

March 28, 2025





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Consular open

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'China preparing

Taiwan by 2027'

house held in

Bay area

to invade

IEW YORK

India tells Pakistan it must quit Kashmir, stop justifying terrorism

the illegally occupied territory in Jammu and Kashmir and draw its forces and infiltrators from Kashmir." stop justifying state-sponsored terrorism.

Replying to a Pakistan attempt to raise Kashmir for the umpteenth time in the Security Council, India's Permanent Representative P. Harish said, "Such repeated references neither validate their illegal claims nor justify their state-sponsored cross-border terrorism."

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UNITED NATIONS: India has told Pakistan to vacate adopted on April 21, 1948, that requires Pakistan to with-

"Jammu and Kashmir was, is, and will always be an integral part of India," Harish declared.

March 28, 2025

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He added, "We would advise Pakistan not to try to divert the attention of this forum to drive their parochial and divisive agenda."

Earlier during the debate on the new realities facing peacekeeping, Syed Tariq Fatemi, Pakistan's junior foreign affairs minister, said the Council should enforce

would be in keeping with Security Council Resolution 47 its resolution on a plebiscite for Kashmir. Cont'd on page 5



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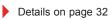
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Amitabh Bachchan to help save lives







Parvathaneni Harish

A glimpse of the 23rd edition of India - France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'Varuna' scheduled from 19th to 22nd Mar in the Arabian Sea, recently. (ANI Photo)

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sored terrorism

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passports

Immigration:

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Consular open house

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Amitabh Bachchan to help save lives

In a bid to promote road safety and save lives, megastar Amitabh Bachchan has partnered with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

India has told Pakistan to vacate the ille-

gally occupied territory in Jammu and

Kashmir and stop justifying state-spon-

The Milpitas event provided Indian and

U.S. citizens opportunity to address que-

ries related to OCI cards, visas, and



<u>Lifestyle:</u>

Deepika Padukone flaunts her French

Actor Deepika Padukone recently took a trip down memory lane as she graced the Louis Vuitton Fall/Winter 2025 show during Paris Fashion Week



<u>Techbiz:</u>

FuriosaAI rejects Meta's offer

FuriosaAI, South Korean artificial intelligence chip startup, has turned down an \$800 million takeover offer from US tech giant Meta Platforms



Travel

Pahalgam: Valley of the Shepherds

Pahalgam on the banks of the Liddar River, with the rugged terrains, green meadows, and snow-capped mountains make it perfect for adventure enthusiasts

<u>Wellness:</u>

Screen time & near-sightedness



Overuse of digital devices and the resulting increased screen time is driving a significant number of people towards nearsightedness or myopia, warned experts



The detention comes amid the Trump administration's crackdown on student activists whom the government accuses of opposing US foreign policy, Politico reported

Indian post-doctoral student detained



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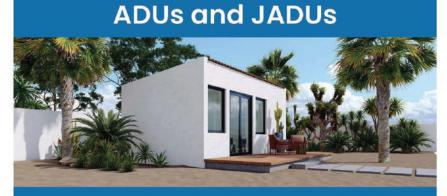
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QUIT KASHMR

Cover/Top Stories

India tells Pakistan it must quit Kashmir, stop justifying terrorism

UNITED NATIONS: India has told Pakistan to vacate the illegally occupied territory in Jammu and Kashmir and stop justifying state-sponsored terrorism.

Replying to a Pakistan attempt to raise Kashmir for the umpteenth time in the Security Council, India's Permanent Representative P. Harish said, "Such repeated references neither validate their illegal claims nor justify their state-sponsored cross-border terrorism."

"Pakistan continues to illegally occupy the territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which it must vacate," he said, adding "That would be in keeping with Security Council Resolution 47 adopted on April 21, 1948, that requires Pakistan to withdraw its forces and infiltrators from Kashmir."

"Jammu and Kashmir was, is, and will always be an integral part of India," Harish declared.

He added, "We would advise Pakistan not to try to divert the attention of this forum to drive their parochial and divisive agenda."

Earlier during the debate on the new realities facing peacekeeping, Syed Tariq Fatemi, Pakistan's junior foreign affairs minister, said the Council should enforce its resolution on a plebiscite for Kashmir.

