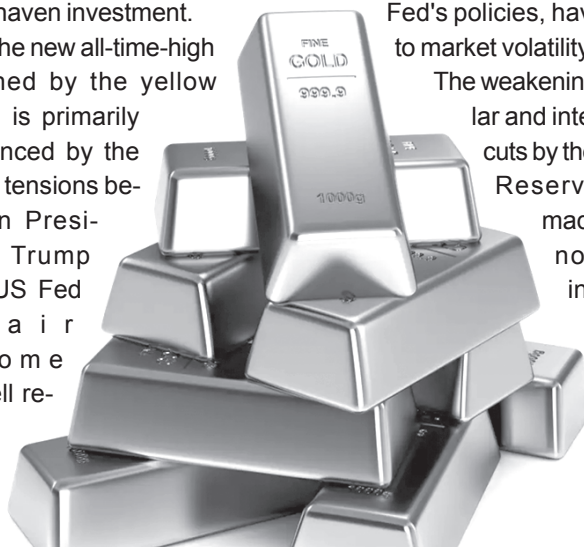
Along with 24-carat gold, other categories also saw a steep rise. The price of 22-carat gold climbed to Rs 97,600 per 10 grams, 20-carat gold reached Rs 89,000 per 10 grams, and 18-carat gold touched Rs 81,000 per 10 grams.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), October futures briefly went above the Rs 1 lakh mark and touched an all-time high of Rs 1,00,484 per 10 grams -- gaining nearly Rs 2,000 or 2

percent in a single day.

Experts say the sudden spike in gold prices is due to increased global demand for gold as a safe-haven investment.

"The new all-time-high attained by the yellow metal is primarily influenced by the rising tensions between President Trump and US Fed Chair Jerome Powell re-



garding the Fed rate cut," said Colin Shah, MD, Kama Jewelry.

This demand has been driven by rising geopolitical tensions and ongoing global economic un-

certainties. His recent comments and decisions, including imposing tariffs on Chinese goods and questioning the Fed's policies, have added to market volatility.

The weakening US dollar and interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve have made gold, a non-yielding asset,

more attractive to investors.

Lower interest rates reduce the cost of holding gold, which leads to higher investments in the yellow metal.

Another major reason behind the price surge is central banks across the world, including India and China, increasing their gold reserves.

This strategy, known as 'dollarization,' is aimed at reducing reliance on the US dollar and preparing for economic uncertainties by investing more in gold.

"While the gold price is on an upward trajectory, the fall in dollar will make gold affordable in other currencies, keeping the demand-price dynamics balanced," Shah stated.

He added that domestically, it is observed that gold price witnesses a slight rise around festive season like Akshaya Tritiya, in reflection to the spike in demand.

With these global factors at play, analysts believe that gold prices may remain high in the near future. *ANS*

FM Sitharaman invites global CEOs, investors to join India's growth story

SAN FRANCISCO: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met global CEOs, pension fund managers and other institutional investors here, and discussed the opportunity for collaboration in the domain of energy and sustainability, the Rs 1 lakh crore (\$12 billion) corpus private sector-driven research, development, and innovation scheme, and GIFT-IFSC, among others.

In the presence of Finance Secretary Ajay Seth and Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Ambassador of India to the US, the Finance Minister listened to their views on the reforms pursued by the Indian government, and gave feedback and observation on the existing policy framework.

They spoke about their keen interest and commitment for a deeper and broad-based investment collaboration between the US and India and shared feedback on how to further facilitate and enhance the investment experience.

The Union Minister thanked

the participants for their valuable feedback and suggestions.

In her one-on-one meetings with top CEOs, FM Sitharaman discussed opportunities in the fields of AI, Cloud and digital infrastructure.

Jonathan Siddharth, CEO of Turing, expressed his desire to

see India at the forefront of AI revolution and spoke about working in the domain of AI with India and through Indian contributors to create a sovereign model that can serve as a template for the world.

The Finance Minister highlighted policy framework that has been put in place by India for AI,

and encouraged Siddharth to explore opportunities for collaboration and fruitful engagement.

Debanjan Saha, Chief Executive Officer at DataRobot, referred to India's potential to become an AI superpower and expressed interest in participating in the AI Centre of Excellence, for which the Union Budget 2025-26 recently allocated Rs 500 crore.

The minister underlined the steps that the government has taken over years to boost digital infrastructure, including budgeting Rs. 10,300 crore for IndiaAI Mission, creating AI language technologies through BharatGen and Sarvam-1, and the establishment of the Srijan Centre for Generative AI at IIT Jodhpur. *ANS*



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman attends a Lunch on a Roundtable with various pension fund managers and other institutional investors, in San Francisco. Finance Secretary, Ajay Seth and Ambassador of India to the USA, Vinay Mohan Kwatra also present. *(ANI Photo)*

In India, US has a friend: VP JD Vance

JAIPUR: US Vice President J.D. Vance reflected on the economic challenges faced by manufacturing communities in the US in the last few years.

"Our manufacturing communities have been facing economic challenges for the last few years, and fair trade partnerships are equally important. In India, the US has a friend," said US Vice President J.D. Vance while addressing an event in Jaipur.

Vance said that he was sharing the story on the request of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then recounted the story of his upbringing in a once-thriving manufacturing town, which slowly and steadily witnessed the diluting of the middle class due to job losses and factories shutting down.

"I come from a long-standing manufacturing town called Middletown. It's not a massive city like Jaipur, but a decent town where people have made things for generations," he said.

He added that people came down from surrounding hills, from places like West Virginia, in search of manufacturing jobs, prosperity, and the American dream.

Vance also described his family's experience growing up in a working-class household.

"My parents and grandparents raised me in Middletown with values - to work hard, study hard, love God and my country, and to be a good. My grandfather's job



United States Vice President JD Vance addresses the gathering at the Rajasthan International Centre, in Jaipur. (ANI Photo)

"Our manufacturing communities have been facing economic challenges for the last few years, and fair trade partnerships are equally important. In India, the US has a friend," said US Vice President J.D. Vance

provided a decent wage and a pension. By the time I came up, money was tight, but it was fine to make a good living for all of us," he said.

The VP added that generation saw the making of a great middle class, adding

that by creating an economy around production, the leaders made many Middletowns.

"Governments in those times supported the labor force, and we struck good deals with national partners to sell goods

made in the US," he said.

However, Vance also talked about the decline that followed.

"Later, other leaders abandoned the principles that built our prosperity. They forgot the importance of building a productive industrial base. As a result, we saw consequences, factories left, jobs evaporated, and the economy of towns like mine suffered," he said.

"Middletown story is my story - millions of Americans lived this same experience. This story is my story, but it is hardly unusual in America. There were tens of millions of Americans who had woken up to what was happening in their nation, but I think they have woken up way before it's too late. We want to strike good deals with our friends, we want proud recognition of our heritage rather than self-loathing and fear," he said.

Vance emphasized that Americans are now aware of what went wrong and are committed to course-correction.

"Our President has been consistent on these issues for decades. America now has a government which has learnt from the mistakes of the past. Our President Trump cares deeply to ensure Americans have an opportunity for good jobs. Today, I have come here with a simple message: we seek trade partners on the basis of fairness in their shared national interest," he said. *IANS*

Hindenburg saga: How 'Operation Zeppelin' helped Adani Group make boldest comeback in corporate history

NEW DELHI: Hindenburg Research, which formally announced it was shutting down its operations in January this year after making a scathing yet failed attack on the Adani Group, faced a bold comeback by one of India's largest conglomerates, which involved a clandestine investigation to uncover the inner workings of the research firm and expose those backing it.

In January 2023, the forensic financial firm published a scathing report describing the Adani Group as "the largest con in corporate history".

The attack wiped out more than \$150 billion in the Group's market value, leading it to scrap its biggest public offering.

The Hindenburg report came out just days before Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani was in Israel to finalize a \$1.2-billion deal to acquire the Haifa seaport. The winning bid came from a joint venture between Gadot Masofim for Chemicals Ltd and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, with the Indian

firm holding the majority stake.

The bids, evaluations, and clearances for the privatization of Haifa Port had taken 18 long months -- and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was present at the signing on January 31, 2023.

As Hindenburg's scathing report about the Group came out, a top Israeli leader

In January 2023, the forensic financial firm published a scathing report describing the Adani Group as "the largest con in corporate history". The attack wiped out more than \$150 billion in the Group's market value, leading it to scrap its biggest public offering

questioned Gautam Adani about the allegations, to which the Indian billionaire firmly responded that they were "absolute lies".

According to people close to the matter, the Group staged a strong comeback against Hindenburg by launching "Operation Zeppelin", believed to have involved assistance from an Israeli intelligence

agency.

The effort involved a mix of public relations, legal maneuvers, and strategic tactics to counter the fallout and restore investor confidence.

"Operation Zeppelin" was named after the German dirigible airships used for reconnaissance and bombing during the

First World War.

People within the Israeli establishment viewed the Hindenburg report as a deliberate attempt to undermine the Haifa port deal, according to sources.

The deal was viewed as strategically vital for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. *IANS*

Pahalgam terror attack: Nirmala Sitharaman cuts short US-Peru visit

NEW DELHI: In the wake of the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has cut short her official US and Peru visit and will return to be with her people in this difficult and tragic time, the Ministry of Finance said.

FM Sitharaman embarked on an official visit to the US and Peru on April 20 to showcase India's economic dynamism, as the country prepares a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) with the US.

"Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. @nsitharaman is cutting short her official visit to the USA-Peru," said the Ministry in a post on X social media platform.

"She is taking the earliest available flight back to India to be with our people in this difficult and tragic time," the ministry further stated. *IANS*

Embrace mindful eating and combat obesity: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged all citizens to adopt mindful eating practices and prioritize healthier living.

On the occasion of the World Liver Day, PM Modi spoke about the importance of small yet impactful changes, highlighting that measures such as reducing oil intake can significantly contribute to improving overall health and well-being.

Responding to a post by Union Health Minister JP Nadda on X, PM Modi said: "Commendable effort to mark #WorldLiverDay with a call for mindful eating and healthier living. Small steps like reducing oil intake can make a big difference. Together, let's build a fitter, healthier India by raising awareness about obesity".

Earlier, Nadda said that on the occasion of the World Liver Day, take a pledge to reduce your edible oil intake by at least 10 percent and embrace a healthier lifestyle.

"Small changes can lead to big results when we treat food as medicine," he posted on X.

"In response to the call by PM Modi, let us also pledge to raise awareness about obesity and its growing impact on our society. *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.

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Wearable tech may help people manage everyday stress

NEW YORK: The virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR) technology could simulate stressful situations and help people practice stress-relief strategies, a new study has revealed.

Everyday situations can sometimes feel like big stressors, whether it's delivering an important work presentation, attending a party full of strangers or confronting a partner. Talking to a friend or a therapist can help. But so can practice.

A new project from Carnegie Mellon University researchers in the US aimed to make that practice easier by using VR/AR technology.

The research team, led by Anna Fang in the School of Computer Science's Human-Computer Interaction Institute, tested their stress simulation technology on a group of 19 participants,

the majority of whom overwhelmingly supported it.

"For the past 10 to 20 years, virtual reality and augmented reality have taken a really big hold



on the health and mental health space," said Fang, noting the many meditation apps available for download.

The team built eight proto-

types with different design elements for each of the three scenarios, for a total of 24 prototypes. Those prototypes took various forms - virtual reality,

mixed or augmented reality, or a text-based environment without visual cues - and offered different degrees of interaction.

Overall, Fang and her team

found that people liked using the technology to gain more awareness about themselves. "They wanted technology that would help them learn self-sufficiency skills that they didn't feel they had," she said.

Participants also noted that they preferred being able to decide when the large language model suggested guidance instead of receiving that guidance automatically.

They also wanted to take the headsets to other locations to help them become immersed in and more comfortable with the stressful setting.

In this next version, the team plans to upgrade the avatars to look more realistic and to include more text-to-speech features so the avatars can speak to users more naturally. *IANS*

Kids exposed to paternal depression likely to have behavioral issues later: Study

NEW YORK: A team of researchers at Rutgers University in the US has found that five-year-olds exposed to paternal depression are more likely to have behavioral issues in grade school.

In a study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Kristine Schmitz, an assistant professor of pediatrics at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJMS), together with other researchers from RWJMS and from Princeton and Rider universities, reported that children exposed to paternal depression when entering kindergarten are

far more likely to have teacher-reported behavioral difficulties and poor social skills at age 9.

"We need to consider depression in both parents, not just mothers," said Schmitz. "Depression is treatable, and to support the whole family, pediatricians must start talking with dads about it and developing father-focused interventions that meet their needs."

On average, between 8 percent and 13 percent of fathers in the United States will be affected by some form of depression during their child's early years, and the prevalence increases to 50 percent when the mother is also experienc-

ing postpartum depression.

Schmitz and colleagues analyzed data from the Future of Families and Child Wellbeing Study (FFCWS), a national birth



cohort that randomly sampled births in 20 large U.S. cities from 1998 to 2000. The study continues to track changes in participants' lives.

Two FFCWS data points were key to Schmitz's assessment: When the children were age 5, their fathers were screened for depressive symptoms in the past year; and when they were 9, the children's teachers completed a survey that included behavioral assessments.

"Kindergarten entry is an important developmental milestone, and adversities faced at that time can lead to poorer engagement and behaviors in grade school that may persist or magnify through middle and high school," the researchers wrote. *IANS*

Char Dham Yatra: NHM to have medical relief posts, Swasthya Mitras on route

NEW DELHI: As the sacred Char Dham Yatra is set to commence from April 30, the National Health Mission (NHM) has intensified preparations to ensure the health and safety of lakhs of pilgrims expected to visit the holy shrines in Uttarakhand.

This year's yatra will begin with the opening of the portals of Gangotri and Yamunotri shrines at 10.30 a.m. on April 30. Kedarnath Dham will open for devotees on May 2, Friday, at 7 a.m., while the gates of Badrinath Dham will be opened on Sunday, May 4.

To ensure robust healthcare support during the yatra, the National Health Mission is deploying a range of medical resources, including trained staff and on-ground support teams.

"Training is currently being conducted for our medical officers, and in addition to the regular medical staff, health friends (Swasthya Mitras) are also being deployed. This time, 102 Swasthya Mitras

are being assigned by NHM. Medical Relief Posts (MRPs) are also being set up along the Char Dham route," said Swati Singh Bhaduria, Mission Director of NHM



Uttarakhand.

