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## ISRAEL WELCOMES MODI

Chants of 'Modi, Modi' reverberate in Israeli Parliament as PM Modi receives standing ovation, huge applause



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu along with members of the Knesset, Israeli parliament, give a standing ovation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi upon his arrival at the Knesset, in Jerusalem. Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu's wife Sara Netanyahu also present. (@narendramodi X/ANI Photo)

TELAVIV: Members of the Israeli Parliament, Knesset, gave a standing ovation and a huge round of applause to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he arrived at Israel's House of Representatives to give a landmark address - the first-ever by an Indian PM.

Chants of 'Modi-Modi' reverberated at the Knesset as PM Modi arrived to attend the official reception ceremony along with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Mr. Prime Minister, Jerusalem me aapka swagat hai, Knesset me aapka swagat hai (Welcome to Jerusalem, Welcome to the Knesset)," Speaker Amir Ohana said in Hindi while welcoming PM Modi to the Israeli Parliament. He also called PM Modi as the "defining statesmen of our times".

Earlier, PM Modi held a private meeting with Netanyahu at the Ben-Gurion International Airport soon after his arrival in the country on a two-day State Visit. The two leaders discussed a wide range of subjects

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"This is a bond of real friendship. Great friend, my great friend," Netanyahu was seen saying while meeting PM Modi in a video shared by the Israeli Prime Minister's office.

"Had an excellent meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu. Expressed gratitude to him for the warm welcome earlier in the day. It is a delight to be back in Israel after 9 years. We discussed a wide range of subjects aimed at boosting bilateral ties. Sectors such as technology, water management, agriculture, talent partnership and more offer immense scope for close collaboration. We also discussed key developments in the region," PM Modi posted on X after the meeting.

The 'private meeting' between the two leaders took place after Netanyahu and First Lady Sara Netanyahu welcomed PM Modi at the Ben-Gurion airport in a special gesture.

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**This week's question**  
Can India win the Men's T-20 World Cup 2026?

**Last week's result**  
Will Bangladesh's new PM accept PM Modi's invitation?  
**YES 73% NO 27%**



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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**

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**'Lakshmi Niwas' shoot sequence**



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Members of the Israeli Parliament, Knesset, gave a standing ovation and a huge round of applause to Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he arrived

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# MANY BUSINESSES AND HIGH INCOME PROFESSIONALS OVERPAY TAXES EACH YEAR

## *Proactive, Law Compliant Planning Can Significantly Reduce Tax Burden*

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**F**or many business owners and high-income professionals, taxes represent one of the largest recurring financial expenses. Despite strong earnings and careful financial management, a surprising number of taxpayers legally pay more taxes than necessary. The reason is not negligence or calculation errors. In most cases, it is the absence of structured and proactive tax planning. Tax filing alone does not guarantee tax efficiency.

Most individuals and businesses focus on taxes only when deadlines approach. Documents are gathered, numbers are reviewed, and returns are prepared based on transactions that have already occurred. While accurate filing is essential for compliance, it is largely retrospective. By the time the return is completed, the financial year has ended and opportunities to significantly influence the outcome are limited. Meaningful tax savings are created during the year, not at the last minute.

Proactive tax planning is a strategic process that evaluates income, expenses, investments, and financial decisions before the year closes. It allows taxpayers to legally minimize tax liabilities by making timely adjustments that align with federal and state tax regulations. Without planning, decisions are made in isolation. With planning, financial actions are coordinated for optimal tax efficiency. Many taxpayers do not overpay because of mistakes. They overpay because opportunities were never explored.

Business owners frequently make decisions involving compensation, equipment purchases, expansion, retirement contributions, and expense management. Each of these carries tax consequences. When planning is not integrated into decision-making, deductions may be underutilized, expenses may not be structured efficiently, and income recognition may occur at unfavorable times. High income professionals face similar challenges. Physicians, dentists, consultants, executives, and other professionals often manage multiple income sources, including wages, practice earnings, consulting fees, partnership distributions, and investment income. Without coordinated planning, these income streams may be taxed inefficiently, resulting in higher liabilities and reduced cash flow.

Law compliant tax planning provides a clear and legal solution. Effective tax strat-



Sabu Syriac

egies may include evaluating the appropriate business entity, structuring reasonable compensation arrangements, optimizing business expense treatment, coordinating retirement contributions, managing the timing of income and deductions, applying depreciation rules, and aligning investment decisions with tax efficiency. Every strategy must be tailored to the taxpayer's specific financial profile.

A common misconception is that tax reduction strategies involve aggressive interpretations or questionable practices. Ethical tax planning is grounded in careful

analysis, proper documentation, and responsible application of tax law. The objective is compliance, accuracy, and efficiency.

correctly, proactive tax planning can deliver substantial benefits. Businesses often experience reduced tax liabilities, improved liquidity, better cash flow management, and greater financial predictability. Professionals gain clarity, stability, and fewer surprises at filing time. Instead of reacting to large balances due, taxpayers operate with a strategy.

Another important factor is economic value. Many taxpayers hesitate to invest in year round tax advisory services, viewing them as discretionary expenses. In practice, structured tax planning frequently

longer sufficient. Tax laws change. Income structures become more complex. Financial decisions carry greater consequences. A once a year filing approach cannot consistently produce optimal outcomes. Year round tax planning has become an essential component of intelligent financial management.

At Syriac CPA Tax and Accounting Services Inc., our philosophy is straightforward. Taxes should be planned, not merely reported. Our focus extends beyond accurate tax preparation to designing smart, law compliant tax strategies aligned with each client's financial and business objectives. Because the objective is not simply filing returns. It is legally minimizing taxes, protecting cash flow, and building stronger financial outcomes.

About Author:

**Sabu Syriac, MBA, CPA**

Certified Public Accountant, Tax Strategist and Business Consultant  
President and CEO

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**MOST INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES FOCUS ON TAXES ONLY WHEN DEADLINES APPROACH. DOCUMENTS ARE GATHERED, NUMBERS ARE REVIEWED, AND RETURNS ARE PREPARED BASED ON TRANSACTIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY OCCURRED. WHILE ACCURATE FILING IS ESSENTIAL FOR COMPLIANCE, IT IS LARGELY RETROSPECTIVE**

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generates savings that exceed advisory fees many times over. More importantly, planning reduces uncertainty, prevents costly surprises, and strengthens compliance positions. In today's evolving tax environment, passive tax management is no



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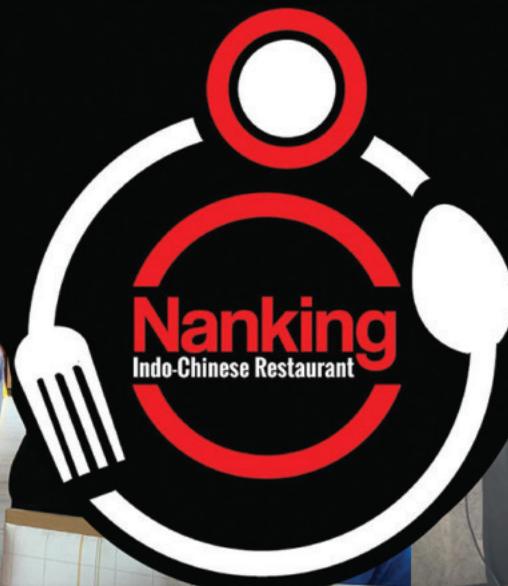
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# ISRAEL WELCOMES MODI

*Chants of 'Modi, Modi' reverberate in Israeli Parliament as PM Modi receives standing ovation, huge applause*

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"This is a bond of real friendship. Great friend, my great friend," Netanyahu was seen saying while meeting PM Modi in a video shared by the Israeli Prime Minister's office.

"Had an excellent meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu. Expressed gratitude to him for the warm welcome earlier in the day. It is a delight to be back in Israel after 9 years. We discussed a wide range of subjects aimed at boosting bilateral ties. Sectors such as technology, water management, agriculture, talent partnership and more offer immense scope for close collaboration. We also discussed key developments in the region," PM Modi posted on X after the meeting.

The 'private meeting' between the two leaders took place after Netanyahu and First Lady Sara Netanyahu welcomed PM Modi at the Ben-Gurion airport in a special gesture. "You are a great leader," said Netanyahu after the two leaders exchanged a warm hug at the tarmac.

The Israeli PM also engaged in an animated conversation with PM Modi, highlighting that the color of PM Modi's pocket square matches Sara's saffron dress perfectly.

"My wife Sara and I welcomed today our good friend, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, who has arrived for another historic visit to Israel. Prime Minister Modi previously visited Israel in 2017, and I later paid a reciprocal visit to India that was truly exceptional. We share a close personal relationship, speak often, and I believe that the deep friendship between us powerfully reflects on the ties between our two countries," Netanyahu posted on X.

## Hindu and Sikh religious sites in Pakistan sold, forcibly occupied: Report

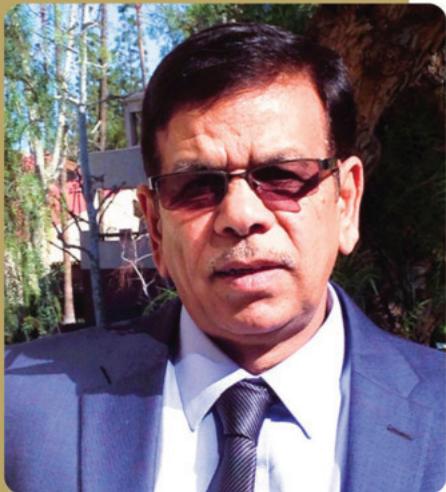
ISLAMABAD: As the population of Sikhs and Hindus in Pakistan continues to shrink, a recent report highlighted that land belonging to several religious sites of the minority communities has been sold, with other properties allegedly being forcibly occupied by local individuals across the country.

According to a report in 'Khalsa Vox', another case recently came to light in which a historic gurdwara in Abbottabad in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province was allegedly sold for 10 million Pakistani rupees by the Evacuee Trust Property Board, the body responsible for maintaining gurdwaras, temples, and other places of worship belonging to minority communities in the country.

"At the time of the 1947 Partition, many religious sites of the Sikh community and Hindu temples remained in Pakistan. To oversee their maintenance, the government established the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB). However, it is now being observed that most gurdwaras and temples are either in a dilapidated condition or have been erased altogether, allegedly to prevent the Sikh and Hindu communities from claiming their rights over them," the report mentioned. /ANS

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## "I was born on same day India formally recognized Israel, happy returning to land to which always felt drawn": PM Modi

JERUSALEM: Affirming India's close ties with Israel, Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted he was born on the same day that India formally recognized Israel and said he is very happy returning to a land to which he has always felt drawn.

Addressing the Israeli Parliament, Knesset, PM Modi deepest condolences to the people of Israel for every life lost in the terrorist attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023.

He said countering terrorism requires sustained and coordinated global action, because terror anywhere threatens peace everywhere.

"It is a privilege and honor for me to stand before this distinguished house. I do so as the Prime Minister of India and also as a representative of one ancient civilization addressing another. I bring with me the greetings of 1.4 billion Indians and a message of friendship, respect and partnership," PM Modi said.

"Nine years ago, I had the good fortune to be the first PM of India to visit Israel, and I'm very happy to be here again, returning to a land to which I always felt drawn. After all, I was on the same day that India formally recognized Israel, September 17, 1950," he added.

PM Modi said no cause can justify the

murder of civilians and nothing can justify terrorism.

"I also carry with me the deepest condolences of the people of India for every life lost and for every family whose world was shattered in the barbaric terrorist attack by Hamas on October 7th. We feel your pain, we share your grief. India stands



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the Knesset, Israeli Parliament, in Jerusalem. (DPR PMO/ANI Photo)

with Israel firmly, with full conviction in this moment and beyond," PM Modi said.

"India has also endured the pain of terrorism for a long time. We remember the 26/11 Mumbai attacks and the innocent lives lost, including Israeli citizens. Like

you, we have a consistent and uncompromising policy of zero tolerance for terrorism with no double standards. Terrorism aims to destabilize societies, to block development and to erode trust. Countering terrorism requires sustained and coordinated global action because terror anywhere threatens peace everywhere.

That's why India supports all efforts that contribute to durable peace and regional stability," he added.

Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed PM Modi ahead of his address to Israeli Parliament, Knesset, and described him as "a great friend of Israel, a great champion of the Indian-Israeli alliance, a great leader on the world stage."

PM Netanyahu described PM Modi as "dear friend" and said he was deeply moved by the visit.

"I have to tell you, Narendra, my dear friend, I am deeply, deeply moved by your visit here today. I've never been more moved than by your visit here with us, a great friend of Israel, a great champion of the Indian-Israeli alliance, a great leader on the world stage. Welcome to Jerusalem, my dear friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and your distinguished delegation," he said. ANI

## PM Modi becomes first world leader to cross 100 million followers on Instagram

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has surpassed the landmark figure of 100 million followers on Instagram, becoming the first serving world leader and politician to reach the milestone on the social media platform.

Having joined Instagram in 2014, PM Modi has, over the past decade, transformed his account into one of the most active and widely followed digital platforms among global leaders.

His presence on the platform has steadily expanded, reflecting a sustained outreach strategy that connects with audiences both in India and abroad.

Among prominent international leaders, PM Modi currently commands the largest follower base on Instagram. Significantly, his follower count is more than double that of US President Donald Trump on the platform.

In fact, the combined number of followers of the next five major world leaders does not surpass PM Modi's individual tally. IANS

## Prime Minister Modi's personal embrace 'Modi hug' is something special: Netanyahu

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reflected on the 'Modi Hug', asserting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal embrace is something special.

"Earlier today, my wife Sara and I greeted you at the airport. And, just as you came down the steps, we embraced each other. Because Prime Minister Modi's personal embrace is something special. It's called the 'Modi Hug'. It's well known around the world," Netanyahu said while addressing Israeli Parliamentarians during the official reception ceremony for PM Modi at the Knesset.

"And when you hug someone closely, truly, you know it's not an act. It's a real thing. It's called the 'Modi Hug'. So, I want to return the hug here from every single one of the Knesset members. And it's not

only an indication of the personal relations, of the personal friendship between us, but it really reflects the warmth of the tie between our two peoples," the Israeli PM added.

Members of the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, gave a standing ovation and a huge round of applause to Prime Minister Modi as he arrived at the venue to give a landmark address - the first-ever by an Indian PM.

In his address, Netanyahu called PM Modi "a great leader" on the world stage.

"Welcome to Jerusalem, my dear friend, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and your distinguished delegation. Now, I said, Narendra, my dear friend, these are not just words. I would almost venture to say, more than a friend, a brother..." he stated. IANS



## Israel and India must adopt vigilant approach amid Turkey's growing alignment with Pakistan: Report

TEL AVIV: Israel and India should prioritize vigilance over alarmism through deeper strategic dialogue with NATO partners, stronger non-proliferation mechanisms, and robust regional diplomacy as "quiet preventive measures often prove more effective than public confrontation", a report said on Tuesday.

Writing for 'Times of Israel', Sergio Restelli, an Italian political advisor, author and geopolitical expert, said that both Jerusalem and New Delhi should watch closely as Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepares to visit Israel, with the Turkish-Pakistani dynamics and potential issues such as Turkish nuclear ambitions warranting closer scrutiny.

"When policymakers discuss nuclear proliferation, attention usually turns to Iran or North Korea. Yet an emerging concern - still under-examined in global discourse - is the possibility of a future Turkish nuclear weapon," Restelli stated.

He cited Michael Rubin, Director of policy analysis at the Middle East Forum and senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, who argued that India, particularly, should not overlook this scenario - a warning that deserves broader scrutiny- in both New Delhi and Jerusalem.

"Turkey is a NATO member and a long-standing participant in the global non-proliferation regime. It is also home to US tactical nuclear weapons under NATO's nuclear-sharing arrangements. Formally, Ankara remains bound by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). However, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has in the past publicly questioned why some states are permitted nuclear weapons while others are not," Restelli detailed.

"Combined with Turkey's increasingly assertive regional posture-from Syria to Libya to the Eastern Mediterranean-this rhetoric has raised questions among security analysts about Ankara's long-term ambitions," he added.

