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NEW MILESTONE FOR THE INDIAN COMMUNITY

THE SOLD-OUT CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA

THE EVENING WAS GRACED BY ESTEEMED DIGNITARIES

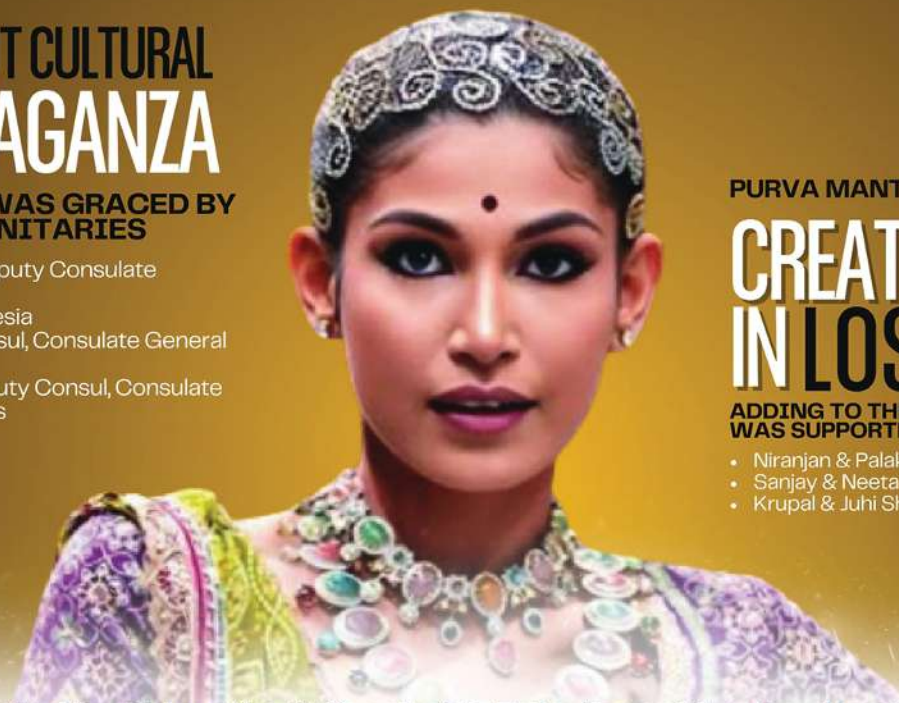
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- Ali Taj, Mayor of Artesia
- Kulwant Singh, Consul, Consulate General Los Angeles
- Priyanka Tyagi, Deputy Consul, Consulate General Los Angeles

PURVA MANTRI LIVE DANDIYA NIGHT

CREATES HISTORY IN LOS ANGELES

ADDING TO THE GRANDEUR, THE EVENT WAS SUPPORTED BY GENEROUS SPONSORS

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- Raman Chadda



Presented by Falguniba & Kanaksinh Zala, the sold-out cultural extravaganza drew 3,000 people and featured the celebrated singer praised by PM Shri Narendra Modi. Los Angeles, September 6, 2025 – For the first time ever, Los Angeles witnessed the electrifying energy of Purva Mantri Live Dandiya Night, presented by Falguniba and Kanaksinh Zala. The cultural extravaganza turned into a historic celebration with a complete sold-out crowd of 3,000 people, marking a new milestone for the Indian community in Southern California.

The event, held at the Artesia High School Gymnasium, celebrated the vibrancy of Navratri with one of India's most dynamic performers, Purva Mantri. Known for her powerful stage presence and versatility, Purva has also been praised by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for her artistry. She captivated the audience with her blend of traditional Garba rhythms and modern Dandiya flair, bringing the spirit of Gujarat alive in Los Angeles.

The initiative was spearheaded by Kanaksinh Zala, Chairman of the Indian Association of Los Angeles, Gujarati of North America Co-Founder, and President of the India Business Alliance of Southern California, along with Falguniba Zala, Vice President of the Indian

Association of Los Angeles. Together, they envisioned an event that would unite the diaspora through culture, tradition, and joy – and the overwhelming turnout reflected the success of their vision.



Purva Mantri with Falguniba & Kanaksinh Zala at the sold-out Purva Mantri Live Dandiya Night in Los Angeles.



The evening was honored by the presence of distinguished dignitaries, including Deputy Consulate General Rakesh Adlakha, Artesia Mayor Ali Taj, Consul Kulwant Singh, and Deputy Consul Priyanka Tyagi. Their participation underscored the importance of such cultural celebrations in strengthening community bonds.

The event was made possible with the support of sponsors including Niranjan & Palak Patel, Sanjay & Neeta Shah, Krupal & Juhi Shukla, Mahesh & Usha Wadher, Malabar Gold – Jasar, and Raman Chadda. Hosting duties were carried out with charm and energy by Manshi Mehra, Vaidehi Zala, and Darshana Zala.

With its resounding success, the Purva Mantri Live Dandiya Night has set a new benchmark for cultural events in Los Angeles – one that celebrated tradition, created unity, and left unforgettable memories for all in attendance.



N. CA diaspora celebrates 75th birthday of Modi

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US again clarifies Trump's H-1B proclamation

► Details on page 16



Raveena Tandon & 'Dad' Kader Khan

► Details on page 32

INDIA POST
SURVEY
survey@indiapost.com

This week's question

Will H-1B holders opt for countries other than India?

Last week's result

Will Trump be able to make trade deal with India?

YES 52% NO 48%

INDIANS ARE WELCOME

"Highly skilled Indians are welcome": German Envoy invites applications to work amid US' H1B Visa row

NEW DELHI: German Ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann welcomed Indian workers in Germany, highlighting the country's stable migration policies.

Ackermann said that Germany stands out with its stable migration policies and offers great job opportunities for Indians in IT, management, science, and technology.

"This is a good moment to talk about Indians working in Germany. Indians are among the top earners in Germany. The average Indian working in Germany earns more than the average German. And that's pretty good

news. Because a high salary means that Indians are contributing big time to our society and our welfare," he said.

He highlighted that German immigration policies are not haphazard, taking a dig at the US, which made the visa process more complex.

"We believe in hard work and we believe in giving the best jobs to the best people. Our migration policy works a bit like a German car. It's reliable, it is modern, it is predictable. It will go in a straight line with no zigzags.

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Philipp Ackermann



Zelenskyy says, India "mostly" with Ukraine

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European Union assures India it is 'reliable' partner

► Details on page 10



Vadodra: cultural capital of Gujarat

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Union Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar meets US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, in New York. (@DrSJaishankarX/ANI Photo) Details on page 12

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Mission Statement

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Bollywood:

Raveena Tandon & 'Dad' Kader Khan



Raveena Tandon revealed how veteran actor and writer Kader Khan stood by her side during the most challenging phase of her life

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Lifestyle:

Elle Style Awards 2025



2nd edition of Elle Style Awards 2025 - a celebration of fashion, creativity and culture, bejeweled the red carpet at The Leela Palace New Delhi

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German Ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann said Germany stands out with stable migration policies and offers great job opportunities for Indians

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Minister highlights India's talent



Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal said India continues to provide solutions for corporations across the world, including in United States

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Community:

N. California diaspora celebrates



The Indian Diaspora in N California celebrated Sept. 17 marking two occasions - 75th birthday of PM Modi and Telangana Liberation Day

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US clarifies H-1B proclamation



The US State Department stressed that the new H-1B rules "do not apply to any previously issued H-1B visas

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India, US armies join hands



Apart from the recently conducted joint military exercises Indian army officers arrived in America to study the medical facilities of the US military

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A personal injury attorney is a legal advocate who specializes in representing individuals who have been physically or emotionally injured due to the negligence or wrongdoing of others. Their primary objective is to ensure victims receive compensation for their losses, including medical expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering, and more. These lawyers navigate the complexities of personal injury law and help their clients pursue justice in a wide range of scenarios such as, but not limited to, car accidents, slip and falls, dog bites, and wrongful death matters.

WHAT IS PERSONAL INJURY LAW?

Personal injury law, also known as tort law, is a legal framework designed to provide remedies to individuals harmed by others. It holds people, businesses, and other entities accountable when their actions cause harm. The core of personal injury law is negligence, where a party fails to act with the level of care that someone else would have reasonably expected under the same circumstances. This legal structure allows injured parties to seek compensation for their losses and discourages future negligent behavior.

TYPES OF PERSONAL INJURY CASES

Personal injury attorneys handle a variety of cases, each with its own nuances and legal challenges. Common types include:

1. Car Accidents: One of the most frequent causes of personal injury claims. Attorneys help victims prove liability, negotiate with insurance companies, and seek compensation for damages.

2. Slip and Fall Injuries: These claims are based on premises liability, which holds property owners responsible for maintaining a safe environment. Victims of unsafe conditions like wet floors or poorly maintained staircases can seek damages through these claims.

3. Dog Bites: Being a victim of a dog bite means suffering from a physical injury caused by a dog. Beyond the physical harm, victims can face emotional trauma, potential infections, and even long-term scarring or disability. Legally, victims often have the right to pursue compensation for medical expenses, lost wages, pain, and suffering. In California, pet owners are strictly liable for the actions of their pets. Being strictly liable for the actions of your pets means that as a pet owner, you are legally responsible for any damage or injury your pet causes, regardless of whether you were negligent.

4. Wrongful Death: When a person dies due to another's negligence or intentional actions, family members may pursue a wrongful death claim to recover compensation for funeral expenses, lost income, and emotional distress.

Anand Desai Law Firm

ROLE OF PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS



KEY ELEMENTS OF A PERSONAL INJURY CASE

To win a personal injury case, a few essential elements must be proven:

• **Duty of Care:** The defendant owed a duty to act in a way that would not cause harm to the plaintiff. For instance, drivers have a duty to follow traffic laws and avoid reckless behavior.

• **Breach of Duty:** It must be shown that the defendant violated that duty by acting negligently or intentionally.

• **Causation:** The breach of duty must

viable.

2. Investigation: Attorneys conduct thorough investigations, collecting evidence such as medical records, police reports, witness statements, and accident reconstruction data to support their client's case.

3. Legal Strategy Development: Based on the evidence, personal injury lawyers develop a tailored strategy aimed at maximizing the client's compensation. This includes determining whether to negotiate a settlement or take

compelling arguments to persuade the judge or jury to rule in favor of the injured party.

6. Support and Guidance: Beyond the legal work, personal injury attorneys offer emotional support and advice throughout the case. They help clients navigate complex legal processes and make informed decisions at every stage.

WHY HIRE A PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY?

For those unfamiliar with the legal system, pursuing a personal injury claim can be daunting. Personal injury attorneys not only handle the legal complexities but also work to ensure their clients receive the compensation they deserve. They have extensive experience in dealing with insurance companies, negotiating settlements, and representing clients in court. Studies show that individuals who hire personal injury lawyers are more likely to receive larger settlements compared to those who try to handle their claims alone.

COMPENSATION IN PERSONAL INJURY CASES

Compensation in personal injury cases is designed to make the injured party "whole" again, to the extent possible. This can include:

• **Economic Damages:** These cover tangible losses such as medical bills, lost wages, and property damage.

• **Non-Economic Damages:** These address intangible losses like pain and suffering, emotional distress, and loss of enjoyment of life.

• **Punitive Damages:** In rare cases, where the defendant's behavior was particularly egregious, punitive damages may be awarded to punish the wrongdoer and discourage similar conduct.

CONCLUSION

Personal injury attorneys are essential advocates for individuals who have suffered harm due to someone else's negligence. They play a crucial role in ensuring that victims are fairly compensated for their injuries and losses, providing both legal expertise and emotional support throughout the process.

If you or someone you know has been injured due to negligence, it's essential to consult with an experienced personal injury lawyer to protect your rights and explore your legal options.

Call the attorneys at Anand Desai Law firm and let us navigate the complexities of these matters for you. Visit us at www.CallDesai.com or call us at 833-270-7800.

The core of personal injury law is negligence, where a party fails to act with the level of care that someone else would have reasonably expected under the same circumstances. This legal structure allows injured parties to seek compensation for their losses and discourages future negligent behavior

have directly caused the plaintiff's injury. If a driver runs a red light and hits a pedestrian, causation would be clear.

• **Damages:** The plaintiff must demonstrate that they suffered tangible losses, such as medical bills, lost wages, or emotional trauma.

WHAT DO PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS DO?

1. Case Evaluation: During an initial consultation, personal injury lawyers assess the strength of a case. They gather details about the incident, evaluate potential damages, and determine if the claim is

the case to court.

4. Negotiation with Insurance Companies: Insurance companies often attempt to minimize the amount they pay out in settlements. Experienced personal injury attorneys are skilled in negotiating with insurance companies to ensure that their clients receive fair compensation for their injuries and losses.

5. Litigation: If negotiations do not result in a fair settlement, personal injury attorneys will file a lawsuit and represent their clients in court. They present evidence, question witnesses, and make

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आपको चाहिये थोड़ा सा प्यार, थोड़ा देखभाल --एक चैंपियन की, क्योंकि हर कैलिफ़ोर्निया-वासी को कारगर स्वास्थ्य सेवा मिलनी चाहिये।

आपको अपने या अपने बच्चों के स्वास्थ्य में चुनना न पड़े, या फिर अपनी ज़रूरी आवश्यकताओं को दबाना न पड़े, इसी लिए हम आपकी वकालत करते हैं। हम सौदा करते हैं ताकि आपको बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सेवा मिल सके।

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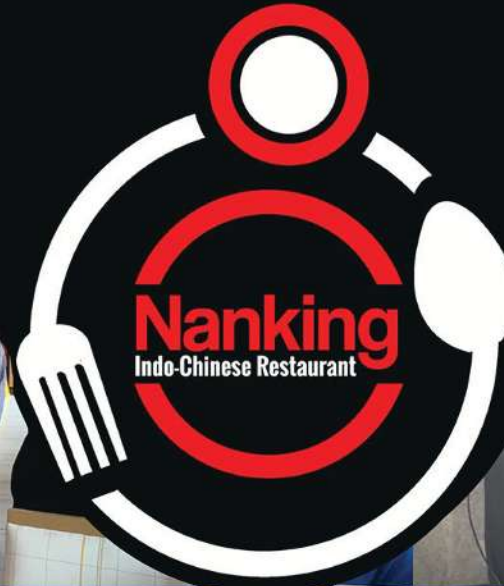


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INDIANS ARE WELCOME

"Highly skilled Indians are welcome": German Envoy invites applications to work amid US' H1B Visa row

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He highlighted that German immigration policies are not haphazard, taking a dig at the US, which made the visa process more complex.

change our rules fundamentally over time. Highly skilled Indians are welcome in Germany. If you want to find out what Germany has to offer, click on the link tree below. I'm sure you'll find surprising opportunities," he said.

The latest move by US President Donald Trump to revise the H-1B visa fee to USD 100,000 has expanded protectionist barriers against India, according to a report by Systematix Research.

The report said Trump's decision extends his anti-India trade offensives beyond the merchandise trade deficit and poses a fresh threat to India's USD 190 billion services export industry.

It stated, "Trump's H-1B Firewall Expands US Protectionism Against India... escalate US protectionism, targeting India's IT sector and threatening its USD 190 billion services export industry."

The White House has defended the move, arguing that the H-1B visa program

has led to wage suppression and job displacement for American workers.