She added, "A total of 25 MRPs will be established, where Swasthya Mitras, pharmacists, and medical officers will be posted to conduct health check-ups and

screenings for the pilgrims."

These Medical Relief Posts will be strategically located along the pilgrimage route to ensure timely medical attention and pre-

ventive screenings.

The deployment of Swasthya Mitras, trained local health volunteers, aims to strengthen first-line health support in remote areas.

The NHM has also coordinated with local health departments, emergency response teams, and disaster management authorities to maintain medical readiness throughout the yatra.

The Char Dham Yatra, one of the most revered pilgrimages in Hinduism, includes visits to four Himalayan shrines, Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath.

Every year, lakhs of devotees undertake this spiritually significant journey through the challenging terrain of Uttarakhand.

Recently, the Uttarakhand government, in collaboration with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), has taken steps to ensure that food quality is maintained for the well-being of devotees.

The food establishments along the yatra route are being sensitized and trained to prepare meals low in salt, sugar and oil, keeping in mind the dietary needs of people with health issues like diabetes, hypertension, etc. IANS



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Astronomers find strong hints of biological activity outside the solar system: Study

WASHINGTON DC: Astronomers have detected the most promising signs yet of a possible biosignature outside the solar system, although they remain cautious.

Using data from the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), the astronomers, led by the University of Cambridge, have detected the chemical fingerprints of dimethyl sulfide (DMS) and/or dimethyl disulfide (DMDS), in the atmosphere of the exoplanet K2-18b, which orbits its star in the habitable zone.

On Earth, DMS and DMDS are only produced by life, primarily microbial life such as marine phytoplankton.

While an unknown chemical process may be the source of these molecules in K2-18b's atmosphere, the results are the strongest evidence yet that life may exist on a planet outside our solar system.

The observations have reached the 'three-sigma' level of statistical significance -- meaning there is a 0.3% probability that they occurred by chance.

To reach the accepted classification for scientific discovery, the observations would have to cross the five-sigma threshold, meaning there would be below a 0.00006% probability they occurred by chance.

The researchers say between 16 and 24 hours of follow-up observation time with JWST may help them reach the all-important five-sigma significance.

Their results are reported in The Astrophysical Journal Letters.

Earlier observations of K2-18b--which is 8.6 times as massive and 2.6 times as large as Earth and lies 124 light years away in the constellation of Leo, identified methane and carbon dioxide in its atmosphere.

This was the first time carbon-based molecules were discovered in the atmosphere of an exoplanet in the habitable zone. Those results were consistent with predictions for a 'Hycean' planet: a habitable ocean-covered world underneath a hydrogen-rich atmosphere.

However, another, weaker signal hinted at the possibility of something else happening on K2-18b.

"We didn't know for sure whether the signal we saw last time was due to DMS, but just the hint of it was exciting enough for us to have another look with JWST using a different instrument," said Professor Nikku Madhusudhan from Cambridge's Institute of Astronomy, who led the research.

To determine the chemical composition of the atmospheres of faraway planets, astronomers analyze the light from their parent star as the planet transits, or passes in front of the star as seen from the Earth.

As K2-18b transits, JWST can detect a drop in stellar brightness, and a tiny fraction of starlight passes through the planet's atmosphere before reaching Earth. AN/



Healthy India key towards realizing Viksit Bharat goal: HM Shah

NEW DELHI: The concept of a Viksit Bharat (developed India) cannot be realized by being unwell and that is why it is very important that every citizen remains healthy, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

HM Shah further stated that all countrymen should take good diet, adequate water, adequate sleep and regular exercise, "the rest Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government will take the responsibility of taking care of your health".

Speaking at a program organized by the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) on the occasion of World Liver Day, HM Shah said that everyone should take a pledge to keep their 'liver' healthy with awareness, diligence and complete information.

Sharing his experience of a healthy lifestyle, the Home Minister said that there has been a huge change in his life since May 2020. HM Shah said that young people can achieve a lot in their lives with water,

diet, exercise and sleep as per the requirements of the body.

The Union Home Minister said that the Ministry of AYUSH is working to develop a system so that we do not fall ill.

"Today, even big allopathic hospitals are opening AYUSH wings. The mental and physical health of a person was included in the idea of World Yoga Day," he noted.

PM Modi-led government is bearing the entire cost of treatment, up to Rs 5 lakh, for crores of people of the country. The government is also bearing all expenses up to Rs 5 lakh for the treatment of citizens above 70 years of age.

PM Modi-led government has spent Rs 65,000 crore to build the health infrastructure in the country and has made

arrangements to make every Primary Health Center (PHC) and Community Health Center (CHC) a complete unit. IANS



Union Home Minister
Amit Shah

White House blames Covid 'lab leak' origins on China, slams Biden and Fauci

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump's White House launched a Covid-19 website last week, in which, it blamed the origins of the coronavirus on a lab leak in China's Wuhan.

He also criticized former President Joe Biden, former top US health official Anthony Fauci and the World Health Organization of suppressing the coronavirus origins.

The White House website now has an entire page dedicated to the Covid-19 lab-leak theory.

This comes weeks after the CIA issued a report saying that the lab-leak was likely.

The agency had previously said that it did not have enough information to determine the origin of Covid-19.

The new webpage is on the site that served as a resource for Covid-19 vaccination efforts. It now has a banner reading: "LAB LEAK, The True Origins of Covid-19."

President Donald Trump is also featured in the banner.

The 'lab-leak' page also accuses former Chief Medical Advisor Dr. Fauci and Biden of covering up the origins of coronavirus.



It says that the previous administration 'engaged in a multi-year campaign of delay, confusion and non-responsiveness' to conceal the truth.

"This website shows the true origins of Covid-19 and how Democrats and the media discredited alternative health treatments and the lab-leak theory," the White House said in a statement.

"The Proximal Origin of SARS-CoV-2 publication, which was used repeatedly by public health officials and the media to discredit the lab-leak theory, was promoted by Dr. Fauci to push the preferred narrative that Covid-19 originated naturally," the site said.

It further lists five key points, suggesting that Covid-19's origins were not natural.

1. The virus possesses a biological characteristic that is not found in nature.

2. According to the data, all cases of Covid-19 stem from a single introduction into humans, which is contrary to previous pandemics, where there were multiple spillover events.

3. Wuhan is home to China's foremost SARS research lab, which has a history of conducting gain-of-function research (gene altering and organism supercharging) without adequate biosafety.

4. The researchers at Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) were sick with Covid-like symptoms in the fall of 2019, months before Covid-19 was discovered at the wet market.

5. By nearly all measures of science, any evidence suggesting a natural origin of coronavirus would have already surfaced. But it hasn't. IANS



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In Brief

Punjab Police's efforts led to arrest of Passia in US, says DGP Gaurav Yadav

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Police says their efforts led to the arrest of Harpreet Singh, alias Happy Passia, a US-based key operative of the Pakistan's ISI-backed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and close associate of Pakistan-based terrorist Harvinder Rinda, at Sacramento in the US.

Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav termed it as a major success and said: "Today marks a major milestone in the sustained crackdown on ISI-backed terror networks, with the announcement of detention of Happy Passia by the US authorities. This is the outcome of excellent international cooperation and exchange of information between the United States and India."

In a statement, Gaurav Yadav said that Punjab Police have consistently shared intelligence inputs with the Central agencies.

As per the information, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested Happy Passia in Sacramento in California on April 17.

DGP Yadav said Happy Passia, a native of Passia village in Amritsar, began his criminal career with gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, and his US-based associates Darman Kahlon and Amrit Bal.

Later, Happy Passia became a key associate of Pakistan-based terrorist Harvinder Rinda, operating under the direct guidance of the ISI, he added. *IANS*

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Immigration

POST

20 India Post

www.indiapost.com

April 25, 2025

USCIS assists in investigation leading to sentencing of U.K. man for lying to immigration authorities

BOSTON: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provided valuable assistance to the investigation that led to the sentencing of a United Kingdom man for making false statements in an immigration matter.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Boston announced the sentencing of Duncan Hollands, also known as Duncan Herd, to time served (one day) and two years of supervised release. He is also subject to removal proceedings as a result of the conviction.

According to court documents, Hollands falsely reported on his application for lawful permanent residence and during his interview that he had never used another name and denied having any history with the criminal justice system. However, Hollands did in fact have a prior name, Duncan Herd, under which he was previously convicted and sentenced to more than three years in prison for obtaining property by deception along with other charges.

Hollands also had other interactions with the criminal justice systems in the United Kingdom and France. Hollands pleaded guilty on Jan. 15, 2025, to lying on an immigration application.

U.S. Attorney Leah B. Foley; Michael J. Krol, special agent in

charge of the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

According to court documents, Hollands falsely reported on his application for lawful permanent residence and during his interview that he had never used another name and denied having any history with the criminal justice system

charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New England; and Matthew O'Brien, special

Security Service, Boston Field Office, made the announcement.

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USCIS provided valuable assistance, as did the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives; the Cambridge and Woburn, Massachusetts, police departments; and U.K. law enforcement authorities.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. Reynolds III of the Major Crimes Unit prosecuted the case.

To report suspected immigration benefit fraud or abuse to USCIS, please use the USCIS Tip Form.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, please visit uscis.gov or follow us on X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, YouTube, Facebook and LinkedIn. *USCIS*

Over 172,000 Pakistanis leave country for jobs in Q1 2025

ISLAMABAD: In a notable increase, over 172,000 Pakistanis sought employment abroad in the first quarter of 2025, according to figures released by the Bureau of Immigration, as reported by The News International.

The report noted that at least 172,144 individuals left the country from January to March in search of superior job prospects overseas. Saudi Arabia was the leading destination for Pakistani workers, drawing the largest number of job seekers at 121,190. Oman ranked second, with 8,331 Pakistanis pursuing jobs, while the United Arab Emirates accepted 6,891, as highlighted by The News International.

Qatar also emerged as a favored option, with 12,989 Pakistanis securing employment

there, and Bahrain experienced an increase of 939 Pakistani workers. Other significant destinations included the United Kingdom (1,454), Türkiye (870), Greece (815), Malaysia (775), China (592), Azerbaijan (350), Germany (264), the United States (257), Italy (109), and Japan

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(108), according to a report by The News International.

In a profession breakdown for those who obtained jobs abroad, 99,139 individuals were classi-

fied as general laborers. Among skilled laborers, there were 38,274 drivers, 1,859 masons, 2,130 electricians, 1,689 cooks, 3,474 technicians, and 1,058 welders, as highlighted by The News International.

The emigration of professionals was also considerable, with 849 doctors and 1,479 engineers pursuing overseas opportunities. Additionally, 390 nurses and 436 teachers were among those who landed jobs in foreign countries during the first quarter of the year, as noted by The News International.

Previously, data from the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) indicated that approximately 28,000 Pakistani nationals applied for international protection in the EU+ between October 2023 and October 2024. *ANI*

Pakistan expels another 2,239 Afghan refugees in continued crackdown

ISLAMABAD: Over 2,239 Afghans were deported via the Torkham border as Pakistan escalated the ongoing forceful deportation of Afghan refugees.

The mass repatriation has continued following the end of the March 31 deadline, as per local media reports.

"The deported refugees were residing in different districts of Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Among those who came to the transit camp, 894 people were residing without documents, while 636 people were ACC card holders and 709 Afghans were transferred directly to the

"The deported refugees were residing in different districts of Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. Among those who came to the transit camp, 894 people were residing without documents, while 636 people were ACC card holders and 709 Afghans were transferred directly to the Torkham border"

Torkham border from different districts of Punjab and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir," said Khyber Deputy Commissioner Bilal Shahid speaking to The Express Tribune.

Last week, Afghan Minister of Industry and Commerce, Nooruddin Azizi, led a high-level delegation to Pakistan.

In a statement released later, the Minister underlined the importance of bilateral talks to develop effective solutions regarding the deportation of Afghan refugees.

He advocated for their voluntary repatriation following the standards set by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), ensuring that the process is safe and dignified, Afghan state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported

With the increasing wave of returning Afghan migrants from Pakistan, several migrants deported through the Torkham crossing recently said that they not only have no homes to live in, but they also do not own any land on which to build one.

"We ask that job opportunities be created for us. We have no homes, no land. All our belongings are left outside. There are no jobs, and no one has created employment for us. But our most urgent need is shelter." Afghan media outlet TOLO News reported, quoting Mohammad Nabi, a deported migrant from Pakistan.

Several deported Afghan migrants also report that Pakistani police treated them harshly, extorted money under various pretexts during the journey, and acted aggressively. The forcibly deported Afghan refugees said that Pakistani drivers exploited their vulnerability, charging excessive transportation fares. *IANS*

Agartala: Three Bangladeshi nationals held for illegal entry

AGARTALA: In a joint operation, the Government Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force (RPF), Border Security Force (BSF), and the intelligence department apprehended three Bangladeshi nationals, including a woman, at Agartala Railway Station on Saturday last week, the Agartala GRP said in a statement.

According to police, preliminary investigations suggest that all three had entered India illegally and were planning to travel further into southern states via train through Kolkata. Authorities suspect their movement was part of a broader human trafficking or illegal immigration network.

The arrested individuals have been identified as Kamrun Nessa (23), a resident of Dhaka, and two men--Md. Ismail Hossain (22) and Md. Noor Hossain (25), both from Chittagong, Bangladesh.

The trio is currently being interrogated at the Agartala GRP Police Station. Officials believe further arrests may follow as the investigation progresses. Police sources indicate that more crucial information is expected to be extracted during extended questioning.

A case has been officially registered at the Agartala GRP Police Station, and the accused will be presented before the Hon'ble Court tomorrow. Authorities are treating this as a serious breach of national security and are continuing efforts to uncover the full extent of the illegal network. *ANI*

US: Trump meets mother of murdered American citizen at White House

WASHINGTON DC: US President Donald Trump met with Patty Morin, the mother of Rachel Morin -- an American citizen brutally murdered by an illegal immigrant in 2023 -- at the Oval Office last week Wednesday.

Praising her resilient spirit, Trump told Morin, "She's a beautiful woman, she's been through hell". He added, "Your daughter's looking down, proud of you, just keep it going."

The somber meeting was shared by the White House in a video post on X. In the post, the administration contrasted Morin's visit with the actions of Senator Chris Van Hollen.