According to the report, the implications for Israel are "immediate and strategic". Israel, it said, followed a policy of nuclear ambiguity, using deterrence without formal declaration, while its security doctrine emphasizes preserving qualitative military superiority in a volatile region. IANS

# Truly splendid: PM Modi as Netanyahu welcomes him in traditional Indian attire

TELAVIV: Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu for his gesture of wearing traditional Indian attire, describing it as a mark of respect for India's cultural heritage.

Responding to Netanyahu's post on X, PM Modi reposted the message and wrote, "Truly splendid! Your fondness for Indian attire reflects your respect for the rich culture and traditions of our country."

The exchange came after Netanyahu welcomed the Indian Prime Minister to a dinner engagement dressed in traditional Indian clothing, creating a symbolic and warm moment during the ongoing visit.

Netanyahu was seen dressed in a light grey Nehru jacket as he greeted PM Modi with a smile. In a video shared by the Israeli Prime Minister on X, PM Modi was heard remarking, "It's an Indian dress," acknowledging the gesture.

The two leaders shared a cordial ex-

change and posed together for photographs ahead of the dinner.

Sharing the moment on social media in Hindi, Netanyahu wrote, "Before our joint



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hosts Prime Minister Narendra Modi for dinner wearing Indian clothing, in Jerusalem. (@IsraeliPM X/ANI Photo)

dinner, I surprised my friend Prime Minister Modi by wearing traditional Indian attire."

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi and Benjamin Netanyahu are scheduled to visit Yad Vashem together before holding an

expanded bilateral meeting at the King David Hotel.

The discussions are expected to focus on a comprehensive review of the India-Israel Strategic Partnership, with emphasis on strengthening collaboration in defense, science and technology, trade, and people-to-people exchanges. The two leaders will also exchange views on pressing regional and global developments.

Several MoUs spanning economic, security and diplomatic domains are set to be signed during the visit, aimed at further enhancing cooperation between the two countries. Following the signing ceremony, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Netanyahu will deliver joint statements to the media outlining the outcomes of their talks.

India is currently moving towards finalizing what is being described as a landmark strategic partnership with Israel to acquire Iron Dome technology. *IANS*

## Pak Senate resolution signals strategic discomfort over India-Israel axis

NEW DELHI: The resolution passed by the Senate of Pakistan condemning Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, over remarks about forming regional alliances with India and other countries, is a clear sign that Islamabad is rattled.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on a two-day visit to Israel, during which the focus has been on strengthening ties with Israel in the defense, trade and security sectors.

India and Israel signed a security MoU which will bring the two countries together to co-develop weapon systems in India.

India's relations with Israel were elevated to the level of strategic partnership during PM Modi's first visit to the country in July 2017.

The latest visit has further strengthened relations between the two countries. The trust factor between PM Modi and PM Netanyahu has further contributed to the strong ties between the two nations. *IANS*

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# India joins US in abstaining on UNGA resolution backing Ukraine ceasefire

UNITED NATIONS: On the fourth anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the General Assembly supported the territorial integrity of Ukraine and demanded an immediate ceasefire in a resolution on which India joined the US in abstaining.

The resolution carried with 107 votes, including those of Washington's allies, showed a split among the Western countries in their approach to ending the war.

There were 12 votes against it, and 51 countries abstained.

The unusual US abstention was driven by its optimism that a peace deal was near and that two paragraphs in the resolution would interfere with its diplomatic efforts.

US President Donald Trump has reportedly asked Ukraine to give up some territory in a peace deal, which Kyiv has rejected.

The US demanded that the draft resolution drop paragraphs on the Assembly reaffirming its "strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine", and calling for a "comprehensive, just and lasting peace" conforming to international

law and the UN Charter.

When Washington's proposal for the deletion was defeated 11 to 69 - with India among the 62 abstaining - the US abstained on the resolution for ending the war.

In an unusual spectacle, Russia joined the US to vote for the excision, while Washington's allies voted against it.

US Deputy Permanent Representative

Russia's Deputy Permanent Representative Anna Evstigneeva concurred.

"Today, when a genuine window of opportunity has opened up for a political settlement of the Ukrainian crisis, it is diplomacy that we must talk about first and foremost, not proclamations", she said.

Bruce, however, clarified, "The United States welcomes, of course, the call for an immediate ceasefire".

*The resolution carried with 107 votes, including those of Washington's allies, showed a split among the Western countries in their approach to ending the war. There were 12 votes against it, and 51 countries abstained*

Tammy Bruce said Washington opposed the two references because they were "likely to distract from ongoing negotiations, rather than support discussion of the full range of diplomatic avenues that may pave the way to that durable peace".

"We believe we are closer to a deal than at any point since this war began", she said.

France's Permanent Representative Jerome Bonafont said supporting the US demand "would mean that the UNGA would be voting against the principles of the Charter".

Washington's allies expressed strong opposition to the US's defeat of the US demand to cut parts of the resolution. *IANS*

# Kamala Harris calls Trump's State of the Union address 'full of lies'

WASHINGTON: Former US Vice President Kamala Harris has sharply criticized President Donald Trump's State of the Union address, calling it "full of lies" and accusing him of misleading Americans on the economy, voting rights, and Iran.

A day after Trump's address, Harris told "The Parnas Perspective" host Aaron Parnas on his substack show, that she watched the speech and found it detached from the realities facing ordinary families.

"I watched it. It was full of lies," she said. "And, you know, when he wasn't lying... it reminded me of our kids going to show and tell at school."

She rejected Trump's assertion that the "state of the union is strong."

"Absolutely not," Harris said. "Let me tell you... so many are suffering under the weight of high prices, unaffordable health care, unaffordable housing."

Describing recent visits to southern states, she recounted meeting a mother in Mississippi with a weekly grocery budget of \$150 for four people. "Anything that was in the cart was going to be for her kids," Harris said, adding that the mother told her

she would eat "whatever they don't eat."

"She walked over to get bottled water because she can't drink tap water because the water is brown and toxic. This is America," Harris said.

Harris also criticized proposed spending priorities. "Who's it roaring for when you put a \$1 trillion cut to Medicaid?" she asked. "Meanwhile, a \$1 trillion tax cut for the richest people in America. That's what's happening in our

*"I watched it. It was full of lies," she said. "And, you know, when he wasn't lying... it reminded me of our kids going to show and tell at school." She rejected Trump's assertion that the "state of the union is strong."*

country right now."

On voting rights, Harris strongly opposed the SAVE Act, which Trump urged Congress to pass.

"Absolutely not," she said. She argued that the measure would "require that people show a birth certificate or a pass-

port to register to vote" and claimed "it's something like 40 percent of Americans don't have those documents."

She warned of what she described as efforts "to suppress and obstruct the ability of people to vote," adding that "powerful forces" were "intentionally attempting to destroy our democracy and the voice of the people."

Turning to foreign policy, Harris raised concerns about rising tensions with Iran. She said

Trump had previously claimed "that he completely eviscerated their program" and called that "complete and utter BS."

"And now he is sending American troops to the region with the very real potential that American men and women will be deployed to combat," she said. *IANS*

## Jaishankar calls for overarching approach to human rights, rather than polemics

UNITED NATIONS: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has called for an overarching approach to human rights that includes development and capacity-building leading to "tangible improvements in the daily lives of the most vulnerable" and confronting terrorism rather than engaging in polemics of "politicization, selectivity or double standards".

Speaking through a video link to the Human Rights Council in Geneva on Wednesday, he said, "In a world marred by conflict, polarization and uncertainty, India seeks to find and expand common ground".

"We have consistently underlined dialogue over confrontation, consensus over division, and human-centric development over narrow interests," he said.

For the UN and Human Rights Council to fully realize their commitment to human rights, they must "advocate zero-tolerance for terrorist acts," he said.

"Terrorism is among the most egregious violations of human rights, and there can be no justification, especially when innocent lives are targeted," he said.

India was elected for the seventh time to the Human Rights Council in October with a pledge to be a "bridge-builder".

It received an overwhelming mandate with 177 of the 188 votes cast at the General Assembly.

"Our mandate reflects the trust and expectations of the international community, especially of partners in the Global South," Jaishankar said.

"India approaches this Council with the conviction that human rights are best advanced through dialogue, capacity-building and genuine partnerships, and not by politicization, selectivity or double standards," the EAM said.

On the Council, he said, "as the world's largest democracy, India remains firmly committed to working with all members and observers to promote and protect all human rights, for all people, on the basis of equality, openness and respect".

India's vision of human rights, he said, "is rooted in the understanding that the insecurity of any region, or the marginalization of any group, eventually undermines the rights and well-being of all". *IANS*

## Apple opens second store in Mumbai

MUMBAI: Apple opened its second store in Mumbai and sixth in India on 26 February. Located in Sky City Mall in Mumbai's Borivali, the new store brings Apple's full lineup of products and services to even more customers in one of the city's key growth corridors.

At Apple Borivali, customers can explore and shop Apple's latest product lineup, including the iPhone 17 family, iPhone Air, Apple Watch Ultra 3, Apple Watch Series 11, and iPad and Mac models powered by the M5 chip.

Apple enthusiasts eagerly waited to get inside the Borivali store. Beyond iPhones, the store features dedicated counters for Apple's music systems. There



are also specialized sections for mobile covers, headphones, Apple TV, Apple Arcade, Apple Games, Apple Bluetooth devices, and various other electronic accessories.

The store's more than 70 team members are available to provide expert guidance and personalized support -- whether customers are setting up a new iPhone, switching to iOS, exploring a Mac or iPad, or getting support with the Apple products they already own.

Retail services like Apple Trade In, flexible financing, safe data transfer, and Personal Setup make upgrading or getting started simple and seamless.

For customers shopping online, Apple Pickup makes it simple to collect an online order in-store at a convenient time. Dedicated Business Team members are available to support organizations of all sizes with tailored advice, device management, and tools designed to help them grow. The store also showcases Apple services, including Apple Music and Apple TV, across dedicated product tables and avenues. ANI

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Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath takes a ride in SCMagLEV train, a next-generation high-speed system that reaches speeds of up to 500 km/h, in Yamanashi. (@myogiadityanath X/ANI Video Grab)

## UP govt inks MoU in Japan on green hydrogen technology; CM Yogi invites investors



Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor of Yamanshi Prefecture Kotaro Nagasaki witness the signing of MoU between UP government and Yamanashi Prefecture, in Yamanashi. (@CMOfficeUP X/ANI Photo)

TOKYO/NEW DELHI: The Uttar Pradesh government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Japan's Yamanashi Prefecture on green hydrogen technology.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, elaborating on the MoU on green hydrogen technology, said that under the agreement, students from higher technical institutions of Uttar Pradesh will receive training in Japan, and the technology will be implemented in the state's industry, public transport and energy sectors.

"This initiative will prove to be an important step towards achieving Prime Minister Modi's 'Net Zero target'," he pointed out.

The Chief Minister, on the second day of his visit, presented the state's new development policies and investment potential to the global industrial community during the 'UP Investment Road Show' held in Yamanashi. He

stated that Uttar Pradesh has transformed its governance approach from "reactive to proactive", and this transformation has become the foundation of the state's rapid economic progress.

Calling robotics a major technology of the future, the Chief Minister said the UP government

*Calling robotics a major technology of the future, the Chief Minister said the UP government has made provisions in the budget to establish a Centre of Excellence for Robotics and voiced confidence that expanded cooperation will take India-Japan relations to new heights*

has made provisions in the budget to establish a Centre of Excellence for Robotics and voiced confidence that expanded cooperation will take India-Japan relations to new heights, giving strength to self-reliance in energy and also making technology accessible to the common people.

Boasting about Uttar Pradesh's demographic advantage and natural abundance, CM Yogi said the state has the country's most fertile land, abundant water resources, vast human capital and over the past nine years, it has scaled new heights of development and

therefore offers abundant growth opportunities for the investing entities as well.

The Chief Minister further stated that governance in the state has undergone a transformational shift from a "reactive to proactive" model of governance.

"The government is continu-

ously taking initiatives to attract investment, facilitate industries, adopt new technologies and expand global partnerships. With this vision, a high-level delegation from Uttar Pradesh has visited Japan to convert possibilities into opportunities," CM Yogi told a gathering of tech leaders and investors.

The UP CM also made note of a prior incident, stating that the Governor of Yamanashi had visited Uttar Pradesh in December 2024, and since then, continuous dialogue, follow-ups and exchanges of delegations between the two governments have taken this cooperation in a new direction.

He said that following the study and report of the business delegation, the Uttar Pradesh delegation arrived in Yamanashi at the Governor's invitation, where this cooperation has taken concrete shape. IANS

## India concludes 9 FTAs, gives businesses more access to global trade: Piyush Goyal

MUMBAI: The country has concluded nine free trade agreements (FTAs) covering 38 nations, giving Indian businesses preferential access to nearly two-thirds of global trade, according to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

These agreements will help Indian goods, services, agricultural and fisheries products, and labor-intensive sectors reach new markets, integrate into global value chains and enhance talent mobility, he further stated.

Goyal said that Aatmanirbhar Bharat is about building resilient, trusted and diversified supply chains through global engagement.

Calling upon entrepreneurs and industry leaders to take global opportunities to MSMEs, farmers, exporters and fishermen across the country, Goyal expressed confidence that young India will lead the nation through 'Amrit Kaal' towards becoming a developed economy by 2047.

Delivering the keynote address at the 27th edition of the 'EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards' in Mumbai, he said India's growth journey will continue relentlessly, powered by its entrepreneurs and youth, and urged all stake-

holders to work collectively to realize the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Goyal underscored that India's youth and human capital are at the heart of the nation's growth story.

Reflecting on interactions with founders and business leaders, the minister said that passion, innovation and skilled manpower are India's biggest competitive advantages.



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal

On concerns around Artificial Intelligence and employment, Goyal said that AI would transform jobs rather than eliminate them.

He noted that India produces around 2.3 million STEM graduates every year and possesses an unmatched pool of young, adaptable and ambitious talent.

Drawing parallels with the Y2K era, he described AI as the next inflection point that will create better opportunities, higher-value work, stronger exports and

deeper global integration for Indian businesses, while also increasing demand for skilled professionals in areas such as cybersecurity, data protection and system governance.

He also gave away the awards in the program that brought together leading entrepreneurs, industry captains and startup founders from across the country. *IANS*

## India could retain \$113 bn by 2040 via encouraging foreign presence in education: Report

NEW DELHI: By supporting a stronger domestic presence for foreign universities, India could retain an estimated \$113 billion in foreign currency by 2040, with around 19 million sq. ft. of vertical campus space required for Foreign Higher Education Institutions, a recent report said.

The report from Deloitte India and Knight Frank India said that foreign universities could significantly reduce the remittance outflows currently lost to overseas education.

The shift, driven by the National Education Policy 2020, is transforming India from a "student-exporting nation to a global knowledge hub" as demand surges with 53 million students currently enrolled in tertiary education. To meet the government target of 50 percent gross enrolment ratio by 2035, the enrolment will rise to about 72 million, the report estimated.

The report highlighted a stark mismatch as there is "a critical shortage of opportunities in elite education".

"In 2025, while approximately 54,000 students successfully cleared all levels of the JEE for engineering, the prestigious Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) could only

offer 18,000 seats, highlighting a stark mismatch between student aspirations and available high-quality infrastructure," the report said.

"India's education sector is undergoing a historic transformation. With 18 international universities already receiving approvals or commencing operations, the momentum is visible," said Shishir Bajjal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India.



The report suggested that sustainability of foreign campuses rests on prioritizing academic portfolio over enrolment volume with focus on STEM, AI, data science and management.

The real estate services firm highlighted Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, and Mumbai as high-readiness hubs due to their corporate depth. Emerging Tier-2 cities like Chandigarh, Kochi, and Jaipur are also highlighted for their strong governance

and infrastructure, it said.

Talent and governance success depend on building robust faculty pipelines and governance models that preserve academic autonomy while aligning with Indian regulations, the firms noted. *IANS*

## Center's industrial corridor strategy propelling growth across states

NEW DELHI: The Center's strategy of accelerating industrial development has picked up pace, with four National Industrial Corridors already being completed, while another four are nearing completion since the Rs 28,602 crore package was announced for 12 such corridors in 2024-25, according to an official factsheet issued recently.