However, that resolution made it a point to demand that Pakistan "secure the with-



India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish

"Pakistan continues to illegally occupy the territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which it must vacate," he said, adding "That would be in keeping with Security Council Resolution 47 adopted on April 21, 1948, that requires Pakistan to withdraw its forces and infiltrators from Kashmir

drawal from the State of Jammu and Kashmir of tribesmen and Pakistani nationals not normally resident therein who have entered the State for the purpose of fighting". The resolution also orders Pakistan to stop aiding militants or infiltrating. It demanded that Islamabad "prevent any intrusion into the State of such elements and any furnishing of material aid to those fighting in the State".

A plebiscite could not be held when the Council resolution was passed because Pakistan sabotaged it by refusing to abide by the precondition of its withdrawal from Kashmir. India maintains that a plebiscite is now irrelevant because the people of Kashmir have made clear their allegiance to India by participating in elections and by electing the leaders of the territories.

Fatemi brought up the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) that was set up in 1949 to monitor the ceasefire along the Line of Control. India barely tolerates the UNMOGIP's presence in India considering it a relic of history made irrelevant by the 1972 Shimla agreement between the leaders of the two countries declaring the Kashmir dispute a bilateral issue with no room for third parties. India has ousted UNMOGIP from the government-provided building in New Delhi. *IANS*

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Pakistan continues to illegally occupy part of J&K, must vacate: India at UN

NEW DELHI: India has said, Pakistan continued to "illegally occupy" part of Jammu and Kashmir, and "must vacate" the territory while slamming the neighboring country for its "repeated references" to J&K at a United Nations debate on peacekeeping reforms.

Speaking at the Security Council, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, said the remarks were "unwarranted" and reiterated that the region "was, is, and will always be an integral part of India."

"India is compelled to note that the delegate of Pakistan has yet again resorted to unwarranted remarks on the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Such repeated references neither validate their illegal claims nor justify their statesponsored cross-border terrorism," Harish said.

"Pakistan continues to illegally occupy the territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which it must vacate. We would advise Pakistan not to try to divert the attention of this forum to drive its parochial and divisive agenda. India will refrain from exercising a more elaborate Right of Reply," he said. India's retort came after Syed Tariq Fatemi, the Special Assistant to the Pakistan Prime Minister, spoke on Jammu and Kashmir during a discussion on the future of UN Peacekeeping at the Security Council.

Last week also, India rebuked Pakistan at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHR) meeting in Geneva, rejecting its allegations of human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir. "It is regrettable to see Pakistan's so-called leaders and delegates continuing to dutifully spread falsehoods handed down by its military-terrorist complex," Indian envoy Kshitij Tyagi said.

India has always said that it desires normal neighborly relations with Pakistan but insists that it is for Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility.

Recently, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that Pakistan vacating Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) would resolve the Kashmir issue in its entirety.

The Minister was responding to a question from a member of the audience at the Chatham House, a think tank based in London, on March 5. *IANS*

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Top Stories

China preparing to invade Taiwan by 2027: US Report says

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping's decade-long campaign to end corruption in the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is meant to ensure the military is modernized and prepared to invade Taiwan by 2027, according to a US intelligence report made public last week, Taipei Times reported.

The report released last week by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), titled "Wealth and Corrupt Activities of the Leadership of the Chinese Communist Party," states that up to 65 percent of all government officials in China accept bribes or engage in graft, as per Taipei Times.

Xi launched a sweeping anti-corruption campaign when he came to power in 2012. Since then, nearly 5 million officials at all levels of government have been found guilty graft charges, the report said, as per Taipei Times.

The campaign has targeted rampant leadership corruption within the ranks of the PLA, "which have included a culture of pay-for-promotion that continues even a decade after the anti-corruption campaign's launch."

Some of the biggest names removed from their jobs include General Li Shangfu, then-minister of national defense in 2023, and Admiral Miao Hua, then-director of the Central Military Commission's Political Work Department who was in charge of political loyalty within the PLA last year. "His focus on corruption in the PLA may also reflect concerns that corrupt practices will prevent the military from acquiring the capabilities and readiness he has directed it to achieve by 2027, in preparation for a potential conflict over Taiwan," Taipei Times guoted.