"While Sen. Chris Van Hollen tried to coddle an MS-13 alien in El Salvador, Angel Mom Patty Morin stood in the Oval Office with President Trump--fighting for her daughter, raped and murdered by an MS-13 alien from El Salvador," the White House stated.

<https://x.com/WhiteHouse/status/1912638960230146106>

Patty Morin earlier delivered an emotional and heart-breaking account of her daughter's murder during a White House press briefing. Rachel Morin was raped and killed along a hiking trail in Bel Air, Maryland, in August 2023. According to authorities, the convicted killer, Victor Antonio Martinez-Hernandez, was a fugitive from El Salvador and an illegal immigrant. *ANI*

Eight illegal Bangladeshi nationals detained in Delhi, deportation process underway

NEW DELHI: In a major crackdown on illegal immigration, the staff of Police Station South Campus, South West District, Delhi, has detained eight Bangladeshi nationals found residing unlawfully in various areas of the city.

The operation was executed on April 15, 2025, following a tip-off regarding the presence of illegal migrants near Satya Niketan Market.

Following their detention, the deportation process was promptly initiated with the assistance of the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), Delhi, and all eight individuals were transferred to the designated deportation center on April 16.

Investigations revealed that most of them had entered India illegally between 2007 and 2023 through various borders, including Tripura, Ghoja Donga, and Benapole, with some using the help of brokers. Several were found working in Delhi as domestic help or enrolled in the vocational training program.

Earlier, a team of Delhi police apprehended a Bangladeshi national "residing illegally" in the national capital.

He was later sent to the Deportation Centre with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO).

Delhi Police officials said that the team of Special Staff apprehended the Bangladeshi national identified as Ambrose, a resident of Nilphamari, Bangladesh.

They said the Special Staff of Southwest District has been directed to gather intelligence and take strict action against illegal migrants to prevent and detect crimes and monitor foreigners residing illegally in its jurisdiction.

The team held checks in vulnerable areas. The officials said staff received information through an informer about an illegal migrant seeking accommodation in the RK Puram area. The team approached the suspect, Ambrose, and inquired about his identity and valid documentation.

"During interrogation, the individual failed to produce valid Indian documents and admitted to entering India illegally approximately three years ago. He only possessed photocopies of Bangladeshi documents"

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"During interrogation, the individual failed to produce valid Indian documents and admitted to entering India illegally approximately three years ago. He only possessed photocopies of Bangladeshi documents. The suspect was taken into custody for further verification. After thorough enquiry and legal formalities, he was sent to the deportation Centre at the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO)," said Surendra Chaudhary, DCP of South West District. *ANI*

AAPI Legislative Day planned for May 8th 2025

India Post News Service

WASHINGTON, DC: Healthcare continues to be the center of the nation's focus, especially with changes in policies on immigration, Medicare/Medicaid, and Medical Education. AAPI's annual Legislative Day comes to be a vital part of AAPI's growing influence and having its united voice heard in the corridors of power.

"We are excited to announce that our next Legislative Day is on Thursday, May 8th, in Washington, DC," said Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI. "We expect to have the participation from dozens of key Congressmen and Senators. The annual Legislative Day will be a unique opportunity for AAPI to be part of the decision making process on matters related to healthcare."

Details on page 25

ITServe Alliance's Capitol Hill Day Planned for June 11

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: ITServe Alliance has planned to organize next in-person Capitol Hill Day in Washington, DC on June 11th, 2025," said Sateesh Reddy Nagilla, Director of ITServe Alliance Policy Advocacy Committee (PAC) & Immigration. "The conference will have participation by over 150 US Representatives and Senators, including influential committee chairs and members, whose decisions impact our businesses."

Details on page 27

COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

22 India Post

www.indiapost.com

April 25, 2025



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accorded community reception by CGISF

VIDYA SETHURAMAN

India Post News Service

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrived at the San Francisco International Airport on Sunday for her five-day visit to the United States, scheduled from April 20 to 25. Upon her arrival, she was received by Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Ambassador of India to the US, and Srikar Reddy Koppula, Consul General of India in San Francisco. The visit will include engagements in both San Francisco and Washington, DC. She will interact with top CEOs from prominent fund management firms during a Roundtable meeting with investors, besides holding bilateral meetings with CEOs from top information technology (IT) firms based in San Francisco.

On April 20, Minister Sitharaman participated in an event featuring the Indian diaspora in Fremont and interacted with them at the Heartfulness center. Consul General Dr Srikar Reddy welcomed the Finance Minister Sitharaman, Ambassador Vinay Kwatra, Finance Secretary Ajay Seth, dignitaries and diaspora to this memorable event. Dr Reddy



eulogized that Indian Americans account for 1.5% of the U.S. population, yet they continue to have an outsized and positive impact across different aspects of society. California is home to

approximately 925,000 Indian Americans, the Bay Area hosts the second-largest Indian American population in the U.S., after the New York metropolitan area. In Silicon Valley, they constitute a

significant portion of the workforce, with many holding leadership positions in major technology firms. He added beyond technology, Indian Americans have established successful ventures across various industries, contributing to California's diverse economy. The event was attended by Dr Raj Salwan, Mayor of Fremont and other dignitaries from San Jose, Santa Clara and neighboring cities.

In her address, Minister Sitharaman lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, saying that the "visionary leadership" of the Prime Minister and the stability provided by the continuing government are "making a difference for India."

Cont'd on page 23



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman receives a warm welcome from Ambassador of India to the United States of America Vinay Mohan Kwatra and Consul General of India in San Francisco Srikar Reddy Koppula on her arrival, at San Francisco International Airport, in California



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman delivers the keynote address to the Indian diaspora at a community gathering held at the India Community Centre, in San Francisco, California. (ANI Photo)

Bollywood's superstar Hrithik Roshan ignites Holi festival

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The Windy City was drenched in a kaleidoscope of colors and electrified by Bollywood charisma as

the stage.

Rangotsav 2025's Chicago stop was a milestone in Hrithik Roshan's USA tour, which also included Atlanta, GA, Dallas,

community spirit. Attendees enjoyed traditional Holi activities like color throwing, indulged in Holi-themed culinary delights, and danced to Hrithik's iconic songs. The

dance academies like Shirlzar Dance Company. The sound and screen production, expertly handled by Dimple, ensured a flawless experience.



Rangotsav 2025, America's biggest Holi bash, welcomed superstar Hrithik Roshan for an unforgettable meet-and-greet on April 12, 2025, at the National India Hub in Schaumburg, a Chicago suburb.

The fifth stop of Hrithik's whirlwind USA tour, this celebration drew over 3,000+ attendees from diverse Asian and multicultural backgrounds, all adorned in colorful attire, to revel in the joyous spirit of Holi. The event also saw dignitaries like Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison and Consul General Sanjiv Pal from the Consulate General of India grace

TX, Houston, TX, New Jersey, and Bay Area San Jose, CA. The event's seamless execution, vibrant performances, and Hrithik's genuine warmth left an indelible mark.

Organized by 3 Sixty Shows and AP Square, with national sponsors and Local promoters Gaurav Tutaja from Rajshi Events and Bhavna Modi from Manpasand.

Rangotsav 2025 was more than just a Holi celebration; it was a cultural extravaganza that showcased the best of Indian heritage through music, dance, and com-

event's highlight was the talk show segment, where Hrithik shared insights into his illustrious career and upcoming projects.

The event, emceed by Rex D'Souza and Zak Khan, featured performances by

Hrithik Roshan Talk show was emceed by Saba Azad. The Chicago event highlighted Hrithik's 42 minutes stage presence a masterclass in humility and connection.

Cont'd on page 29

Jihadi Terror Attack in Kashmir: Call for US Congress resolution for Global Unity to eradicate terrorism

WASHINGTON, DC: The Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) strongly condemns the horrific terrorist attack in Kashmir. On April 22, jihadi terrorists brutally attacked civilians in Pahalgam, Kashmir, killing at least 26 people, predominantly Hindus who were deliberately identified and targeted. Initial intelligence suggests the attack likely originated from groups operating with support from Pakistan - a nation with a long and troubling record of directly and indirectly sponsoring terrorism in India.

Over the past seven decades, more than hundred thousand people - overwhelmingly Hindus and Sikhs - have been killed or displaced by Islamist terrorism in India, a humanitarian tragedy that remains grossly underreported.

This latest massacre is not only an affront to India but a cowardly attempt to insult the United States as well, particularly as the U.S. Vice President JD Vance is currently on an official visit to India to strengthen ties between the world's largest democracies. It can be remembered that a similar deadly attack was carried out during President Clinton's India visit in March 2000,

in which 36 Sikhs were killed in a village named Chattisinghpura, Kashmir.

President Donald Trump and other world leaders have rightly condemned this cowardly attack and expressed solidarity with India. We urge the global community to move beyond words - to unite and take decisive action to eradicate terrorism and punish the states that sponsor it. In particular, we call for sanctions on countries that continue to harbor and support terrorist groups.

We thank the U.S. House of Representatives for swiftly condemning this heinous attack. We also urge the U.S. Congress to pass a formal resolution denouncing all terrorism and supporting India's right to defend its citizens.

Given that Hindus were explicitly targeted, we call upon the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) to break its silence and unequivocally condemn this act of jihadi terrorism against religious minorities in India.

It is time for the world to stand united, not just in mourning but in action, to dismantle the global infrastructure of terror once and for all.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accorded community reception by CGISF

Cont'd from page 22

She emphasized that the Prime Minister has been focused on good governance, technological advancement, entrepre-

tegric ally. He emphasized the pivotal role of the Indian diaspora in fortifying India-U.S. relations. In his diplomatic engagements, Ambassador Kwatra has reaffirmed his commitment to deepening the India-



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman welcomed upon her arrival by the Indian diaspora settled in San Francisco

neurship, and renewable energy, delivering results well within the time frame.

She asserted that India's growth potential is acknowledged by institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and that India is a vital player for global economic growth. Sitharaman underscored the government's commitment to transforming India into a developed nation, or "Viksit Bharat," by 2047. Prime Minister Modi's vision focuses on four key pillars: women, the underprivileged, youth, and farmers.

Ambassador Vinay Mohan Kwatra said India is a close partner of the U.S. for bilateral trade, foreign direct investments, defense cooperation, and an important stra-

U.S. strategic partnership, focusing on areas such as trade, technology, and defense cooperation. He lauded the efforts of Consular services offered by CGISF under the leadership of Dr Reddy and announced the opening of VFS office in San Jose.

From April 22 to 25, Minister Sitharaman will participate in the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington, DC. She is scheduled to attend the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting, the Development Committee Plenary, the IMF/World Bank Group's International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) Plenary, and the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable.

AACIO celebrates Dr. Navin Nanda Legacy

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions organized by the American Association of Cardiologists of Indian Origin (AACIO), during the annual American College of Cardiology's (ACC), co-hosted by the Indian American Medical Association-IL and International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound (ISCU), was held recently in Chicago,

The medical and scientific event, attended by over 200 medical professionals and leaders from across the United States, featured state-of-the-art lectures and four young investigator awards.

A highlight of the annual was the announcement of the ACC's Distinguished Award for International Service, named in perpetuity in honor of Dr. Navin C. Nanda, MD, FACC. This is the first time that ACC has named one of its most distinguished and prestigious annual awards not only after an eminent US Cardiologist of Indian Origin, but also for any Cardiologist born outside the USA.

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology, Board of Trustees, Brynne MacCann, Director of ACC Philanthropy, attended the meeting to congratulate Dr.

namoorthy, M.D., FSCAI¹, Gilbert H. L. Tang, erakis, M.D., FACC¹, Annoporna S. Kini, D.O., FACC¹, FSCAI¹

y, M.D., FACC¹, FSCAI¹, New York



Dr. Navin C Nanda with the leadership of AACIO Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Dr. Gopal Lalimalani and Dr. Samir Shah at the AACIO Annual Conference in Chicago



Dr. Nanda with the President of the American Association of Cardiologists of Indian Origin Dr. Rakesh Sharma at the ACC Gala

Nanda and expressed her gratitude to AACIO for their support.

On behalf of the ACC Board of Trustees, MacCann, in her message said, "The ACC Board of Trustees is thankful to AACIO for nominating and supporting the

International Service Award in Dr. Nanda's name, recognizing his pioneering work in echocardiography and dedication to education and mentorship. This award will continue to inspire future generations of cardiovascular leaders."

AACIO President Rakesh Sharma, said, "We're proud to recognize ACC's decision to establish this prestigious award in Dr. Nanda's name, a testament to his enduring legacy. His groundbreaking work and tireless efforts in mentoring have

left a lasting impact."

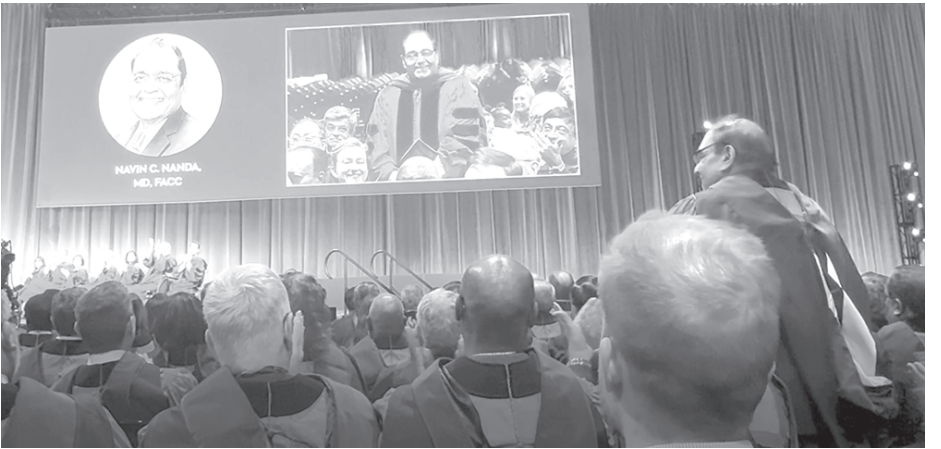
Dr. Nanda expressed his gratitude, stating, "The designation of the ACC International Service Award in my name is the most meaningful achievement in my career. I'm grateful to the ACC Board and AACIO Executive Committee, especially Dr. Sharma, for their support."

Dr. Nanda, a Distinguished Professor of Medicine, is recognized worldwide as the "Father of Modern Echocardiography" for his pioneering contributions not only in adult but also pediatric and fetal echocardiography.