Union Budget 2026-27 has added further momentum to this growth with the Rs 3,000 crore allocation for the development of an integrated East Coast Industrial Corridor with a well-connected node at Durgapur in West Bengal.

These industrial smart cities are envisioned to develop globally benchmarked manufacturing and investment hubs, featuring plug-and-play facilities and a walk-to-work ecosystem. They aim to create best-in-class, future-ready infrastructure designed ahead of demand.

The projects which cover most states include the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Dholera Special Investment Region, Gujarat; Shendra Bidkin Industrial Area, Maharashtra; Integrated Industrial Township - Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh; Krishnapatnam and Tumakuru industrial areas in Karnataka; Ponneri Industrial Area, Tamil Nadu and Raghunathpur Industrial Park in West Bengal.

Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh are some of the other states that have been chosen for these projects,

According to the Economic Survey 2025-26, the Phase-I cities under the projects have collectively allotted 350 industrial plots, attracting ₹2.02 lakh crore in investments across sectors such as electronics, renewables, pharmaceuticals, and Electric Vehicles (EVs).

To advance this model of industrial corridor-led development, the Government of India, together with State Governments, is establishing these belts as planned economic zones supported by strong transport connectivity.

Industrial corridors are linear development zones that connect major economic centers through an integrated network of roads, railways, ports, and airports. The defining features of these corridors are: Promotion of accelerated industrial growth by strengthening the link between industry and core infrastructure. Development along major transport arteries, particularly rail trunk routes, ensures strong connectivity for efficient movement of freight and the public.

These corridors are aimed at creating globally comparable infrastructure and business-friendly environment which facilitate economic agglomeration and industrial clustering, helping regions maximize their growth potential.

The Government of India is developing multiple Industrial Corridor Projects under the National Industrial Corridor Programme (NICDP), guided by the PM GatiShakti framework to ensure coordinated, multimodal connectivity for major economic zones. *IANS*

## PM Modi invites Israeli firms to explore investment manufacturing opportunities in India

TELAVIV: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has invited Israeli companies to explore opportunities in India, to invest, manufacture and build, technology partnerships, it was announced.

PM Modi, accompanied by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, visited an exhibition showcasing pioneering Israeli innovations across several sectors here, which featured Agri-tech, Water-tech, Climate-tech, Health-biotech, Smart Mobility, AI, Cybersecurity, and



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at an innovation event, in Jerusalem. (@netanyahu/ANI Photo)

Quantum technologies.

During his interaction with the innovators, PM Modi noted that the cutting-edge technologies on display hold immense potential to scale up India-Israel innovation, start-ups and business partnerships, especially in areas such as agriculture, water management, healthcare and digital services.

The two countries are working together to build solutions to address modern-day challenges through the "India-Israel Innovation Bridge" initiative.

During the walk-through, Prime Minister interacted with scientists, tech-entrepreneurs and CEOs of several companies.

Prime Minister was briefed by Quantum Machines on the Israeli Quantum Computing Centre (IQCC) and by Classiq, which is simplifying quantum software development.

According to an official statement, AISAP, a startup, demonstrated its AI-powered point-of-care ultrasound, which provides real-time diagnostic guidance.

The Horizon Scanning Division of the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology presented "Tech Scout," an AI-driven tool for strategic risk detection and trend analysis.

Mobiley, a tech-enterprise, showcased its sensor and chip technology aimed at reducing road accidents. Check Point Software Technologies highlighted its advanced threat prevention solutions and its collaborations in India.

WaterGen demonstrated its technology to produce drinking water from air, while N-Drip showcased gravity-powered micro-irrigation systems. Natural Offset Farming (NOF) presented in-field post-harvest solutions to reduce food loss without electricity.

Also, Remilk showcased precision fermentation for lab-produced milk proteins, and BarAlgae presented machine-learning-integrated microalgae cultivation.

Mynora Bio displayed plastic waste management using specialized bio-conversion additives. The Geophysical Institute (GII) demonstrated high-resolution modeling for quantifying mineral resources.

Notably, Israel Aerospace Industries presented its miniaturized communications satellites and integrated Synthetic Aperture Radar. *IANS*

## Talks with US Commerce Secretary focused on boosting economic partnership: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said he held 'very fruitful discussions' with US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor to expand trade and economic ties between the two countries.

In a post on social media platform X, Goyal said he hosted the US Secretary of Commerce and the US Ambassador in India and engaged in meaningful talks aimed at strengthening bilateral trade and economic partnership.

He highlighted that the discussions focused on expanding cooperation and deepening engagement between India and the United States.

"Hosted US Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor. Engaged in very fruitful discussions to expand our trade and economic partnership," Goyal wrote on X.

The meeting comes at a time when India has been actively working to enhance its global trade footprint and build stronger economic relationships with key partners.

The government has been pushing for greater market access for Indian businesses and encouraging integration into global value chains.

Earlier, Goyal had said that India has concluded nine free trade agreements (FTAs) covering 38 nations, giving Indian businesses preferential access to nearly two-thirds of global trade.

He noted that these agreements are helping Indian goods, services, agricultural and fisheries products, and labor-intensive sectors reach new markets while also improving talent mobility.

According to the minister, the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not about isolation but about building resilient, trusted and diversified supply chains through global engagement. *IANS*

## India highlights latest Customs reforms at Geneva meet

NEW DELHI: The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), along with the Permanent Mission of India to the WTO in Geneva, organized special sessions on trade on the sidelines of the meeting of the Committee on Trade Facilitation at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, according to an official statement issued recently.

The recent event comprised two focused sessions on trade facilitation and capacity building, highlighting India's transformative reforms under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The program was also held in the run-up to the 8th Trade Policy Review of India, due in July 2026. The event witnessed wide participation from WTO Members and Secretariat, with delegates from around 40 countries, reflecting strong interest in India's experience and best practices, the statement said.

Having achieved compliance with WTO TFA commitments, India has moved towards "TFA Plus" measures under the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP 3.0), aiming to go beyond the minimum requirements and align with evolving global best practices. During the session on Trade Facilitation, the Indian Customs delegation highlighted its 'whole-of-government approach' in Customs reforms, and pioneering efforts in creating a faceless, contactless and paperless Customs ecosystem through extensive digitalization and process re-engineering.

India has notified 100 percent of its TFA commitments within the stipulated timelines. The progress reflects India's sustained commitment to enhancing transparency, improving inter-agency coordination and simplifying cross-border trade procedures.

The CBIC showcased its advanced and indigenously developed systems, including the comprehensive customs automated system with single window interface, a robust risk management system (RMS) and the authorized economic operator (AEO) program.

The session on capacity building underscored India's proactive engagement in sharing its expertise with developing and least-developed countries, particularly from the Global South. Through the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes & Narcotics (NACIN), India conducts structured training programs for officers of Indian and foreign customs administrations.

The training courses undertaken by the Central Revenue Control Laboratory (CRCL) of India for the international participants were highlighted. Both these are recognized by WCO as the Regional Training Centre for Asia-Pacific and the Regional Customs Laboratory, respectively. It was stated that, since 2022, NACIN has conducted 65 trainings, and more than 1,800 international participants from around 30 countries have benefited from these initiatives. Several of them were done in collaboration with various international organizations such as WCO, ADB and others. *IANS*

**25 Bangladeshi nationals arrested by Versova Police in Mumbai**

MUMBAI: In a major crack-down on illegal immigration, Mumbai's Versova police arrested 25 Bangladeshi nationals, including 21 transgender individuals, officials said.

According to the police, the detainees, who were suspected during a routine patrol at Shakulshaha Dargah in Versova, were later found to be Bangladeshi nationals based on interrogation and electronic evidence. Authorities indicated that more arrests could follow as investigations continue.

Senior Versova Police Officer Deepshikha Ware said that these individuals reportedly enter India through routes via Kolkata and Mizoram. Many of them have been residing in India for six to eight years, with settlements not only in Mumbai but also in Gujarat and Delhi.

Addressing the unique situation of the transgender detainees, the police noted that in Bangladesh, transgender individuals often face a lack of security and respect. "They seek alternative routes to India as they understand that everyone has the right to equality here," officials said.

The operation marks the largest action against illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators in Mumbai this year.

Earlier, Pune City Police detected two suspected Bangladeshi women during a massive combing operation conducted in the Budhwar Peth red-light area, as part of a drive against illegal activities and unlawful practices, officials said. ANI

# Immigration

## POST

*Spanberger began by focusing on rising costs, arguing that trade decisions have directly hurt households and small businesses*

## "Americans are paying the price": Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger criticizes Trump's State of the Union address

VIRGINIA: In a sharply worded response to the President's State of the Union address, Governor of Virginia and Democrat Abigail Spanberger delivered a sweeping critique of the administration's economic, healthcare, immigration, and foreign policy agenda, repeatedly questioning whether the president's leadership is serving American families.

Spanberger began by focusing on rising costs, arguing that trade decisions have directly hurt households and small businesses. "And I know these same conversations are being had all across this country. Because since this President took office last year, his reckless trade policies have forced American families to pay more than \$1,700 dollars each in tariff costs. Small businesses have suffered. Farmers have suffered, some losing entire markets. Everyday Americans are paying the price. And even though the Supreme Court struck these tariffs down four days ago, the damage to us, the American people, has already been done."

She warned that additional tariffs could be on the horizon, calling them "Another massive tax hike on you and your family," and criticized congressional Republicans for failing to intervene.

Referring to the recently

passed legislation championed by the President, she said, "Rural health clinics in Virginia and across the country are already closing their doors thanks to the so-called 'One Big Beautiful Bill' championed by the president and Republicans in Congress." She

In contrast, Spanberger highlighted her work at the state level. "But here in Virginia, I am working with our state legislature to lower costs and make the Commonwealth more affordable." She emphasized that "Democrats across the country are la-

President working to make life more affordable for you and your family? We all know the answer is no."

Drawing on her background as a former federal agent and CIA officer, Spanberger underscored what she described as a commitment to accountability and public safety. She condemned recent federal enforcement actions, stating, "Our broken immigration system is something to be fixed, not an excuse for unaccountable agents to terrorize our communities."

Turning to global affairs, she accused the administration of weakening America's position abroad, citing concerns about relations with Russia, China, and Iran. "So I'll ask again: Is the president working to keep Americans safe, both at home and abroad? We all know the answer is no."

Spanberger also accused the president of dishonesty and corruption. "In his speech tonight, the president did what he always does: he lied, he scapegoated, and he distracted. And he offered no real solutions to our nation's pressing challenges, so many of which he is actively making worse." She continued, "He's enriching himself, his family, his friends. The scale of the corruption is unprecedented." ANI



Virginia Governor Abigail Spanberger

*She warned that additional tariffs could be on the horizon, calling them "Another massive tax hike on you and your family," and criticized congressional Republicans for failing to intervene*

added, "And tonight, the president celebrated this law. The one threatening rural hospitals, stripping healthcare from millions of Americans, and driving up costs in energy and housing, all while cutting food programs for hungry kids."

ser-focused on affordability," arguing that Americans "deserve to know that their leaders are focused on addressing the problems that keep them up at night."

She then posed a pointed question: "So I'll ask again: Is the

## Salvadoran child molester in North Carolina denaturalized and ordered deported

RALEIGH, N.C. - A federal judge sentenced convicted child molester Isidro Arcenio Alvarado, 58, a native of El Salvador, to active prison time after he pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining U.S. citizenship. The judge also revoked his citizenship and ordered him removed from the United States.

Alvarado confessed to

knowingly making materially false statements under oath and penalty of perjury on his naturalization application and during a naturalization interview with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. He denied his criminal activity and lied to USCIS officials to gain immigration benefits. Alvarado naturalized on Oct. 12, 2022.

On April 25, 2023, police ar-

rested Alvarado and charged him with committing multiple sex offenses against a child. On July 8, 2025, in the Wake County Superior Court of North Carolina, Alvarado pleaded guilty to two counts of indecent liberties with a child. The state judge sentenced him to a suspended prison term and ordered him to register as a sex offender. Alvarado admitted to having

committed the crimes from Jan. 1, 2019, through April 10, 2021. In 2019, the victim was only 10 years old.

After Alvarado completes his sentence, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement will deport him from the United States.

U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina Ellis Boyle announced Alvarado's sentencing. ICE officers investi-

gated the case as part of Operation False Haven, an ongoing initiative to aggressively target child molesters and other egregious felons who fraudulently obtain U.S. citizenship. USCIS helped investigate this case and continues to support Operation False Haven. Assistant U.S. Attorney Lori Warlick prosecuted the case. USCIS

# Joint accounts with resident family: Rules for NRIs and foreign citizens

NEW DELHI: Moving abroad changes your relationship with India and the way you manage your finances. You can still access and manage funds in your home country as a Non-Resident Indian (NRI), but subject to specific rules. So, if you're considering adding a resident family member to your account in India, you may want to understand the regulations for the same. Read ahead to learn about the requirements, processes, and limitations to managing your finances wisely.

## RBI regulations for NRI joint account holding

You can choose one resident account holder to add to your NRI account. Their rights are functional, on a 'Former or Survivor' basis. This means you hold the right to operate the account as the primary account holder. The resident co-holder can access the account only in case of your demise.

If you wish to authorize a joint operation with a resident Indian while you reside overseas, you can go the Power of Attorney (PoA) route. This is a legal document that lets a trusted resident Indian to manage your NRI accounts on your behalf.

## Types of NRI accounts with the joint account permit

You can open these NRI accounts in India from trusted financial institutions like IDFC FIRST Bank and add an eligible resident Indian as a joint account holder:

### - NRO account

An NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary) savings account is a rupee-dominated bank account that you maintain to

*You can choose one resident account holder to add to your NRI account. Their rights are functional, on a 'Former or Survivor' basis. This means you hold the right to operate the account as the primary account holder. The resident co-holder can access the account only in case of your demise*

manage Indian income from rent, pensions, dividends, and other such proceeds. The interest earned on this bank account is taxable in India. You can repatriate funds to your overseas account, but up to USD 1 million in a financial year.

### - NRE account

NRE (Non-Resident External) accounts let you manage your foreign income in India. The income deposited in foreign currency is converted to INR for easy maintenance. The balance you maintain in the account is fully repatriable, and the interest earned on it is tax-free.

### - FCNR account

Unlike NRO and NRE, FCNR (Foreign Currency Non-Resident) is a fixed deposit that you maintain in foreign currency. There is no conversion. It is maintained as received, and most banks accept all major currencies like USD, Euro, etc. The interest earned on this account is tax-free provided the residential status of person is either Non-Resident or Resident but non-ordinarily Resident only as per the provisions of income tax act, and the funds are freely repatriable.

## Documentation for NRI joint account application

You will need minimal documents when you choose IDFC FIRST Bank to get through the NRI joint account

opening process:

### As a primary account holder, you need:

- Accurate personal details in the NRI account opening form.
- Valid identity proof like Passport.
- Valid Non-Resident Proof like VISA/Resident Permit.
- Overseas address proof like utility bills, bank statements, rental agreement, etc.
- Valid Tax Identification Number (TIN) of current country of Tax residence.

### For the resident joint account holder:

- Identity proof like Passport/Driver's License/Voter ID/Letter issued by the National population register.

### Process to set up an NRI joint account

You can open an NRI savings account with resident joint account holder just like you would a regular resident account. The process involves the following steps:

1. Choose your preferred bank: Compare features like high interest, dedicated relationship manager, etc., from banks like IDFC FIRST Bank to make an informed selection.
2. Select type of account: You can choose the account type you want to start with by understanding the features and your immediate needs for fund management.
3. Fill in the account opening form: Fill in your basic details and select the option to add a joint holder and provide their name, contact, and address information.
4. Upload documents: Submit the required documents
  - Identity Proof, Non-Resident Proof and Address Proof for the main account holder.
5. Submit Declaration: When resident Indian is being added in the account as a joint holder a declaration confirming the relationship with the account holder is required to be submitted mandatorily.
6. Complete verification and activate account: Once your details are verified, the bank will send you the confirmation message, and you can often activate your account right away to start using it swiftly.