The report defines corruption as an "en-

The report released last week by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), titled "Wealth and Corrupt Activities of the Leadership of the Chinese Communist Party," states that up to 65 percent of all government officials in China accept bribes or engage in graft, as per Taipei Times

"Both Li and Miao were accused of Party discipline violations, and both were considered protegees of Xi, demonstrating the seriousness of the CCP's [Chinese Communist Party's] concerns regarding loyalty and effectiveness -- particularly within the PLA -- and the scope of the regime's approach to corruption," the report said. demic feature of and challenge for China, enabled by a political system with power highly centralized in the hands of the CCP, a CCP-centric concept of the rule of law, a lack of independent checks on public officials and limited transparency."

In October 2020, Xi set the PLA the goal of becoming a "modern military" by 2027. US officials believe this means Xi wants China to be ready to invade Taiwan by 2027.

The report also claims that Xi has amassed more than USD 1 billion in assets through relatives, Taipei Times reported. The six-page unclassified DNI report was commissioned by the US Congress under the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. The legislation mandating a report was sponsored by Tennessee Republican Andy Ogles and then-senator Marco Rubio, now US secretary of state.

The Washington Times said the DNI report is the first official US disclosure about the "sensitive subject of Chinese leadership and CCP corruption." *ANI*

India calls for consensus-based UN peacekeeping reforms

India's vision for

modernizing peacekeep-

ing in response to emerg-

ing threats. "UN Peace-

keepers today have to

contend with the presence

of non-state actors, armed

groups, terrorists, as well

as trans-national

criminal networks

NEW YORK: India has called for consensus-driven reforms in UN peacekeeping, stressing the need for better funding, enhanced technology, and a greater role for troop-contributing countries, an official press release stated.

Addressing a UN Security Council debate on adapting peace operations to new realities, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassa-

dor Parvathaneni Harish outlined India's vision for modernizing peacekeeping in response to emerging threats. "UN Peacekeepers today have to contend with the presence of non-state actors, armed groups, terrorists, as well as trans-national criminal networks. Technological

advancements have created new challenges in the form of mis-/dis-/mal-information and hate speech, new-age weapons, including drones, IEDs etc. These are but a few new realities that peacekeepers are up against."

He stressed that reforms must be built on consensus, with greater involvement of troop-contributing nations. "Adapting peace operations to new realities cannot happen unless those on ground - the troop-/police-contributing countries are made part of the mandate formulation process at every stage."

Harish warned that funding shortfalls threaten the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions. "Countering modern challenges to peacekeeping demands that Missions are adequately funded and resourced. Resources need to be commensurate with the mandate. The current

> state of uncertainty over funding and the mandate-resource mismatch is neither sustainable nor comforting nor desirable, particularly for countries from the Global South who contribute the lion's share of troops."

He also called for shutting down redundant missions that no longer

serve an operational purpose. "Rationalisation of peacekeeping missions is essential for the efficient allocation of resources. Redundant missions that continue on political life support without operational rationale only for propaganda purposes, divert resources from urgently required peacekeeping missions and undermine the credibility of the UN."

India reaffirmed its commitment to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas. *ANI*



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India receives Mahatma Gandhi artifacts from South Africa

Gandhi Development

Trust), South Africa to

National Gandhi Mu-

seum, New Delhi"

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar received artifacts and documents related to Mahatma Gandhi from the Phoenix Settlement Trust-Gandhi Development Trust (PST-GDT) in South Africa.

Notably, Mahatma Gandhi established the Phoenix

Settlement, his first ashram-like community, in 1904 in Inanda, near Durban, South Africa.

In a post on X, Jaishankar expressed his gratitude, stating, "Privileged to witness the handing over of artifacts and documents related to Mahatma Gandhi by @PST_GDT (Phoenix Settlement Trust-Gandhi Development Trust), South Africa to National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi."

Mahatma Gandhi's experiences in South Africa between 1893 and 1914 were crucial in shaping his political ideology, particularly his philosophy of Satyagraha. Faced with racial discrimination and injustice, Gandhi re-

alized that non-violent resistance could be an effective tool for challenging oppressive systems.

"Bapu's life and message continue to inspire generations to come," the post added. Mahatma Gandhi's life journey was a remarkable tale of transformation, perseverance, and selfless service. Born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, India, Gandhi was a key leader in the Indian independence movement against British rule.

"Privileged to witness the handing over of artifacts and documents related to Mahatma Gandhi by @*PST_GDT (Phoenix Settlement Trust-*Gandhi led a 240-mile march from his ashram in Sabarmati to the coastal village of Dandi to protest the British government's monopoly on salt production and the heavy taxation on it. He also led the Quit India Movement, a civil disobedience movement demanding immediate independence for India. He advocated for

demanding immediate independence for India. He advocated for non-cooperation with the British authorities, urging Indians to withdraw from British institutions, return honors conferred by the British Empire, and boycott British-made goods.