ACCIO, founded in 1986, is a foremost organization that represents the interests of almost 6,000 Cardiologists of Indian Origin practicing in the United States.

The inaugural Navin C. Nanda International Service Award will be presented at ACC's Annual Scientific Session in 2026 in New Orleans, LA.

The medical and scientific event, attended by over 200 medical professionals and leaders from across the United States, featured state-of-the-art lectures and four young investigator awards



Recognition of Dr. Nanda at the American College of Cardiology Convention 2025 in Chicago

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AAPI Legislative Day planned for May 8th 2025

India Post News Service

WASHINGTON, DC: Healthcare continues to be the center of the nation's focus, especially with changes in policies on immigration, Medicare/Medicaid, and Medical Education. AAPI's annual Legislative Day comes to be a vital part of AAPI's growing influence and having its united voice heard in the corridors of power.

"We are excited to announce that our next Legislative Day is on Thursday, May 8th, in Washington, DC," said Dr.



Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI

Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI. "We expect to have the participation from dozens of key Congressmen and Senators. The annual Legislative Day will be a unique opportunity for AAPI to be part of the decision making process on matters related to healthcare."

The day-long event will begin at 10:00 am and will conclude in the afternoon at 3 pm, giving participants the opportunity to meet with their own Congressman/Senators on their own time.

AAPI represents the interests of over 100,000 physicians and 40,000 medical students and residents of Indian heritage in the United States. Dr. Sunil Kaza, Chair of AAPI BOT said, "The mission AAPI, the largest ethnic organization of physicians, is to provide a forum to facilitate and enable Indian American physicians to excel at inpatient care, teaching and research, and to pursue their aspirations in professional and community affairs. The Executive Committee is working hard, enabling AAPI's voice to be heard in the corridors of power, and thus taking AAPI to new heights."

During the annual Legislative Conference, among others, AAPI will discuss Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursements, Prior Authorization, Immigration Reform, Increased Residency Slots, Addressing Physician Shortage, and Scope of Medical Practice Issues.

"AAPI Legislative Day is a flagship annual event that is eagerly awaited to rekindle and renew our energy in bringing up the issues that we need to bring to the attention of national policy makers and leaders of the US Congress on Capitol Hill," said Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, president-elect of AAPI. "It is a tradition of nearly three de-

acades, which has brought many important transformations in National Healthcare policies that have helped Physicians of Indian Origin. Now, it is the need of the day to renew our friendship with new leadership under President Donald Trump and Vice President J D Vance and brief the Congressional leadership on issues that are important to us."

"AAPI is once again in the forefront in bringing many burning health care issues facing the community at large and bringing this to the Capitol and to the US Con-

"We expect to have the participation from dozens of key Congressmen and Senators. The annual Legislative Day will be a unique opportunity for AAPI to be part of the decision making process on matters related to healthcare"

gress," says Dr. Sudhir Parikh

AAPI has been seeking to collectively shape the best health care for the people of the US, with the physicians at the helm, caring for the medically underserved as it has done for several decades, when physicians of Indian origin came to the US in larger numbers.

US is currently experiencing a physician shortage, which will be exacerbated by retiring baby boomers, affecting thousands of patients' access to a physician,

and ultimately the health care they need, AAPI has strongly supported the much needed Immigration Reform, particularly with the focus on H-1 and J-1 visas are used by many South Asian American physicians, playing an important role in providing critical health care across the country.

"The conference will focus on Immigration Reform and ways for AAPI members to be part of the process in the implementation of the health care reform in this country," Dr. Meher Medavaram, Vice President of AAPI said. "While medical

school enrollment has climbed 2% annually over the past five years through new schools and expansion of existing schools, the number of residency slots funded by Medicare has been capped at about 100,000 since 1997," he added.

"AAPI continues to discover her potential to be a player in shaping the healthcare of each patient. For more information on AAPI and its several noble initiatives benefiting AAPI members and the www.aapiusa.org

Promoting a healthier California: Attorney General Bonta announces new funding available for local public agencies through the 2025-2026 tobacco grant program

OAKLAND: California Attorney General Rob Bonta today announced that the California Department of Justice (DOJ) is now accepting proposals for the 2025-2026 Tobacco Grant Program, which will provide approximately \$28.5 million in grant funding to eligible local agencies. The program aims to reduce the illegal sale of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, to our youth. Any local public agency within the State of California that has authority to enforce tobacco-related state laws or local ordinances related to retail tobacco sales and marketing is eligible to apply. This may include police and sheriffs' departments, district and city attorneys and county counsels, public health departments, cities, counties, and public school/college districts. Information on the application process is available at oag.ca.gov/tobaccogrants. DOJ will also hold a Zoom webinar on Wednesday, April 30 at 10:00 AM PT to provide guidance to those interested in applying for the Tobacco Grant

Program. To RSVP for the webinar.

"At the California Department of Justice, we are committed to protecting our youth from the dangers posed by tobacco products. The reality is that, especially in recent years, companies have been aggressively going after our young people and attempting to turn as many of them as pos-

"At the California Department of Justice, we are committed to protecting our youth from the dangers posed by tobacco products. The reality is that, especially in recent years, companies have been aggressively going after our young people and attempting to turn as many of them as possible into regular customers"

sible into regular customers," said Attorney General Bonta. "I encourage local agencies to apply to the Tobacco Grant Program - it is a critical tool that allows us to collaborate and hold accountable those companies and individuals who violate our laws around tobacco products."

Companies target our youth by making and marketing tobacco products with a myriad of kid-friendly flavors and loading those products with nicotine, a highly addictive chemical that harms the developing brains of children and young adults. Surveys show flavored tobacco products remain the products of choice for young

people. In 2024, among students reporting current e-cigarette use, 87.6% used flavored products. Tobacco usage during adolescence increases the risk for lifelong nicotine addiction and adverse health consequences.

DOJ's Tobacco Grant Program aims to

reduce childhood addiction to tobacco products by supporting local partners who:

Enforce the statewide flavor ban and similar local flavor ordinances.

Prosecute and penalize retailers who violate statewide and local tobacco laws, including those who sell or market tobacco products to youth under the age of 21, including over the internet.

Conduct retail inspections to ensure compliance.

The program is funded by Proposition 56, the California Healthcare, Research and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016. To date, the Tobacco Grant Program has distributed approximately \$212 million in grant funding to approximately 470 grantees through a competitive process.

Attorney General Bonta remains committed to combating the illegal marketing and sale of tobacco products. Just this year, he announced a lawsuit against Flumgio Technology Inc., Berkeley Int'l Business Crew, and their founder.

County of Santa Clara to host free prescription drug and sharps "Take Back Day"

The County's Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency has collected more than 520 tons of sharps and prescription medication since 2017

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, Calif.: On Saturday, April 26, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. the County of Santa Clara's Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA) will host a free prescription drug and sharps Take Back Day. Sharps are disposable hypodermic needles, syringes, lancets, and other medical devices used for self-injection or blood tests. CEPA, the County Public Health Department, and partners encourage the public to make an appointment to dispose of unwanted and expired sharps, tablets, capsules, patches, and other liquid or solid forms of prescription drugs, free of charge.

Members of the community who are interested in participating in the Take Back Day event will need to make an appointment at hhw.santaclaracounty.gov/events/santa-clara-drop-event-426 or by calling (408) 299-7300. For reasons of public safety, the location of the event will be provided once an appointment has been made. This event cannot accept illegal drugs.

"I'm excited to join our community in recognizing Take Back Day, a vital initiative to safely discard unwanted medications and prevent accidental harm or overdose," said Board President Otto Lee. "Alongside our county's year-round free disposal options - including drop-off kiosks, community events, and mail-back services - Take Back Day is crucial in keeping our friends, families, and community safe. We at the County are proud to lead efforts in responsible medical disposal, by working with pharmaceutical producers to fund and manage secure collection, transportation, and destruction of unused medication. By offering safe and

convenient opportunities like Take Back Day, we are protecting our community members and saving lives."

"Improper disposal of unwanted medications and sharps is a public hazard that endangers our communities, our pets, and the environment," said Edgar Nolasco, Director of the County of Santa Clara's Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA). "By taking part in our free Take Back Day, residents become stewards of public health and environmental safety-helping to keep toxic substances out of our water, safeguarding wildlife, and ensuring the resilience of our ecosystems

Health Department. "Public Health helps to collect used needles because it keeps them off the ground and prevents accidental needlesticks. Collecting sharps also prevents reuse that can spread diseases like hepatitis."

Most people who misuse prescription medication obtain it from a family member or friend. Pharmaceutical drugs can be just as dangerous as street drugs when taken without a prescription or a doctor's supervision.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 50 percent of Americans take at least one pre-

Sharps hidden in the trash can cause needle pricks and pose a risk of infection to sanitation workers, trash haulers, family, and friends. Sharps should be placed in a biohazard sharps container and taken to a drop-off location for disposal. Sharps should only be used once and discarded immediately to reduce the risk of infection from reuse.

On Saturday, April 26, Take Back Day events will be held across the nation to reduce these risks.

Beyond Take Back Day, there are opportunities to regularly and safely dispose of unneeded sharps and medications at county pharmacies, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, and businesses working to clean out medicine cabinets throughout the year. Anyone who needs information on how to find a drop-off location or how to return unwanted drugs and sharps via a mail back service can visit the sites or call the numbers listed below.

med-projectsantaclara.org or call 844-482-5322 for unwanted medicine

<https://med-project.org/locations/santa-clara> 844-MED-Project for unwanted sharps

Throughout the year, Public Health's harm reduction services prevent diseases that can spread through shared sharps. These services are anonymous and confidential.

Visit publichealth.santaclaracounty.gov/harm-reduction-program or call 408-792-5529.

Members of the community who are interested in participating in the Take Back Day event will need to make an appointment at hhw.santaclaracounty.gov/events/santa-clara-drop-event-426 or by calling (408) 299-7300

for generations to come."

CEPA has been working with partners MED-Project and Inmar to help people safely dispose of unwanted drugs and sharps since 2017. During that time, 1.04 million pounds (more than 520 tons) of unwanted drugs and sharps have been collected for proper disposal at Take Back Days and across 100 drop off sites in Santa Clara County.

"That old bottle of pills in your medicine cabinet could hurt someone you love, sparking an addiction or even an overdose. Please dispose of them safely when you no longer need them," said Dr. Sarah Rudman, Acting Health Officer and Director of the County of Santa Clara Public

scription drug. Safe and convenient disposal locations help prevent significant risks to human health and to the environment. Unwanted drugs left in homes can be accidentally ingested or abused by children or adults, increasing the risk of poisoning, addiction, and death. Unwanted drugs inappropriately thrown in the trash or flushed down toilets can leach into the ground and even end up in the water supply.

Governor Newsom statement on the passing of Pope Francis

SACRAMENTO, California: Governor Gavin Newsom issued the following statement today on the passing of Pope Francis:

"Jennifer and I join the world in mourning the passing of Pope Francis. He saw God in all His creatures, reminding us of humanity's obligations towards each other and the world we live in, asking us to 'care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation.'

"Like the saint honored by His Holiness's papal name, Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis led with his love of peace and creation and sought to protect and lift up the vulnerable. He cham-

pioned human dignity, especially that of the poor, called the world to urgent climate action, condemned the death penalty, and confronted painful truths - including the Church's role in the genocide of Indigenous peoples. His papacy was characterized by moral courage, a profound respect for all creation, and a deep conviction in the transformative power of love to heal and unite.

"As we mourn His Holiness, we honor him by choosing to believe that a better world is possible through grace and kindness, and through fellowship with our neighbors, no matter our differences."

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ITServe Alliance's Capitol Hill Day Planned for June 11

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: ITServe Alliance has planned to organize next in-person Capitol Hill Day in Washington, DC on June 11th, 2025," said Sateesh Reddy Nagilla, Director of ITServe Alliance Policy Advocacy Committee (PAC) & Immigration. "The conference will have participation by over 150 US Representatives and Senators, including influential committee chairs and members, whose decisions impact our businesses. The daylong event will feature Capitol Hill Meetings and interactive sessions with US Congressmen and Senators."

Capitol Hill Day is being organized with the objective of showcasing to the lawmakers some of the significant contributions of the ITServe members to the country's economy through Technology & Innovation, local employment, and STEM education. The event will also highlight key concerns faced by small businesses.

Sudheer Venkat Chakka, CPAC- Managing Director said, "With significant immigration legislation expected in Congress this year, we urgently request robust support from our ITServe members for CPAC's strategic initiatives, including policy advocacy and essential fundraising aimed at engaging Members of Congress. We are requesting more members join the ITServe Capitol Hill Day in our nation's Capital."

Anju Vallabhaneni, President of ITServe, while emphasizing the importance of Capitol Hill Day, said, "ITServe Alliance's Capitol Hill Day will serve as a powerful platform in educating

upon every member to be part of this important event, advocate for ITServe, and make our voices heard in the corridors of power. Also, if you have a relationship with a member of Congress or their staff,

strategic legal initiatives," Nagilla added.

ITServe supports the HIRE Act (High Skilled Immigration Reform for Employment), introduced in Congress in 2024. Innovation, STEM education, and avoiding brain drain are the highlights of the Bill. It has advocated to have the STEM graduates with U.S master's Degrees and/or Ph.D. holders from the H1-B CAP quota removed and make it unlimited to retain the top talent & innovation in the Country.

ITServe Alliance comprises of small and medium-sized businesses that fulfill the growing demand for highly skilled professionals in America. Its members play a crucial role in developing and maintaining essential IT systems for corporations, governments, and various organizations.

Siva Mooppanar, President-Elect of ITServe, while summarizing the importance of Capitol Hill Day said, "ITServe Alliance is consistently working to protect its members' needs. To that end, ITServe Alliance, through its PAC team, is advocating on Capitol Hill and with the Administration. ITServe Alliance will use its collective voice to communicate with policymakers on important issues impacting our members."

For information on ITServe and its many www.itserve.org



policymakers on the issues that are important to our members and the business community, ensuring our needs and views are reflected in policy debates and outcomes."

Urging ITServe members to be active and work collaboratively in making this important event successful, Raghu Chittimalla, ITServe Governing Board Chair said, "It's our collective voice. I call

please enter that information too. Through your help we will be able to accomplish our goals through grassroots and advocacy."