### Final words

Joint NRI account opening allows you to assign a nominee to your account for management of your finances after your demise. Power of attorney is one more way of assigning rights to operate your accounts in India. In this case, you must assign a close relative with appropriate documents. Both modes involve simple steps. Banks simplify the process through a dedicated relationship manager to guide you through the rules.

### Disclaimer

Please note that the information provided in this article is strictly based on the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961. It does not reflect the amendments or provisions introduced under the newly enacted Income-tax Act, 2025, which will come into effect from 1 April 2026.

Readers are strongly advised to consult their professional Tax Advisor to obtain accurate guidance tailored to their specific circumstances and to ensure proper interpretation and applicability of the relevant tax laws. *PNN. ANI*

## US visa fee row clouds Indian doctor pathway

WASHINGTON: A heated congressional hearing on America's growing physician shortage has opened a new fault line that could directly affect Indian medical graduates seeking careers in the United States.

At issue is a proposed "\$100,000 supplemental fee for new H-1b visas," sharply higher than current employer-paid processing costs. Lawmakers had debated whether such a move would deter rural hospitals from hiring foreign-trained doctors at a time when the country faces widening workforce gaps.

The discussion unfolded during a Ways and Means health subcommittee hearing on expanding graduate medical education (GME) and strengthening rural health care delivery.

Congressman Adrian Smith said the United States faces "a very real problem, a rapidly depleting health care workforce."

"By 2037, the US will see a shortage of 187,000 physicians. Nearly half of all practicing physicians will retire in the next decade," he said.

Rural America is particularly strained. "83 million Americans live in an area with too few primary care physicians," Smith noted, adding that only "2 percent of residencies can be found in rural America."

Amid bipartisan calls to expand Medicare-supported residency slots, immigration policy emerged as a flashpoint.

Congresswoman Linda Sanchez pointed to the proposed increase in visa fees and asked whether it would affect underserved communities that rely heavily on international medical graduates. Dr. Andrew Racine, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said that "anything that's going to decrease the supply is going to have an impact on our ability to serve the needs of children."

Several lawmakers acknowledged that foreign-trained physicians form a significant part of residency programs and rural care systems.

India was not mentioned in the hearing. But, Indian nationals historically represent one of the largest cohorts of international medical graduates in the United States, particularly in internal medicine, family medicine, and other primary care specialties.

Many international medical graduates, in particular from India, serve in rural and medically underserved areas under visa arrangements tied to service requirements. Any substantial increase in visa costs could make recruitment financially difficult for small community hospitals already operating on narrow margins, lawmakers said.

Jason Shenefield, chief executive of Phelps Health in Missouri, told lawmakers his rural system expects "close to about \$ 100,000 loss per resident" under current financial structures. Additional immigration-related costs, members suggested, could further strain such facilities.

At the same time, some Republican lawmakers argued that immigration policy should not substitute for domestic training reform. Congressman Greg Steube said American medical graduates were losing residency slots to foreign doctors and vowed to introduce legislation addressing the issue. *IANS*

**Gurugram surpasses Mumbai in ultra luxury sales in 2025**

NEW DELHI: India's luxury housing market has found a new leader in 2025, with Gurugram emerging as the country's fastest-growing ultra-premium residential hub, a recent report said.

The city recorded a massive Rs 24,120 crore worth of transactions in homes priced at Rs 10 crore and above during calendar year 2025, according to the latest High-End Luxury Housing Report released by India Sotheby's International Realty and CRE Matrix.

The numbers mark a watershed moment for Gurugram's property market. Around 1,494 homes priced at Rs 10 crore and above were sold in 2025 -- the highest ever recorded in a single year in the city.



The total sales value has jumped nearly six times in just two years, rising from Rs 4,004 crore in 2023 to over Rs 24,000 crore in 2025.

In terms of value, Gurugram has now outpaced Mumbai in luxury home sales in the Rs 10 crore-plus category, as per the report.

The report showed that the ultra-luxury segment accounted for 24 percent of the city's total residential market in value terms in 2025. IANS

# Real Estate POST

**India's building materials market likely to almost double to \$100 billion by 2030**

NEW DELHI: India's building materials market is expected to reach around \$100 billion by 2030, driven by a robust 10-12 percent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the next five years, from a \$57 billion base in FY25, a report said recently. IANS



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

## Global giants enter India: Australian JG Building Group secures landmark MoHUA infrastructure project

NEW DELHI: In a move set to redefine India's urban skyline, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has officially awarded a major construction tender to the Australian multinational powerhouse, JG Building Group. This high-profile entry marks a pivotal moment in Indo-Australian bilateral relations, bringing world-class construction precision to the heart of the Viksit Bharat initiative.

**International Precision Meets the Indian Vision**

The partnership is being hailed as a milestone for India's infrastructure goals. JG Building Group, renowned for its dominance in the Australian residential and commercial sectors, brings a legacy of structural integrity and cutting-edge building technology.

Early reports confirm the project has already transitioned from blueprints to boots on the ground, with groundbreaking activities commencing at several strategic metropolitan sites.

"Our goal isn't just to build structures; it's to co-create a sustainable future," a spokesperson for JG Building Group stated. "By blending Australian engineer-



ing precision with Indian ingenuity, we are setting a new benchmark for urban living in 2026."

**The "Steel-Frame" Revolution & Sustainability**

Beyond mere scale, the project introduces Australian Light Gauge Steel Framing (LGSF) technology to the Indian market. This shift is expected to:

- \* Accelerate timelines by reducing construction cycles by up to 40% compared to traditional methods.
- \* Enhance eco-friendly impact

by targeting GRIHA-certified status through recyclable materials and nearly 30% reduction in site waste.

\* Promote smart urbanism by integrating plug-and-play utility corridors and climate-resilient designs tailored for India's diverse geography.

**At a Glance: The JG-MoHUA Partnership**

The partnership focuses on the introduction of advanced Australian steel-frame systems while strengthening India's en-

ergy-efficient smart-city infrastructure.

It also ensures significant knowledge transfer of global best practices to the local workforce, contributing meaningfully toward India's \$5-trillion economic vision through modernized housing development.

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## ADB partners with Aavas Financiers to expand affordable housing, MSME lending in India

NEW DELHI: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a senior secured debt financing package of up to USD 108 million (in Indian rupee equivalent) with Aavas Financiers Limited to expand access to affordable housing loans for lower-income households and business loans for micro, small, and medium-sized en-

terprises (MSMEs) in underserved states across India.

ADB Private Sector Operations Department Director General Isabel Chatterton, Aavas Financiers Limited Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Sachinder Bhinder, and Representative from Global Affairs Canada Phedra Moon Morris joined the signing event.

The package includes concessional debt financing of USD 8 million (in Indian rupee



equivalent) through the Canadian Climate and Nature Fund for the Private Sector in Asia (CANPA).

As per a statement from ADB, the financing will support housing loans for self-built and green-certified homes, promoting climate-resilient and energy-efficient housing solutions

for lower-middle income borrowers.

The transaction is also supported by up to USD 150,000 in technical assistance to build institutional capacity and boost market awareness of green housing solutions.

"ADB's support will unlock formal credit for underserved lower-income families and entrepreneurs while accelerating the shift toward climate-aligned and gender-responsive housing finance," said ADB Country Director for India Mio Oka. ANI

# Bengaluru real estate market remains strong, high absorption in Rs 1.5-2.5 crore ticket-size

NEW DELHI: Resilient housing demand continues across key property markets, with Bengaluru maintaining strong momentum, according to a sector update by Antique Stock Broking Limited.

Channel checks by the brokerage indicate that Bengaluru recorded heightened absorption in the fourth quarter (4Q), consistent with trends seen in the second and third quarters. Demand remained strongest in the Rs 15 million-Rs 25 million ticket-size segment, while absorption was relatively muted for homes priced below Rs 15 million and in the premium category above Rs 50 million.

Within Bengaluru, North Bengaluru witnessed heightened demand, while South Bengaluru also showed healthy traction. However, the Sarjapur micro-market experienced comparatively slower absorption. New project launches in favorable pricing "sweet spots" received encouraging responses, the report noted.

Antique further highlighted that several developers including Godrej Properties, Prestige Estates, Sobha, Brigade Enterprises, Lodha Developers, Aditya Birla Real Estate, and Arvind Smartspaces have significant exposure to the Bengaluru market, with launches and sustenance sales expected to perform well.

The brokerage said launches by its coverage companies remain on schedule, with



projects introduced in January and February 2026 reporting healthy absorption.

Aditya Birla Real Estate (ABREL), after a relatively quiet first half of FY26, saw two successful launches in the third quarter. The company is preparing for multiple launches backed by RERA approvals across key projects in Thane, Gurugram, Pune, and North Bengaluru. Antique expects ABREL's FY26 pre-sales to exceed Rs 85 billion, compared with Rs 80.9 billion in FY25.

Sobha reported robust pre-sales of Rs 61 billion in the first nine months of FY26, marking a 37 percent year-on-year increase. The company has already launched two projects in 4Q and filed RERA for two large NCR developments. Antique expects Sobha's FY26 pre-sales to surpass Rs 85 billion and potentially reach Rs 90 billion.

Godrej Properties (GPL) posted pre-sales of Rs 240 billion in 9MFY26, up 25 percent YoY, with a strong pipeline of

launches across Bengaluru, Noida, Pune, and Nagpur. Antique expects GPL to exceed its FY26 guidance of Rs 325 billion and potentially touch Rs 350 billion.

Prestige Estates (PEPL) recorded pre-sales of Rs 223 billion in 9MFY26, up 122 percent YoY, supported by a sharp uptick in launches. Key Bengaluru projects have shown strong sales momentum, and Antique expects PEPL's FY26 pre-sales to comfortably cross Rs 300 billion.

Oberoi Realty (OBER) delivered steady pre-sales growth driven largely by sustenance sales, with only one major launch expected in 4QFY26. Antique estimates FY26 pre-sales of Rs 55-60 billion.

Arvind Smartspaces (ARVSMART) reported muted performance in 9MFY26, citing approval-related challenges. The company has four launches planned for 4Q, and Antique expects it to approach its FY26 guidance if pending approvals materialize.

Brigade Enterprises (BRGD) saw softer pre-sales due to limited launches but has multiple projects lined up in Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Antique noted a possibility of slightly lower FY26 pre-sales compared to last year.

Lodha Developers (LODHA), having achieved 70 percent of its FY26 guidance by 9MFY26, is expected to meet its Rs 210 billion target supported by upcoming launches in Mumbai and Pune.

DLF is likely to post FY26 pre-sales in the Rs 210-220 billion range, largely flat year-on-year, aided by a senior living launch and sustenance sales.

Sunteck Realty (SRIN), despite recent launches, is projected to report FY26 pre-sales slightly below guidance at around Rs 30 billion. ANI

## 109th NPG meeting evaluates key rail, metro and airport projects under PM GatiShakti

NEW DELHI: The 109th meeting of the Network Planning Group (NPG) was held on at Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The meeting was convened to evaluate infrastructure projects, a release by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry stated.

The meeting focused on enhancing multimodal connectivity and logistics efficiency in alignment with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS NMP). The NPG evaluated 02 Rail Projects, 01 Metro Project, 01 Airport Project for their conformity to the PM GatiShakti principles of integrated multimodal infrastructure, last-mile connectivity to economic and social nodes and 'Whole of Government' approach.

These initiatives are expected to boost logistics efficiency, reduce travel times, and deliver significant socio-economic benefits to the catchment areas of the project.

The Ministry of Railways has proposed the construction of a third railway line between Jalandhar Cantt and Jammu Tawi, covering a total length of 210.750 km across the states of Punjab, Himachal



Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir. The proposed alignment will include 27 stations and traverse key districts such as Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Kangra, Pathankot, Kathua, and Samba. The project is aimed

at significantly augmenting rail capacity and strengthening connectivity along this strategically critical corridor.

The proposed railway line carries substantial strategic, economic, and social

significance. It will serve as a crucial infrastructure asset for national security by enabling faster and more reliable movement of defense personnel, equipment, and supplies to border regions. From an economic perspective, the project will enhance trade and commerce by improving the transportation of agricultural produce, construction materials, and essential goods. ANI

plies to border regions. From an economic perspective, the project will enhance trade and commerce by improving the transportation of agricultural produce, construction materials, and essential goods. ANI

US Congressman honors Bera family

WASHINGTON: A senior Democratic lawmaker, paid tribute on the House floor to the Bera family, recognizing what he described as their "multigenerational commitment to service, education, and community" and their contributions in both the US and India.

Speaking on the House Floor, Congressman J. Luis Correa of California applauded the work of the Bera Family and their multigenerational commitment to service, education, and community.

Correa traced the family's journey back to the 1950s, when Kanta and Babulal Bera emigrated from Gujarat to the US.



He said they believed "that education is the path to opportunity" and worked multiple jobs while pursuing graduate degrees and raising three sons -- Raja, Rimal Bera, and Congressman Ami Bera.

Rimal Bera serves as a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California's Irvine (UCI) Department of Psychiatry, while Ami Bera represents California in the US Congress.

Correa highlighted the family's sustained engagement in public health and education, noting that their work has extended from Orange County in California to communities in India.

"The Beras' dedication to global health has spanned a variety of impactful projects not only in Orange County, but to the other side of the world in India," he said.

Among the initiatives cited was the establishment of an all-girls school in India that has "graduated more than 7,000 students" #ANS

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# COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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February 27, 2026



## Youth leadership in action: Serving the underserved through medical camps and education support

**S**riram Vempati, a Youth Director at the California-based nonprofit Suvidha International Foundation and a compassionate junior high school student from Granite Bay High School in California, organized two medical camps in India to serve underserved families and gain a deeper understanding of real-world healthcare challenges. Recognizing the urgent need for accessible healthcare, Sriram collaborated with Suvidha Vikas Trust, Suvidha International Foundation, Chetana Foundation, and a dedicated team of doctors to successfully carry out these camps.

In addition to organizing the camps, Sriram raised \$10,000 through his campaign (<https://suvidhainternational.org/future-doctors>) to support the medical programs and help two underserved medical students continue their education. He reached out to family, friends, and community members to raise donations, enabling the camps to provide free checkups and medicines to hundreds of people. Part of the funds was also used to support two financially struggling medical students so they could complete their studies and become doctors. By supporting both current patients and future doctors, Sriram made a meaningful and lasting impact.

The first medical camp was conducted at Annam Seva Foundation on Wednesday, February 18th 2026. The foundation provides shelter and care to over 225 residents, including individuals facing mental health and physical disabilities, along with psychiatric conditions, as well as abandoned elderly men and women. Many of these residents lack consistent access to specialized medical care, preventive



screenings, and follow up treatment. A committed team from the Psychiatry Department at Mamatha Medical College in Khammam, including Dr. Pramod Kumar Reddy, Dr. Divya Reddy, Dr. Jithendra, Dr. Preity, Dr. Pranathi, Dr. Sirkar, and Dr. Rahul, supported the camp with

looked and marginalized, this camp provided not only medical treatment but also dignity, compassion, and personalized care.

The second medical camp was organized at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Telangana Backward Classes Welfare Residential Junior College (MJPTBCW

Joshna, gastroenterologist Dr. Bharavi, and general physician Dr. Ram Prasad.

The doctors conducted health awareness sessions covering preventive care, nutrition, hygiene, and women's health, which are critically important yet frequently under addressed in



their services.

The medical team conducted comprehensive health checkups for all 225 residents, many of whom face significant psychiatric challenges and require ongoing care, monitoring, and support. The doctors carefully evaluated each individual, diagnosed health concerns, and prescribed appropriate medications. For a population that is often over-

underserved communities. Following the awareness session, the team provided individual medical consultations to more than 200 students and staff members. Those diagnosed with medical conditions received a three-month supply of prescription medications, ensuring continuity of care beyond the camp day.

underserved communities. Following the awareness session, the team provided individual medical consultations to more than 200 students and staff members. Those diagnosed with medical conditions received a three-month supply of prescription medications, ensuring continuity of care beyond the camp day.

Cont'd on page 24

# GNDU VC hails inspiring achievements of eminent Punjabis

AMRITSAR: Commemorating International Mother Language Day (Maa Boli Diwas), Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) hosted a distinguished ceremony during the World Punjabi Conference to honor eminent Punjabis for their remarkable contributions. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Karamjeet Singh described them as "inspirational figures for the youth of Punjab."