It cited data showing that the number of foreign STEM workers in the US more than doubled from 1.2 million in 2000 to nearly



German Ambassador to India Philipp Ackermann

2.5 million in 2019, while overall STEM employment grew only 44.5 percent in the same period. ANI

"This is a good moment to talk about Indians working in Germany. Indians are among the top earners in Germany. The average Indian working in Germany earns more than the average German. And that's pretty good news"

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European Union assures India it is 'reliable' partner

NEW YORK: European Union's top diplomat Kaja Kallas has assured India that it is a "reliable" partner working together on upholding multilateralism during a meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Along with Brazil's Minister Mauro Vieira Juan and Mexico's Foreign Secretary Ramon de la Fuente, he attended a meeting with EU foreign ministers.

After the meeting, Kallas, whose formal title is High Representative for Foreign Affairs, posted on X, "The message to our partners was simple: the EU is a reliable actor. We support multilateralism, free trade and a world grounded in the UN Charter".

Jaishankar, in his X post on the meeting, said, "Pleased to meet EU Foreign Ministers at their informal meeting today".

It was "an opportunity to have open exchange of views on multilateralism, India-EU partnership, Ukraine conflict, Gaza, energy and trade", he wrote.

At a news conference, Kallas said, "The EU's relations with Brazil, India, and Mexico are important economically, but also for Europe protecting the rules-based international order".

"Multilateral order is really something that we all need to defend, and the UN Charter is at its core", she said.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar poses for a group picture along with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil Mauro Vieira, Mexican Foreign Minister Juan Ramon de la Fuente, and EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Vice-President of the European Commission Kaja Kallas in an informal meeting in New York. (@DrSJaishankar/ANI Photo)

She mentioned the EU's "new blueprint to deepen ties with India" that was unveiled last week.

Laying the foundation for long-term ties between India and the EU, the strategy has five pillars: trade, investment, technology and sustainability; defense and security; connectivity and global issues; and coordination on labor mobility.

Earlier, the EU unveiled a new strategic

agenda to significantly ramp up its engagement with India in a range of key areas such as defense, trade, and energy, and to jointly tackle major global challenges.

The EU said its closer partnership with India is increasingly becoming vital in the wake of the shifting geopolitical realities and that it is prudent for the two sides to strengthen economic growth and security. IANS

EAM Jaishankar holds round of meetings with foreign ministers of several countries

UNITED NATIONS: Every year, foreign ministers from around the world converge here for the United Nations General Assembly's high-level session, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar took the opportunity to catch up with many of them.

He spent time meeting nearly a dozen of them individually, discussing a range of topics from development and cooperation to Europe's strategy and the Ukraine conflict.

In addition, there were others who attended the high-level meeting of 'Like-Minded Global South Countries' that Jaishankar convened.

As India and the European Union are trying to forge closer cooperation, he met Lars Lokke Rasmussen, the foreign minister of Denmark, who holds the presidency, to discuss India-EU cooperation.

In a post on X, Jaishankar said that he "valued his (Rasmussen's) insights on latest developments in Europe and the Ukraine conflict." IANS

Both India, US-based firms raised concerns on sufficient availability of talent: Dhruva Jaishankar on H-1B fee hike

NEW YORK: Executive Director of the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) America, Dhruva Jaishankar, said that both Indian and US-based companies have expressed concern over the sufficient availability of skilled talent for their jobs in the wake of recent hikes in H-1B visa fees by the Trump administration.

Speaking to ANI, Jaishankar highlighted the challenges posed by evolving US immigration policies while emphasizing India's respect for sovereign decisions.

"India is conscious of the fact that for any country, the immigration regime tends to be a sovereign matter, including India's. In that sense, it's really up to every government to design its visa policies," Jaishankar said.

He noted that "industry has raised some concerns about whether it is able to get sufficient talent for jobs, including India-based MNCs, but also US-based companies as well."

Jaishankar cautioned against potential long-term restrictions, referencing a dip in US favorability in India following Operation Sindoor, and urged consideration of these

dynamics beyond immediate political priorities.

"Before Operation Sindoor, the negative opinion of the US in India was actually quite low. Now it is unclear whether, in the long term, more and more conditions and restrictions will be placed. That's obviously not something weighing on the Trump administration's mind, but it is something to consider," the ORF America Executive

Director said.

The US State Department also clarified that the new fee requirement applies only to individuals or companies filing fresh H-1B petitions or entering the lottery system after September 21. Current visa holders and petitions submitted before that date remain unaffected.

Under the proclamation, a USD

Delhi's purchase of Russian oil. "From India's point of view, there is a very clear understanding that the 50 percent tariff is unusually high and that, particularly, the 25 percent extra tariff that the Trump administration has imposed for the purchase of Russian oil needs to be brought down and that it is having consequences for bilateral trade and also for the broader environment," he explained.

He welcomed ongoing efforts to resolve the issue, noting a shift from "about two months of a frigid relationship at the top levels between the US and India" to a more positive trajectory.

New Delhi is currently facing global uncertainties due to heightened economic tensions following the US imposition of a 50 percent tariff on Indian imports, which was supplemented by an additional 25 percent due to New Delhi's purchase of Russian crude oil.

On Trump's UNGA address, where he claimed credit for de-escalating conflicts, including between India and Pakistan following Operation Sindoor, Jaishankar clarified India's position. ANI

"India is conscious of the fact that for any country, the immigration regime tends to be a sovereign matter, including India's. In that sense, it's really up to every government to design its visa policies," Jaishankar said

Director said.

Last week, US President Donald Trump signed a proclamation that will cause a major overhaul of H-1B visa petitions.

According to the proclamation, there will now be a USD 100,000 fee for new H-1B visa applications, a sharp increase

100,000 payment must accompany every new H-1B visa petition filed after the deadline, including entries in the 2026 lottery.

Addressing the 50 percent US tariffs on India, Jaishankar described the measure as "unusually high", particularly the additional 25 percent tariff linked to New

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After meeting EAM Jaishankar, Marco Rubio declares India 'critical' to US

NEW YORK: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has declared that India is of "critical" value to his country and welcomed its ongoing interaction in trade, according to the State Department.

After he met with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, "reiterating that India is a relationship of critical importance to the United States", Rubio "expressed his appreciation for the Indian government's continued engagement on a number of issues including trade, defense, energy, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals, and other items related to the bilateral relationship", the Department said in a read-out of their meeting.

Jaishankar posted on X, "Our conversation covered a range of bilateral and international issues of current concern. Agreed on the importance of sustained engagement to progress on priority areas"

They "agreed the United States and India will continue working together to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region, including through the Quad", it said.

The reaffirmation of India's importance for the US comes after US President Donald Trump reached out to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to greet him on his 75th birthday after imposing a total of 50 percent tariffs on India and weeks of harsh statements about India.

Significantly, the meeting with Jaishankar was the first official meeting of the day for Rubio, who is making a round of bilaterals with world leaders here for the high-level General Assembly session.

Jaishankar posted on X, "Our conversation covered a range of bilateral and international issues of current concern. Agreed on the importance of sustained engagement to progress on priority areas".

He added that they would stay in touch.

Before going into the conference room with a table decked with flowers and flags, they made a cordial appearance before the media waiting outside and shook hands, but refused to answer questions.

Later, Jaishankar met with the US ambassador-designate to India, Sergio Gor.

The State Department said on X, "They look forward to further promoting the success of the U.S.-India relationship".

Gor will also be Trump's Special Envoy for South and Central Asia.

The appointment of Gor needs approval by the Senate, like all ambassadorial positions.

In another sign of movement in the two countries' attempts to reset their relations, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal met US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in New York to negotiate the first tranche of a trade agreement between the two sides, sources told IANS.

Both sides remain hopeful of reaching an interim understanding soon, the sources added.

Despite differences on trade and Russian oil purchases, the two nations have strong common interests at the strategic level, exemplified by the Quad, the four-nation group that also includes Australia and Japan and is focused on the Indo-Pacific. IANS

Zelenskyy says, India "mostly" with Ukraine on Kyiv's conflict with Russia

NEW YORK: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed cautious optimism in India's support for Ukraine in its ongoing conflict with Russia, stating that India is "mostly" aligned with Kyiv's position, while acknowledging New Delhi's position on energy-related complexities.

During a recent interview with Fox News, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Zelenskyy highlighted the need to strengthen ties with India while addressing challenges related to Russian energy dependencies.

"I think India is mostly with us. We have these questions with energy, but I think President Trump can manage it. With the Europeans make closer and stronger relations with India," Zelenskyy said.

He emphasized the importance of ensuring India does not drift away from supporting Ukraine, adding, "I think we must do everything not to withdraw Indians and they will eventually change their attitude toward the Russian energy sector."



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

He noted, however, that engaging China on this issue is "more difficult" due to Beijing's historic alignment with Russian interests.

"With China, it's more difficult because, for now, it's not in their interest to stop supporting Russia," the Ukrainian president said.

Zelenskyy also praised US President Donald Trump for his commitment to supporting Ukraine until the conflict's resolution, underscoring a shared desire for peace.

"He [Trump] showed that he wants to support Ukraine till the very end. So now we understand that we're ready to end this war as quickly as possible. He wants that, I want that, and our people want that, but he understands that Putin doesn't want," he said.

"What surprised me, in a very positive way, is the clear message from Trump and America that they will stand with us until the war is over," Zelenskyy added.

He also contrasted this with Russian President Vladimir Putin's narrative, stating, "Putin knows he is not winning but still says to everyone that he is winning." ANI

BNP projected to win, Jamaat poised to rig: Indian agencies warn of turbulent polls in Bangladesh

NEW DELHI: Chief advisor to the interim government of Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, during his meeting with US special envoy on South Asia Sergio Gor, ensured that elections in his country would be free and fair. Yunus said that the elections would be held in February 2026; the country is fully prepared for it, he also told Gor.

While Yunus may have assured Gor about the elections, there is hardly any optimism among the political class and the people of Bangladesh about free and fair elections. Reports by the Indian Intelligence agencies say that there is a likelihood of widespread violence ahead of the elections because none of the parties are confident about the manner in which the polls would be conducted.

Indian officials say that the problem is with the Jamaat-e-Islami. There are signals that the Jamaat would control the election and is capable of even rigging it. While opinion polls in the absence of the Awami League suggested that the BNP would win the elections. It, however, indicated that the BNP is unlikely to form the government on its own and may need the support of the Jamaat to form the next government.

The ISI, which backs the Jamaat, would, however, want it to be the senior partner in the government, and this has created doubts in the minds of people about how fair the polls would be. The Jamaat has the backing of Yunus, and they may try and rig the results.

If the Jamaat feels that it may not be able to rig the elections, then it, along with the newly formed National Citizen Party, may push to postpone the elections and let the current system be in place. The National Citizen Party would back the Jamaat as its members were part of the July Movement that brought down the Sheikh Hasina government.

Another reason why many are skeptical about the elections is due to the results of the Dhaka University elections held recently. The Jamaat's students' wing, Islami Chhatra Shibir, won by a landslide. The BNP's student wing, Chhatra Dal, finished second, but secured less than one-third of the Shibir's vote.

This led to doubts about how fair the elections may have been. The BNP congratulated the Shibir, but questioned the transparency of the elections. These developments clearly show the kind of sentiment in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh watchers say with the Awami League out of the picture, the BNP is projected to win. However, this would be the case only if the elections are free and fair.

The ISI has been pushing the Jamaat to rig the polls and become the senior partner. However, if this plan does not go through, then Pakistan would prefer to deal with the existing establishment. For Pakistan, both Yunus and the Jamaat are suitable. Both push Islamabad's agenda and have also ensured that ties with India are cold. IANS

Turkish President Erdogan once again rakes up Kashmir at UNGA session

NEW YORK: At the 80th session of UNGA, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raked up the Kashmir issue, saying that Turkey was 'pleased' with the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in May. He said, "We are pleased with the ceasefire achieved following the tensions last April between Pakistan and India, which had escalated into a conflict... The issue of Kashmir should be resolved on the basis of the resolutions of the UN, for the best of our sisters and brothers in Kashmir, through dialogue, we hope."

Erdogan had supported Pakistan on Kashmir earlier as well and called for UN dialogue to address the issue during his visit to Islamabad, The Express Tribune reported.

This had drawn criticism from the Ministry of External Affairs which had in May said that it has lodged a strong protest with the Turkish ambassador.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We reject such objectionable comments on matters that are internal to India. We have lodged a strong protest with the Turkish ambassador. Such unwarranted

statements on India's territorial integrity and sovereignty are unacceptable."

Jaiswal asserted that J-K is an integral part of India and mentioned that Pakistan's cross border terrorism policy against India remains the biggest threat to the people of UT.

"Jammu and Kashmir are integral parts of India. It would have been better if Pakistan's policy of using cross-border

"We are pleased with the ceasefire achieved following the tensions last April between Pakistan and India, which had escalated into a conflict... The issue of Kashmir should be resolved on the basis of the resolutions of the UN, for the best of our sisters and brothers in Kashmir, through dialogue, we hope"

terrorism against India, which remains the biggest threat to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, has been called out," Jaiswal said.

Turkey had also supported Pakistan during India's Anti Terror operation Sindoor. Pakistani forces had used Turkish made drones to target Indian installations after

Op Sindoor had decimated terror operations in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio reaffirmed their commitment to deepening India-US ties and advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific region through the Quad during a meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General

Assembly High-level Week in New York.

The discussions that took place underscored the strategic importance of the bilateral relationship and the shared vision for regional stability. Rubio also conveyed his gratitude to India for its ongoing involvement in a variety of matters, such as trade, energy and critical minerals. ANI

Trump reiterates claim of ending India-Pakistan conflict in UN address

UNITED NATIONS: US President Donald Trump recently claimed credit again for ending the India-Pakistan conflict, which has been discounted by New Delhi, while repeating his lament for not getting the Nobel Peace Prize.

"I ended seven wars, and in all cases, they were raging, with countless thousands of people being killed," he said in a rambling address to the General Assembly's high-level session.

That includes the "violent war that was Pakistan and India", he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told Trump in a June phone call that it was mutually settled between India and Pakistan without his claimed involvement.

India says that Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) Major General Kashif Abdullah called his Indian counterpart, Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, offering a truce. Among the other wars Trump said he ended was that between Israel and Iran, although the hostilities continue, and there is no peace deal between them. IANS

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India's overall textile exports to double by 2030

NEW DELHI: India's overall textile exports are targeted to double by 2030, driven by sustainability initiatives and market access under agreements such as the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), the government said recently.

A high-level delegation, led by Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, was in London to showcase India's strength



across the textile value chain and to deepen India-UK trade engagement.

The delegation includes representatives of all major Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and leading exporters.

On the first day of the visit, a series of programs were organized, including a Textile Roadshow and sectorial meetings with buyers and sourcing houses in the handicraft, handloom and carpet sectors, according to the Ministry of Textiles.

India is the fourth largest textile exporter to the UK. Textile exports to the UK stood at \$2.16 billion in 2024-25, accounting for 6.6 percent of UK's imports.

During the visit, the Textiles Secretary underscored India's ability to serve the UK market with a unique combination of heritage craftsmanship, modern scale, sustainability, and traceability initiatives. *IANIS*

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Jaguar Land Rover extends production halt until October 1 over cyberattack

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Piyush Goyal highlights India's talent, clean energy potential amid US H1B fee hike



NEW YORK: Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal has emphasized India's strength in talent, innovation, and clean energy while addressing the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum, days after US President Donald Trump revised the H1B visa norms and raised the annual fee to USD 100,000.

Responding to the concerns around the steep hike in visa fees, Goyal said that India continues to provide solutions for corporations across the world, including in the United States, by leveraging its pool of skilled engineers and graduates.