"In order to achieve the goals that benefit the IT Sector companies, the labor force, and the larger US economy, our process hinges on our 3 fundamental pillars of the ITServe PAC: education, advocacy, and

Dr. Param Puneet Singh is PCS chairman for 2025

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago (PCS) (www.PCSChicago.org), a leading organization dedicated to promoting Punjabi culture, language, and performing arts, has officially announced its leadership for the year 2025.

At a recent meeting of PCS officials, Dr. Param Puneet Singh was unanimously appointed as Chairman for the 2025 term.

Dr. Singh, a distinguished Interventional Cardiologist and devoted community advocate; he is also a member of the prestigious Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society.

A prolific academic, Dr. Singh has

authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and abstracts presented at national and international conferences. He was honored with the Young Investigator Award by the American Association of Cardiologists of Indian Origin (AACIO) in 2010.

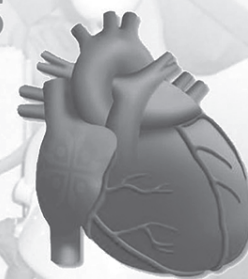
Reflecting on his appointment, Dr. Singh shared, "I am honored to serve as Chairman of this remarkable organization. Having been invited as Chief Guest in 2022, I've witnessed firsthand the impact PCS has made over the years. It is one of the oldest and most respected

cultural organizations in the region, and I am committed to supporting its mission in any way I can."



Dr Param Puneet Singh- Interventional Cardiologist: Chairman 2025, PCS - Chicago

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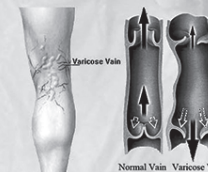


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Inner Light, Outer Unity: BAPS celebrates Ram Navami and Swaminarayan Jayanti



India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Devotees across North America gathered at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandirs to celebrate the auspicious birth anniversaries of Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan and Bhagwan Shri Ram with deep spiritual fervor and devotion.

Observed on the Hindu calendric day of Chaitra Sud 9-which fell on April 6 in 2025-these sacred birthdays commemorate the earthly manifestations of Bhagwan Shri Ram and Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan.

Bhagwan Shri Ram is revered for his exemplary virtues of righteousness, compassion, and courage,

This year's celebration embraced the theme "Unity Begins Within," encouraging introspection and the cultivation of unity in one's spiritual life, family, and community.

In observance of the occasion, thousands of devotees across the continent undertook nirjala upvaas (a waterless fast) and engaged in continuous jap and dhun, chanting the sacred name of God throughout the day. These spiritual observances fostered a deep atmosphere of devotion and mindfulness, reinforcing the personal inner transformation at the heart of the celebration's theme.

The festivities across BAPS Mandirs featured a blend of devotional rituals and cultural programs. From aarti and abhishek rituals to joyous processions, each element resonated with spiritual energy and reverence. Children and youth led inspiring cultural performances, including devotional dances, musical presentations, and thoughtful skits that portrayed the lives and messages of Bhagwan Shri Ram and Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan.

At the heart of the programs were the four pillars of unity-mahima (glory), milan



(togetherness), madad (support), and maafi (forgiveness). These were vividly illustrated through stories from the Ramayan and the Swaminarayan tradition. Shabri's unwavering faith embodied mahima, Sugriva's alliance with Ram reflected madad, and Kaikeyi's redemption demonstrated maafi. Parallel narratives from Bhagwan Swaminarayan's interactions with devotees like Dada Khachar, Jivan Koli, and Jhinabhai Thakor illustrated the same virtues in everyday life.

Swamis offered impactful discourses on these themes, emphasizing the relevance of these values in navigating modern challenges and nurturing harmonious relationships.

BAPS is a spiritual, volunteer-driven fellowship dedicated to improving society through individual growth, by fostering values of faith, service, and global harmony. BAPS runs on the dedication and commitment of tens of thousands of full-time and part-time volunteers from diverse professional and social backgrounds who contribute millions of volunteer hours annually. In more than 100 communities in North America and 3,500 communities worldwide, BAPS plays a pivotal role in preserving and nurturing Indian traditions and values of Hindu culture while addressing the spiritual, moral, and social challenges in the world.



From Punjab to the Midwest: Celebrating 5500 Years of Linguistic Heritage

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The vibrant spirit of Punjabi culture echoed across the halls of the National India Hub in Schaumburg on Sunday, April 6, as the Punjabi community from across the Midwest came together to mark International Mother Language Day with a special focus on Punjabi literature and heritage.

Organized by the Punjabi Community of the US Midwest, the evening honored the deep cultural and literary significance of Punjabi, a language with a rich 5,500-year-old history. This year's celebration held special meaning, as it coincided with the 25th Anniversary of the Silver Jubilee of International Mother Language Day, first

proclaimed by UNESCO in 1999 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity around the globe.

The event brought together an impressive lineup of renowned Punjabi authors, poets, and thinkers, including Dr. Atamjit, recipient of the Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards, Ravinder Singh Sahra, Raj Lally Batala, Kashish Hoshiarpuri, Sajid Chaudhary, Abid Rasheed, Rakind Kaur, Gurleen Kaur, Tahira Rida, Amrit Pal Kaur, Gurbaksh Randhawa, and Ghulam Mustafa Anjum among others. Their presence and performances left a lasting impact on an audience eager to reconnect with their roots.

The chief guest Ghosh expressed deep

joy at witnessing children speak Punjabi on stage, calling it the true spirit of International Mother Language Day. He emphasized that many regional languages, including Punjabi and Bengali, are under pressure due to global economic and digital forces. "We must use technology, es-

pecially AI, to preserve and promote our languages," he urged

for the younger generations growing up abroad," he said. The event also featured recitations of Punjabi poetry, musical performances celebrating folk heritage, and panel discussions on the significance of language preservation in diaspora communities.



Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago Year 2025 Board Formed

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: The Punjabi Cultural Society of Chicago (PCS), a leading non-profit dedicated to promoting Punjabi culture, language, and performing arts in the Chicagoland area, has announced the formation of its executive board for the year 2025.

At the helm of this dynamic team is Navtej Singh Sohi, who has been named President of PCS for 2025. Sohi, a long-time contributor and dedicated member of PCS, brings a wealth of leadership experience and cultural passion to the role. Over

PCS continues to celebrate Punjabi heritage through programs such as the Punjabi Arts Drawing Competition, Punjabi Maa Boli Month, Graduation Night for Students, and its participation in the Chicago Thanksgiving Parade, among many other initiatives.

PCS Executive Board for 2025:

- President: Navtej Singh Sohi
- Vice President: Bikram Singh Sohi
- Executive Secretary: Gurlal Singh Bhattal
- Finance Director: Paramjot Singh Parmar



the years, he has served in numerous board positions. Navtej Sohi is currently serving as Director of Powertrain Engineering at International Motors (Traton), he holds more than 25 U.S. patents, has published 10+ technical journal papers and 40+ papers.

"We have a dedicated team of PCS officials working hard to produce meaningful programs," said Sohi. "Our next major event, Rangla Punjab 2025, will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Copernicus Center, 5216 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, IL.

• Asst. Finance & IT Director: Gurpreet Singh Sidhu

• Asst. Executive Secretary: Jigerdeep Singh Dhillon

• Sports Director: Amitpaul Singh Gill

• Inter-Community Director: Tejveer Singh Soodan

• Youth Director: Paramvir Kaur

P.C.S. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) all volunteer community service organization devoted to promoting Punjabi culture, performing arts, language, education, sports, and good citizenship in the Chicago Metropolitan area and beyond.

pecially AI, to preserve and promote our languages," he urged

He encouraged the community to develop localized Punjabi content and make it He envisioned a future where AI enables seamless translation, connecting people across languages while preserving their roots.

Darshan Singh Dhaliwal, the event's Chief Patron and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Samman Awardee, echoed similar sentiments. "Punjabi is more than just a language. It is the soul of our traditions, songs, folklore, and everyday expressions. It is our duty to nurture it, especially

Several poets mesmerized the audience with their verses, painting vivid images of Punjab's landscapes, familial bonds, spiritual depth, and socio-political themes.

Other key organizing team members included Ms. Kamlesh Kapoor (Joint Coordinator), Rajinder Singh Mago, Kuljeet Dyalpuri, Gurmukh Singh Bhullar, Charandeep Singh, Jasmeet Singh, Ms. Jasbir Mann, PS Mann, Aman Kullar, Jigerdeep Singh Dhillon, Narinder Sra, Rajinder Dayal, Surjit Sallan, Harjinder Jindi, and Amardev Bandesha.

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Bollywood's superstar Hrithik Roshan ignites Holi festival

Cont'd from page 23

Reflecting on his journey, he said, "Thank you, Chicago, for making me feel so special today. I feel like a giant. I'm going behind the camera for my next film, Krrish 4, and I need all your blessings."

He also teased his next release, War 2, set to hit theaters on August 14, 2025, praising co-star Junior NTR for his acting prowess and culinary skills. "War 2 is bigger, better, and I'm really proud of it," Hrithik declared, igniting excitement among fans.

Hrithik's connection with Chicago was palpable. "I love Chicago; it's amazing. My stomach is full of your pizzas, and the air here feels so good," he enthused, promising to return. His speech resonated deeply as he shared his vision for the next 25 years: "I want my next 25 years to be a journey of becoming, learning, failing, and rising again.

The award ceremony honored community leaders for their outstanding contribu-

tions, with Hrithik personally felicitating luminaries such as Amit Amin and Dave Patel for their hospitality excellence, Deepthi Karlapudi for humanitarian service, Sai Ravi Suribhotla for leadership in real estate, Gulzar Singh for shaping Chicago's skyline, Dhitu Bhagvankar for entrepreneurial event, ensuring a vibrant atmosphere.

The event's success was a testament to the tireless efforts of organizers Gaurav Tuteja, Bhavna Modi, Payal Shah, smog others.

Syed Sabahat Jamal was the head of security for the movement & coordination of Bollywood's superstar "Hrithik Roshan".

"Rango in Chicago with Hrithik Roshan is that he graciously interacted with fans, shaking hands, signing autographs, and posing for selfie photos with a friendly demeanor that particularly charmed youngsters and kids, politeness, making every moment a success.

With peak fire season on horizon, California launches statewide wildfire preparedness campaign

What you need to know: CAL FIRE is launching a new campaign supporting Californians to take steps now - including home hardening and defensible space - to prepare for peak fire season

SACRAMENTO: "Prepare your home and property! Start at the house and work your way out." Millions of Californians will soon see that message as the state launches a new wildfire preparedness campaign to support preparation efforts for fire season.

As California heads into peak wildfire season, CAL FIRE is urging residents across the state to take proactive steps now to protect their homes and communi-

ties. Now is the time to prepare your home and property said Governor Gavin Newsom.

This year's campaign emphasizes two essential strategies in wildfire preparedness: home hardening and defensible space. Now through late May residents across the state will see digital and social media advertising, posters and materials at hardware and convenience stores, and messaging at gas pumps and other popular locations in

including AI and satellite technology to fight fires.

Key tips to prepare for wildfire Home hardening:

Install or upgrade to fire-resistant materials on roofs, vents, siding, windows, and decks.

Clear debris from roofs, gutters, vents, and under decks.

Seal all cracks and openings larger than 1/8 inch to prevent embers from entering the home.

Defensible space:

Maintain a 5-foot ember-resis-



ties. Today's campaign launch follows Governor Newsom's action last month proclaiming a state of emergency to fast-track critical projects protecting communities from wildfire, ahead of peak fire season.

2025 has already seen an unprecedented start to the year with January's Eaton and Palisades fires in Los Angeles. These fires rank as the second and third most destructive in California's history, underpinning the importance of acting now to prepare one's family, property, and community for wildfire.

The Los Angeles fires are a stark reminder of the year-round threat wildfire poses for our communities. As we head into peak fire season, we're ramping up efforts to communicate with those in areas where preparedness measures like home hardening and defensible space can save

Wildland Urban Interface communities. Outreach will be delivered in both English and Spanish to reach as many Californians as possible.

Creating a five foot buffer zone of defensible space, known as Zone 0, and taking steps to harden your home has been scientifically proven to be the most effective way to increase the likelihood of your home surviving a wildfire.

Governor Newsom has invested unprecedented resources into wildfire response and prevention, including nearly doubling CAL FIRE's budget to \$4 billion and investing 10x the amount than when the Governor took office for forest and land management. The state has also created the world's largest aerial firefighting fleet, increased the use of prescribed burns, and implemented new technologies

tant zone immediately around the home-no flammable vegetation or materials.

Maintain 100 feet of defensible space, including trimming trees, cutting grasses, and removing dead vegetation.

Store combustible items (firewood, propane tanks, vehicles) at least 30 feet away from structures.

To make preparation easier, CAL FIRE offers the firePLANNER tool at ReadyForWildfire.org, where residents can:

Create a custom wildfire readiness plan.

Access checklists, safety tips, and alerts.

Stay informed with real-time wildfire and evacuation updates.

Now is the time to act. Start at the house and work your way out. Learn more at ReadyForWildfire.org.

Visa revocation has disproportionate impact on students from India

India Post News Service

CHICAGO: Approximately 50% of international students in the United States (US) who recently had their visas revoked or Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) records terminated were from India, according to the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA).

At least 1,024 students across 160 colleges, universities, and university systems have had their legal status affected since late March, with students from Air India (AI) flights to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and other major entry points being particularly impacted.

The data collected by AILA from 327 reports reveals a disproportionate impact on Indian students, who represent half of all affected

Chinese students account for 14% of cases, with significant numbers also coming from South Korea, Nepal, and Bangladesh. This situation has created uncertainty for thousands of international students pursuing education in American institutions.

According to AILA's statement, "The Department of State (DoS) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are aggressively targeting international students, including those without a history of protest, for visa revocation, termination of their status, and removal."

The organization has called for greater transparency, oversight, and accountability to prevent further arbitrary visa revocations and SEVIS record terminations.

US Department of State spokesperson Margaret MacLeod emphasized that the administration is rigorously enforcing immigration laws, including the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Alien Registration Act.

"If you follow the law, America offers opportunities. But those who violate the law will face the consequences," MacLeod stated when questioned about issues faced by Indian students at various US universities.

MacLeod also urged individuals residing in the US illegally to voluntarily return to their home countries, saying, "There is still an opportunity to return to your homeland." She directed them to contact the Department of Homeland Security or use the CBP app to facilitate their departures.

The Indian government has acknowledged the situation affecting its students in the United States. Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), stated:

We are aware that several Indian students have received communication from the US government regarding their F-1 visa status, which happens to be the student visa. We are looking into the matter. Our embassy and consulates are in touch with the students to provide support."