Among the chief guests were

formally released.

In his keynote address, Prof. Sarabjinder Singh underscored the importance of carefully defining the authenticity and ethical framework of Artificial Intelligence, particularly in relation to religion. Renowned educationist Sukhhi Bath observed that this was the world's first conference dedicated to exploring Artificial Intelligence in the context of the Punjabi language. He further

stressed that children's literature must evolve in tandem with emerging technologies. Distinguished scientist Kanwarpal Singh Suri announced a contribution of ₹1 crore to support technological advancement at the university. Three eminent personalities who have garnered global recognition for promoting Punjab and Punjabi culture—Bhai Mohinder Singh (UK), Kanwarpal Singh Suri, and Baldev Kang, a noted US-based entrepreneur—were felicitated on the occasion.

Bhai Mohinder Singh, head of Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak

Jatha, Birmingham, is internationally recognized for promoting Sikhism, interfaith dialogue, and humanitarian service. Through gurdwara construction initiatives across Africa, Europe, and India, as well as through Nishkam Healthcare Trust and Nishkam Schools, he has pioneered a glo-

bal model that integrates selfless service with professional management.

Kanwarpal Singh Suri has earned worldwide distinction as a skilled engineer and scientist, bringing laurels to Punjab through his professional accomplishments.



Prof. Satbir Singh Gosal, Vice-Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University; Prof. Sarabjinder Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Sant Baba Bhag Singh University; and Oberoi Vivek Sadan of Futuristic University, Sri Anandpur Sahib.

Prof. Karamjeet Singh emphasized the university's commitment to establishing collaborative laboratories with leading global institutions to equip students with emerging technologies and strengthen Punjab's presence on the global digital platform. He noted that, with the

participation of the NRI community, initiatives are underway to sponsor IT and AI laboratories, introduce internationally certified courses, and provide scholarships to deserving students.

During the event, Prof. Karamjeet Singh's book, *Meditation to Martyrdom: The Legacy of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji*, was

Baldev Kang encouraged Punjab's youth to harness their strengths and emerge as the state's most valuable resource. "We must elevate ourselves through quality education, skill development, and effective resource management to remain competitive globally," he remarked. An accomplished indus-



trialist, Kang leads international enterprises in logistics, steel, and real estate and has emerged as a role model for Punjabi entrepreneurship by harmonizing family values with corporate excellence.

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# James R. Downing, MD, to step down as president and CEO of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in late 2026

*Downing will transition to a faculty role in the St. Jude Department of Pediatric Global Medicine to continue institution's global mission*

**A**fter leading an unprecedented growth of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital over the past 12 years, James R. Downing, MD, will step down as president and CEO in late 2026 as part of a planned leadership transition. He will move into a faculty role in the Department of Global Pediatric Medicine, which he helped establish in 2018 to advance the mission of St. Jude around the world.

"When I joined St. Jude 40 years ago, I came for the opportunity to do great science, but I stayed because of the mission and culture," Downing said. "I've watched St. Jude transform the care of pediatric cancer around the world, and I'm grateful to have played a small part as its CEO. It has been the honor of a lifetime to wake up every day and know that I have a purpose, to be a part of this workforce, and to change the outlook for children everywhere."

Downing will remain in the role of president and CEO while the St. Jude Board of Governors conducts a global search for the institution's next leader. The Board expects to announce the incoming CEO this summer and complete the leadership handoff by the end of 2026.

Judy Habib, chair of the St. Jude Board of Governors, credits Downing with making St. Jude a leader in the global movement to treat and cure children around the world.

"What he has accomplished globally in his time as CEO would have made our founder Danny Thomas proud. He has certainly made us proud and grateful for all he's done for St. Jude and the children around the world," Habib said. "He has nurtured the spirit of collaboration within St. Jude and among peer institutions, governments, global agencies, and advocacy groups. His legacy of bringing people together, leading with a bold vision, and being a relentless advocate of fundamental science will carry St. Jude forward for the next CEO and beyond."

Ike Anand, president and CEO of ALSAC, the fundraising and awareness organization for St. Jude, said he has appreciated Downing's partnership in fulfilling the two organizations' shared mission.

"Dr. Downing is a true partner, mentor, and friend, and I have long admired his unwavering commitment to scientific excellence and his deep compassion for the children and families we serve," Anand said. "His vision has guided St. Jude through historic expansion, advancing efforts to transform the lives of children globally who are suffering from cancer and other catastrophic diseases. As he prepares for his next chapter, we celebrate his profound legacy and the continuing impact of his work for children and families everywhere."

## A scientist and leader

Downing is considered a pioneer in the understanding of the genetic basis of childhood leukemia and in the field of genome sequencing. He joined St. Jude in 1986 as an assistant member in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, eventually becoming department chair. After being appointed scientific director in 2004, he spearheaded the Pediatric Cancer Genome Project, which ultimately laid the foundation for a new period of research and treatment of childhood cancer and other

catastrophic pediatric diseases.

He was named president and CEO in 2014 and has led the institution in the largest strategic expansion in its history. Downing has focused on advancing fundamental, clinical and translational research, increasing the institution's global impact, and strengthening its culture.

To meet the changing needs of patient families and the growing St. Jude workforce, he has also overseen a major expansion of the main campus of St. Jude in Memphis, Tennessee. Major milestones include construction of The Domino's Village, Inspiration4 Advanced Research Center, St. Jude Data Center, and two clinical towers opening next year. A second research center is also under construction.



James R. Downing, MD

Downing's contributions have been honored by the global medical and scientific community. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a fellow of the American Association for Cancer Research Academy and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has received the Society of Memorial Sloan Kettering Prize, the E. Donnell Thomas Lecture and Prize from the American Society of Hematology and the Pediatric Oncology Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

"St. Jude has become uniquely positioned to solve some of the world's most challenging problems around childhood cancer and other pediatric diseases. I often ask, 'If not St. Jude, then who?' and if the answer is no one, then we're going to do it," Downing said.

"Nothing worth doing can be achieved in a single lifetime, nor can it be achieved alone. I'm merely a caretaker of St. Jude, and I look forward to helping the next leader fulfill our founder's dream that no child should die in the dawn of life."

## A lasting legacy

"There are so many strides and triumphs that transpired under James Downing's leadership," said Marlo Thomas, national outreach director for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. "As an exemplary mentor, he inspires excellence in his colleagues, building a culture in which every person can do their best work. But what I will always value about Dr. Downing is that this brilliant scientist has the passion and heart for helping sick kids driving everything he does."

Downing's accomplishments as CEO have been numerous, including the completion of two strategic plans that called for investments of nearly \$20 billion and more than 2,300 new positions. The strategic plans laid the groundwork for the following landmark initiatives that continue to shape the hospital and its impact:

### Fundamental science

- Established the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
- Launched St. Jude Cloud, the largest repository of pediatric cancer genomic data and associated analysis tools in the world
- Established the St. Jude Research Collaborative
- Opened new academic departments in imaging sciences, host-microbe interactions, cellular and molecular biology, and computational biology
- Launched the Office of Data Science to lead the organization strategy in data science for biologic discoveries
- Launched the Centers of Excellence in Data-Driven Discovery, Structural Cell Biology, Pediatric Immuno-Oncology, Innate Immunity and Inflammation, Leukemia, and Neuro-Oncology Sciences
- Opened the Inspiration4 Advanced Research Center and began construction on a second research tower

### Childhood Cancer and other catastrophic diseases of childhood

- Redesignated as an NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Established the Cancer Predisposition Clinic and Program
- Created the Pediatric Cancer Dependencies Accelerator
- Established the HPV Cancer Prevention Program
- Launched the Pediatric Translational Neuroscience Initiative
- Announced a cure for X-linked SCID, or bubble boy disease
- Increased the number of patients admitted to St. Jude annually
- Designated as a Magnet Hospital with Distinction
- Established the Patient and Family Experience Office and opened Family Commons
- Opened The Domino's Village, a new patient housing facility
- Completed construction on two clinical towers

# Mapping the vaccine landscape

**VIDYA SETHURAMAN**  
India Post News Service

The Advisory Committee on Immunization (ACIP), originally scheduled to meet at the end of February, has yet to release its agenda, and the meeting has been temporarily canceled. The committee was expected to provide updated recommendations on vaccines for influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. The ACIP's decisions typically form the basis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) vaccine guidelines and influence whether insurance covers vaccine costs. On February 20th, the American social media platform ACoM held an online briefing, inviting pediatrician Richard Besser, former acting director of the CDC, to analyze current vaccine policy changes and the public health trust crisis.

Dr Richard Besser, CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has practiced

medicine for over 30 years and led the CDC during the early stages of the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. In his more than 30 years of clinical experience in pediatrics, he stated, "no measure is more effective in protecting health than ensuring children receive their vaccinations on time

*The committee was expected to provide updated recommendations on vaccines for influenza, RSV, and COVID-19. The ACIP's decisions typically form the basis of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) vaccine guidelines and influence whether insurance covers vaccine costs*

and completely." He acknowledged that dramatic changes in vaccine policy over the past year have impacted public trust. Last June, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. disbanded the existing Advisory Committee

on Immunization, and many of the new members are considered vaccine skeptics. Some members have publicly questioned the safety of single-dose mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, even advocating for their withdrawal from the market.

The Advisory Committee on Immuniza-

tion has made several controversial recommendations in recent years, including adjusting policies for measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccines, eliminating recommendations for newborn hepatitis B vaccination, and tightening eli-

gibility criteria for COVID-19 vaccines. In January of this year, the committee chair even stated that the polio vaccine should not be mandatory. These discussions occur amid a resurgence of vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States. Measles, which was considered largely eradicated at the beginning of this century, has recently experienced outbreaks in several states.

Besser pointed out that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the CDC failed to communicate effectively with the public directly. Scientific advice was adjusted as research progressed, but this was politicized as "fickleness," eroding public trust. He emphasized that science is naturally revised with new evidence. "Changes in advice don't mean it's wrong, but rather that we've learned more." He advised parents not to seek medical answers from politicians' statements, but rather to consult trusted doctors, nurses, or pharmacists.

Regarding the recommendation to cancel hepatitis B vaccination for newborns, Besser bluntly stated that it was "extremely unwise." He pointed out that the hepatitis B vaccine not only prevents infection but also reduces the risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer later in life, making it a "cancer vaccine." The United States has virtually eliminated childhood hepatitis B infection through widespread newborn vaccination. If the policy is relaxed, the impact may not be immediately apparent, but decades later it could be reflected in an increase in liver cancer cases.

Besser stated that recent ICE enforcement actions have caused people in some areas to fear seeking medical care, especially undocumented immigrant families. He pointed out that federally qualified health centers, in principle, do not collect or share immigrant status information, but fear itself has become an obstacle.

## National Retail Solutions (NRS) named official POS provider for Krauszer's Food Stores as legendary chain targets nationwide expansion

NEWARK, NJ: National Retail Solutions (NRS) has been selected as the official point-of-sale (POS) provider for Krauszer's Food Stores, the legendary convenience store chain serving communities across the Northeast. The rollout will standardize operations across Krauszer's 300+ existing locations and provide the technological infrastructure for the brand's aggressive nationwide expansion initiative.

Founded in the early 1900s, Krauszer's is the oldest convenience store chain in New Jersey and a staple of the local economy. As the brand prepares to scale

or a future site in a new territory, operates with the same high-performance tools.

"Krauszer's is more than a convenience store; it is a legendary brand that has served generations of customers," said Elie Y. Katz, President and CEO of NRS. "We are honored to be the preferred point-of-sale provider chosen to support their next chapter. Equipping their 300+ stores with our platform gives them the consistency and data visibility they need to scale operations efficiently as they enter new markets across the country."

tailers in the United States and Canada. NRS provides small and mid-sized business owners with robust, revenue-generating store management and checkout systems, including EBT/eWIC acceptance, e-commerce solutions, payroll services, business cash advances, and other merchant services. NRS serves diverse retail segments through specialized solutions, such as NRS Petro for gas stations and convenience stores. For more information on NRS, visit [www.nrsplus.com](http://www.nrsplus.com).

About Krauszer's Food Stores: Founded in 1911, Krauszer's Food Stores is New Jersey's oldest convenience chain. With over 300 independently owned locations, the brand serves as a local staple for deli favorites, groceries, and daily essential

*Founded in the early 1900s, Krauszer's is the oldest convenience store chain in New Jersey and a staple of the local economy. As the brand prepares to scale beyond its regional stronghold*

beyond its regional stronghold, it has tapped NRS to modernize its checkout systems and ensure franchise consistency.

The collaboration leverages NRS's robust ecosystem of features-including integrated loyalty and rewards programs, granular inventory tracking, multi-store management, and e-commerce websites with online ordering-to power retail operations ranging from a single neighborhood bodega to enterprise chains with over 1,000 locations. Deploying NRS terminals fleet-wide guarantees that every franchisee, whether in a long-standing New Jersey location

"As we look to take the Krauszer's banner nationwide, we need a technology provider that understands the unique pace of the convenience store industry," said Daniel Shah of Krauszer's Food Stores. "NRS offers the robust architecture we need to manage hundreds of stores while keeping the system intuitive enough for our franchisees to use every day. Consistency is vital as we grow the brand into new states."

About National Retail Solutions: (NRS) National Retail Solutions (NRS), a subsidiary of IDT Corporation (NYSE: IDT), operates the leading point-of-sale (POS) system and NRS Pay payment processing services for thousands of independent re-

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# Youth leadership in action: Serving the underserved through medical camps and education support

Cont'd from page 20

At Annam Seva Foundation, the management and residents expressed heartfelt gratitude for the initiative. Annam Srinivasa Rao, the foundation president, sincerely thanked Sriram Vempati, Bhaskar Vempati, the Indian volunteer team, and the doctors from Mamatha Medical College for bringing much needed healthcare services directly to their residents. He noted that many residents, especially abandoned senior citizens and individuals with mental and physical challenges, rarely have access to specialized care.

The MJPTBCW Residential Junior College Principal, Nagamani, also thanked Sriram, the Indian volunteer team, and the doctors for selecting their institution for the medical camp and appreciated their dedicated efforts in serving the students.

Annam Srinivasa Rao, Nagamani, Amaraneni Manmadhara Rao, Ravikumar Vemsani, doctors and other local camp organizers sincerely appreciated Sriram's leadership and compassion in organizing the medical camps. They praised his

dedication to serving underserved communities at a young age and wished him great success in his academic journey

and impactful physician.

Through these initiatives, Sriram not only gained meaningful exposure to the

cybersecurity, equipping students with in-demand technical skills and improving their readiness for today's competitive job



and future medical career. They expressed confidence that his empathy and commitment will help him become a car-

medical field but also helped deliver essential healthcare services to more than 400 individuals. His efforts addressed significant gaps in access to medical care for marginalized populations, including persons with disabilities, abandoned senior citizens, and economically underprivileged students. These camps reflect his deep commitment to healthcare equity and his aspiration to become a physician dedicated to serving communities in need.

During the second medical camp, Suvidha International Foundation expanded its support by donating four laptops to MJPTBCW Residential Degree College (a neighboring college of the Residential Junior College), strengthening students' access to technology and digital learning resources. This contribution is expected to enhance academic work, research, and skill development opportunities for students, particularly those from underserved backgrounds.

In addition, Suvidha International Foundation has partnered with an undergraduate team (the Project Rishi team) from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, to further support student growth and career readiness. As part of this collaboration, the foundation is helping organize resume-building workshops and soft skills development sessions to better prepare students for higher education and employment opportunities.

Looking ahead, there are plans to introduce advanced training programs in Generative AI, Power BI, and

market.

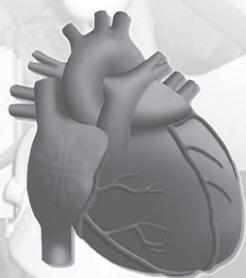
The school staff expressed their sincere appreciation to Suvidha International Foundation and the Project Rishi team from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, for their continued support and meaningful contributions toward student development.

About Suvidha International Foundation: Suvidha International Foundation (<https://suvidhainternational.org>) is a California-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to promoting education, empowerment, and community service in both the United States and India.