"We also provide a huge amount of talent and innovation, for which Indian engineers and graduates are famous. That also provides us an opportunity to provide solutions for corporations across the world including in the

US to support their growth plans, to focus on new research and development and new ideas," the minister said.

He further highlighted that India's startup ecosystem is "very vibrant," with several companies emerging with ideas that

India continues to provide solutions for corporations across the world, including in the United States, by leveraging its pool of skilled engineers and graduates. We also provide a huge amount of talent and innovation, for which Indian engineers and graduates are famous

go beyond traditional resources.

According to him, India is witnessing "convenient action," which Prime Minister Narendra Modi had envisioned as early as 2010 when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat.

Highlighting the country's en-

ergy potential, Goyal noted that India is well placed to expand its clean energy capacity significantly over the next five years.

"Collectively today, India is in a sweet spot to expand our clean energy over the next 5 years, we hope to grow from over 250 GW

to 550 GW, and India has a very high element advantage which not many countries can offer. We have an integrated national grid of 500 GW, half of which is renewable and offers you much more resilience and stability," he said.

He pointed out that this grid

provides socialized demand management across the country and presents a unique advantage for global investors, especially for those looking to set up data centers in India. "That 500 GW will expand to at least a 1000 GW," he added.

The minister also highlighted nuclear power as another area for India-US cooperation. He said that both nations are working to address outstanding issues and support private sector efforts in the nuclear energy space, including small modular nuclear reactors.

"India continues to invest in nuclear power, we would probably double our nuclear power in the coming years through government intervention. But, we do take it on a much bigger scale, it has had challenges of price, cost of energy, which will need to be sorted out," he noted. *(ANI)*

EU's new strategic agenda sees key role for India in new world order

NEW DELHI: The New Strategic EU-India Agenda, launched by the EU on September 17, with greater priorities in trade, investment, technology and defense, comes against the backdrop of the dramatic geopolitical changes that

have taken place in the world order with Donald Trump taking over as US President this year.

The new Strategic Agenda portrays a recognition of today's altered reality and thus, it attempts to concentrate on three core imperatives, namely, tech-

nological sovereignty, economic diversification, and Indo-Pacific engagement, where each responds to the lessons of the past and the demands of the present times, according to an article in India Narrative.

First, the Agenda explicitly puts

emphasis on technological sovereignty, a notion that has risen to the forefront of the EU's strategic thinking. It identifies specific areas such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and defense technology as domains where the EU and India must work

together, the article points out.

The submarine deal under Project 75(I) already demonstrates what this can look like in practice, as not a one-way arms transaction but a partnership based on technology transfer, coproduction, and capacity building. *IANIS*

India now has 9 telecom security testing laboratories for IP routers

NEW DELHI: In a boost to the telecom security-testing ecosystem, the government recently designated one more telecom security-testing laboratory for security testing of IP routers.

The National Centre for Communication Security (NCCS), under Department of Telecommunications, designated Noida-based Compliance International as a

faster and more cost-effective compliance testing for OEMs, importers, and service providers, closer to their business hubs, according to the Ministry of Communications.

The designated laboratories are authorized to conduct security testing for 27 categories of telecommunication equipment, which includes IP Routers, Wi-Fi CPEs, Optical Line Terminals (OLTs), Optical Network Terminals (ONTs), and 23 Network functions of the 5G Core.

Security testing of multiple telecom products is already underway in these labs. A complete list of designated laboratories and the equipment categories assigned to them is available on the NCCS portal, according to the ministry.

This latest addition marks another step toward realizing the Government's vision of making India a global hub for telecom security testing and certification.

NCCS has been mandated to operationalize the framework of security testing and certification for the telecom/ICT products in India under the ComSec scheme.

This scheme falls under broader 'Mandatory Testing and Certification of Telecom Equipment (MTCTE)', rules notified in September 2017 with security testing as one of the technical regulations.

The scheme mandates every OEM/importer/dealer who wishes to sell, import or use any telecom equipment in India, shall have to get their equipment security tested and certified under this scheme, according to the ministry. *IANIS*



Telecom Security Testing Laboratory (TSTL), for testing IP routers under the Communication Security Certification (ComSec) scheme.

With this addition, the number of designated TSTLs in India has increased to nine.

These TSTLs are spread across Karnataka, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra.

These laboratories provide pan-India access, enabling

India's semi-urban and rural areas recorded robust growth in retail credit during April-June

MUMBAI: Demand for retail credit in India's semi-urban and rural regions continued to rise in April-June this year, reflecting the higher level of consumption even as overall credit demand in the country from younger consumers (aged 18-35) declined during the quarter, according to a TransUnion CIBIL report released 24 September.

The recent RBI interest rate cuts combined with the reduction in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates and increased demand due to the upcoming festive season, are expected to boost consumer spending and stimulate lending momentum, the report states.

According to the credit market report, the growth in loan

originations for younger consumers slowed to 6 percent in the quarter under study, compared to 9 percent in the same period last year.



This slowdown was cushioned to some extent by a robust 9 percent year-on-year growth in loan origination volumes from rural and semi-urban regions, reflecting stable consumption patterns outside metro areas.

The most significant growth in rural and semi-urban regions, by 15 percent year-on-year, was in personal loans which was more than the growth rate than those seen for other leading products in these geographies such as gold loans (7 percent) and consumer durable loans (9 percent) *IANIS*

Govt's startup accelerator WaveX launches 7 new incubators to support gaming, XR startups

NEW DELHI: Start-up accelerator platform WaveX will establish seven new incubation centers across India, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said.

These centers will support startups in animation, visual effects, gaming, comics (AVGC), and extended reality (XR).

The new centers will be established at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication campuses in Delhi, Jammu, Dhenkanal (Odisha), Kottayam (Kerala), and Amravati (Maharashtra), along with the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune and the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute in Kolkata.

The new centers were launched in addition to the existing facility at the Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) in Mumbai.

The centers will provide startups with access to advanced production, post-production, and game development editing and testing through IICT, FTII, SRFTI, and other partner incubators.



The Ministry informed that each center would choose 15 startups for its inaugural cohort.

Monthly fees are fixed at Rs 8,500 plus GST, with priority given to ventures in media, entertainment, AVGC, and XR.

These facilities enable startups to design, develop, and validate content in film, gaming, and immersive media at global standards, the Ministry said.

The flagship IICT Incubator in Mumbai is equipped with world-class infrastructure, and provides advanced equipment and infrastructure, featuring an 8K Red Raptor Vista Vision camera, 4K HDR preview theatre with Dolby Atmos, high-performance Alienware workstations, state-of-the-art virtual production stage with LED walls, photogrammetry systems, professional sound and color-mix theatres, 4K HDR edit suites, VR testing kits, and the latest gaming consoles.

Startups can access resources both on-site and through digital platforms.

Further, the selected startups will get access to incubation facilities, industry connections, government connections (both central and state, funding support, sales and marketing mentorship, etc.

Applications are now open at wavex.wavesbazaar.com. *IANIS*

Former X executive defends H-1B workers, slams anti-immigrant posts on X

SAN FRANCISCO: Former X (earlier Twitter) executive Esther Crawford has hit back at anti-immigrant rhetoric on X, saying the platform itself survived because of H-1B engineers, many from India and China, who worked tirelessly during the company's takeover period.

Crawford, who served as Director of Product Management during the company's takeover and rebranding as X, said that the platform survived because of the H-1B engineers from India and China after the takeover, as they worked long hours during critical times.

"Twitter/X survived because of H-1B engineers, mostly from India & China. They stayed after the acquisition, worked long hours and solved brutally complex problems alongside American colleagues. When posting anti-immigrant takes, remember: they're the reason you can tweet at all," she wrote on X.

Her remarks come after US President Donald Trump's recent H-1B visa proclamation imposed a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa applications.

Meanwhile, the US Secretary of Commerce defended the Trump administration's latest immigration measures and slammed the US Former President Joe Biden for the influx of large numbers of "illegal aliens in America". ANI

Immigration

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US again clarifies Trump's H-1B proclamation, says existing visa holders not impacted

WASHINGTON, DC: The US State Department offered more clarity on President Donald Trump's H-1B visa proclamation, which has triggered panic across the tech industry and among Indian professionals living in America on the visa.

The department debunked several false claims circulating after Trump signed the order last week. The US State Department stressed that the new H-1B rules "do not apply to any previously issued H-1B visas, or any petitions submitted prior to 12:01 am Eastern Daylight Time on September 21, 2025."

Clarifying further, the State Department said the new fee requirement applies only to individuals or companies filing fresh H-1B petitions or entering the lottery system after September 21. Current visa holders and petitions submitted before that date remain unaffected.

Under the proclamation, a \$100,000 payment must accompany every new H-1B visa petition filed after the deadline, including entries in the 2026 lottery.



President Donald Trump

New fee requirement applies only to individuals or companies filing fresh H-1B petitions or entering the lottery system after September 21. Current visa holders and petitions submitted before that date remain unaffected

The order also authorizes the Department of Homeland Security and the State Department to coordinate all necessary measures for implementation.

Guidance has already been issued by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, US Customs and Border Protection, and

the Department of State to ensure consistent enforcement across agencies, as per the statement issued by the Department of State.

The statement also emphasized that the proclamation does not alter fees for H-1B renewals and does not restrict existing visa

Under the proclamation, a \$100,000 payment must accompany every new H-1B visa petition filed after the deadline, including entries in the 2026 lottery

holders from travelling in and out of the United States.

Looking ahead, the US administration plans additional reforms to the program.

These include a Department of Labor rulemaking to raise prevailing wage levels and a Department of Homeland Security initiative to prioritize high-paid, high-skilled applicants in the H-1B lottery over lower-wage candidates.

Additional changes are under consideration and expected to be announced in the coming months, the State Department confirmed.

Earlier speaking to ANI, a senior US Administration official said that individuals currently holding H-1B visas, including those visiting India or abroad, don't need to rush back to the US or pay the steep \$100,000 fee.

"Those who are visiting or leaving the country, or visiting India, don't need to rush back before 21 September or pay the \$100,000 fee. \$100,000 is only for new and not current existing holders," the official told ANI.

Earlier, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) clarified that the USD 100,000 fee on H-1B visa applications will only apply to the new applicants and not to the petitions submitted prior to September 21.

"This proclamation only applies prospectively to petitions that have not yet been filed. The proclamation does not apply to aliens who: are the beneficiaries of petitions that were filed prior to the effective date of the proclamation, are the beneficiaries of currently approved petitions, or are in possession of validly issued H-1B non-immigrant visas," Joseph B Edlow, Director of USCIS, clarified in a memorandum on Saturday (Sept 20). ANI

"Also impacting American companies, they would've huge issues": MCCIA DG Prashant Girbane on H1B visa fee hike

PUNE: Prashant Girbane, Director General of the Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA), recently said, the steep hike in H-1B visa sponsorship fees announced by the US will affect not just Indian IT companies but also American tech giants.

"It is going to impact only the fresh applications, first of all. It's not just impacting Indian IT companies. It's also impacting American companies like Amazon, Google, Apple, and Tesla. They would have huge issues," Girbane told ANI.

The reaction follows the US administration's recent increase in H-1B sponsorship fees to USD 100,000, a move that has sparked sharp responses from India and industry stakeholders.

central to many global innovations, including major projects at Tesla and the development of ChatGPT.



Prashant Girbane

"Hey, look at it this way, Tesla is one of the major manufacturing plants being run by somebody who studied at Pune, COEP, and is running it. Chat GPT 4.0 was done by somebody who studied in Pune and went on an H1B. And there are many such individuals from India who are helping American companies do that, thanks to the H1B visa. Are we going to lose? Possibly a bit. Are they going to lose? Of course yes," he remarked.

Girbane also stressed that the development is an opportunity for Indian manufacturers to "focus on quality" standards and reduce dependency on imports. ANI

Citing examples, Girbane pointed out that Indian talent has been

H-1B visa fee hike will reduce India's brain drain: Mkt & Banking expert Ajay Bagga

NEW DELHI: The United States' decision to impose a steep increase in H-1B visa fees has triggered concerns across Indian industries.

But banking and market expert Ajay Bagga has a different view. Speaking with ANI, Bagga said that the USD 1,00,000 fee for the H1B visa will check the brain drain from India. "Brain drain will reduce, and India will have to find other avenues or productively use these people. This will be an objective for the govt too," he said.

"There are approximately 16,000 Indian-origin doctors working in rural areas in the US. Wide regions in the US are benefiting from H-1B visas," Bagga noted.

Bagga underlined the economic burden such a fee would impose if the policy continues at its announced pace. "If from next year the run rate of granting H-1B visas is the same, then there are about 14 billion dollars of extra costs, which the profit pools might not be there for those companies," he said.

The move, the US administration explained, is aimed at reducing what it sees as overuse of the program and ensuring that only "highly skilled" workers are brought in from overseas. Officials believe the fee hike will create and protect jobs for American workers.

"Beneficiaries of this rule will be offshore centers like

"There are approximately 16,000 Indian-origin doctors working in rural areas in the US. Wide regions in the US are benefiting from H-1B visas. In the IT sector, major companies employ between 5,000 and 10,000 workers on H-1B visas. They will try to outsource those works,"



Ajay Bagga

He added that in the IT sector, major companies employ between 5,000 and 10,000 workers on H-1B visas. "They will try to outsource those works," he said, pointing to likely shifts in business models.

Bagga also noted that the impact will not be limited to the information technology (IT) sector alone. "There is an impact. Not only in the IT sector, there are also healthcare, doctors, nurses and other financial services companies," he said, pointing to the wide base of sectors that depend on foreign skilled workers.

US President Donald Trump had announced a proclamation imposing a USD 100,000 annual fee on H-1B visa applications.

Vancouver and other nearby countries," Bagga noted, as firms look for cost-effective alternatives to manage their operations.

Earlier, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick had elaborated on the change during a press call, saying the measure was part of a strategy to discourage the use of the visa for positions considered to be training roles.

The current costs for processing H-1B visas usually run into a few thousand dollars, meaning the sudden jump to USD 100,000 marks a significant shift. Companies will be required to pay this in addition to the existing vetting charges. ANI

Higher H1B visa fee will have minimal near term impact on Indian IT companies: Morgan Stanley

NEW DELHI: The new H-1B visa fee regulation in the United States, though prima facie looks negative, but it will have minimal near-term implications for Indian IT companies, while medium-term challenges could emerge in the form of higher costs and the need for greater localization, noted a research report by Morgan Stanley.

"We see limited near term implications on business given it is only applicable on a prospective basis hence unlikely impacting near-term travel plans or ramps of existing projects due to staffing issues" noted the report

US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation requiring a payment of USD 100,000 to supplement H-1B petitions for new applications, effective from September 21 for a 12-month period, unless extended. The new rule however, applies prospectively,

meaning it will not impact existing visa holders or petitions already approved.

The research highlighted that Indian IT firms, which account for nearly 70 percent of all H-1B visas issued annually, may face a higher cost structure over the next 3-6 years as renewals come up. The fee, applicable per petition typically valid for three years, extendable by another three, could create incremental expenses.