This situation is particularly concerning given that more than 330,000 Indian students were enrolled in US higher education institutions in the 2023-2024 academic year-a 23% increase from the previous year-making India the country with the highest number of students in the US.

However, reports indicate that the number of visas issued to Indian students fell 30% in February, the first month of the second Trump administration.

Several affected students have filed lawsuits against the Trump administration, arguing that the government denied them due process when it suddenly revoked their permission to be in the US.

These legal challenges highlight the growing tension between immigration enforcement policies and the rights of international students.

Philosophy

NISARGADATTA MAHARAJ

Without breach in continuity how can there be rebirth? Can there be renewal without death? Even the darkness of sleep is refreshing and rejuvenating. Without death we would have been bogged up for ever in eternal senility.

When life and death are seen as essential to each other, as two aspects of one being, that is immortality. To see the end in the beginning and beginning in the end is the intimation of eternity. Definitely, immortality is not continuity. Only the process of change continues. Nothing lasts.

Awareness is not of time. Time exists in consciousness only. Beyond consciousness where are time and space?

With me the idea 'my body', as different from other bodies, is not there. To me it is 'a body', not 'my body', 'a mind', not 'my mind'. The mind looks after the body all right, I need not interfere. What needs to be done is being done.

You may not be quite conscious of



Nisargadatta Maharaj

sessed by desires and fears, full of strife and struggle, meaningless and joyless - normal? To be acutely conscious of your body is it normal? To be torn by feelings, tortured by thoughts: is it normal?

A healthy body, a healthy mind live largely unperceived by their owner; only occasionally, through pain or suffering they call for attention and insight. Why not extend the same to the entire personal life?

One can function rightly, responding well and fully to whatever happens, without having to bring it into the focus of awareness. When self-control becomes second nature, awareness shifts its focus to deeper levels of existence.

What harm is there in making automatic, what is habitual and repetitive? It is automatic anyhow. But when it is also chaotic, it causes pain and suffering and calls for attention. The entire purpose of a clean and well-ordered life is to liberate man from the thralldom of chaos and the burden of sorrow.

Personality is merely a reflection of the real. Why should not the reflection

Can there be renewal without death?

A healthy body, a healthy mind live largely unperceived by their owner

your physiological functions, but when it comes to thoughts and feelings, desires and fears you become acutely self-conscious. To me these too are largely unconscious.

I find myself talking to people, or doing things quite correctly and appropriately, without being very much conscious of them.

Devotion to your goal makes you live a clean and orderly life, given to search for truth and to helping people, and realisation makes noble virtue easy and spontaneous, by removing for good the obstacles in the shape of desires and fears.

What of death? I am double dead. Not only am I dead to my body, but to my mind too. A tremendously complex work is going on all the time in your brain and body, are you conscious of it? Not at all. Yet for an outsider all seems to be going on intelligently and purposefully. Why not admit that one's entire personal life may sink largely below the threshold of consciousness and yet proceed sanely and smoothly?

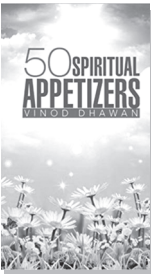
What is normal? Is your life - ob-

be true to the original as a matter of course, automatically? Need the person have any designs of its own? The life of which it is an expression will guide it.

Once you realise that the person is merely a shadow of the reality, but not reality itself, you cease to fret and worry. You agree to be guided from within and life becomes a journey into the unknown.

Excerpted from 'I Am That - Dialogues of Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj'. The 128th birth anniversary of Nisargadatta Maharaj was observed on April 17

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS
Vinod Dhawan



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BIMSTEC: Structural and political challenges hobble greater regional integration

KALYAN ROY

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectorial Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) successfully concluded its 6th Summit in Bangkok on April 4, under the theme Prosperous, Resilient and Open (PRO BIMSTEC). The summit aimed to further integrate the region across all possible sectors of cooperation. BIMSTEC is an inter-regional organization comprising Bay of Bengal littoral states that bridges South and Southeast Asia. It was established in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration with four founding members: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. The grouping later expanded to include Myanmar (1997), Nepal and Bhutan (2004), bringing the total membership to seven. The Bay of Bengal region is home to approximately 1.8 billion people-about 22 percent of the global population-with a combined GDP of USD 5.2 trillion. Additionally, 25 percent of global trade passes through this region.

For nearly two decades, however, BIMSTEC did not receive due attention, as

Leaders also signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, highlighting BIMSTEC's openness to collaboration with like-minded regional and international organizations. Following the adoption of the BIMSTEC Charter at the Colombo Summit in 2022, this summit further strengthened the institutional framework by adopting "Rules of Procedure." Additionally, the formation of an Eminent Persons Group on the Future Direction of BIMSTEC marked another significant step, offering comprehensive recommendations for the organization's future.

Through these initiatives, BIMSTEC is reaffirming its role as a key vehicle for regional integration in the Bay of Bengal, while responding to earlier criticisms of strategic and planning inefficiencies.

India's role in BIMSTEC

India, as the largest and most influential member of BIMSTEC, is expected to shoulder a major share of the responsibilities. Although initially skeptical about regionalism in the late 20th century, India gradually adopted a proactive stance-first through

BIMSTEC is an inter-regional organization comprising Bay of Bengal littoral states that bridges South and Southeast Asia. It was established in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration with four founding members: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand

the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was expected to lead regional integration efforts in South Asia. With SAARC paralyzed due to Indo-Pakistani tensions over terrorism, BIMSTEC naturally emerged as an alternative platform for regional cooperation.

Outcome of 6th BIMSTEC Summit

A major milestone of the summit was the adoption of the BIMSTEC Bangkok Vision 2030-the organization's first-ever vision document-which lays out a strategic framework to transform the region into a prosperous, resilient, and open community. Another key development was the signing of an agreement on Maritime Transport Cooperation, aimed at enhancing trade and investment in maritime infrastructure, improving port efficiency, and harmonizing maritime policies to facilitate smooth movement of goods and services.

SAARC, and later, as that faltered, through BIMSTEC.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has played a pivotal role in revitalizing India's approach to regionalism. Notably, in 2016, he hosted a BIMSTEC leaders' retreat on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit-widely seen as a turning point. In 2019, Modi invited BIMSTEC leaders to his swearing-in ceremony, replacing the 2014 practice of inviting SAARC leaders-clearly signaling a shift in regional priorities.

India is the largest contributor to the BIMSTEC Secretariat, providing 32 percent of its funding. At the 6th Summit in Thailand, PM Modi reaffirmed India's commitment by presenting 21 proposals for cooperation across multiple domains.

(The author holds a master's degree in political science from the University of North Bengal, India) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit
www.indiapost.com

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

'We will transform Guwahati within one and half year'

GUWAHATI: Assam Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah stated that Guwahati would be transformed into an attractive city within one and a half year.

Malla Baruah said, "Guwahati is the gateway to the entire north-east, and we are working to make it attractive. The Central government funded us. We are working to make Silsako Beel a huge lake, and many new parks are being built as well. It is our responsibility to develop and beautify Guwahati, and I hope that after one and a half year, we will transform Guwahati into a beautiful place."

He said that the Assam government has implemented several development projects, including beautification works, with the aim of making Guwahati the gateway of the entire northeast.

Guwahati is undergoing extensive works of beautification on the Brahmaputra Riverfront, infrastructure works, and improvement of the drainage system, from the Guwahati-North Guwahati connecting bridge over the Brahmaputra River to the Brahmaputra Riverfront project at Uzanbazar area. *ANI*

Real Estate POST

32 India Post

www.indiapost.com

April 25, 2025

'India's real estate sector saw 47 pc jump in investments in Jan-March'

NEW DELHI: Institutional investments in the real estate sector during Q1 (January-March) this year reached \$0.81 billion, marking a 47 per cent year-on-year increase, reflecting a renewed sense of confidence among investors, according to a report by real estate consultancy firm Vestian.

As investments approach the billion-dollar mark in Q1 2025, the residential sector has emerged as the frontrunner, dominating with 62 per cent of the total share - up from 41 per cent in the same period last year. *IANIS*

Shell companies, fake loans & betrayed buyers: Inside Noida's real estate scandal

LUCKNOW: Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted extensive search operations at eight locations across Agra, Meerut, Noida, and Delhi in connection with a large-scale financial fraud involving M/s Unnati Fortune Holdings Limited (UFHL) and its promoter, Anil Mithas.

In a significant development, the ED has taken Anil Mithas into custody for seven days, following an order by the court.

During the recent raids, the agency recovered crucial documents, sale deeds, investment records, and digital evidence, which are currently under scrutiny, the ED said in a statement.

Officials said the evidence will be used to confront Mithas during interrogation as efforts continue to track the diverted funds.

According to the statement, the searches were carried out under the provisions of the Pre-



vention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, targeting residential and office premises associated with UFHL and related entities.

ED officials said the operations aimed to trace and seize the "Proceeds of Crime" allegedly siphoned off by Anil Mithas and collect evidence of financial

irregularities.

The investigation followed multiple FIRs lodged by Uttar Pradesh Police and the Delhi Economic Offences Wing against UFHL, its promoters, and others under various sections of the Indian Penal Code.

The ED has alleged that UFHL collected a staggering Rs 522.90

crore from homebuyers between 2012 and 2019 for a residential and commercial project named Aranya, located in Sector-119, Noida.

Despite the massive inflow of funds, the project failed to meet its construction deadlines, leading to widespread complaints by homebuyers to forums such as UP-RERA and local police, said the release.

In 2018, the situation escalated when a financial creditor filed for insolvency proceedings against the company at the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Delhi, a case that remains pending.

According to the ED, forensic audits conducted by firms such as 'Currie & Brown' and 'BDO India LLP' revealed that large sums meant for construction were instead diverted to shell companies, related entities, and defunct firms.

The money was moved through bogus transactions, including fake loans, inflated share premiums, and advance payments for non-existent materials. Several firms allegedly forfeited the money under dubious circumstances, severely affecting project progress and leaving hundreds of homebuyers in financial distress. *IANIS*

India's green office inventory to reach 700 million sq ft in 2-3 years

AHMEDABAD: The green office inventory in India is projected to reach 700 million square feet (sq ft) in the next two-three years, a report of last Friday showed, adding that the proportion of leasing in green-certified buildings is expected to rise from 75 percent currently to about 80-85 percent in the next few years.

India's real estate sector is undergoing a major transformation, with sustainability emerging as a key cornerstone and growth driver across asset classes.

According to a CREDAI-Colliers' report, green-certified

office buildings have higher occupancy levels at 80-90 percent, commanding rental premium of up to 25 percent.

As of 2024, green-certified office stock in India stood at about 503 million sq ft, representing 66 percent of the total Grade A inventory across the top six cities.

The 40 percent rise in green office stock since the beginning of the ongoing decade reflects

developers' commitment to evolving market scenario and the resultant occupier preferences.



Notably, Bengaluru accounted for 31 percent of India's green-certified office stock, followed by

Delhi-NCR (19 percent) and Hyderabad (17 percent).

In terms of green penetration which is indicated by the share of green-certified buildings in the total Grade A office stock in each city, Hyderabad led other major markets with a penetration rate of 75 percent, closely followed by Bengaluru with 73 percent in 2024.

"The real estate sector continues to play a defining role in driving India's transition towards a sustainable, low-carbon future. With green-certified buildings now accounting for a significant share of new developments, it's evident that sustainability is becoming a core pillar of real estate strategy across asset classes," CREDAI President Shekhar G. Patel said. *IANIS*

How to invest in real estate without buying a property?

DHWANI MEHARCHANDANI

Investing in real estate has long been seen as a reliable way to build wealth, but not everyone has the capital or desire to purchase property outright. The good news? You don't need to own a house or a commercial building to benefit from the real estate market. Today, there are several alternative ways to invest in real estate that offer flexibility, lower entry costs, and reduced risk- without the responsibilities of being a landlord. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned investor looking to diversify your portfolio, this guide will walk you through smart ways to invest in real estate without actually buying a property.

Best ways to invest in real estate without purchasing a property

If you're looking to tap into the real estate market without the hassle of property ownership, here are some of the most effective and accessible investment options to consider.

1. REITs

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are entities that own, manage, or finance income-generating real estate across various segments such as hotels, residential



complexes, retail spaces, and warehouses. Much like stocks, REITs can be traded on major exchanges and operate in a manner similar to mutual funds.

The primary aim of REITs is to invest in assets that produce regular income, which is then distributed to investors as dividends. There are three main categories of REITs to choose from: equity REITs, mortgage REITs, and hybrid REITs. This investment avenue is ideal for individuals with limited capital who want exposure to real estate.

REITs offer several advantages, such as high liquidity, portfolio diversification, and a consistent income stream. However, potential downsides include exposure to market fluctuations, management costs, limited investor control, and tax implications. Therefore, it's important to align REIT investments with your financial objectives and understand the associated tax responsibilities.

2. Mutual funds

Real estate mutual funds are managed by financial experts and portfolio managers, who invest in real estate-related companies and REITs using capital pooled from multiple investors. These funds allocate money across various real estate ventures, and the returns generated

are shared among the investors. The fund's success is tied to the overall performance of the real estate sector and the specific entities in which it invests.

This option is well suited for those with modest capital who are looking for a long-term investment, as returns often take three to five years to materialize. One of the strengths of real estate mutual funds lies in their ability to offer balance-gains from well-performing companies can offset losses from underperforming ones within the same fund.

Moreover, these funds can act as a hedge against inflation. As property values and rental rates increase, so does the fund's worth. However, investors should be aware of potential risks, including fluctuations in the real estate market and sensitivity to changes in interest rates. A downturn in the industry or a spike in interest rates can reduce returns.

3. Wholesaling

Real estate wholesaling involves an investor-known as a wholesaler-securing the rights to purchase a distressed or underpriced property by paying a small deposit. Instead of buying the property outright, the wholesaler enters into a contract and then looks for a buyer who is willing to purchase it at a higher price. The difference between the two amounts, typically ranging from 5% to 10%, becomes the wholesaler's profit.

This strategy offers several advantages, including the potential for fast earnings, minimal upfront investment, and lower risk compared to traditional real estate investments. It also helps hone negotiation skills. Unlike house flipping, wholesaling doesn't require the investor to

spend time or money on property repairs or upgrades.