In the United States, Suvidha offers impactful programs in speech and debate, robotics, artificial intelligence, coding, and summer enrichment. The foundation also engages youth in meaningful community service activities such as tutoring, community cleanups, and clothing drives, helping them develop leadership skills, practical knowledge, and a strong sense of social responsibility.

In India, Suvidha supports 106 underprivileged students, with a strong emphasis on empowering girls pursuing higher education and professional degrees. The foundation also conducts medical camps to provide free healthcare services to underserved communities. In addition, it provides school supplies, specialized training, and career mentorship, along with supporting women's self-employment initiatives and community programs such as food distribution and environmental efforts.

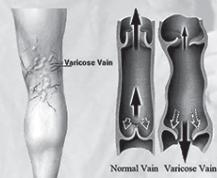
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## Childhood cancer survival rate in Pakistan remains dismal: Report

ISLAMABAD: Even though experts reckon that childhood cancer survival rates in wealthy nations is over 80 percent, it drops to below 30 percent in low and middle-income nations like Pakistan largely due to delay in recognizing symptoms, lack of quality supportive care and trained specialists, limited access to specialized treatment and treatment abandonment, a report has detailed.

Around 10,000 children are diagnosed with cancer in Pakistan each year, an editorial in Pakistan's leading daily The Express Tribune stated. Every year, Pakistan is losing children that could have been saved if they were born in nations which have better resources and resource management.

"The dismal survival rate in Pakistan is largely due to a delayed recognition of symptoms, lack of quality supportive care, lack of trained specialists, limited access to specialized treatment centers and even high rates of treatment abandonment," the editorial mentioned.

Diagnosis of childhood cancer is delayed due to negligence on almost all levels of care. A lack of awareness of symptoms causes a primary delay in consulting a doctor. Then, there is a delay in referring the child to an oncological center. *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)*

February 27, 2026

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# AI in healthcare to be remembered for billions of lives it helped improve

NEW DELHI: AI is not about replacing clinicians; it is about giving time back to them, time to think, time to connect and time to care, according to industry leaders.

Roy Jakobs, CEO, Philips, positioned healthcare as the sector where AI could have the greatest human impact.

Highlighting how AI is already easing pressure on overburdened systems at the AI Impact Summit here, he said that "When we look back a decade from now, AI in healthcare will not be remembered for what was optimized on a screen, but for the billions of lives it helped improve."

Alexander Wang, Chief AI Officer, Meta, highlighted AI's growing integration into everyday life and India's central role in shaping its trajectory.

Emphasizing the company's vision for "personal superintelligence," he said, "Our vision is personal superintelligence, AI that knows you, your goals, your

interests, and helps you with whatever you're focused on doing".

"It serves you, whoever you are, wherever you are." Under-scoring the importance of re-

According to Martin Schroeter, Chairman and CEO, Kyndryl, "The innovation is real. The challenge is readiness. AI today is not yet industrialized, infrastructure, data, operations and people must

tems society depends on every day."

Olivier Blum, Global CEO, Schneider Electric, underscored the deep interlinkages between AI and the global energy transition.



sponsible deployment, he added, "Given how intimately your personal AI will know you, people aren't going to hire us for the job if we're not doing it responsibly. Trust, transparency and governance must move as fast as the models themselves," said Wang.

be prepared to support it at scale."

Stressing trust and governance, he added, "The future of AI will not be decided in research labs or boardrooms. It will be decided by how reliably and responsibly it is embedded into the sys-

"AI means more compute, and more compute means more energy. We cannot underestimate the pressure this will put on global energy systems," he noted. At the same time, he pointed to AI's transformative potential for efficiency. *IANS*

## ICMR convenes SANVAD 2026 to nurture next-generation research leaders

NEW DELHI: Aiming to strengthen institutional collaboration and expand exposure to diverse research ecosystems, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) organized a three-day conclave SANVAD 2026, said an official.

The ICMR which comes under the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, organized Scholars' Assembly for Next-gen Ventures to Advance their Development (SANVAD 2026) from February 19 to 21 at the ICMR-National Institute of

Malaria Research (NIMR), said the official in a statement.

A highlight of the three-day



event was the technical session on Health Communication - Translating Science for Impact.

Discussions underscored the critical role of strategic communication in ensuring that research

informs policy, builds public trust, and reaches communities effectively.

The session emphasized that impactful research does not end with publication; it must be communicated strategically, clearly, and persuasively to influence policy, practice, and societal change, said the statement.

The final day featured a town hall with Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Secretary, Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR.

The interactive dialogue addressed science-policy linkages, research funding landscapes, and emerging opportunities for young investigators.

He urged scholars to conduct serious and meaningful research and avoid what I call 'tick-box research.'

"I encourage you to go beyond minimum Ph.D. requirements and voluntarily contribute to writing high-quality research papers. There is a distinction between pressure and stress, and researchers must learn to manage both constructively," he said.

Anup Anvikar, Director, ICMR-NIMR, lauded the scholars for their dedication and scholarly excellence. *IANS*

# India committed to making global clean energy transition faster, fairer: Pralhad Joshi

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi said, India remains committed to making the global clean energy transition faster, fairer and development-oriented for the benefit of people and the planet.

In an X post, replying to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the minister said that India's clean energy journey is

Guterres had said that India is proving it's possible to expand clean energy access and grow industry at the same time.

"Together, let's turn climate necessity into development opportunity and make the clean energy transition fair and faster for people and planet," he mentioned in an X post.

Meanwhile, India is emerging as a glo-

bal leader in renewable energy expansion. It's possible to expand clean energy access and grow industry at the same time.

The country has already achieved nearly two-thirds of its nationally determined contributions in fighting climate change four years ahead of schedule.

At the 'India AI Impact Summit 2026' here, Guterres cited AI fragmentation risks, calling for global interoperability standards for better outcomes at

Guterres said that today, international cooperation is difficult.

"Technological rivalry is growing. Without a common baseline, fragmentation wins, with different regions and different countries operating under incompatible policies and technical standards," he warned. Addressing the Summit, he said that when we agree on how to test

systems and measure risk, we create interoperability.

Guterres also called for science-led AI guardrails to protect people and accelerate innovation. According to the UN Secre-



*In an X post, replying to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the minister said that India's clean energy journey is rooted in action, ambition and inclusion. "Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, we are expanding renewable capacity at scale while powering industry, livelihoods and innovation"*

rooted in action, ambition and inclusion.

"Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, we are expanding renewable capacity at scale while powering industry, livelihoods and innovation," Joshi stated.

India is committed to reducing its GDP emissions intensity of greenhouse gases

by 2030 to a level of 45 percent below 2005 levels, raise share of non-fossil fuel elec-

tary-General, AI guardrails must build confidence and give business clarity so innovation can move faster in the right direction. *IANS*

## Organ transplants see surge in India, over 4.8 lakh citizens register to donate organs

NEW DELHI: In a significant development, organ transplants have seen a 4-fold increase in the country -- from less than 5,000 in 2013 to nearly 20,000 in 2025, according to the government.

Moreover, nearly 18 percent of transplants are currently being performed with organs donated from deceased donors.

Notably, more than 4.8 lakh citizens have registered to donate organs and tis-

transplantation across the country.

The ministry further informed that over 1,200 families came forward to donate organs of their loved one after death in the year 2025, saving thousands of lives and improving the quality of lives of many others.

Each donor is now a multi-organ donor, transforming lives of many.

The country has achieved competence in performing difficult organ transplants like heart, lungs and pancreas.

"India also leads the world in hands transplants and performs a greater number of hand transplants than any other country. These remarkable achievements reflect the strong and sustained impetus provided by the Government of India, translating policy vision into measurable, life-saving outcomes," according to Health

Ministry.

India has one the best of transplant professionals and surgeons in the world who have achieved outcomes comparable to the best in the world and that too at a fraction of cost. Increasing numbers of families are stepping forward during moments of profound grief to give the gift of life, transforming loss into hope for countless recipients. *IANS*



sues after death through an Aadhaar-based verification system, since September 17, 2023, as per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare data.

The country achieved a significant milestone in the field of organ donation and transplantation, with the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) recording unprecedented progress in organ donation, allocation, and

## Pharma exports register 9.4 pc growth; industry aims for double-digit expansion in 2026-27: Govt

NEW DELHI: India's pharmaceutical exports grew by 9.4 percent in 2024-25 to reach \$30.47 billion, and the industry is now preparing to achieve double-digit growth in 2026-27 with strong government support, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said recently.

The interaction, organized on the theme "Scaling up Pharma Exports," reflected the government's focus on expanding India's global footprint in medicines through closer coordination with industry and regulators.

The initiative is being carried forward under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India's pharmaceutical sector, currently valued at around \$60 billion, is projected to grow to \$130 billion by 2030, the ministry said.

The country ranks third globally in terms of volume of medicines produced and exports its pharmaceutical products to more than 200 countries.

Over 60 percent of these exports go to highly regulated markets. The United States accounts for 34 percent of India's pharmaceutical exports, while Europe contributes 19 percent.

In a video message, the Commerce Secretary emphasized the need for regu-

lar engagement with exporters and manufacturers, along with timely responses to challenges in regulated markets.

He reiterated the Prime Minister's vision of strengthening India's position as a trusted global trade partner and ensuring that affordable, high-quality medicines from India continue to reach people across the world.

The inaugural session saw participation



from the Department of Commerce, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), and the Food and Drugs Control Administration, along with industry representatives.

Discussions focused on simplifying regulatory processes, improving export facilitation and aligning policies with the next phase of sectorial growth, it added. *IANS*

# Scientists discover reason high altitude protects against diabetes: Study

WASHINGTON DC: Living at high altitude appears to protect against diabetes, and scientists have finally discovered the reason. When oxygen levels drop, red blood cells switch into a new metabolic mode and absorb large amounts of glucose from the blood.

This helps the body cope with thin air while also reducing blood sugar levels. A drug that recreates this effect reversed diabetes in mice, hinting at a powerful new treatment strategy.

For years, researchers have observed that people, who live at high elevations, where oxygen is scarce, tend to develop diabetes less often than those at sea level. Although the trend was well documented, the biological explanation behind it was unclear.

Scientists at Gladstone Institutes now say they have identified the reason. Their research shows that in low oxygen environments, red blood cells begin absorbing large amounts of glucose from the bloodstream.

In effect, the cells act like sugar sponges under conditions similar to those

found on the world's tallest mountains.

In findings published in *Cell Metabolism*, the team demonstrated that red blood cells can alter their metabolism when oxygen levels drop.

This shift allows the cells to deliver oxy-



gen to tissues more efficiently at high altitude. At the same time, it lowers circulating blood sugar, offering a potential explanation for reduced diabetes risk.

According to senior author Isha Jain, PhD, a Gladstone Investigator, core inves-

tigator at Arc Institute, and professor of biochemistry at UC San Francisco, the study resolves a longstanding question in physiology.

"Red blood cells represent a hidden compartment of glucose metabolism that

has not been appreciated until now. This discovery could open up entirely new ways to think about controlling blood sugar," Jain says.

Red Blood Cells Identified as a Glucose Sink

Jain's lab has spent years studying hypoxia, the term for reduced oxygen levels in the blood, and its effects on metabolism. In earlier experiments, her team noticed that mice exposed to low oxygen air had dramatically lower blood glucose levels.

The animals rapidly cleared sugar from their bloodstream after eating, which is typically linked to lower diabetes risk. However, when researchers examined major organs to determine where the glucose was being used, they found no clear answer.

"When we gave sugar to the mice in hypoxia, it disappeared from their bloodstream almost instantly," says Yolanda Marti-Mateos, PhD, a postdoctoral scholar in Jain's lab and first author of the new study. "We looked at muscle, brain, liver -- all the usual suspects -- but nothing in these organs could explain what was happening."

Using a different imaging method, the researchers discovered that red blood cells were serving as the missing "glucose sink," meaning they were taking in and using significant amounts of glucose from circulation. *ANI*

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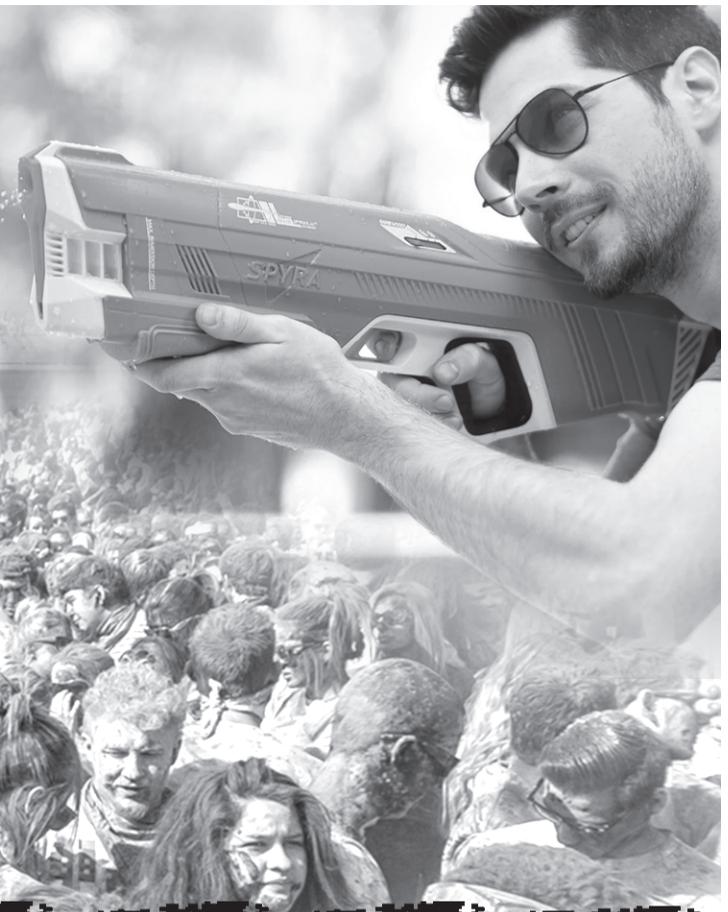
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## World's most powerful water blaster brand SPYRA debuts in India on Instamart just in time for Holi

BENGALURU: Festive shopping today is about more than tradition- it's about elevating the experience. Embracing this shift, Instamart is debuting SPYRA ahead of Holi 2026, bringing one of the world's most powerful water blasters to customers just in time for the celebrations. The launch marks the brand's official India debut and adds a global, in-

novation-led product to Instamart's Holi and summer lineup.

Engineered in Germany, SPYRA combines precision-shot technology with rapid reload capability to deliver a powerful, high-performance play experience that has built a strong global following. Its India debut also taps into the growing "kidult"

trend, where adults are rediscovering nostalgia through premium, design-forward products. As one of India's most experience-rich festivals, Holi is the perfect moment for a tech-enabled upgrade like this, adding a bold, memorable edge to the celebrations.

Speaking about the global brand's India debut through quick commerce, Manender Kaushik,

Head - Instamart, Alternate Business, said, "Over the past five years, we've seen a sharp rise in customers turning to quick commerce for both planned and last-minute Holi purchases. That has led us to build one of the widest festive assortments, from flower-based colors and water balloons to premium, experience-led products. This year, we're taking it a step further by bringing global cult brand SPYRA to India. With SPYRA's debut, we're helping kids and adults alike make a splash by delivering the most exciting products of the season straight to their doorstep."

Commenting on the launch, Sebastian Walter, Founder & CEO of SPYRA, said, "India's love for celebration and outdoor play makes it a natural home for SPYRA. With SPYRA, we are introducing an accessible yet high-

performance product that reflects our core values of innovation and quality. Our partnership with Instamart is built as a strong, premium brand in India."

With quick commerce platforms increasingly serving as launch pads for global lifestyle brands, the entry of SPYRA signals how even traditional festivals such as Holi are seeing a premium, tech-driven upgrade, aimed as much at adults as at children.

SPYRA has tied up with Mumbai-based fashion-tech startup head, Founder, Shuchi Sharma of Bella Lifestyle to manage its India operations.

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

## INDIAN LABEL RAW MANGO MAKES ITS DEBUT AT LONDON FASHION WEEK

LONDON: India's renowned fashion label Raw Mango recently made its debut at London Fashion Week.