Morgan Stanley's estimates suggest that the gross impact on earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) margins could range between 10 to 120 basis points, translating into a 0.5 percent to 8.5 percent drag on EBIT. However, with mitigants like offshoring and pricing negotiations, the net impact could be contained to about 50 basis points, or 3-4 percent of EBIT. ANI

"We see limited near term implications on business given it is only applicable on a prospective basis hence unlikely impacting near-term travel plans or ramps of existing projects due to staffing issues"

US' state California bans masks for immigration agents during operations

CALIFORNIA: California Governor Gavin Newsom has announced that he has signed a package of laws aimed at protecting immigrants in the US state, with the No Secret Police Act being a first-in-the-nation measure that prohibits officers from wearing masks.

Speaking at a high school in Los Angeles recently, Newsom said he signed five bills into law. The No Secret Police Act broadly bars federal and local law enforcement officers from wearing face masks while performing their duties.

Newsom also signed a bill requiring state and federal law enforcement officers to identify themselves by displaying their badge numbers or names while on duty, unless working undercover, reports Xinhua news agency.

The other three bills signed September 20 restrict Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) access to schools and daycare facilities, ban hospitals and health care providers from sharing sensitive information or allowing agents to enter emergency rooms without a warrant, and require family notification when agents appear on school campuses.

"It's like a dystopian sci-fi movie," Newsom said at the event. "Unmarked cars, people in masks, people quite literally disappearing."

"No due process, no rights. Immigrants have rights, and we have the right to stand up and push back," he added.

This law package was signed during US President Donald Trump's wide-ranging deportation program. The governor later posted on X that the new laws were "a direct response" to Trump's "lawless immigration raids and arrests in California."

California Democrats began drafting the immigration-related bills soon after Trump took office this January. Their efforts intensified after aggressive immigration crackdowns in Southern California sparked weeks of protests in Los Angeles and led to a National Guard deployment.

"All of this legislative resistance is to protect Angelinos from their own federal government. That is profound," Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said at the event, where she joined Newsom and other local Democratic leaders.

ICE has faced criticism from residents and communities in California for allowing agents to wear face-covering masks and plain clothes, citing threats to officers and their families. IANS

Newsom also signed a bill requiring state and federal law enforcement officers to identify themselves by displaying their badge numbers or names while on duty, unless working undercover, reports Xinhua news agency

Domestic investors buy record Rs 5.3 lakh crore worth equities in 2025

NEW DELHI: Even with a quarter remaining in 2025, domestic institutional investors have net bought a record Rs 5.3 lakh crore of equities, surpassing the full-year total of Rs 5.22 lakh crore in 2024, according to the stock exchange data.

Mutual funds were the largest driver of this buying spree, purchasing Rs 3.65 lakh crore, aided by monthly SIP inflows of more than Rs 25,000 crore, while their cash holdings remained elevated at Rs 1.98 lakh crore in August.

Insurance companies and pension funds added more than Rs 1 lakh crore, with the remainder coming from portfolio managers, alternative funds, banks, and other institutions.

But analysts suggest that early signs of slowdown in momentum are emerging as market returns stagnate and global headwinds weigh on sentiment.

Despite robust inflows from DII, Indian equities have lagged global peers, with the Sensex having gained just 2 percent and the Nifty 4 percent in 2025 in dollar terms, compared with double-digit advances in major Asian and Western markets.

Market onlookers doubt the sustainability of mutual fund inflows even as equity fund inflows were Rs 33,430 crore in August and Rs 42,702 crore in July. *IANS*

Real Estate POST

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www.indiapost.com

September 26, 2025

Government of India, ADB sign \$125 million loan agreement to improve urban services in Assam



NEW DELHI: The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$125 million loan agreement to support the upgradation of urban services in six district headquarters and Guwahati in Assam.

According to an official statement, the loan agreement for the Assam Urban Sector Development Project was signed by Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. *ANI*

GST rate cuts to boost housing, construction sectors

NEW DELHI: The GST rate reductions on key construction materials and services are expected to make housing more affordable, reduce infrastructure costs, and create more employment opportunities, according to an official statement issued recently.

The reforms are fully aligned with the national mission of Housing for All, and will also support flagship initiatives such as Smart Cities, metro projects, and other urban and rural infrastructure developments by lowering input costs. Additionally, they are set to encourage greater private investment in the construction sector, the statement said.

As part of the GST 2.0 reforms, the tax rate on cement has been reduced from 28 percent to 18 percent, which cuts costs that form 15-20 percent of total building expenses and



nearly 11 percent of overall construction costs.

The reduction in GST on particle boards from 12 percent to 5 percent will benefit MSME-driven clusters and promote eco-friendly jute-based housing solutions. Similarly, the reduction in the GST rate on marble & granite

blocks from 12 percent to 5 percent will result in lowering flooring and finishing costs while sustaining lakhs of jobs in stone-producing states.

The tax rate has also been reduced on job work for bricks & sand lime bricks from 12 percent to 5 percent, reducing small

house construction costs and supporting MSME-operated brick kilns. Besides, the GST has been cut on effluent treatment services from 12 percent to 5 percent, which will encourage CETP adoption, green jobs, and sustainable waste management, the statement added.

The Centre is advancing the goal of "Housing for All" through two flagship schemes. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), launched in 2015, provides pucca houses to eligible beneficiaries from the EWS, LIG, and MIG categories, as well as slum dwellers. PMAY-Grameen, introduced in 2016, aims to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to houseless households and those living in kutcha or dilapidated homes in rural areas. Both schemes are implemented in convergence with initiatives like Swachh Bharat Mission, Saubhagya, and Ujjwala Yojana, ensuring beneficiaries also have access to toilets, electricity, and clean cooking fuel. This integrated approach promotes affordable housing while improving the overall quality of life. *IANS*

GST exemption on insurance will make protection affordable, attractive for families: Experts

NEW DELHI: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemption on health and life insurance will make protection affordable, accessible and attractive for Indian families.

Speaking about the reform, Amit Chhabra, Chief Business Officer at Policybazaar, told ANI, "For the customers, it is an extremely beneficial move because they are getting an 18 percent instant discount on health insurance and life insurance."

Chhabra said the government's decision will not only reduce costs but also help in increasing awareness. "I

would feel that the other important aspect is that the awareness will significantly go up now. Govt has come out and endorsed that there is no GST now on health

"For the customers, it is an extremely beneficial move because they are getting an 18 percent instant discount on health insurance and life insurance"

insurance and life insurance. I feel this is an extremely positive move because the Govt is saying that it is a mandatory product and it must be bought by every citizen of the country," he said.

Chhabra added that the change is expected to encourage more people to opt for financial protection. "So, the awareness will go up, and more & more

people will buy health insurance and life insurance," he noted.

Balachander Sekhar, Co-founder & CEO of RenewBuy, said that by removing the 18 percent GST burden, the govern-

ment has made protection more affordable, accessible, and attractive for millions of households.

"With GST now reduced to nil, the exemption on all individual life and health insurance policies will significantly bring down costs for families, especially seniors, making insurance more affordable and accessible. Similarly, the removal of GST on individual life insurance policies—including term life, ULIP, or endowment policies—will boost insurance penetration, particularly among first-time buyers. *ANI*



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Now is the time: Why buyers have the advantage in today's market

Falling interest rates, motivated sellers, and increased inventory are creating the perfect opportunity for families and individuals to secure their dream home

BIBEK BHATTARAI

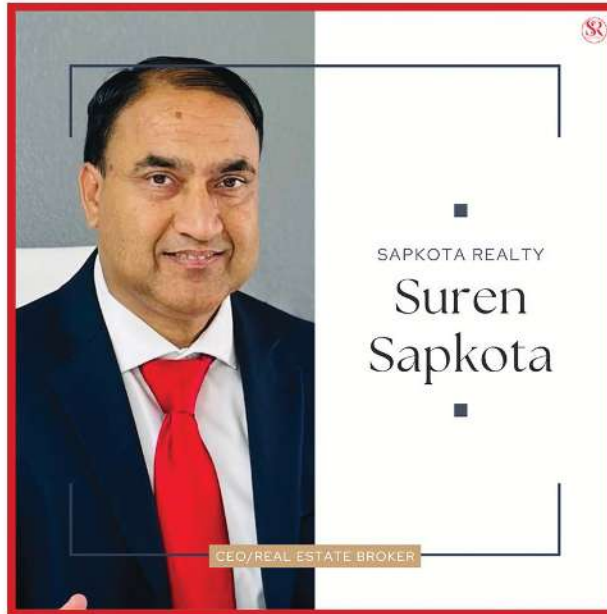
In today's ever-changing housing market, many people wonder whether they should wait or take the step to ward homeownership now. While it's natural to feel uncertain about timing, current market conditions show that now is one of the best opportunities in recent years to purchase a home. Buyers who act today are putting themselves in a strong position to secure both short-term savings and long-term financial growth.

Interest Rates Are Coming Down

One of the most compelling reasons to consider buying now is the trend in interest rates. After a period of increases, rates are beginning to ease. Even a small reduction in rates can significantly lower monthly mortgage payments and increase a buyer's purchasing power. Acting now allows buyers to lock in more favorable terms before demand inevitably rises again.

More Homes to Choose From

Another advantage buyers currently enjoy is increased inventory. With more homes on the market, there's a greater selection across neighborhoods, price ranges, and home styles. This gives buyers the ability to find a property that not only fits their budget but also meets their family's lifestyle needs. In contrast, when inventory is low, buyers often have to compromise or settle for less than they hoped for.



Motivated Sellers Creating Opportunities

In many areas, sellers are motivated to close deals more quickly. This creates opportunities for buyers to negotiate not only on price but also on closing costs, repairs, and other terms. In a competitive market, sellers hold most of the power, but today's conditions are creating more balance and giving buyers a real seat at the negotiating table.

Real Estate as a Long-Term Investment

Beyond short-term market trends, real estate remains one of the most reliable long-term investments. Historically, home values appreciate over time, building equity for homeowners and creating a foundation for wealth. By purchasing now, buyers are putting themselves in position to benefit from appreciation in the years to come.

Stability and Equity for Families and Individuals

Perhaps one of the most important reasons to buy a home is the stability and sense of belonging it brings. Renting often feels uncertain, with rising rents and the possibility of needing to move. Owning a home creates consistency for families while allowing them to build equity instead of paying toward someone else's mortgage.

The Bottom Line

There may never be a "perfect" time to buy, but the current market offers unique advantages for buyers who are ready to make their move. Lowering interest rates, greater inventory, and more favorable negotiating conditions all point to this being a smart time to act.

At the end of the day, the best time to buy is when the right home is available for you and your family. With today's opportunities, waiting could mean missing out on both financial savings and the chance to secure your dream home.

Why is investing in a second home a smart decision for NRIs?

HARINI BALASUBRAMANIAN

Among the numerous investment avenues, real estate has been one of the most preferred choices for non-resident Indians (NRIs). The share of NRI investment in property purchases in India has increased from around 10% to nearly 20% in the past decade, as per industry reports. Further, there has been a growing preference by NRIs for luxury homes, which also double up as vacation homes or second homes. Many NRIs look towards India for investments, and buying a property helps them stay close to their roots and secure a place to retire if required. In this guide, we explore the key benefits for NRIs planning to invest in a second home in India.

Benefits for NRIs investing in second homes

1. Scope for high capital appreciation

Investing in a second home can be a profitable investment. Buying a property offers scope for price appreciation in the long term. Developing areas typically see an increase in property value over time compared to developed areas. Thus, some tier 2 cities are showing significant growth potential. Owing to the robust infrastructure development in these cities, there are strong chances of property prices increasing in the future. Further, capital appreciation is also influenced by other fac-



tors such as a rise in demand for housing due to population growth, economic growth and employment opportunities.

Cities such as Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore are some popular destinations for luxury property investments, witnessing a rising demand from NRI investors. Their strategic location advantages and infrastructure growth present opportunities for significant capital appreciation in the luxury housing segment.

2. Opportunities to earn steady rental income

One of the top reasons why second home investments

have become popular is the rental income opportunities they offer. Renting out a second home can help NRIs have a steady source of passive income, which can help build funds for retirement. Moreover, second homes can be an excellent option for both long-term and short-term rentals. Locations close to employment hubs provide opportunities to earn long-term rentals, typically six months or longer, owing to the steady demand from tenants. www.housing.com

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

Kareena Kapoor Khan launches 2 flagship showrooms of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in UK at Birmingham & Southall

Malabar Gold & Diamonds continues its global expansion spree



Bollywood actress & brand ambassador of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Kareena Kapoor Khan, inaugurating the 2 flagship showrooms of the brand in UK, at Birmingham and Southall, in the presence of Mr. M.P. Ahammad, Chairman of Malabar Group; Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group; Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. A K Faisal, Group Executive Director; other directors and senior management team members from Malabar Gold & Diamonds, community leaders, valued customers, and well-wishers

Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the world's 5th largest jewelry retailer with over 400 showrooms across 13 countries, has proudly expanded its UK footprint with the launch of their 2 new flagship showrooms at Birmingham & Southall. Acclaimed Bollywood actress & brand ambassador of Malabar Gold & Diamonds, Kareena Kapoor Khan inaugurated the showrooms, marking a significant milestone in the brand's growing influence in the international jeweler sector.

Mr. M.P. Ahammad, Chairman of Malabar Group; Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group; Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD - International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds; Mr. A K Faisal,

retail presence of 4 showrooms & more in the pipeline, these openings not only strengthen our presence in the UK but also reinforce our mission of being among the most preferred jeweler retailer in the global market. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our customers, shareholders, and team members for sharing in our vision & placing their trust in us."

The newly opened flagship showrooms of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Birmingham & Southall are designed to be a complete luxury destination, offering jeweler lovers access to over 30,000 designs in 18K, 22K Gold, Diamond, and Precious gems, representing over 25 exclusive collections from Malabar Gold & Diamonds' vast design portfolio. Specialized services such as customized jewelry designing facilities & exclusive bridal designs are also available. Spanning 5,700+ sq.ft, the Birmingham showroom is the brand's largest outlet in the UK.

Mr. Abdul Salam K.P, Vice Chairman of Malabar Group, said: "Our uncompromising approach towards transparent and responsible sourcing under-

lines every showroom we open across the international markets. From sourcing conflict-free, certified diamonds and responsibly mined gold to ensuring ethical labor practices, Malabar Gold & Diamonds continues to set standards in the global jeweler sector. The UK marks the beginning of our consistent growth strategy across Europe, with further launches planned in key cities across the continent."

With these new additions, Malabar Gold & Diamonds now proudly operates 4

showrooms across the United Kingdom - at Birmingham, Leicester, Southall, and Green Street (London).

Mr. Shamlal Ahamed, MD-International Operations, Malabar Gold & Diamonds, stated: "The United Kingdom is home to a vibrant South Asian diaspora and a global hub for arts, fashion, and business. By expanding our retail presence in the country with the launch of Birmingham & Southall showrooms, we have positioned ourselves closer to our customers, ensur-

ing easier access to our timeless artistry and trusted services. The resounding success of the inaugural event with Kareena & the massive crowds that gathered for the same reflect the trust & admiration our brand enjoys in the UK. Looking ahead, our future expansion plans in the UK include opening showrooms in Manchester and a third showroom in London. Beyond the UK, we will also be marking our entry into Ireland and France."

Cont'd on page 25



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**Family of
Telangana techie
demands justice**

HYDERABAD: Family of a 30-year-old techie from Telangana who was shot dead by the police in the United States after he allegedly stabbed his roommate with a knife earlier this month, has alleged racial discrimination and demanded justice.

Mohammed Nizamuddin, from Mahabubnagar in Telangana, was shot dead by police in California on September 3, but the family received the information only on Thursday, September 18.