However, wholesaling comes with its own set of challenges. It demands a solid network of buyers, considerable market research, and a steady supply of suitable properties. The profits may not always be substantial, and if a buyer isn't found in time, the wholesaler risks losing their initial deposit.

4. Real estate crowd funding

Often referred to as real estate crowd funding, this investment approach allows individuals to fund property development or real estate ventures through digital platforms. These online portals are typically transparent and enable users to start investing with relatively small amounts of capital.

The investment opportunities offered are usually diversified across different projects and may generate quarterly earnings. However, participation may be restricted to accredited investors, and there can be penalties for withdrawing funds before the agreed term. It's also important to note that not all platforms guarantee steady or predictable returns every quarter. www.housing.com

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69 per cent of Gaza under Israeli displacement orders: UN agency

GAZA: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said that 69 per cent of the Gaza Strip is under active Israeli displacement orders.

The Israeli army issued at least 20 displacement orders between March 18 and April 14, UNRWA said in a press statement of Sunday last, adding that the agency "currently operates 115 shelters across Gaza, housing more than 90,000 displaced people."

Some 420,000 people have been displaced again since the ceasefire collapsed on March 18, it said, warning that the already dire humanitarian situation in Gaza is worsening due to Israeli shelling and the seven-week-long aid blockade.

UNRWA stressed the need for an early ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and the unfettered flow of humanitarian aid and commercial supplies into Gaza, Xinhua news agency reported.



Israel has blocked the entry of all humanitarian aid into Gaza since March 2. It then ended a two-month ceasefire with Hamas on March 18 and resumed deadly air and ground assaults on the enclave.

Meanwhile, at least 29 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza on April 20, according to the Civil Defense in Gaza.

In central Gaza, 10 people were killed and some others wounded by an Israeli airstrike on a residential house in the Nuseirat refugee camp, Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson for the Civil Defense, told Xinhua.

In southern Gaza, a Palestinian woman was killed and four others wounded in an Israeli drone attack on a tent housing displaced people in the Al-Mawasi area in Khan Younis city, and four others were killed in another two separate Israeli attacks on the city, Basal said.

The renewed Israeli attacks have so far killed 1,827 Palestinians and injured 4,828 others, Gaza health authorities said last Sunday, adding the death toll in the enclave since the war began in October 2023 has risen to 51,201, with 116,869 injured. IANS

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY TESTAMENTARY & INTESTATE JURISDICTION TESTAMENTARY PETITION NO.3077 OF 2018

TP NO.3077
OF 2018

Petition for Probate of the Last Will and Testament dated 28th November 2017 of Ms. Shanti Kanhayalal Wadhwa alias Ms. Shanti Kanhayalal Wadhwani alias Shanti Kanhayalal Vadhvaney, a Spinster, Hindu Indian Inhabitant of Mumbai, Occupation: Household, who was residing at the time of her death at 15, Linking Road, 1st Floor, Opp. Arya Samaj, Santacruz (West), Mumbai - 400054.

.. Deceased

1. Kartik Ashok Wadhvani, age 36 years)
Indian Inhabitant of Mumbai,)
Occupation: Business residing at)
Wadhvani House, 5th floor, Opp. Arya)
Samaj, 17, Linking Road, Santacruz)
(West), Mumbai 400 054 being one of)
the Executors and Trustees named)
under the Last Will and Testament)
of the deceased abovenamed)

2. Mrs. Malti Ashok Wadhvani, age 68 years,)
Indian Inhabitant of Mumbai)
occupation: business, residing at Wadhwani House,)
5th floor, Opp. Arya Samaj, 17, Linking Road, Santacruz)
(West), Mumbai 400 054 being the Executrix and Trustees)
named under the last will and testament of the)
deceased abovenamed.) ...Petitioners

To,
All concerned

1. Mr. Amit Wadhvani (Address unknown)
2. Mr. Sanjay Shroff (Address unknown)
3. Mrs. Sharmila Nagpal (Address unknown)
4. Ms. Rachna Hasija (Address unknown)
5. Ms. Kavita Hasija (Address unknown)

If you claim to have any interest in the estate of the abovenamed deceased you are hereby cited to come and see the proceedings before the grant of Probate.

In case you intend to oppose the grant of Probate, you should file in the Office of the Prothonotary and Senior Master a caveat within 14 days from the service of this citation upon you.

"You are hereby informed that the free legal services from the State Legal Services Authorities, High Court Legal Services Committees, District Legal Services Authorities and Taluka Legal Services Committees as per eligibility criteria are available to you and in case, you are eligible and desire to avail the free legal services, you may contact any of the above Legal Services Authorities/ Committees".

Witness Shri Alok Aradhe, Chief Justice at Bombay aforesaid, this 17th day of March 2025.

Kanga & Company
Advocates for the Petitioners
43, Readymoney Mansion, Veer
Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001
mail@kangacompany.com
MAH/LF/65/2017

seal

For Prothonotary and
Senior Master

Sealer

This 17th day of March 2025

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INDIA POST

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India's transshipment cancellation: Steps towards ending Dhaka's economic reliance?

MD. AL-AMIN

Since the independence of Bangladesh, India has been regarded as a trusted neighbor. Over the years, the bilateral relationship has been shaped not only by political realities but also by evolving multilateral economic engagements. However, economic relations between the two countries have often come under strain following political transitions in Bangladesh.

Most recently, after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, 2024, bilateral ties have experienced renewed tensions-particularly in the economic sphere. India's cancellation of the transshipment facility for Bangladesh has added a new layer of complexity to this relationship.

India had allowed transshipment facilities for Bangladesh beginning June 29, 2020. However,

has raised serious concerns in Bangladesh.

India has cited logistical challenges as the rationale behind the decision, arguing that extended use of its ports and airports by Bangladesh has led to significant congestion, thereby delaying exports and increasing operational costs. However, on June 17, 2025, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, suggested that "certain incidents"-which he deemed unacceptable-were behind the move. This vague reasoning has been widely interpreted in Dhaka as reflecting the growing political rift between the two countries.

Summit yields no results

Efforts to restore political normalcy were made during a side-line meeting at the BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok between Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Professor Dr. Muhammad Yunus

In response, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) of Bangladesh imposed a ban on the import of several Indian products. The list includes items such as duplex board, newsprint, craft paper, cigarette paper, fish, yarn, potatoes, powdered milk, tobacco, radio-TV parts, bicycle and motor parts, Formica sheets, ceramic ware, sanitary ware, stainless steel ware, marble slabs and tiles, and mixed fabrics. Additionally, the import of yarn through several land ports-including Benapole, Bhomra, Sonamasjid, Banglabandha, and Burimari-has been halted.

Far-reaching implications

A legal notice has also been filed by Supreme Court lawyer Mohammad Azizul Haque, calling on the Bangladeshi government to revoke all facilities extended to India, including transit and corridor rights, in retaliation.

The cancellation has far-reaching implications. Bangladesh is now exploring alternative markets and trade routes. Imports of raw materials from countries like China, Pakistan, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan are likely to increase. Meanwhile, export costs to the Middle East and Western countries have already risen due to longer, more expensive transport routes.

Previously, using Indian land and seaports-especially via the Petrapole and Benapole borders-enabled faster and more economical exports to third countries. With these routes now closed, Bangladesh will have to rely more heavily on air and sea transport, driving up both cost and delivery times. These disruptions are expected to fuel market volatility and price hikes at home.

(The author is a foreign policy and security analyst-educator who did his post-graduation from the Department of International Relations, Rajshahi University, Bangladesh) South Asia Monitor

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on April 8, 2025, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs issued a press release stating that the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had canceled the transshipment arrangement for Bangladesh. Notably, the facility remains in place for Nepal and Bhutan, allowing them to continue using Indian territory for trade.

Transshipment involves transferring goods from one mode of transport to another en route to their final destination. In June 2020, India permitted Bangladesh to use key facilities such as Kolkata Port, Nava Sheva Port, and the Kolkata Biman cargo complex to export goods to third countries. The sudden withdrawal of this privilege, without prior notification,

and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, the meeting failed to yield any tangible results, further disappointing those hoping for a quick resolution. India's decision is widely seen in Bangladesh as a blow to bilateral economic ties.

Initially, Bangladesh's Trade Adviser Sheikh Bashir Uddin downplayed the issue, stating, "Bangladesh won't face any large-scale difficulties due to this decision." However, eight days later, on April 16, 2025, he acknowledged the economic impact, saying, "India's cancellation of the transshipment facility has increased Bangladesh's trade costs by around 2,000 crore taka. The government is taking various initiatives to mitigate this."



INDIA POST

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INDIAN STUDENTS IN U.S.

With the recent crack down on foreign students in United States, about 1,000 international students, primarily from India, face visa revocations and SEVIS terminations by U.S. authorities. AILA reports arbitrary actions and legal challenges are mounting, raising concerns over fairness, transparency, and the impact on students' academic and, career paths. The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) has documented 327 cases of visa revocations and SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) terminations, revealing that 50% involved Indian nationals. Chinese students accounted for 14%, followed by students from South Korea, Nepal, and Bangladesh. AILA's policy brief raises alarms about the "arbitrary nature" of many of these actions.

Large shares of affected students were on Optional Practical Training (OPT), a program allowing international graduates to gain work experience in the U.S. According to AILA, 50% of impacted students were on OPT. "Reinstating status post-graduation is significantly more challenging," the brief notes.

Concerns have also arisen over inconsistent enforcement. Some students reportedly had their SEVIS records terminated for minor infractions such as parking tickets or seatbelt violations. Issues rarely deemed serious enough to affect immigration status. Additionally, delayed notification of SEVIS termination has left many unknowingly in violation of their visa terms.

International students in the US have a range of rights that are generally the same as those enjoyed by US citizens and permanent residents. These include basic human rights like freedom of speech, religion, and expression, engage in peaceful assembly, as well as legal protections, like the right to remain silent, contact their consulate, and are presumed innocent until proven guilty. They also have specific rights related to their student status, such as access to academic resources and support services, and the right to fair treatment within their academic institution. They have the right to remain silent when questioned by law enforcement or immigration officials, and the right to have an attorney present. Students have the right to contact their home country's consulate for assistance. They are entitled to due process under the law and equal protection under the law. Students are protected from discrimination based on race, gender, religion, or disability.

International students have the right to access all the quality academic resources offered by their university, such as libraries, labs, and other facilities. They are entitled to utilize the student support services offered by their institution. While Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are often cited as the fastest, other countries like Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands also offer relatively easy PR pathways for international students. In many countries, factors like language proficiency and work experience plays major role.

At least for the last 50-years America has been the top destination for Indian students to pursue their college education. Parents spend or invest millions of their hard earned income, for their sons and daughters to earn an American degree. Many of them do prefer staying or seeking employment in US. However, lately due to better opportunities back in India and growth in economic development, the trend has started to change. The recent development and harassment to foreign students in US could in the coming future, discourage students to seek admissions in US universities.

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author

Tamannaah Bhatia: Change in cinema individual, not collective effort

Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who is currently receiving a lot of positive response to her work in the recently released film 'Odela 2', has said that any change in cinema always starts on an individual level.

The actress recently spoke with IANS, and shared that any effort to bail cinema out of testing times at the box-office will come from an individual artist, who would make a brave choice, and others will follow suit.

She told IANS, "I think any effort in terms of change or impact when it comes to cinema, will always come from an individual, it's never going to be collective. We as creative people have to constantly try to push the envelope in whatever capacity we have. And it's going to be a continuous pursuit. We have to hold our thoughts and not blame the audiences for not liking what exists. But we need to actually take responsibility of trying to make films that people like and feel entertained by".

The actress also spoke about 'Odela 2', and shared that the second part of the franchise flips the genre entirely.

She said, "What happened with the first part of 'Odela' was that it was an OTT release, and it came out during Covid-19 times. That as a genre was a crime thriller. 'Odela 2' has actually flipped genres. Like Sampat Garu (Sampath Nandi, the writer of the film) said, that the first part had a certain ending. IANS



'Raid 2' actress Shruti Pandey on 'uncomfortable' moments

Actress Shruti Pandey, who is gearing up for the release of her film 'Raid 2', opened up about the challenges she faced early in her career, including uncomfortable conversations.

While she shared that she never directly encountered the casting couch, she acknowledged the pressures of navigating the industry and the impact of social media on an actor's visibility and opportunities. When asked if she had ever encountered issues like nepotism or the casting couch in the industry, Shruti revealed that, thankfully, she had never experienced the casting couch directly. However, she did face some uncomfortable conversations early on.

Pandey told IANS, "Thankfully, I've never directly experienced the casting couch. Maybe some uncomfortable conversations in the beginning, but nothing serious. Social media, on the other hand, has had a big impact-both good and bad. It's become a business. As an actor, not having a strong social media presence can be a hurdle. Many roles are cast through Instagram now, and you don't even hear about them if you're not visible enough." IANS



TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

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

Ananya Panday shares rare moments from her camera

Bollywood actress Ananya Panday has shared a photo dump from her camera roll on Easter. The actress took to her Instagram, and shared an array of pictures and videos from her life.

The first video in the post shows her niece Alanna Panday. Alanna is the daughter of Ananya's uncle, Chikki Panday, and Deanne Panday. Alanna also has a younger brother named Ahaan Panday.

The video shows Alanna singing the nursery rhyme 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star'. Other pictures in the post feature the actress in a beauty session as she lied down applying a face pack, a random click of a food delivery partner with a catchy line, "Cuties on a duty". IANS



Rasha Thadani lives her Rapunzel dream in purple mini dress

Young actress Rasha Thadani realized her fairytale dream to dress like Rapunzel as she posed in a gorgeous purple mini dress.

Rasha revealed through her latest Instagram post that as a kid she would imagine herself as a princess, and now her dream has finally come true. She wrote, "Growing up, I would imagine myself a princess, my hair full of magic, life full of music, dreaming of lanterns and castles and lotsssss of pets. I wore my hair long because Rapunzel did. She was strong, yet delicate and so full of light and positivity. Thankyou @mohitrai @shubhi.kumar for making me feel like I

was a part of fairytale and making my Rapunzel dreams come true."

Rasha recently made a lot of heads turn as she stepped out in a sparkling purple mini-dress.

The 'Azaad' actress accessorized her outfit with a pair of high heels, along with dainty gold jewelry. Enhancing her high-glam look further, Rasha opted for radiant makeup in hues of pink and

gold. Adding to the fairytale vibe, Rasha flaunted her center-parted hair with soft curls.