Raw Mango presented its Fall Winter 2026 collection It's Not About The Flower on the international runway.

The collection celebrated the brand's arrival in its own vernacular. Drawing inspiration from the iconic South Asian garland, the collection delves into themes of memory, ritual, and adornment.

Speaking about the milestone moment, Sanjay Garg, founder, said, "I am glad that everyone can now finally share in the things that have been on our minds. I



am seeing the work through the perspectives of so many different people. We're hearing the beginnings of so many conversations. That's always the goal."

He added, "London is a stage for us, as good as one in Kanpur. At the end of the day, it is the work

being presented that matters. And that doesn't change according to who is viewing it, or where. Our work is a response to an internal pursuit - what excites us, what needs to be explored, what holds meaning. We want to keep doing what we do. Add value to the industry, the craft and the conversation in general."

Here are some runway visuals. Bollywood star Kriti Sanon was also seen at London Fashion Week. She attended Burberry's Fall/Winter 2026-27 show, joining a star-studded front row with Kate Moss, Simone Ashley, Stellan Skarsgard, Olivia Dean, and Luke Thompson. ANI

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## Philosophy

ECKHART TOLLE

One night not long after my twenty-ninth birthday, I woke up in the early hours with a feeling of absolute dread. I had woken up with such a feeling many times before, but this time it was more intense than it had ever been. The silence of the night, the vague outlines of the furniture in the dark room, the distant noise of a passing train - everything felt so alien, so hostile, and so utterly meaningless that it created in me a deep loathing of the world.

The most loathsome thing of all, however, was my own existence. What was the point in continuing to live with this burden of misery? Why carry on with this continuous struggle? I could feel that a deep longing for annihilation, for nonexistence, was now becoming much stronger than the instinctive desire to continue to live.

"I cannot live with myself any longer." This was the thought that kept repeat-

dawn was filtering through the curtains. Without any thought, I felt, I knew, that there is infinitely more to light than we realize. That soft luminosity filtering through the curtains was love itself. Tears came into my eyes.

I got up and walked around the room. I recognized the room, and yet I knew that I had never truly seen it before. Everything was fresh and pristine, as if it had just come into existence. I picked up things, a pencil, an empty bottle, marveling at the beauty and aliveness of it all. That day I walked around the city in utter amazement at the miracle of life on earth, as if I had just been born into this world.

For the next five months, I lived in a state of uninterrupted deep peace and bliss. After that, it diminished somewhat in intensity, or perhaps it seemed so because it became my natural state. I could still function in the world, although I realized that nothing I ever did could possibly add anything to



Eckhart Tolle

I found what everybody was looking for  
The most loathsome thing was my own existence

ing itself in my mind. Then suddenly I became aware of what a peculiar thought it was. "Am I one or two? If I cannot live with myself, there must be two of me: the I and the 'self that I cannot live with.'" "Maybe," I thought, "only one of them is real." I was so stunned by this strange realization that my mind stopped. I was fully conscious, but there were no more thoughts.

Then I felt drawn into what seemed like a vortex of energy. It was a slow movement at first and then accelerated. I was gripped by an intense fear, and my body started to shake. I heard the words "resist nothing," as if spoken inside my chest. I could feel myself being sucked into a void. It felt as if the void was inside myself rather than outside.

Suddenly, there was no more fear, and I let myself fall into that void. I was awakened by the chirping of a bird outside the window. I had never heard such a sound before.

I opened my eyes. The first light of

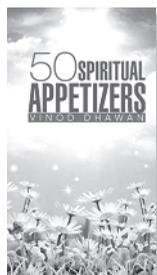
what I already had.

I knew, of course, that something profoundly significant had happened to me, but I didn't understand it at all. It wasn't until several years later, after I had read spiritual texts and spent time with spiritual teachers, that I realized that what everybody was looking for had already happened to me.

*Excerpted from 'The Power of Now - A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment'. The 78th birth anniversary of Eckhart Tolle was observed on February 16*

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Jac O'Keeffe

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## India's global power trajectory: Strategic implications for Bangladesh and region

MD. AL-AMIN

India, as a regional power in South Asia, exercises significant political, economic, and strategic influence over its neighboring countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. Through economic leverage, diplomatic engagement, labor mobility, and development assistance, India often shapes internal and external policy choices in these states.

At the same time, its vast manpower base and expanding military capabilities enhance its dominance in regional security and defense matters. From a strategic standpoint, India's growing presence and increasingly assertive posture position it as the central force shaping South Asia's balance of power.

### Regional Dominance to Global Ambition

In contrast, as an emerging global giant, India's nuclear capability positions it as a key strategic deterrent power. Its no-first-use doctrine and policy of credible minimum deterrence influence regional stability and global non-proliferation discussions, par-

*India has also established itself as a global IT hub, driving innovation, outsourcing, and digital services worldwide. Its skilled workforce and technology firms play a central role in global software development, AI services, and digital infrastructure*

ticularly in relation to Pakistan and China.

India has also established itself as a global IT hub, driving innovation, outsourcing, and digital services worldwide. Its skilled workforce and technology firms play a central role in global software development, AI services, and digital infrastructure. Notably, several leading global IT companies, such as Google and Microsoft, are headed by CEOs of Indian origin, reflecting India's expanding intellectual footprint in the global technology ecosystem.

In the realm of sports diplomacy, India has transformed cricket into a global commercial industry. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is widely regarded as the world's richest cricket governing body, with a valuation exceeding ₹1,83,000 crore - far surpassing other national boards. Through financial strength, global viewership, and high-profile leagues such as the Indian Premier League (IPL), India exerts substantial influence over international cricket governance and decision-making.

India is now the world's fourth-largest economy. Its strategic oil imports from countries such as Russia and Venezuela during periods of international political turmoil have strengthened its energy security and economic resilience. This pragmatic approach enhances India's bargaining power in global energy and geopolitical markets.

Indian policymakers are increasingly shaping global debates on climate change, trade, security, and development. India's leadership voice represents both emerging economies and the Global South in major international forums. As an active member of the G20 and BRICS, India plays a significant role in shaping global economic governance. It advocates multipolarity, development financing, and reform of international institutions.

Approximately 32 to 35.4 million people of Indian origin - including Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) - live outside India, forming the world's largest overseas diaspora. This vast diaspora strengthens India's global influence through culture, business, education, and politics. Such soft power networks enhance India's global image and foster diplomatic and economic connections worldwide.

These strategic advantages collectively reinforce India's ambition to raise its voice globally as a prospective superpower.

### Structural Constraints Dim Regional Image

Despite its strategic opportunities, India continues to face structural challenges in its quest for big-power status. Although it has a large population and a rapidly growing economy, India does not hold permanent membership or veto power in the UN Security Council. This limits its ability to shape global security decisions and constrains its diplomatic influence compared to established major powers.

*(The author is a foreign policy and security analyst and, educator who holds a postgraduate degree from the Department of International Relations, Rajshahi University, Bangladesh) South Asia Monitor*

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# Pakistan's Afghan blowback: Strategic depth turns strategic liability

SRIJAN SHARMA

After nearly six months of uneasy calm, the fragile silence along the Af-Pak border has shattered. Pakistan's recent airstrikes inside Afghanistan, reportedly killing around a dozen people, including women and children, signal a dangerous escalation between Islamabad and the Taliban regime in Kabul. The strikes come amid rising cross-border attacks by militant outfits, particularly the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), underscoring the deteriorating security landscape.

What was once touted as Pakistan's doctrine of "strategic depth" in Afghanistan now appears to be collapsing under the weight of internal contradictions and militant blowback. As ten-

Jalalabad and Kandahar, facilitating operations by Pakistan-based groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed. This architecture contributed to destabilization in Jammu & Kashmir through the late 1980s and 1990s.

Following the 9/11 attacks and the US invasion of Afghanistan, the Taliban regime collapsed under operations such as the CIA's Operation Jawbreaker. Yet Pakistan's strategic depth policy did not dissolve. Instead, it was reorganized. The Haqqani network-long considered one of the most lethal insurgent factions-became the linchpin of Islamabad's proxy strategy. Core Taliban and Haqqani elements found sanctuary in Pakistan's

## The Taliban 2.0 Problem

The Taliban's return to power in 2021 was widely celebrated in Pakistan as the restoration of strategic depth. However, Islamabad soon confronted a sobering reality: this was not the Taliban of the 1990s.

Taliban 2.0 sought autonomy, legitimacy and internal consolidation. Rather than functioning as a pliant proxy, it pursued its own interests-often at odds with Pakistan's expectations. Border skirmishes increased. Economic tensions simmered. Most critically, the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) resurged as a potent threat to the Pakistani state.

Islamabad had anticipated that Kabul would rein in the TTP. That expectation proved misplaced. Ceasefires between Pakistan and the TTP collapsed. Attacks inside Pakistan intensified.

Pakistan's fallback option-the Haqqani network-also lost reliability. Internal rifts between Sirajuddin Haqqani and Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada widened, reportedly over governance, taxation and women's rights. The Haqqanis, often seen as comparatively pragmatic, found themselves at ideological odds with Kandahar's hardline leadership.

With diminishing leverage over Kabul and an emboldened TTP, Pakistan's strategic depth doctrine has entered a phase of structural decline. The recent cross-border offensives suggest not confidence, but compulsion.

## Blowback from FATA

The seeds of today's crisis were sown in Pakistan's tribal areas two decades ago. The relocation of Taliban and Haqqani leadership to FATA, alongside permissive cross-border jihadist networks, created an ecosystem of militancy that eventually slipped beyond state control.

*(The author is a national security analyst specializing in intelligence and security analysis)*

South Asia Monitor

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*As tensions mount and ties between Islamabad and Kabul erode, the old proxy architecture that sustained Pakistan's Afghan calculus is fracturing. In this churn, India may find an opening to recalibrate its own Afghan outreach*

sions mount and ties between Islamabad and Kabul erode, the old proxy architecture that sustained Pakistan's Afghan calculus is fracturing. In this churn, India may find an opening to recalibrate its own Afghan outreach.

## Strategic Depth: Patronage, Proxies and Plausible Deniability

For decades, Pakistan nurtured the Taliban as a core component of its strategic depth doctrine against India. During the Afghan-Soviet war and through the 1990s, Islamabad's security establishment cultivated the Taliban as a friendly regime that would deny India influence in Kabul and provide rear bases for anti-India groups.

Training hubs emerged in provinces such as Khost,

tribal belt, particularly North Waziristan in the former FATA region, with alleged facilitation from the ISI.

Publicly aligned with Washington's "War on Terror," Pakistan simultaneously maintained covert linkages with militant proxies. The ISI's S Division reportedly oversaw relationships with groups including the Haqqanis, LeT and Jaish, preserving plausible deniability while retaining influence inside Afghanistan.

The 2008 and 2009 bombings of the Indian Embassy in Kabul-attributed to the Haqqani network-were emblematic of this dual-track strategy. India's diplomatic and development footprint suffered as security threats mounted, forcing a recalibration of its presence.



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## WORLD IN STATE OF FLUX

In a major decision last week, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down most of President Donald Trump's sweeping global tariffs, holding his use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), to impose broad import duties, unconstitutional because that statute does not authorize such extensive tariff powers without clear congressional approval. The ruling (6-3) said only Congress has authority to levy broad tariffs in peacetime, reinforcing the constitutional separation of powers. It invalidated large portions of the emergency-based tariffs that had already been applied to many major trading partners, raising questions about potential refunds of tariffs already collected, estimated at over \$175 billion in revenue.

In response, the Trump administration immediately pivoted to a different legal authority, Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, to impose a temporary global tariff on imports. Initially set at 10 %, the rate was quickly raised to 15 %, a move President Trump framed as legally permissible and necessary to protect U.S. trade interests. This authority allows tariffs to remain for up to 150 days without additional congressional approval.

The Court's decision has created uncertainty in global trade. Some countries, in Europe and Asia, are reviewing trade agreements and tariff terms, while the United States Customs and Border Protection will cease collecting tariffs ruled illegal. Economists say the ruling provides some relief from the highest levies but leaves broader trade policy unclear, as the administration seeks alternative statutory paths to maintain tariff pressure. Experts said the entire exercise cost the American consumers only.

Another major global issue is the conflict between US and Iran. Unless one of them backs down war seems imminent. Will the US, by launching more air strikes on Iran, be trying to force a better deal on nuclear and ballistic missile limitation? Or will it be trying to force regime change? Or would it be intervening to prevent any further slaughter of protesters? Or just to take another crack at degrading Khamenei's nuclear and missile programs?

The lack of clarity surrounding Trump's preparations for war, account for doubts at home and among US allies in the region. Knowing that goals of the attack might also help Khamenei's tens of millions of domestic opponents decide how to prepare and react. If the US wants regime change, it should limit strikes to security forces and carefully targeted leaders, leaving space for protesters to come into the streets without fear of being killed, not just by the Revolutionary Guards and Basij thugs who shot them in January, but by American and Israeli bombs. It might even help Khamenei decide whether it makes sense to cut a deal to avert war. And if not him, then greater US clarity could also help potential replacements, inside or outside the regime, to organize for power and avoid the worst of all possible worlds for Iran and the wider region.

Several outcomes are likely from the entire episode. The Iranian public, especially women, may benefit directly if regime change happens. Secondly, US and Israel may end-up containing further nuclear development by Iran. Hopefully, peaceful settlement could also prevail.

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



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## WHY TAAPSEE PANNU STARRER 'ASSI' PERFORMED POORLY

Trade analyst Girish Wankhede and film distributor Manoj Desai have shared their views on the box office performance of Taapsee Pannu-starrer 'Assi', stating that the film failed to connect with audiences despite its concept.

Speaking about the film's underwhelming numbers, Girish Wankhede, in an exclusive conversation with IANS, said, "It's a simple reason. When a film doesn't do well, it means the audience didn't like it. They didn't understand what kind of film it was. If the marketing had been stronger, more people might have come to the cinemas, but the audience wasn't fully aware."

He further pointed to mixed critical reception and limited star pull as contributing factors. "Apart from that, the reviews were very mixed. Some people praised the film, some didn't. Taapsee Pannu is the main lead actress of the film, but she is not capable of pulling a film entirely on her shoulders. There are many such reasons why the film didn't perform well."

Explaining the box office trend, he added, "When a film doesn't do well, it simply means it is unsuccessful from the audience's point of view. If they had liked it, the word of mouth would have been strong. If the word of mouth had been strong, the collections would have grown. If you look at the first day's business, it opened at around Rs 1 crore. IANS

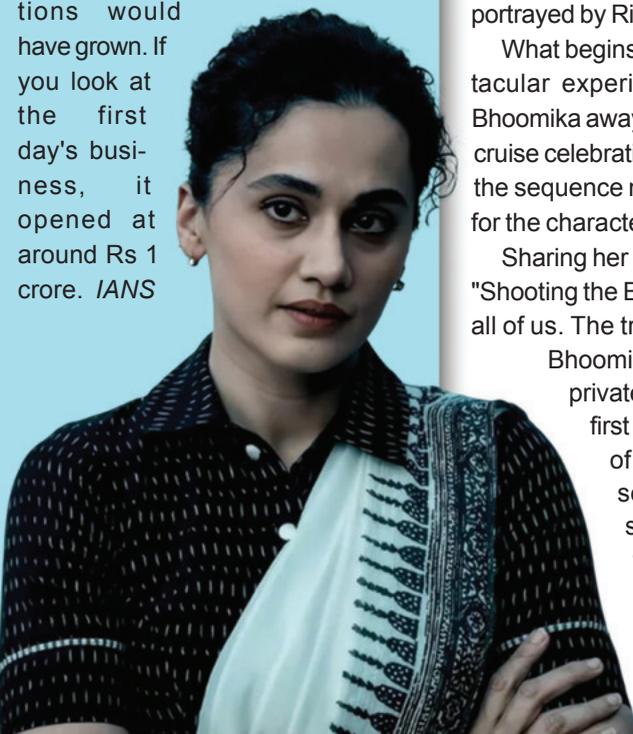


## 'LAKSHMI NIWAS' MAKERS SHOOT SEQUENCE IN BANGKOK

The makers of the television show 'Lakshmi Niwas' recently filmed a key celebratory sequence in Bangkok. At a crucial juncture in the story, the show unfolds an extravagant birthday celebration for Bhoomika, portrayed by Riya Munjal.