The youth was shot after he allegedly stabbed his roommate with a knife at his residence in Santa Clara. He was shifted to a local hospital, where he later succumbed. The victim was also admitted to the hospital for treatment of injuries he suffered in stabbing.

According to the Santa Clara Police, an argument between Nizamuddin and his roommate had escalated, leading to the stabbing. The police said they responded to a 911 call about a stabbing incident inside the house.

Details on page 24

**Trump party
leader's 'False
Hindu God' remark**

WASHINGTON: A Texas Republican leader has stirred controversy over remarks he made about a 90-foot statue of Lord Hanuman, installed in Sugar Land, Texas, known as the 'Statue of Union', which stands on the premises of the Shri Ashtalakshmi Temple and is one of the tallest Hindu monuments in the US.

Alexander Duncan, a Republican figure in Texas and reportedly affiliated with the party of President Donald Trump, took to social media platform X to voice his objection to the statue.

"Why are we allowing a false statue of a false Hindu God to be here in Texas? We are a CHRISTIAN nation," Duncan wrote, sharing a video of the statue.

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COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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www.indiapost.com

September 26, 2025



Indian Diaspora in Northern California celebrates 75th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi



India Post News Service

The Indian Diaspora in Northern California celebrated a vibrant and memorable event on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, marking two significant occasions - the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Telangana Liberation Day with more than 125 guests, including community leaders, professionals, and families from across the Bay Area.

The evening commenced with Deep Prajwalan and Ganesh Vandana, setting a devotional and unifying tone under the theme "A Tribute to Leadership, Freedom, and Unity." The program featured cultural performances, heartfelt tributes, and engaging presentations that highlighted both Prime Minister Modi's remarkable journey and the historic significance of Telangana's liberation from

Nizam rule in 1948.

Guests enjoyed a traditional dinner and joined in a ceremonial cake-cutting to celebrate the Prime Minister's milestone birthday. The atmosphere reflected pride, gratitude, and a shared commitment to unity and leadership.

Distinguished community leaders and representatives from several organizations graced the occasion, including Sujata and Ram Joshi, Suresh Deopura

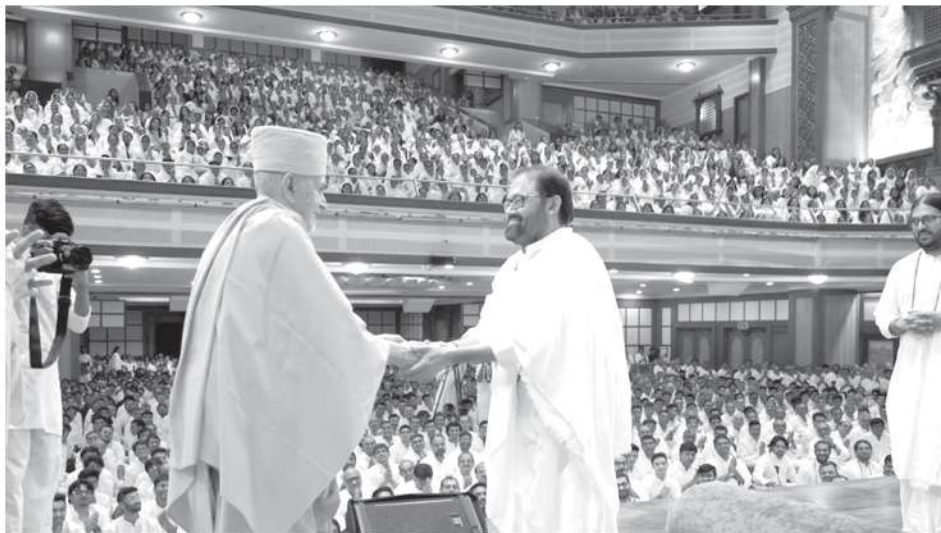
(HSS), Anil Surpur (Yoga Bharti), Satish Chandra Vale, Manisha Shah (FOG/A4H), Sachindranath, Gaurav Patwardhan, Bharat Goli, Ayyanar, Rajesh, Janmejai, and Bimal from OFBJP.

Meticulously planned and smoothly executed, the celebration left a lasting impression on attendees, reinforcing cultural pride and collective spirit within the community.



Commencement of Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshji's 60th year to be celebrated as 'Festival of Bliss' in the Poconos

A 3-day celebration honoring the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur founder's transformative impact on tens of thousands across the globe



Pujya Gurudevshri offering BAPS' Mahant Swami Maharaj best wishes on His birth anniversary in September 2022 in Dharampur



EAST STROUDSBURG, PA: The Shrimad Rajchandra Spiritual Center (SRSC), USA, is hosting the Festival of Bliss, a momentous private event from September 26 to 28, which mirrors the immersive retreats of major spiritual organizations.

Attendees will participate in meditation, yoga, mindfulness, and spiritual growth workshops, all curated to facilitate harmony between the mind, body, soul, and the surrounding natural environment. These experiences are designed not just for personal enrichment but to inspire participants to give back and engage with the broader Poconos community.

Nestled in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, the Shrimad Rajchandra Spiritual Center (SRSC) is a 400-acre wellness and community center designed to promote healthy living, reflection, and service. Envisioned by Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshji, a spiritual luminary and humanitarian, SRSC will be a welcoming space for people of all backgrounds to recharge, learn practical tools for self-improvement, and connect with nature, while contribut-

ing positively to the local community and economy.

Event Highlights

The thoughtfully curated Festival of Bliss will feature:

Daily Spiritual Discourses by Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshji - Illuminating talks that inspire inner transformation.



Pujya Gurudevshri with PM Modi - at launch in 2017 of commemorative stamps and coins honoring Shrimad Rajchandraji's 150th Birth Anniversary at Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad

Devotional Music - Soulful performances by the renowned Sachin-Jigar duo.

Mega Humanitarian Camp - Hands-on initiative bridging gaps in healthcare and packing meals for the underserved.

Lakeside Ceremonies, Yoga, and Meditation - Opportunities to reconnect with nature and the self.

Nature Walks - Exploring SRSC's lake and serene forest trails.

Atmarpit Diksha ceremony - Sacred initiation to a life of spiritual pursuit under the Guru's guidance.

About Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshji

A spiritual visionary, humanitarian, and global peace ambassador, Pujya Gurudevshri Rakeshji has guided seekers worldwide on the path of Self-Realization. The founder of Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur (SRMD) draws inspiration from his spiritual Master, Shrimad Rajchandraji, who is well-known as Mahatma Gandhi's spiritual mentor. Pujya Gurudevshri's universal message emphasizes cultivating self awareness, living with compassion, and serving others selflessly. He has led thousands of discourses and meditation retreats and addressed international forums across the globe.

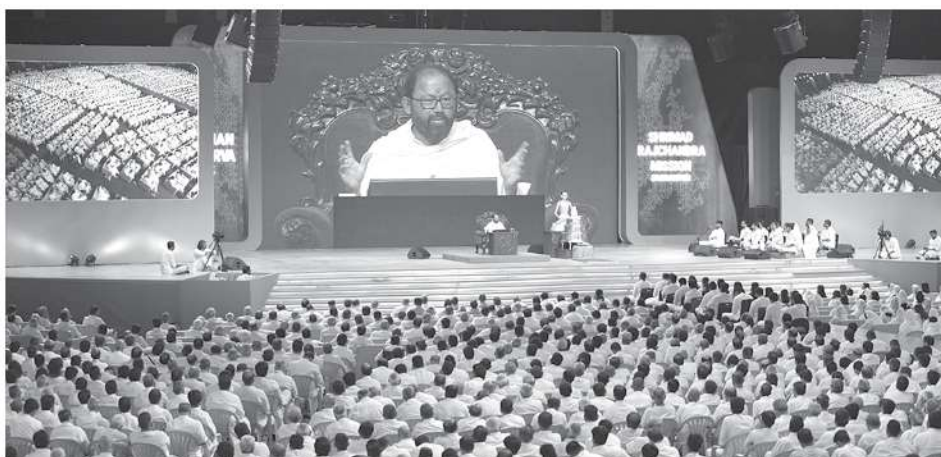
His humanitarian vision has inspired Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care

(SRLC), a holistic initiative, active across all continents, offering health care, humanitarian care, women care, child care, education care, animal welfare, and environmental programs. In 2023, Pujya Gurudevshri was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity by Claremont School of Theology, Los Angeles for his contributions to spirituality and selfless service.

About Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care (SRLC)

Guided by Pujya Gurudevshri, SRLC offers a comprehensive, 360-degree holistic program dedicated to the welfare of humans, animals, and the environment. It is powered by genuine empathy, love and care of highly motivated volunteers serving selflessly. Awarded special consultative status by the United Nations ECOSOC, SRLC has impacted millions worldwide. Recently, SRLC's Mission Africa was launched to address hunger, poverty, and unemployment in 16 nations of the continent.

For more details and registration information, please check out: srmd.org/festival-of-bliss



Family of Telangana techie shot dead by US Police demands justice

HYDERABAD: Family of a 30-year-old techie from Telangana who was shot dead by the police in the United States after he allegedly stabbed his roommate with a knife earlier this month, has alleged racial discrimination and demanded justice.

Mohammed Nizamuddin, from Mahabubnagar in Telangana, was shot dead by police in California on September 3, but the family received the information only on Thursday, September 18.

The youth was shot after he allegedly stabbed his roommate with a knife at his residence in Santa Clara. He was shifted to a local hospital, where he later succumbed. The victim was also admitted to the hospital for treatment of injuries he suffered in stabbing.

According to the Santa Clara Police, an argument between Nizamuddin and his roommate had escalated, leading to the stabbing. The police said they responded to a 911 call about a stabbing incident inside the house.

Nizamuddin's family, however, claimed that it was he who called the police for help before being shot.

Nizamuddin had pursued post-gradua-

tion in Computer Science at a college in Florida and was working at a tech firm in Santa Clara, California.

According to Nizamuddin's family, he was a quiet and religious person, and had even publicly raised complaints of racial harassment, wage fraud and wrongful termination from the job.

According to the family, 15 days before being shot dead, he had posted on LinkedIn how he was being harassed on

racial discrimination, racial harassment, torture, wage fraud, wrongful termination and obstruction of Justice. Enough is enough, white supremacy/racist white American mentality has to end," the techie had posted on LinkedIn.

The family demanded a thorough probe into the allegations and the circumstances that led to his death.

Nizamuddin's father, Mohammed Hasnuddin, wrote to Minister of External

of India in Washington, D.C., and the Consulate General in San Francisco to provide a detailed report on the matter and help with repatriation and related formalities.

According to Nizamuddin's family, he went to the US in 2015 to do a Master's in Computer Science from Florida Institute of Technology, and after completing his studies, he joined the Virginia Employment Commission in 2017 and later SOCH Company from September 2018 to April 2021. Later, he got a job at Google (EPAM Systems) and was staying in company-provided accommodation.

Hasnuddin alleged that his son was murdered in cold blood by Santa Clara police. He demanded a thorough probe by the Indian and the US governments.

Claiming that his son had called police for help when he was being attacked by the roommate, Hasnuddin asked how Santa Clara police say that his son was an attacker.

The family said they had not seen Nizamuddin for the last 10 years. They wanted his mortal remains to be brought back as soon as possible. *IANS*

Mohammed Nizamuddin, from Mahabubnagar in Telangana, was shot dead by police in California on September 3, but the family received the information only on Thursday, September 18

racial grounds and not being paid a proper salary, and the company where he was working, despite removing him, had hired a detective to watch his movements. The family claimed that the roommate who was quarrelling with him frequently was the same detective.

"I have been a victim of racial hatred,

Affairs S. Jaishankar that they do not know why he was shot dead by police. He requested that the mortal remains of his son be transported to India.

Majlis Bachao Tehreek spokesperson Amjed Ullah Khan met Nizamuddin's family in Mahabubnagar. Khan urged EAM Jaishankar to request the Embassy

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Diagnostic Equipment



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DA's Office makes PSA urging vigilance during Hindu-American festival season

The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office has produced a video Public Service Announcement intended to keep those celebrating the Hindu-American festival season safe.

The video stars two prosecutors, Sandip Patel and Shanthi Rajagopalan, reminiscing about their own festival season experiences. They ask the community to be vigilant and to call 911 if they suspect or see any potential crimes.

There has been opportunistic crime aimed at the Hindu-American community during festivals such as Diwali.

"My Office will prosecute and hold ac-

countable those who attack or target the Hindu community," DA Jeff Rosen said. "We are here for you. I wish you a safe festival season filled with light, laughter, and love."

In 2022, the DA's Office successfully prosecuted a man for hate crimes after he went on a violent two-month crime spree targeting at least 14 South Asian women and tearing jewelry off their necks.

Last year, the Office charged a man for a series of Hindu temple break-ins. In one instance, he broke into a temple in Sunnyvale three times and stole more than \$40,000 in donations.

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Kareena Kapoor Khan launches 2 flagship showrooms of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in UK at Birmingham & Southall

Cont'd from page 21

Both showrooms house extensive bridal collections along with ornaments for daily wear, work wear, and festive occasions. With a wide product range in 18K, 22K gold, diamonds, and precious gemstones, the showrooms cater to varied customer preferences, from those seeking timeless heirloom pieces to millennials looking for contemporary, lightweight designs. Every purchase from Malabar Gold & Diamonds is also covered under the "Malabar Promise" of incomparable quality & service assurance. The Malabar Promise includes 100% value on diamond & gold exchange, guaranteed buyback, hallmarked jeweler, exclusive usage of tested & certified natural diamonds, assured

lifetime maintenance and more.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) initiatives have been the primary commitment of Malabar Group since its inception in 1993, with 5% of net profits set

meals are distributed daily across 170 locations, including 3 schools in the African country of Zambia.

In India alone, the group has established 716 micro learning

Both showrooms house extensive bridal collections along with ornaments for daily wear, work wear, and festive occasions. With a wide product range in 18K, 22K gold, diamonds, and precious gemstones

aside towards such initiatives in each country of operations. The key focus is in the areas of Health, Hunger Free World, Housing, Education, Women Empowerment & Environment.

As part of the group's Hunger Free World initiative, over 70,000

centers, enrolling more than 32,000 underprivileged children, many of whom transition into formal schooling. Additionally, Malabar Group has awarded more than 115,000 scholarships to female students, supporting their academic journey and em-

powering the next generation of women leaders.

The company also runs the "Grandma Home" project, providing accommodation for needy and destitute women. With several such initiatives already in place, the company's long-term goal is to ensure its global success benefits local communities wherever it operates.

About Malabar Gold & Diamonds

Malabar Gold & Diamonds was established in 1993 and is the flagship company of Malabar Group, a leading diversified Indian business conglomerate.

With an annual turnover of \$7.36 billion, the company currently ranks as the 5th largest jeweler retailer globally and today has a strong retail network of over 400 showrooms spread across 13 countries in addition to multiple offices, design centers, wholesale units, and factories spread across India, Middle East, Far East, the USA, the UK, Canada & Australia. The group, owned by more than 4,000 shareholders, has more than 25,000 professionals from over 26 countries working to-

wards its continued success. Malabar Gold & Diamonds also features an online store www.malabargoldanddiamonds.com providing customers the opportunity to purchase their favorite jewelry at any time and on any day from the comfort of their homes.

The group also operates MGD - Lifestyle Jewelry, a retail concept offering trendy and lightweight jeweler that represents the independent and the modern woman through its designs and collections.

ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance) has been the primary commitment of the group since its inception. The key ESG focus areas of Malabar Group are Health, Housing, Hunger Free World, Education, Environment and Women empowerment. Integrating the principles of responsibility and sustainability into its core business, Malabar Group periodically strengthens its ESG goals to remain a socially conscious and responsible organization. The group contributes 5% of its profit to such initiatives in the same country of operation.

Trump party leader's 'False Hindu God' remark on Texas Hanuman statue sparks outrage

WASHINGTON: A Texas Republican leader has stirred controversy over remarks he made about a 90-foot statue of Lord Hanuman, installed in Sugar Land, Texas, known as the 'Statue of Union', which stands on the premises of the Shri Ashtalakshmi Temple and is one of the tallest Hindu monuments

cited the Bible's Exodus 20:3-4, writing: "You must not have any other god but me. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea."

Duncan's remarks drew sharp criticism on social media and from religious freedom advo-

some pretty sordid anti-Hindu hate-not to mention disrespect for the 1st Amendment's Establishment Clause?"

Supporters of religious freedom and interfaith respect also chimed in. One X user, Jordan Crowder, responded:

"Just because you're not Hindu, doesn't make it false. The Vedas were written almost 2000 years before Jesus walked the earth and are extraordinary texts. And there's obvious influences on Christianity...so it would be wise to honor and research the 'religion' that predates and influences yours."

The Statue of Union, unveiled in 2024, is a tribute to Lord Hanuman and was envisioned by Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, a prominent spiritual leader. The statue is not only a symbol of devotion but also of unity, harmony, and inclusiveness, core tenets of the Hindu faith. It is currently the third-tallest statue in the United States and has drawn interest from both the Indian-American diaspora and interfaith groups. IANS

"Why are we allowing a false statue of a false Hindu God to be here in Texas? We are a CHRISTIAN nation," Duncan wrote, sharing a video of the statue

in the US.

Alexander Duncan, a Republican figure in Texas and reportedly affiliated with the party of President Donald Trump, took to social media platform X to voice his objection to the statue.

"Why are we allowing a false statue of a false Hindu God to be here in Texas? We are a CHRISTIAN nation," Duncan wrote, sharing a video of the statue.

In a follow-up post, Duncan

cates. The Hindu American Foundation (HAF) denounced the comments as "anti-Hindu and inflammatory", and called on the Republican Party of Texas to take disciplinary action.

In a public statement directed at the state party, HAF wrote: "Hello @TexasGOP, will you be disciplining your senate candidate from your party who openly contravenes your own guidelines against discrimination-displaying

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Gujarat to host over 8,000 Ayurvedic camps and health workshops

AHMEDABAD: The Gujarat government has announced that more than 8,000 Ayurvedic health camps and medical workshops will be organized across the state in the coming year, focusing on women's and children's health, geriatric care, and lifestyle-related diseases.

The initiative is being undertaken under Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Health Minister Rushikesh Patel through the state's AYUSH division.

The announcement coincides with a "triveni sangam" of health-related initiatives -- Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar (Healthy Women, Empowered Families), National Nutrition Month, and National Ayurveda Day.

National Ayurveda Day is observed every year on September 23, the autumnal equinox, when day and night are nearly equal, symbolizing balance between mind, body, and senses -- a core principle of Ayurveda.

The Ministry of AYUSH, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, uses this occasion to promote awareness about Ayurveda's holistic health benefits.

As part of the Centre's health-focused programs, the "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar" campaign is being celebrated from September 17 (PM Modi's birthday) to October 2 (Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti), with a special emphasis on maternal and child nutrition. *IANS*

One can be said to be perfectly healthy in body and mind only if no part of the body or mind makes itself felt. A part makes itself felt only when there is something wrong with it. You know that you have a head only when it aches.

Sri Atmananda (1883 - 1959)

26 India Post

www.indiapost.com

September 26, 2025

India, US armies now join hands to boost defense medical and strategic cooperation

NEW DELHI: Apart from the recently conducted joint military exercises between the armed

and the US. The visit strengthened defense medical cooperation and strategic collaboration."

Forces Medical Services (AFMS), led by Director General and Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti

medicine and aviation medicine.

Besides, the issue of increasing medical cooperation in bilat-



forces of India and the US, senior Indian army officers arrived in America to study the medical facilities of the US military and boost defense medical cooperation and strategic cooperation between the two countries, Ministry of Defense officials said.

Taking to its official X account, the Ministry of Defense said: "A delegation of #AFMS officers, led by @dgafms_mod Surg Vice Adm Arti Sarin, visited US Armed Forces Medical Facilities in Honolulu, Hawaii. During the visit, the team engaged in staff-level talks, shared best practices in Military, Marine, and Aviation Medicine, and explored ways to enhance medical participation in bilateral exercises between India

During this visit to the US, special discussions were held on marine medicine and aviation medicine.

Marine medicine is for Naval personnel deployed at the sea while aviation medicine proves helpful for experts deployed in the

Sarin, has arrived in the US.

The Indian delegation is in Honolulu, Hawaii, on a study tour of US Armed Forces medical facilities.

During the visit, the Indian delegation held military staff-level talks with the US defense medi-

eral military exercises between the two countries was also discussed in detail.

The Ministry of Defense said the delegation inspected US military medical installations and gained an in-depth understanding of the state-of-the-art medical infrastructure, emergency medical care, and medical management of troops during deployment.

The Indian delegation also shared its experiences and practices, which further strengthened mutual understanding and trust between the two countries in this area.

On this occasion, senior army officials acknowledged that cooperation between India and the US in the defense medical sector is not only important for the health security of the security personnel but also provides a new direction to the strategic partnership between the two countries.

The Ministry of Defense described the visit as an important step towards deepening and broadening defense medical cooperation.

Recently, a major military exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2025' has been successfully conducted between the armies of India and the US in Alaska, which concluded on September 14. *IANS*

Marine medicine is for Naval personnel deployed at the sea while aviation medicine proves helpful for experts deployed in the Air Force, astronauts and other such missions

Air Force, astronauts and other such missions.

According to the Ministry of Defense, a delegation of senior officers of the Indian Armed

cal officials.

The talks between the two countries shared the best practices in specialized areas such as military medicine, marine

10th National Ayurveda Day: Ancient medical tradition can help build healthy society

NEW DELHI: The ancient medical tradition of ayurveda can help build a healthy and balanced society, said Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush Prataprao Jadhav on the 10th National Ayurveda Day on 23 September.

Ayurveda Day was earlier celebrated on Dhanteras every year, in honor of Lord Dhanwantari, the physician of

the gods. The date, based on the lunar calendar, used to vary every year. Hence, the Ministry of Ayush designated September 23 as Ayurveda Day, giving the ancient knowledge system a universal calendar identity and enabling greater participation at the global level.

"Heartfelt congratulations on the 10th National Ayurveda Day!" Jadhav shared in a post on the

social media platform X.

"Let us resolve on this occasion to contribute to building a healthy, balanced, and aware society by bringing our ancient medical tradition, Ayurveda, to every individual," he added.

The theme for this year is "Ayurveda for People & Planet" and emphasizes that Ayurveda is not just a healthcare system, but a science rooted in the prin-

ciple of harmony between the individual and the environment.

"Traditional systems offer sustainable health-care solutions for climate change and lifestyle diseases," the MoS said on X, while sharing his media article about the growing relevance of traditional medicine.

In the article, he highlighted how India's traditional medicine sector witnessed a remarkable transformation -- expanding nearly eightfold in less than 10 years. *IANS*

GST 2.0 to make healthcare more affordable, accessible: Experts

NEW DELHI: Medical devices and pharma industry experts have lauded the implementation of revised tax rates under GST 2.0, noting that it will make healthcare more affordable and accessible.

Early this month, the GST Council reduced the GST on medical devices to 5 percent from 12 percent.

In a post on social media platform X, the Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD) called it a transformative step towards a healthier, stronger, and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

"Thank you, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, for reducing GST on medical devices from 12 percent to 5 percent, making them more affordable for every citizen," the post read.

"This landmark reform will lower treatment costs and expand access to essential healthcare technologies across India," it added.

AiMeD also pledged to pass on "the benefits, ensuring affordable, high-quality, made in India devices for patients, hospitals, and labs nationwide".

With the GST rationalization, most medicines, earlier taxed at 12 percent, will now attract just 5 percent GST.

In addition, 36 critical life-saving drugs for cancer, genetic and rare diseases, and cardiovascular conditions have been fully exempted (0 GST). The GST Council has also rationalized tax slabs on health and life insurance premiums, glucometers, and corrective spectacles.

Sudarshan Jain, Secretary General, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), noted that the move will deliver direct savings to patients, easing the burden on families.

"These measures mark a transformative shift in India's healthcare landscape, delivering direct savings to patients, easing the burden on families, improving access to essential care, and strengthening healthcare security," Jain said

He added that the IPA, representing 23 leading research-driven companies, "is fully committed to ensuring these benefits reach citizens swiftly and transparently, advancing our mission of affordable and accessible healthcare for all". IANS



Why integrating perinatal mental health in national programs is important

NEW DELHI: There is an urgent need to integrate perinatal maternal mental health into national programs to help fight postpartum depression, anxiety and other such conditions among new mothers, said health experts recently.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), worldwide, about 10 percent of pregnant women and 13 percent of women who have just given birth experience a mental disorder, primarily depression.

India has more than 25 million births per year, but most women with mental health problems during pregnancy and one year after birth (the "perinatal period") go undetected and untreated, especially in rural areas.

A recent systematic review among perinatal women in India found that the prevalence rates for perinatal depression ranged from 14-24 percent in community-based studies, while some meta-analyses reported a pooled estimate of around 22 percent for postpartum depression.

Although maternal mortality in India has reduced by over 50 percent since the early 2000s to 97 deaths per 100,000, maternal suicide constitutes an increasing proportion of maternal deaths. A recent report in Kerala estimated that maternal suicide accounted for nearly one in five maternal deaths in 2020. IANS



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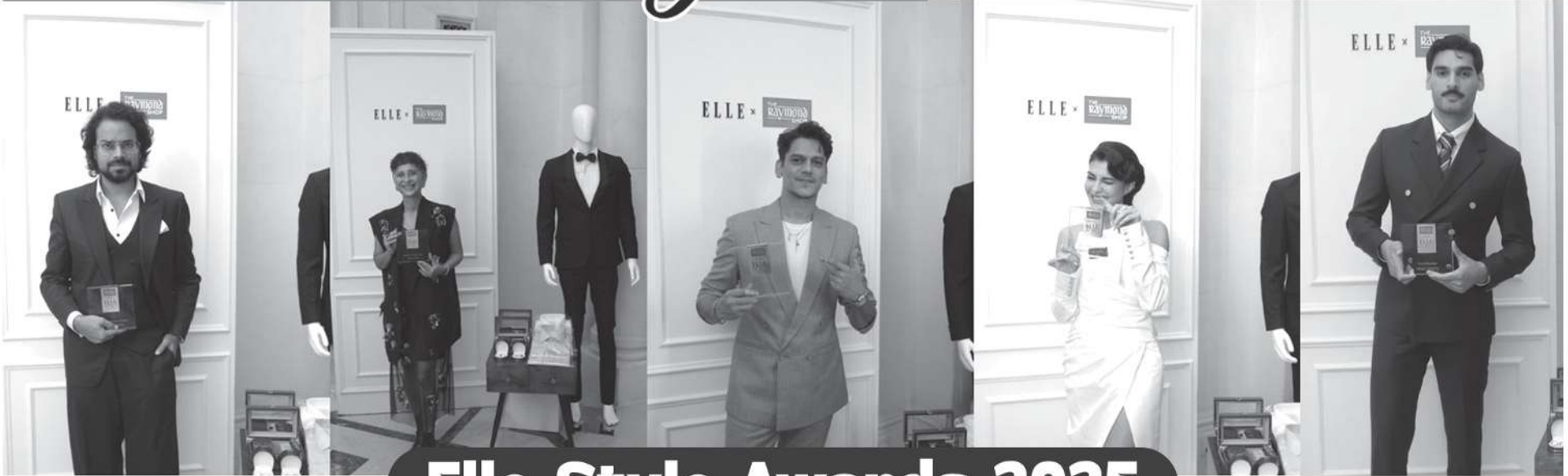
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Elle Style Awards 2025

An Evening of Creativity and Individuality

NEW DELHI: The second edition of Elle Style Awards 2025 - a celebration of fashion, creativity, and culture bejeweled the red carpet at The Leela Palace New Delhi on September 6, 2025. The soiree was a living showcase of innovation, authenticity, and fearless individuality graced by an esteemed jury of fashion leaders, industry stalwarts, and a dynamic blend of nominees.

Capturing the essence of today's fashion landscape, the platform embodied the next generation of Indian and global style. From glimmering gowns and

sharp tailoring to fearless experiments that broke the mold, the night redefined the narrative of style and elegance.

From screen icons to daring new voices, the winners' circle was nothing short of iconic:

ELLE Global Impact in Design: Rahul Mishra

Rahul Mishra, known for weaving couture as poetry, has taken Indian artistry across the world. This year, his breathtaking couture show 'Becoming Love' at Paris Fashion Week captivated the audience and cemented his global impact as a true visionary.

His intricately hand-embroidered creations support Indian artisans while resonating with international aesthetics, making him the natural recipient of the ELLE Global Impact in Design award.

ELLE Designer of the Year, Male: David Abraham, Rakesh Thakore & Kevin Nigli

As the visionaries behind Abraham & Thakore, David Abraham, Rakesh Thakore, and Kevin Nigli have redefined quiet luxury for India. With their minimalist yet deeply rooted designs, they offer thoughtful, relevant, and timeless collections

that combine textile narratives with subtle elegance.

ELLE Designer of the Year, Female: Mriga Kapadia and Amrit Kumar, NorBlackNorWhite

Founded by Mriga Kapadia and Amrit Kumar, NorBlackNorWhite has never been just about clothing; it's about storytelling, identity, and pushing boundaries. With their fearless approach to color, craft, and culture, their label is a symbol of rebellion and joy. The bold prints and vibrant palettes showcase a playful yet deeply rooted vision of Indian fashion that resonates worldwide. The designer duo recently collaborated with Nike, strengthening their place as cultural disruptors.

ELLE Creator of Icons: Karan Torani

Building a design language

embedded in nostalgia, storytelling, and unapologetic emotion, Karan Torani's creations often weave reminiscences of home, heritage, and soul that feel deeply personal yet universally resonant.

ELLE Photographer of the Year: Pranoy Sarkar

Renowned for his distinctive visual narratives, Pranoy Sarkar blends fashion with fine art that encapsulates the emotional intensity behind the lens. From editorial spreads to campaigns, his photography is a symbol of timeless elegance and fearless experimentation.

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

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

"CULTURAL FUSION AT ITS FINEST": AR RAHMAN TEASES COLLABORATION WITH JAPANESE BOY BAND 'JOI'

MUMBAI: Music legend AR Rahman has teased an upcoming collaboration with popular Japanese boy band JO1.

The Oscar-winning singer-composer took his Instagram handle and shared a picture with JO1 members Mame and Shosei at his Mumbai studio.

While details surrounding their projects remain under wraps, Rahman promises "cultural fusion at its finest."

"This picture screams cultural fusion at its finest! @official_jo1 members #Mame and #Shosei met with the legendary #ARRahman at his studio in Mumbai. Certainly a collaboration we can all look forward to," the caption stated.

The Japanese boy band recently arrived in India in a bid to represent the group in the city and is set to experience Mumbai's vibrant culture and energy.