Before this, Rasha looked radiant as another Disney princess, Elsa from "Frozen" in an icy blue gown.

Taking to her Instagram handle, she dropped a couple of images in a mesmerizing icy blue off-shoulder gown with delicate ruffles, and a corset-style lace-up back.

Complimenting her look, Rasha was seen in

soft curls, along with a jeweled choker necklace.

Posing for the camera with a radiant smile, Rasha captioned the post, "fairytale whispers."

In the meantime, Rasha stepped into Bollywood with Abhishek Kapoor's period drama "Azaad." The project also marked the acting debut of Ajay Devgn's nephew, Aaman Devgan. IANS



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SHRUTI HAASAN COMMENCES DUBBING FOR 'COOLIE'

After wrapping up the shoot for Rajinikanth's "Coolie", actress Shruti Haasan has officially started dubbing for her next.

Taking to her Instagram stories, Shruti shared a photograph from the studio wearing headphones, along with the caption "Dubbing Time".

Made under the direction of Lokesh Kanagaraj, the post-production work for the drama is now in full swing.

Recently, Kannada actor Upendra confirmed for the first time that he has combination scenes with Rajinikanth in "Coolie".

Speaking to the Telugu media, Upendra shared, "I didn't ask anything but Lokesh garu came and narrated the story to me. I will not ask him anything. It is enough if I just stand next to him (Rajinikanth) and go. That is because if I am an Ekalavya, he is like my Dronacharya. I follow him so much. If he has provided entertainment to others, he has provided enlightenment to me. I consider myself really blessed to have done this with him."

Touted to be an action thriller, "Coolie" will feature many top actors, including Telugu star Nagarjuna, Kannada star Upendra, Malayalam star Soubin Shahir, and Tamil star Sathyaraj. In addition to this, the reports claim that Bollywood's Mr Perfectionist, Aamir Khan will also be playing a cameo in the film. **IANS**

MADHURI DIXIT PART OF NADIADWALA'S NEXT!

Actress Madhuri Dixit was spotted at producer Nadiadwala's office in the Juhu area of Mumbai last weekend.

The 'Dhak Dhak' girl looked absolutely ravishing in a black shirt with a matching top underneath. She paired it with baggy grey trousers. The diva was all smiles as she carried a black handbag, along with black sunglasses.

As you might already know, Sajid Nadiadwala, the head of one of the biggest production banners in the industry, Nadiadwala Grandson Entertainment, has backed countless movies with some of the biggest names in Bollywood.

Madhuri visiting his office has raised the possibility of a new project in the works. However, it is still not known what was the actual purpose behind the meet. **IANS**

NUSHRRATT BHARUCCHA'S INITIAL DOUBTS ABOUT 'CHHORII 2'

Actress Nushrratt Bharuccha recently revealed why she was skeptical about working in the sequel "Chhorii 2".

During an exclusive interaction with the IANS, Nushrratt was asked what was her reaction when director Vishal Furia asked her to prep for the sequel.

Reacting to this, the diva told IANS, "From the first scene of the first part itself the girl was continuously tortured and kept on crying - I was like, sir 'Chhorii' is not even released yet, and you are already asking me to prepare for the sequel. I told him - Sir, please give me some time to breath."

Nushrratt revealed that after doing a movie like "Chhorii", it is important to take a breather. She added, "Films like these are very heavy, they are not easy to do, and I have always been somebody who lives a film and a character till it's over-so I want to be that person, I want to say those dialogues, I want to feel that, I want to live in that world. So, to absorb that whole cinematic world becomes very heavy." **IANS**





Shah Rukh Khan



Salman Khan



Akshay Kumar

SRK, SALMAN TO AKSHAY KUMAR: BOLLYWOOD REACTS TO PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

The dastardly terrorist attack on tourists that took place in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam has left the nation shocked and has been strongly condemned by political parties, as well as world leaders. Even Bollywood celebrities have come forward to express their sorrow and anger.

Akshay Kumar was among the first to speak up. In his message on X, he called the attack "sheer evil."

Taking to X, he wrote, "Horried to know of the terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam. Sheer evil to kill innocent people like this. Prayers for their families."

Actor Shahid Kapoor took to his Instagram account to condemn the attack. Calling the incident a "cowardly act of terrorism," he expressed deep pain over the loss of innocent lives.

"Innocent lives lost in Pahalgam. Nothing but pain comes out of such cowardly acts of terrorism. This is not what anyone's God would ever accept. Jo jo karam karega, tu use hi hoga bharna. Praying for the families dealing with the immeasurable loss," read his Instagram



Shahid Kapoor

Stories.

Shraddha Kapoor also took to her Instagram Stories, urging her followers to pray for the victims' families.

"Let us pray that somehow the families find the required strength," wrote Shraddha on her Instagram Stories.

SRK took to his X (formerly Twitter) account to express his pain over the loss of innocent lives and urged people across the nation to stay "strong and united."

"Words fail to express the sadness and anger at the treachery and inhumane act of violence that has occurred in Pahalgam. In times like these, one can only turn to

God and say a prayer for the families that have suffered and express my deepest condolences. May we, as a nation, stand united, strong, and seek justice for this heinous act," he said in a post on X.

Actor Salman Khan also reacted to the attack, saying that Kashmir, once considered a "heaven" on Earth, is slowly "turning into hell."

"Kashmir, heaven on planet Earth, is turning into hell. Innocent people are being targeted. My heart goes out to their families. Ek bhi innocent ko marna puri kinaat ko marne ke barabar hai (Killing even one innocent person is equal to killing the entire universe)," wrote Salman on X. ANI



Shraddha Kapoor

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Nestled in the Shivaroy Hills of Tamil Nadu, Yercaud is a hill station in the Eastern Ghats steeped in abundant greenery. Commonly called 'Ooty of the Poor', this region has a history dating back to the time of the British. Located at an altitude of 4970 feet, Yercaud is known for its vast expanses of coffee plantations and great weather.

Yercaud Lake is the main point of attraction of the region. One of the many highlights is the summer festival that takes place in May. It is dedicated to Lord Servarayan, the supreme god of the ranges and gives visitors a glimpse into the rich heritage of this region.

PLACES TO VISIT IN YERCAUD

Emerald Lake: The most alluring aspect of Yercaud is its big yet natural lake very popularly known as the Emerald Lake. Surrounded by some wonderful cloud-peaked hills and a well persevered garden on its banks, this lake is a feast for the eyes.

Pagoda Point: Located in the eastern part of the Yercaud Hills, Pagoda point is a beautiful viewpoint where one is treated to a panoramic view of the entire town of Salem as well as the neighboring village of Kakambadi. The twists and turns of the 21 hairpin bends of Yercaud can be seen from this spot as they envelop themselves around the hills. The mysterious piles of stones arranged in the form of a pyramid resembling a Pagoda give the location its unique name. These stones are believed to be placed here by local tribes.

Botanical Garden: Any tourist who is interested in gods gift to this planet, the wondrous flora, and in knowing about various species of plants must make it a point to visit the orchid garden and the green house in the Botanical garden.

Anna Park: Another important place of visit in Yercaud is the Anna Park which is located near the lake. This park has a collection of the natural species of plants and trees seen around Shevaroy hills.

Flower shows are conducted in this park during sum-

mer months. There is a spine-tingling Japanese garden inside this park in where everything is grown and constructed in Japanese style. Children can enjoy playing in the garden. It is a well maintained garden and is worth a visit.

Lady's Seat: Lady's Seat is a viewpoint that overlooks the winding ghat road and offers a spectacular view of Mettur Dam and Salem town. Besides, the place also houses a viewing tower, which is equipped with a telescope to enjoy the beautiful view. This viewing tower is open for visitors only during the daytime. Lady's Seat, Gent's Seat and Children's Seat, located to the south-west of Shevaroy Hill, are the names given to a group of rocks located on the Yercaud Hills.

Killiyur Falls: The Kiliyur Falls drops from a height of 300 feet and are a popular tourist attraction near Salem. They also offer boating and swimming activities in their vicinity. These waterfalls are a part of the Shervaroyan hill range of the Eastern Ghats.

Bear's Cave: A must see for any tourist visiting Yercaud, The Bear's cave is situated in a private coffee estate near the Norton Bungalow, which is on the way to the Servaroyan temple.

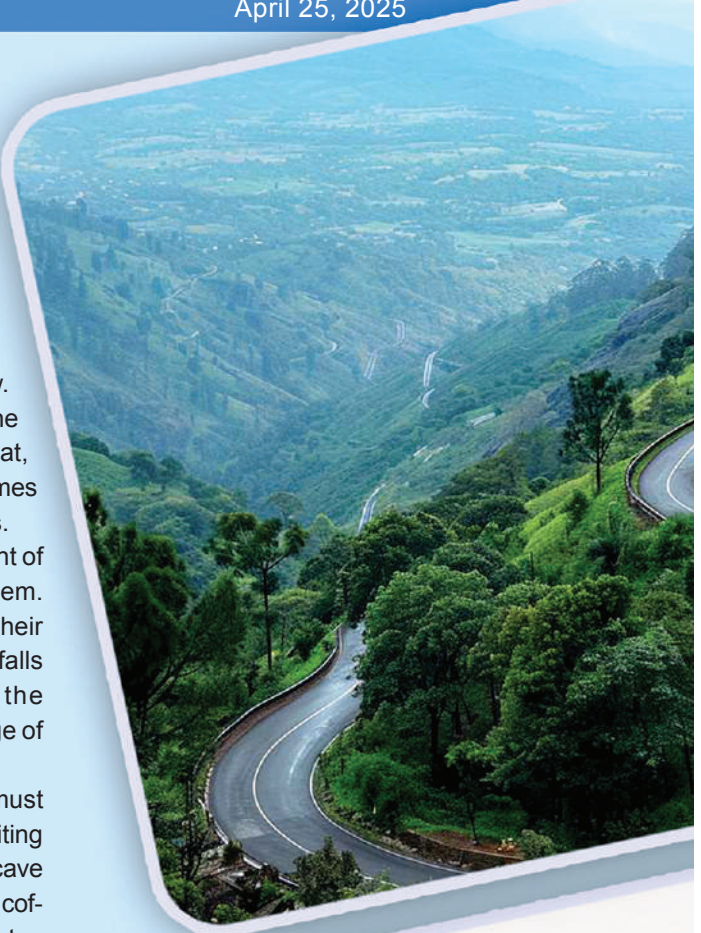
Shevaroy Hills: Perched at a height of 1620 m near the Salem district of Tamil Nadu in Yercaud, the Shevaroy Hills are a popular tourist spot in the region. Boasting of magnificent views of lush green meadows, towering trees, dense woods and mighty hills, the hills were formerly known as Servarayan Hills which later got anglicized to 'Shevaroy'.

Tipperary Viewpoint: Situated at the Southernmost end of Yercaud, the Tipperary Viewpoint can be reached by taking the Tipperary Road en route which one is likely to come across some breathtaking views. Elephant Tooth Rocks, which are said to be the remains of some meteorites which fell on the face of Earth, can be seen and enjoyed from the Tipperary Point. www.holidify.com

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

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KURTA PYJAMAS AND ANARKALI - JD VANCE'S CHILDREN SPORT ETHNIC WEAR AS THEY LAND IN INDIA



NEW DELHI: As United States Vice President JD Vance began his first official visit to India on Monday 21 April morning, accompanied by his India-origin wife Usha Vance, the couple's three children, charmed onlookers with their choice of clothing.

Ewan, Vivek, and little Mirabel were all dressed in traditional Indian outfits, with the boys wearing kurta pyjamas while the toddler sported what looked like a mini version of an Anarkali style suit teamed with an embroidered jacket.

Vance arrived at Palam Airport in the national capital on his first official visit to India accompanied by the Second Lady Usha, their three children, and key members of the US Administration.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw was at the airport to receive them. Visuals from the airport showed the minister, who was dressed in a white kurta pyjama, himself engaging in some conversation with Vance's eldest son.

The high-level diplomatic trip, scheduled from April 21 to 24, is expected to focus on enhancing strategic, economic, and defense ties between the two nations.

After their arrival, a ceremonial guard of honor was given to the visiting dignitaries marking the formal commencement of the visit.

While the Vice President sported a classic navy blue suit paired with a red tie, Usha Vance looked elegant in a red bodycon dress with a white overcoat. The real showstoppers, however the children!

Embracing Indian tradition, Ewan and Vivek wore a kurta-pyjama sets in blue and bright yellow, matched with sporty footwear, while young Mirabel turned heads in a blue embroidered anarkali jacket suit, also paired with sneakers.

As they descended the aircraft stairs, JD Vance was seen affectionately lifting his daughter.

Hoardings welcoming Vice President Vance had been set up around Palam Airport in anticipation of his arrival.

The visit includes key diplomatic engagements, including a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled for 6:30 pm at the Prime Minister's official residence, 7, Lok Kalyan Marg.

Both leaders are expected to delve into matters related to trade, economic collaboration, and defense partnerships.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal commented on the visit's significance last week, and said, "We have a comprehensive strategic global partnership... all relevant issues will be discussed. We are very positive that the visit will give a further boost to our bilateral ties."

Jaiswal also acknowledged ongoing dialogues around a potential trade agreement with the US.

ANI

EWAN, VIVEK, AND LITTLE MIRABEL WERE ALL DRESSED IN TRADITIONAL INDIAN OUTFITS, WITH THE BOYS WEARING KURTA PYJAMAS WHILE THE TODDLER SPORTED WHAT LOOKED LIKE A MINI VERSION OF AN ANARKALI STYLE SUIT TEAMED WITH AN EMBROIDERED JACKET

Sanaa Khan: Bringing Global Flair to Indian Fashion

NEW DELHI: Sanaa Khan, a celebrated Turkey-based Indian fashion designer, is making waves in India with her distinctive style and international outlook. Her current project in the country has caught a lot of attention, and people really love her designs. Her creations beautifully combine elegance with a spirit of experimentation, and her commitment to uplifting Indian talent shines through in her future plans.

She's gearing up to host an exclusive fashion show in Dubai, where she hopes to spotlight emerging Indian modeling talent on a global stage. To make this happen,



Sanaa Khan is kicking off a talent hunt to find promising young models who can take part in her upcoming international showcases. Sanaa Khan is convinced that the youth of India have a unique charm, charisma, and energy that deserve to be recognized worldwide. She's passionate about creating opportunities for talented individuals from across India to shine on the global scene.

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