What begins as a simple surprise soon transforms into a visually spectacular experience as Raj, played by Priyom Dev Gujjar, whisks Bhoomika away on a chartered plane to Bangkok, culminating in a grand cruise celebration. Mounted on a scale rarely seen on Indian television, the sequence marks an important emotional and narrative milestone for the characters, blending romance, aspiration, and surprise.

Sharing her experience, Riya Munjal, who plays Bhoomika, said, "Shooting the Bangkok sequence was an incredible experience for all of us. The track is a special birthday surprise where Raj takes Bhoomika on a trip, and everything she experiences, from a private jet to the sea, islands, and a cruise, happens for the first time in her life, making it emotionally very special. One of the most memorable moments was the underwater sea-walking sequence. While Bhoomika panics in the show, it was actually Priyom, who got nervous underwater, and I ended up reassuring him, which made the experience even more special and memorable for us. Despite the shoot being tiring, the stunning locations, smooth planning, and the team's support made the entire schedule feel more like a beautiful trip than a shoot". IANS



## TOP TEN HINDI FILM SONGS

- 1 Gehra Hua: **Dhurandhar**
- 2 Ishq Jalakar - Karvaan: **Dhurandhar**
- 3 Dhurandhar - Title Track: **Dhurandhar**
- 4 Aawaara Angaara: **Tere Ishk Mein**
- 5 Sitaare: **Ikkis**
- 6 Saiyaara: **Saiyaara**
- 7 Shararat: **Dhurandhar**
- 8 Lutt Le Gaya: **Dhurandhar**
- 9 Deewaniyat : **Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat**
- 10 Sahiba: **Sahiba-Aditya Rikhari**

## Manushi Chhillar on one thing she would like to change

Actress and former beauty queen Manushi Chhillar revealed the one thing that she would like to change about the world if given the opportunity.

Manushi recently conducted an AMA session (Ask Me Anything session) on her official Instagram handle, during which she revealed that if she could have her way, she would love to make sure that everyone across the globe has access to basic resources required to lead a healthy life, such as clean food and water, healthcare, and clean air, etc.

The 'Samrat Prithviraj' actress was asked by an Instagram user, "If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?"

Replying to the question, Manushi said, "If I could change one thing about the world, it would be for everyone to have access to basic resources. Like, the bare minimum of what's needed, at least that. (sic)"

When another netizen asked her what she likes to do in her free time, she revealed that she thought she would be reading a book, but instead, she is using her free time conducting an AMA session on Insta. IANS

## SUSHMITA SEN CELEBRATES MILESTONE SAYS 'NO EXCUSE, ONLY RESULT'

Actress Sushmita Sen is celebrating a significant milestone in her professional and fitness journey as she shared her "no excuse, only result."

Sushmita took to Instagram, where she shared a video montage featuring her working out, flaunting her abs, showcasing her slender body, and swimming.

She added a text overlay that read: "No excuse just result." Sushmita, who, at the age of 18 Sen entered and won the title Femina Miss India, earning the right to compete at the Miss Universe 1994 contest, wrote as the caption: "Thank you God!!! #3years I love you guys!!! #duggadugga."

Just last month, Sushmita shared a glimpse from her workout session, where she was seen training alongside Alisah, labeling her daughter as her "inspired gang". In the clip, the two are could be seen doing a core workout.

"#keepgoing #strongerthanyesterday. My inspired gang @alisahsen47 @zellastrid\_ Thank you for being this amazing & sooooo much fun!!! Come join us...let's get stronger together!! I love you guys!!! #duggadugga #2026," Sushmita wrote.

The 50-year-old actress is the mother of two adopted daughters. At the age of 24 years old, she adopted her first daughter, Renee Sen, in 2000, while her second daughter, Alisah, joined the family in 2010. *IANS*



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## POOJA HEGDE BACK TO WORK ON RETURN FROM TRAVELS

**A**ctress Pooja Hegde is back in the bay and has dived straight into work after wrapping up her recent travel.

Pooja took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a photograph. It featured the actress in her vanity van all dolled up as she took a mirror selfie. She also re-shared a picture with celebrated photographer Avinash Gowarikar.

For the caption, the actress, who recently attended the live concert by American singer-songwriter John Mayer, wrote: "Back home and back to shoot."

Pooja did not divulge details about what she was shooting for.

It was earlier in February, when the actress took to Instagram to share glimpses from the show, admitting she has been "fan girling" over the Grammy-winning musician John Mayer for years and still can't believe she finally got to see him perform live.

Pooja took to Instagram stories, where she shared a string of images and videos from the concert and captioned it with: "Can't believe I've finally seen him live", "Bucket list (done)", "Fan girling for LIFE" and "Need to do this again."

Pooja was last seen in a song titled "Monica" from the recently released film "Coolie."

"Coolie" is an Indian Tamil-language action thriller film directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. The film stars Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna, Upenendra, Soubin Shahir, Sathyaraj, Shruti Haasan, Reba Monica John, Junior MGR, Monisha Blessey and Kaali Venkat.

The film features actors Sathyaraj and Rajinikanth together after almost 38 years. *IANS*

## SUNNY LEONE ON SILENCE OF ANURAG KASHYAP'S 'KENNEDY' SETS

**A**ctress Sunny Leone, in an exclusive conversation with *IANS*, has opened up about the atmosphere on the sets of 'Kennedy', addressing the speculation that the film's shoot was marked by total silence on sets and filled with heavy moods.

Responding to the reports of pin drop silence on the sets of the movie, Sunny clarified that the quiet environment was simply a reflection of professionalism.

"The set was so silent because it was a professional set and people were not whispering. They were doing their work, that's why they were quiet," she told *IANS*.

The actress further emphasized that the silence was not in any negative aspect but rather something that contributed positively to the entire filming of the movie. "Everybody got into their work and was so deeply engrossed. We also got into our work with full passion and dedication that there was hardly any time to talk. But I don't think that was a bad thing. I think it actually helped. It helped you focus," she explained.

Actor Rahul Bhatt, further noted that such an atmosphere is common on the sets of serious filmmakers. "Every serious director's set is very quiet. There is not much noise. Any serious director's set is very quiet," he added. *IANS*



# SANDEEPA DHAR ON UNREALISTIC COSMETIC PROCEDURES

Actress Sandeepa Dhar opened up about the unrealistic beauty standards for females in the entertainment industry and whether they push actresses toward cosmetic procedures.

Speaking exclusively to IANS, Sandeepa stated that these cosmetic procedures are now not only limited to actresses, but common women who are not public figures are also undergoing the knife to feel more confident about their appearance.

Sandeepa was asked, "Do you feel actresses face additional pressure to appear flawless? And do beauty standards sometimes push them toward cosmetic procedures?"

Answering the question, she told IANS, "It is not limited to actresses anymore. Many young women who are not in the public eye are opting for cosmetic procedures. Earlier, people assumed only film stars did it, but today it has become common."

She added that these days every woman wishes to feel like the heroine of her own story. However, Sandeepa warned that it is a dangerous path if it stems from feeling inadequate.

"We are creating unrealistic beauty standards that make people believe they are not enough. This needs to change, and it will only change when our immediate circles-friends and family-encourage us to embrace ourselves as we are," she went on to explain.

Sandeepa concluded, pointing out that comparison truly is the thief of joy.

"You can never be happy if you constantly measure your life against someone else's", she shared.

Work-wise, Sandeepa recently graced the screen with Siddhant Chaturvedi and Mrunal Thakur's "Do Deewane Seher Mein". IANS



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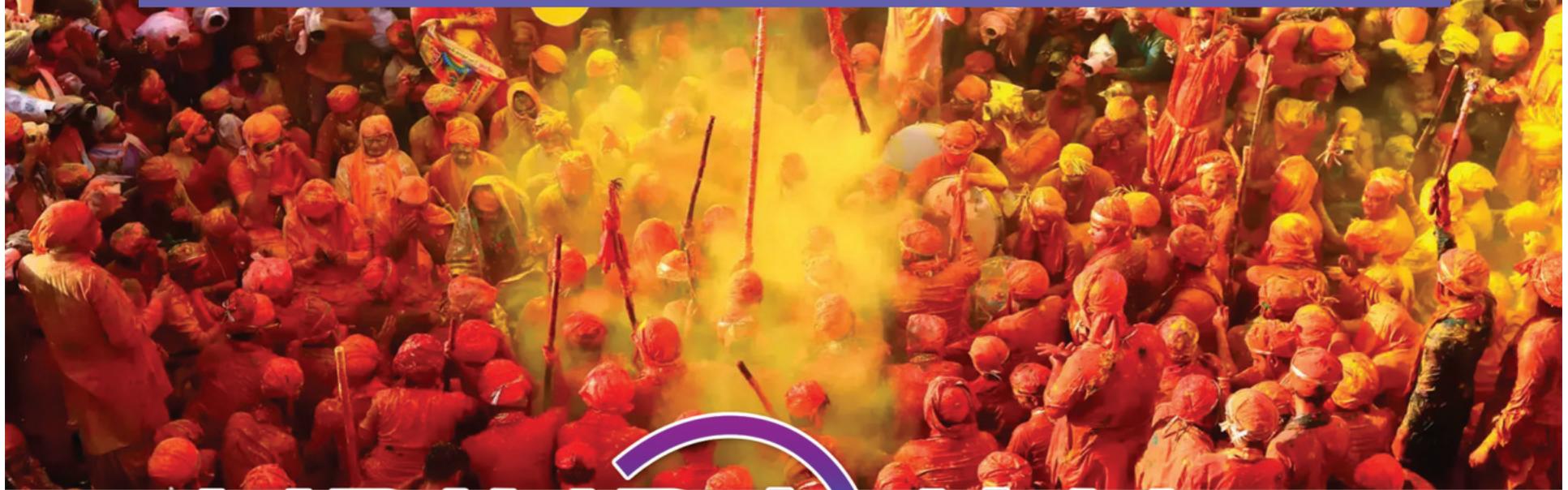


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## VRINDAVAN

"SACRED TOWN OF LORD KRISHNA  
TEMPLES AND BHAKTI SPIRIT"

One of the oldest cities on the banks of

Yamuna, Vrindavan is considered to be one of the most important places of pilgrimage for the devotees of Krishna. It is said that Lord Krishna had spent his childhood in Vrindavan. The name of the city has been derived from Vrinda (meaning basil) and van (meaning grove), which perhaps refer to the two small groves at Nidhivan and Seva Kunj. Since Vrindavan is considered to be a sacred place, a large number of people come here to abandon their worldly life.

The city of Vrindavan hosts hundreds of Lord Krishna and Radha temples scattered throughout, the most famous ones being Banke Bihari temple and the world-famous ISKCON temple. The vibrant surroundings perfectly depict the playful and benevolent nature of Lord Krishna. Located along the waters of River Yamuna, the numerous temples set amidst the thick woods and lush greenery of Vrindavan are the major attractions here.

### HOLI CELEBRATIONS IN VRINDAVAN DHAM

Holi is one of the most famous festivals that are celebrated in India, that too on a grand scale. However, the Holi celebration in Braj is the most famous. Braj is a historical region that covers Mathura, Vrindavan and some areas in proximity. Holi in Braj attracts tourists and pilgrims in huge

numbers every year from all over the world. This is mainly due to its unique customs and traditions. The Banke Bihari temple celebrates the phool-vali-holi (Holi with flowers). It is also considered to be the most. Just as the name suggests, it is played with flowers and not with the traditional colors. It celebrated on the Ekadashi before Holi.

### PLACES TO VISIT IN VRINDAVAN

**Banke Bihari Mandir:** Shri Banke Bihari Mandir is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Krishna in the holy city of Vrindavan in the Mathura district. One of the most revered shrines in the country, this temple is among the 7 temples of Thakur of Vrindavan which also include Sri Radhavallabh Ji, Shri Govind Dev Ji and four others.

**Prem Mandir:** Imbued with elegance and grandeur, the Prem Mandir is a massive temple that was shaped by

Jagadguru Shri Kripaluji Maharaj in the year 2001. Known as "Temple of

God's love", this grand religious place is dedicated to

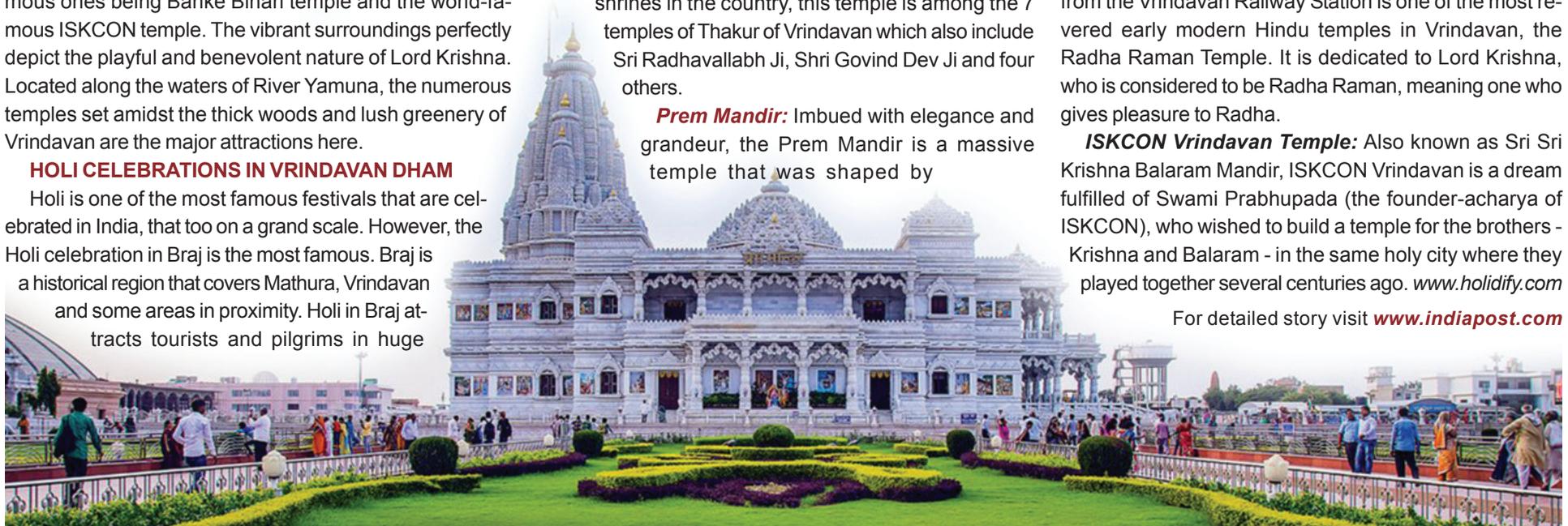
Radha Krishna as well as Sita Ram. Located in Vrindavan, the holy city in the district of Mathura in Uttar Pradesh, the temple is enveloped with piety and serenity.

**Nidhivan:** Nidhivan, a temple nestled in the holy birthplace of Krishna, Vrindavan has a sense of mystery or miracle attached to it. Nidhivan has hearsay that Lord Krishna visits it every night. And that's not all about it; there is also a buzz that he performs Ras Leela every night.

**Radha Raman Temple:** Located about 2 kilometers from the Vrindavan Railway Station is one of the most revered early modern Hindu temples in Vrindavan, the Radha Raman Temple. It is dedicated to Lord Krishna, who is considered to be Radha Raman, meaning one who gives pleasure to Radha.

**ISKCON Vrindavan Temple:** Also known as Sri Sri Krishna Balaram Mandir, ISKCON Vrindavan is a dream fulfilled of Swami Prabhupada (the founder-acharya of ISKCON), who wished to build a temple for the brothers - Krishna and Balaram - in the same holy city where they played together several centuries ago. [www.holidify.com](http://www.holidify.com)

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



**A MESSAGE FROM TOLANI FAMILY ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF HOLI:**

*Holi is the time to let go of past grievances and start a new with love and friendship. Just like the vibrant colors of Holi, may your life be bright and cheerful always.*

*Wishing you a Holi as bright as your smile and may this Holi bring peace, harmony, and endless happiness to your home.*

HAPPY  
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