The group is composed of eleven members: Issei Mamehara, Ren Kawashiri, Takumi Kawanishi, Shosei Ohira, Shion Tsurubo, Ruki Shirowa, Keigo Sato, Syoya Kimata, Junki Kono, Sukai Kinjo, and Sho Yonashiro.

While in the city, the members are scheduled to meet with key personalities from the entertainment and cultural sectors, reinforcing JO1's role as ambassadors of modern Japanese pop. ANI

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Philosophy

MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI

One American woman living in Amritapuri asked, "Amma, what sort of attitude and understanding should one have to the various experiences one undergoes during meditation?"

Amma told the woman that such experiences arise out of innocence. And that although one can take encouragement from such experiences, they should not be given much importance.

Because of one's innocence one may have such experiences; one may feel motherly love, see divine lights or feel a cool breeze... But you should go beyond all such experiences. You are on the path to realizing your oneness with God, with the Self. While traveling on a path, we see many things around us. But if we stop to see these things and forget our goal, we may never reach the goal.

All experiences are at the level of the mind and that the goal of spiritual life is to go beyond the mind. Ultimately such experiences are much like dreams and,

When people get hung up on the pursuit of experiences, they often squander their entire lives wandering from place to place looking for places where the "energy feels good."

Others fall victim to spiritual entrepreneurs, who charge, say, \$5000, to turn one into an avatar. "With the \$5000, they say you can become an avatar after a three-week course. But without the money, it won't happen." In search for newness, for new experiences, people go and follow all these things.

Charging money for teaching meditation is like a mother asking her child for payment for breast milk.

In fact, liberation is not something one can be given; it must come from within. If the ancient sages had to do austerities for ages in order to realize that state, how then could one get it just by paying some money?

When we eat sugar, we experience the sweetness. But we still are different from the sugar. We shouldn't be an experimenter, we should become That, we should become the sugar, we should become the sweetness.



Mata Amritanandamayi

Goal of spiritual life is to go beyond the mind

It is dangerous to focus on and pursue mystic experiences

as such, they should only be given the same importance as a dream.

The real important thing is the control we have over our mind. If someone becomes angry at us, we should not react and become angry also. We should reflect, 'Whom am I becoming angry at?' In such situations we should remember that it is all the Atma, the Supreme Self. We should think, 'The consciousness that is within me is within that person also. Can consciousness become angry? And if all is one, to whom can it express its anger?' We should give more importance to the Self and not the body.

The Guru's role in such experiences is like a mirror, reflecting whatever mental shortcomings one has. When you find yourself reacting in a negative way to different situations, you should contemplate upon the workings of your own mind, remind yourself of the Goal, and then rectify your behaviour. We should take every situation that comes in life as an opportunity to learn.

It is dangerous to focus on and pursue mystic experiences in spiritual life.

The balance of mind during all experiences is much more important than what the mind actually experiences. As explained in the Gita, maintaining equanimity of mind in all situations should be our focus.

Along the spiritual path, if one falls, the important thing is to get up and walk again. Whatever effort you put in on this path will never be lost.

Excerpted from amritapuri.org. The 72nd birth anniversary of Mata Amritanandamayi is being celebrated on September 27

50 SPIRITUAL APPETIZERS

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Jac O'Keeffe

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We Cannot Veto Our Children's Future: How Our Collective Inaction On Climate Change Is The World's Most Devastating Veto

DR RAJENDRA SHENDE

A single hand rises in the United Nations Security Council. That was on 18 September 2025. With that gesture, a call for a ceasefire is silenced. That image is now seared into our collective consciousness. A lifeline for millions is vetoed by a single hand. We watch and we despair over the system overriding humanity's conscience. We see this act of geopolitical paralysis. It is a failure of humanity, a triumph of self-absorption over our planetary survival.

But this is merely a rehearsal for a far greater, more silent tragedy. We are all-every one of us-participating in a slower, more devastating veto. Not in a glittering chamber in New York, but in the boardrooms, legislative halls, and daily choices of our nations. We are collectively vetoing a sustainable future. The climate crisis is not just an environmental issue; it is the ultimate failure of our global conscience, a silent genocide of potentially fair and equal prin-

dustrialized nations burned fossil fuels to build their wealth. They consumed the planet's shared atmospheric space-our most vital commons-and left the bill for the rest of the world. This was not just development; it was a generational centuries old veto. They vetoed their emissions to compromise the stability of the future.

Today, as developing nations seek their path out of poverty, they are told to stop. The nations that built their empires on coal, oil and gas now veto the development aspirations of others, often without providing the promised financial aid for a net-zero transition to phase out fossil fuel.

We are not facing one veto in a chamber. We are enacting a cascade of daily vetoes, against climate, against equity, against just transition. Every delayed climate policy, every broken funding promise, every diluted international agreement is a veto against the survival of island nations, against the African and Asian farmers fac-

ing drought, against our children. We have moved from a world where a few nations hold a veto to one where all nations, united in inaction, wield it.

A Race To The Bottom

This brings

We are collectively vetoing a sustainable future. The climate crisis is not just an environmental issue; it is the ultimate failure of our global conscience, a silent genocide of potentially fair and equal principles cherished in the octogenarian charter of United Nations

ciples cherished in the octogenarian charter of United Nations.

The origin of UN veto power was planted in 1945 San Francisco Conference where the five permanent members of the Security Council-United States, United Kingdom, China, France and Russia (as the successor to the Soviet Union) -insisted on its inclusion as a condition for joining the new organization to protect their national interests and prevent being forced to act against them. This power is codified in Article 27 of the UN Charter. While every aspect of our life on the Earth has changed over the last 80 years, Article 27 remained a stubborn pillar of concentration of power in the hands of a few.

A Cascade of Daily Vetoes

The UN veto is a privilege of power almost mimicking dictatorship. Now, apply that logic to the atmosphere - a sky above us that makes life on our planet livable.

For over a century, a small group of in-

us to the agonizing truth we face on the UN's 80th anniversary. The UN machine is screeching and powerless. The primary forum for climate action, the UNFCCC, operates on a consensus model that gives every country a de facto veto. The result? A race to the bottom where urgent, ambitious action is held hostage by the least ambitious, the most invested in the status quo.

The Paris Agreement was a diplomatic miracle, but it is built on promises, not penalties. There is no mechanism to enforce pledges, no consequence for failure. It is a system designed for conversation, not for combat. And we are at war with the consequences of our own inaction.

(The author is a noted environmentalist, former Director of UNEP, Coordinating Lead Author, IPCC 2007 (Nobel Peace Prize laureate), IIT Alumnus, and Founder, Green TERRE Foundation, Pune, India)

South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com

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

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Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Security Pact has strategic and economic ramifications

JAYANTA ROY CHOWDHURY

History rarely offers neat repetitions, but the Saudi-Pakistan defense pact announced this week bears an uncanny re-semblance to another turning point: Britain and France's humiliation during the Suez Crisis of 1956, when the postwar illusion of European dominance collapsed overnight.

Then, as now, the moment was defined not by a battle lost, but by a trust betrayed. What Suez revealed for London and Paris, Riyadh has just revealed for Washington: that the security guarantees of an old patron are sometimes just not good enough.

The pact follows on the heels of Israel's strike on Qatar, which laid bare the fragility of American security assurances in the Gulf.

For decades Saudi Arabia was the archetype of an Ameri-

rejects a "no first use" doctrine, that umbrella comes with the threat of pre-emptive strike.

The China Factor

The symbolism is extraordinary, but the consequences are starker still. Pakistan imports the overwhelming majority of its weapons from China. Saudi Arabia, by joining hands with Islamabad, is binding itself to Beijing's defense supply chain.

This alignment also extends the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the flagship of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative, all the way to the Persian Gulf. For China, the strategic prize is immense: a secure, nuclear-protected energy corridor bypassing the Strait of Malacca, its most vulnerable chokepoint.

For Riyadh, the lesson from

House of Saud for guard duties.

Does this mean Saudi Arabia would ride to Pakistan's defense in a future conflict sparked by terrorism or a border clash? Would Riyadh really risk embroiling its soldiers, and by extension its monarchy, in the quicksand of a South Asian war?

Most analysts believe that to be an unlikely scenario. The Saudi war machine is built for projection, not quagmire. A far more plausible scenario is one where Riyadh offers financial lifelines, discounted oil, or arms shipments. The kind of support that, even short of direct intervention, could tilt the regional balance at the margins, but not really affect the battlefield.

Still, the very perception of Saudi backing enhances Pakistan's confidence, complicating India's strategic calculus.

The economic dimension is just as unsettling. The Biden administration's great counterweight to China's Belt and Road was the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), meant to channel trade and energy across Saudi soil toward Europe.

That vision now lies in tatters. Riyadh's alignment with Islamabad and Beijing all but guarantees that India's flagship connectivity project will stall, leaving New Delhi more isolated in its geopolitical contestation with China.

Risk Global Financial Equilibrium

Then there is the question of the dollar remaining the sole currency of global business. The Saudi-American bargain of the past half century was rooted in the petrodollar system wherein the world's oil is priced in dollars, sustained by US military protection.

(The writer is a senior Indian journalist and geopolitical analyst) *South Asia Monitor*

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H-1B, U. S. LOSS IS INDIA'S GAIN

The recent announcement of squeezing H-1B beneficiaries and increasing barriers for Indian tech professionals in the U.S. could be a boon for India's domestic tech sector by potentially accelerating domestic innovation and job growth, as more skilled workers remain in or, return to India. However, this potential benefit is contingent on a number of factors, such as the specific policies in place, the economic conditions in India, and the willingness of companies to invest in their local talent pools.

Policies that encourage or necessitate the return of skilled workers can help to reduce the 'brain drain' that has traditionally seen Indian talent emigrate. Returning techies may face challenges finding suitable jobs, especially if their experience in the U.S. is not aligned with the technology landscape in India. Returning professionals may also encounter significant financial and lifestyle adjustments, with some finding the cost of living in India higher than expected for a desired standard of living. The specific U.S. policies that create 'techie loss', such as, increased visa fees or stricter hiring requirements, influence how many professionals return and the impact on their careers.

A true boon for India depends on Indian companies and the Indian government creating an environment where this returning talent can thrive through increased investment and support for the local tech ecosystem. In essence, while U.S. policies that hinder Indian tech workers can create challenges for those individuals, they also present an opportunity for India to leverage its own talent for domestic advancement and growth.

The announcement introduces a steep \$100,000 (Rs 88 lakh) fee for H-1B visas. This marks

the most significant change to the program since its creation in 1990. Until now, applicants only faced a modest entry fee and additional costs usually covered by the US employers, amounting to a few thousand dollars.

Experts point how this move would disproportionately impact Indians, who form the majority of H-1B beneficiaries. According to official U.S. data, 71 percent of all H-1B beneficiaries are from India. If one visits the campuses of Google, Facebook or any major tech company in Silicon Valley, you are bound to witness large number of Indian techies at work.

President Trump's idea to create space for US citizens to work is great but that requires American youth to train for required skills first, which it lacks. Removing talented youth that U.S. acquired few years back from all over the world to fuel their technological superiority could derail the advancement and leadership it holds. The only two economies that are growing faster than U.S. are China and India.

This decision might sound good for political brownie points but ultimately may harm the growth and leadership U.S. has gained over the years. Similar issues are arising in the farm sector where, the real workers who fuel the growth of farmers in US have been targeted.

Quick-fix solutions to problems created by previous administrations cannot work. Corporate leaders must be roped-in to think through long-term solutions that America truly needs. Credit to America's growth is its leadership and the best work ethics it has demonstrated to the world.

That phrase, bland as it may sound, carries profound weight - it extends Pakistan's nuclear deterrence to the kingdom. In effect, Riyadh has acquired a nuclear umbrella, one untethered to American restraint

can client state - trading oil for protection, dollars for arms, loyalty for reassurance. That it has now stitched its security fate to Pakistan's armed forces, and by extension to China's military-industrial system, marks a dramatic rupture in the fabric of the US-led world order.

The pact is sweeping in scope. A senior Saudi official described it as a "comprehensive defensive agreement that encompasses all military means."

That phrase, bland as it may sound, carries profound weight - it extends Pakistan's nuclear deterrence to the kingdom. In effect, Riyadh has acquired a nuclear umbrella, one untethered to American restraint. And because Pakistan

the Qatar strike was obvious. It needs to hedge against dependence on Washington before it is too late. Other US-aligned states are surely watching. A cascade of similar realignments could follow, dismantling the architecture of American alliances and replacing it with a patchwork of regional nuclear patrons.

India's Altered Calculus

For India, the ramifications are doubly fraught. New Delhi depends on Saudi Arabia for a substantial share of its energy imports. It now faces the unsettling reality that its most critical supplier has entered a binding military partnership with its arch-enemy. Riyadh and Islamabad have an older military pact whereby Pakistani troops are lent to the

Disclaimer: Views expressed are personal to the author



Anya Singh on importance of standing the ground

Actress Anya Singh, who essays the role of a talent manager in the recently released streaming show 'The Ba***ds of Bollywood', has spoken up on the importance of an artiste standing their ground in front of the pressures from different facets of filmmaking.

The actress spoke with IANS in the BKC area of Mumbai during the promotional run of the show, and cited the example of the Yash Raj Films head-honcho Aditya Chopra, who stood his ground with his debut film 'Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge' as it broke many prevalent norms of Hindi back in time.

She told IANS, "DDLJ" was made only because Aditya Chopra stood his ground and made what his vision was. I truly and sincerely believe, and all my co-actors have that belief, in 'The Ba***ds of Bollywood' that you have never seen anything like this, at least on Indian OTT platforms. IANS



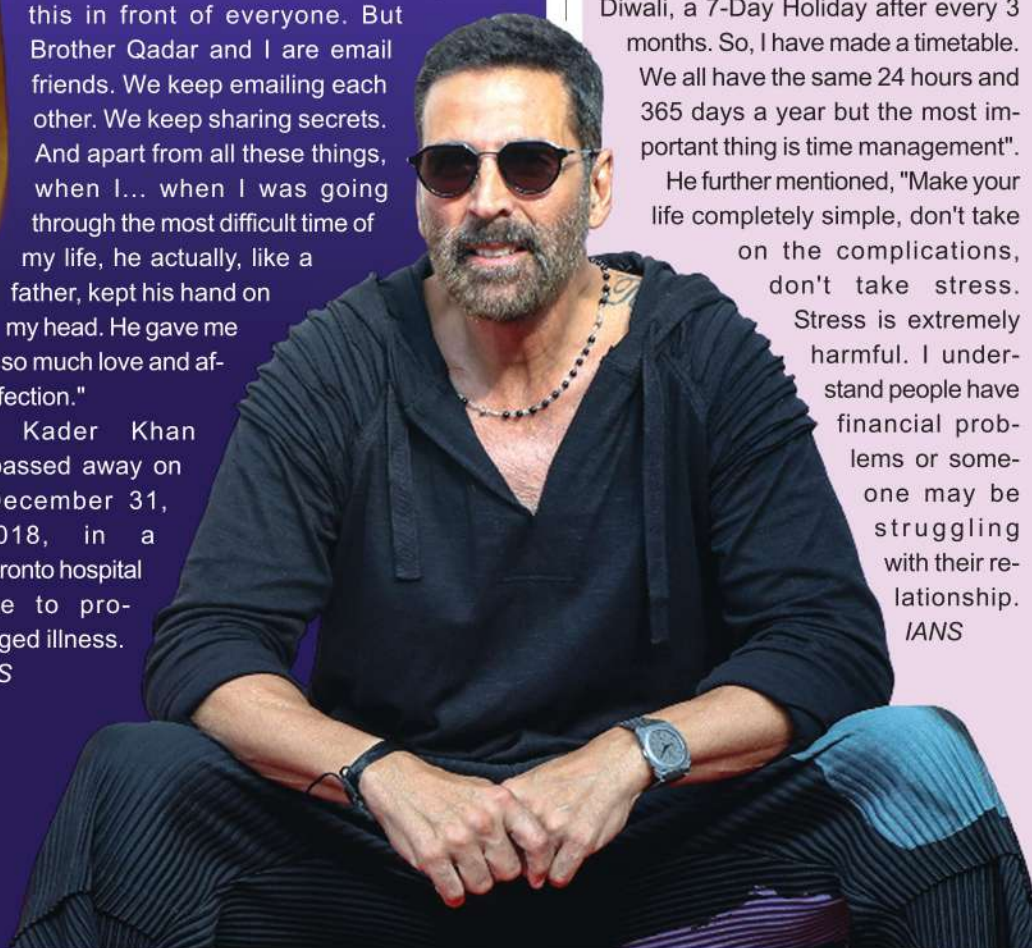
RAVEENA TANDON: 'DAD' KADER KHAN SUPPORTED HER

Actress Raveena Tandon had once revealed how veteran actor and writer Kader Khan stood by her side during the most challenging phase of her life, offering love, guidance, and support like a true father figure.