W DelhI" Tragically, On January 30, 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse at Gandhi Smriti in Birla's house.

Gandhi's death sent shockwaves throughout India and the world, but his legacy continues to inspire *ANI*

Travis Scott to perform in New Delhi on October 18

MUMBAI: American rapper Travis Scott is heading to India for his maiden tour. The rapper is set to perform at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on October 18, 2025. The performance is a part of his Circus Maximus World Tour, marking his explosive debut in the country.

The American rapper has had five number-one hits on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 chart, along with a total of over one hundred charting songs. He is one of the best selling rappers of all time, and boasts of ten Grammy Award nominations.

He has won a Latin Grammy Award, Billboard Music Award, MTV Video Music Award, and several BET Hip Hop Awards. His musical style has been described as a "blend between traditional hip-hop and lo-fi" and often characterized as "ambient," with a heavily appraised influence from rappers Kanye West and Kid Cudi. His stage name is derived from the latter's real name, Scott Mescudi, combined with the name of a favorite uncle.

The rapper is known for his chart-topping hits like 'SICKO MODE', 'Goosebumps', 'Highest in the room' and 'FE!N', Travis Scott has redefined modern hip-hop with his signature psychedelic beats and immersive stage productions. His latest album, UTOPIA, shattered streaming records and solidified his place as one of the most influential artists of this generation. *IANS*

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Unifying policies of Modi govt have tossed separatism out of J&K: Amit Shah

JAMMU: After two constituents of the Hurriyat Conference announced the severing of its ties, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that separatism has become history in Kashmir while urging more groups to come forward.

Taking to social media, HM Shah said on X handle, "Separatism has become history in Kashmir. The unifying

policies of the Modi government have tossed separatism out of J&K. Two organizations associated with the Hurriyat have announced the severing of all ties with separatism. I welcome this step towards strengthening Bharat's unity and urge all such groups to come forward and shed separatism once and for all. It is a big victory ΡM for Shri @narendramodi Ji's vision of building a developed, peaceful and unified Bharat "



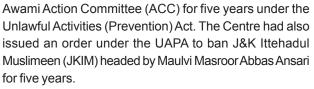
Union Home Minister Amit Shah

Jammu and Kashmir

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, however, refused to comment on the Union home Minister's statement saying, "I have not seen the tweet. I will comment when I see it".

It must be mentioned that as a major setback to the Hurriyat Conference, two of its major associate organizations -- Jammu Kashmir People's Movement and Democratic Political Movement (DPM) -- announced the severing of all ties with the separatist umbrella organization.

The move comes after the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) banned the Mirwaiz Umer Farooq-headed



After Article 370 was revoked on August 5, 2019, the

The APHC was formed as a united separatist political

Hurriyat Conference became defunct.

Advocate Mohammad Shafi Reshi, leader of DPM announced his complete dissociation from the hardline Geelani faction of the Hurriyat Conference.

It must be recalled that advocate Shafi also served as the political secretary of hardline separatist leader, late Syed Ali Shah Geelani.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) was formed on July 31, 1993, as a political alliance of 26 political, social and religious organizations.

has said. Sergio Fabbrini, a political science professor at Rome's LUISS University, told Xinhua news agency that the exclusion of Europe from the talks under-

Rome's LUISS University, told Xinhua news agency that the exclusion of Europe from the talks underscores the EU's declining influence in resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict, due in large part to the bloc's lack of unified foreign policy coordination.

"This episode reveals the European Union's structural weakness," he said during a university conference recently. "Without a central authority to speak for all members, the bloc struggles to assert itself on the global stage,

particularly when the US chooses to act unilaterally."

This institutional fragmentation, he said, coincides with the skeptical view of US P r e s i d e n t Donald Trump's administration of the EU. The US president has repeatedly characterized the EU as "an institution "This episode reveals the European Union's structural weakness," he said during a university conference recently. "Without a central authority to speak for all members, the bloc struggles to assert itself on the global stage, particularly when the US chooses to act unilaterally."

designed to undermine American interests rather than bolster global security."

Fabbrini emphasized the fundamental divergence in how both sides perceive the Ukraine crisis. "For Europe, this is an existential security threat happening on our doorstep. For Washington, it's a geopolitical calculation involving great powers," he said.