During Kader's old appearance on the chat show "Jeena Isi Ka Naam Hai," Raveena joined through a video call to talk about her bond with the senior actor. Revealing why she always addressed Kader Khan as 'Dad,' she said, "Hi, dad. I am not on your show right now. But I wish I could be. But do you know how much I love you? And I say this in front of the whole world. No. But I said hi dad to him for the audience. Because I have done so many films with him where he has played the role of my father. That's why wherever I meet him, I greet him with hi dad. And yes, let me tell you this secret as well. Brother Qadar."

Raveena added, "Now, I have to say this in front of everyone. But Brother Qadar and I are email friends. We keep emailing each other. We keep sharing secrets. And apart from all these things, when I... when I was going through the most difficult time of my life, he actually, like a father, kept his hand on my head. He gave me so much love and affection."

Kader Khan passed away on December 31, 2018, in a Toronto hospital due to prolonged illness. IANS



TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

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

AKSHAY KUMAR EXPLAINS THE MATHS OF HIS LIFE

Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar, who is receiving positive response to his work in the recently released film 'Jolly LLB 3', has shared the maths behind his disciplined life.

The superstar recently graced the season finale of the streaming sketch comedy show 'The Great Indian Kapil Show', and shared that the trick to live a balanced life is to have simplicity.

When the show host Kapil Sharma asked him if he ever takes a break, the superstar said, "Yes, I definitely take breaks. I take a break for 125 days a year, add another 52 Sundays to it, 40 days of summer vacation, 3 days of Diwali, a 7-Day Holiday after every 3 months. So, I have made a timetable.

We all have the same 24 hours and 365 days a year but the most important thing is time management".

He further mentioned, "Make your life completely simple, don't take on the complications, don't take stress.

Stress is extremely harmful. I understand people have financial problems or someone may be struggling with their relationship. IANS

JACQUELINE FERNANDEZ GETS NO RELIEF FROM SC

The Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea filed by Bollywood actress Jacqueline Fernandez seeking to quash money laundering proceedings initiated against her by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the Rs 200 crore extortion case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Augustine George Masih refused to order a stay on the trial proceedings but granted liberty to the actress to approach the court at an appropriate stage.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Fernandez, argued that she

could not be prosecuted under Sections 3 and 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), since she had no knowledge that the gifts received from Chandrashekhar were proceeds of crime.

Rohatgi added that she was being wrongly implicated in the money laundering case despite being named as a witness in the predicate offence.

The Justice Datta-led Bench, referring

Bollywood actress
Jacqueline Fernandez
seeking to quash money
laundering proceedings
initiated against her by the
Enforcement Directorate
(ED) in connection with the
Rs 200 crore extortion case

to the apex court's judgment in Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India case, which upheld the wide powers of the ED, observed that allegations at the stage of framing of charges must be accepted as they stand.

"The allegation is that a part of that Rs 200 crore came to you as a gift. Nothing has been proved. At the stage of framing of charges, you have to accept what the allegation is," it said. IANS



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Katrina Kaif, Vicky Kaushal announce: On way to start the best chapter of our lives

Bollywood star couple Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal announced they are all set to welcome their first bundle of joy.

In a collaborative post on Instagram, Katrina and Vicky announced the news of them stepping into parenthood. The two shared a picture of a polaroid, where Katrina and Vicky are gently holding on to the actress' blossoming baby bump.

"On our way to start the best chapter of our lives with hearts full of joy and gratitude," the two wrote as the caption.

Katrina's friends from the industry took to the comment section to congratulate the couple.

Janhvi Kapoor wrote: Congratulations, Congratulations, Congratulations.

Ayushmann Khurrana wrote congratulations guys.

Sonam Kapoor simply dropped some heart emojis.

Varun Dhawan said that his heart is full after hearing the news.

It was in 2021, when Vicky and Katrina got married in an intimate ceremony in the Six Senses Fort Barwara Hotel, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan. Chatter about Katrina's pregnancy started doing the rounds recently, however the couple remained tight-lipped.

It was during an award show, when Vicky playfully proposed to Katrina on stage in a scripted moment that left Katrina blushing. However, they crossed paths at a party hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar, where their bond was deepened. *IANs*



Dadasaheb Phalke Award a catalyst and responsibility: Mohanlal

Actor Mohanlal, on the eve of receiving Indian cinema's highest honor -- the Dadasaheb Phalke Award -- said the recognition was not only a catalyst for his artistic journey but also a responsibility.

Speaking to a leading Malayalam channel before leaving for the award ceremony in New Delhi, where the President of India will confer him the honor, the veteran actor reflected on his four-decade-long journey.

"Cinema is magic. The recipe for success -- no one knows. To become successful, one has to be lucky, and I consider myself lucky. The blessings of my seniors are the reason for this," said Mohanlal, likening his artistic path to water flowing steadily until it merges

with the sea.

The award, which celebrates an illustrious career spanning nearly five decades, comes as another crowning moment for the actor who has already won five National Awards, including one as a producer.

His selection, observers say, highlights not only his monumental contribution to Indian cinema but also the global recognition Malayalam films have garnered through his work.

Expressing gratitude to the government, the award jury, and his fans, Mohanlal said, "This was never in my dreams. I am always thankful. This is a huge recognition for Malayalam cinema. I remember all the great actors who walked before me -- I have learned a lot from them."

He dedicated the honor to the Malayalam film industry, his family, and the audience that has stood by him. *IANs*

Kareena Kapoor: Was 'busy with my boys' on birthday

Bollywood diva Kareena Kapoor Khan turned 45 and she celebrated the milestone with her boys.

Kareena took to Instagram stories, where she shared a picture of herself kissing a helium balloon with "Happy Birthday Amma" written on it.

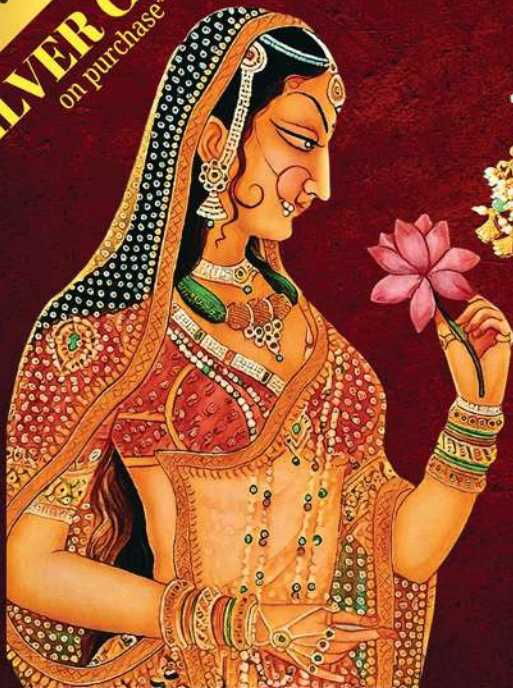
"Felt all the love So grateful Thank you to each and everyone who wished me... I love you all. Busy with my boys today," wrote the actress, who is married to Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan, caption.

It was on Sunday, September 22, when the actress turned 45 and a string of her close ones shared birthday notes for the Bollywood diva.

Talking about work, Kareena was last seen in Rohit Shetty's action film "Singham Again". The film stars Ajay Devgn in the title role, alongside Kareena, Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, Arjun Kapoor and Jackie Shroff. It is the fifth installment of Shetty's Cop Universe franchise. *IANs*



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Vadodara or Baroda is a cosmopolitan city located in Gujarat. Home to some of the most exemplary displays of architecture, Vadodara is a fitting memorial to Maratha leader Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III who had envisioned a dream to make this Big City an educational, industrial and commercial center.

Known for one of the most lavish palaces in India- the Lakshmi Vilas Palace and plenty more legendary monuments, Vadodara is the cultural capital of Gujarat. With a prominent part of it being occupied by the Gujaratis, this place is the most sought after during the nine days of the Navratri festival. No city in India celebrates the festival of Navratri with as much zeal and exuberance as Vadodara does. It houses one of the premier universities of India- the Maharaja Sayajirao University.

NAVRATRI FESTIVAL

You just cannot come to Baroda and miss out on its most extravagant festival - Navratri. Vadodara is considered the cultural capital of Gujarat, and the most sought after location for celebrating Navratri.

The festival is celebrated with a lot of exuberance in this city and one should not leave the city without shaking a leg in its traditional dance form - Garba. It usually takes place in the month of October.

PLACES TO VISIT IN VADODARA

Laxmi Vilas Palace: Laxmi Vilas Palace is one of the most majestic structures in India and was the private residence of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III. Known to be the largest private dwelling of the size equivalent to four times of the Buckingham Palace, this magnificent palace is a must-visit when in Vadodara.

The striking Laxmi Vilas Palace was constructed in 1890 and took nearly twelve years to complete. Sprawling across an area of about 700 acres, it is still home to the royal family of Vadodara, the Gaekwads. It is built in the Indo-Saracenic style, which is a hybrid of the Hindu, Gothic and Mughal architectural forms with the presence of domes, minarets and arches.

Champaner: The Capital of the Sultanate of Gujarat, Champaner is a historical city located in the Panchmahal district in Gujarat. Being included in the elite list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites across the globe, this marvelous archaeological park set in the heart of the city of Champaner and amidst the Pavagadh hills is one of the



VADODARA

"GUJARAT'S CULTURAL CAPITAL WITH PALACES, MUSEUMS, AND FESTIVALS"

most sought after places in Gujarat.

Sayaji Gardens: Sayaji Baug or Sayaji Gardens, as the name suggests, is dedicated to Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III himself. It is the most extensive garden in the western region of India with a sprawling 45 hectares of land. This was built in the year 1879 on the river Vishwamitri, and it comprises of a broad spectrum of flora, with more than 99 species of trees to its name. That's not all; this park also houses two museums, a planetarium, a zoo, a toy train for children and a flower clock. So many utilities

under one roof make this attraction the most sought after in the state of Gujarat.

Ajwa Nimeta Garden: Decked with green manicured lawns and adorned by towering palm trees, the Ajwa Nimeta Garden is the perfect destination to plan your leisurely weekend at. The crowd-puller here is the 100-meter row of perfectly aligned musical fountains that mesmerize us with coordinated water shoots in the background of lively colors. This garden is enjoyed by adults and kids alike.

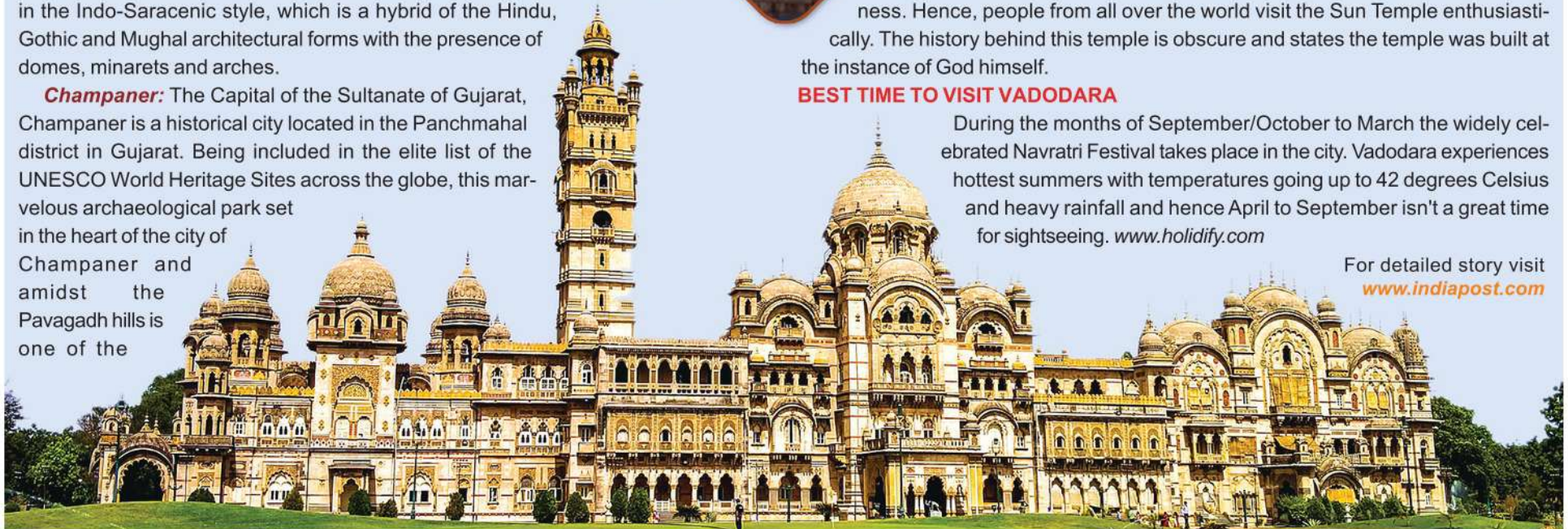
Sursagar Lake: Sursagar Lake, also known as Chand Talao, is a historic water body located in the heart of Vadodara, Gujarat. Originally constructed in the 18th century and later renovated with stone masonry, the lake remains full throughout the year and features a concrete wall where visitors often sit and relax. A prominent feature of the lake is the 111-foot-tall statue of Lord Shiva, built by the Vadodara Mahanagar Seva Sadan between 1996 and 2002. In 2023, this statue was gilded with approximately 17.5 kg of gold, enhancing its grandeur and making it a significant landmark in the city.

Surya Mandir: Sun Temple, Borsad is situated in the town of Borsad in Anand, Gujarat, dedicated primarily to the Sun God. The Sun Temple of Borsad is known to bestow divine grace upon those who visit and relieves them from ailments, which might cause them unhappiness. Hence, people from all over the world visit the Sun Temple enthusiastically. The history behind this temple is obscure and states the temple was built at the instance of God himself.

BEST TIME TO VISIT VADODARA

During the months of September/October to March the widely celebrated Navratri Festival takes place in the city. Vadodara experiences hottest summers with temperatures going up to 42 degrees Celsius and heavy rainfall and hence April to September isn't a great time for sightseeing. www.holidify.com

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com





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