The professor warned that the current tensions mark "one of the worst crises in trans-Atlantic history," urging Europe to develop more independent diplomatic capacity.

"Geographical reality demands that Europe take greater responsibility for its own security architecture while maintaining equilibrium between national interests and collective European stability," he said.

Meanwhile, a new round of US-Ukraine talks began again in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, local media Al Arabiya News reported, citing a Ukrainian official.

The talks came after the US-Russia negotiations were held regarding a ceasefire proposal between Kyiv and Moscow.

The separate US-Russia and US-Ukraine negotiations addressed technical issues, including the protection of energy facilities and critical infrastructure, the fate of separated Ukrainian children, and a partial ceasefire. *IANS*

We expect Bangladesh to follow rules of Human Rights: US

IANS

WASHINGTON DC: The United States expects Bangladesh to follow the rules of human rights and be fair to their own citizens, the US State Department said, in relation to the US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said that Bangladesh is expected to follow rules of human rights and be fair to their own citizens when asked to respond to Bangladesh Army Chief's warnings of imminent Islamist extremist attacks on Bangladesh.

Being asked about the rise in attacks by extremist elements, Bruce said the US expects every country to follow human rights.

"What's most important in the nature of how we handle other countries, what we expect of them if we consider them our friends, the diplomatic scenario," she said in the briefing.

"We expect every country, certainly Bangladesh and others... to follow the rules of human rights and to be cognizant and fair regarding the behavior and what their own citizens expect from their government. So I think that's a north star for any nation," Bruce added.

The remarks follow after US Department of State Spokesperson Tammy Bruce on March 20 condemned the violence against minorities in Bangladesh during her press briefing.

Being asked about US Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard's recent criticism of Bangladesh, the State Department emphasized the need to reduce instances of violence in the country.

"We condemn any instances of violence or intolerance directed toward members of minority communities in any country and have welcomed measures taken by Bangladesh's interim government to ensure safety and security for all in Bangladesh. That's what we're watching. That's what we expect. And that will be what continues," Bruce said.

The Bangladesh interim government had expressed deep concern over Tulsi Gabbard's remarks stating that her comments are both "misleading and damaging" to the country's image and reputation. *ANI*

Ukraine conflict brings EU-US ties to historic low: Italian expert

ROME: The recent US-brokered Russia-Ukraine

peace talks highlighted growing divisions between

Washington and Brussels, bringing trans-Atlantic re-

lations to a historic low, an Italian geopolitical analyst

front. Mehmood Ahmed Saghar was the first convener of the APHC in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). APHC split into two main factions on September 7, 2003, the Mirwaiz faction and the Geelani faction. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq is the founder and chairman of the Mirwaiz faction and Masarat Alam Bhat is the interim chairman of the Geelani faction, who succeeded Syed Ali Shah Geelani, the founder of the faction after his death.

Punjab Post

www.indiapost.com

US bill seeks sanctions on Pakistan's Army Chief, demands Imran Khan's release

WASHINGTON, DC: A bipartisan bill introduced in the US Congress seeking to impose sanctions on Pakistan's Army chief, General Asim Munir, for his alleged role in persecuting political opponents, including former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, The Hill reported.

The legislation, titled the "Pakistan Democracy Act," was introduced by Reps. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and Jimmy Panetta (D-Calif.) and calls for targeted sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

The bill mandates that within 180 days, the US government identify individuals involved in political persecution in Pakistan and impose penalties, including visa bans and restrictions on entry into the United States. It explicitly accuses Munir of "knowingly engaging in the wrongful persecution and imprisonment of political opponents" and urges similar action against others complicit in the crackdown.

Wilson has been vocal about his stance on Khan's imprisonment, which he describes as politically motivated. "Mr. Khan is clearly a political prisoner," Wilson told The Hill, reiterating that he had urged the US administration to pressure Pakistan's military leadership through visa bans and other means to restore democracy and secure Khan's release. The bill allows for the removal of sanctions if Pakistan ends military rule, restores civilianled democracy, and releases all detained political figures.

Khan, who was removed from office in

Casar (D-Texas), Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.), Brad Sherman (D-Calif.), Ro Khanna (D-Calif.), and Jack Bergman (R-Mich.).

Richard Grenell, a former Trump administration official, has also expressed support for Khan. In December, he posted on social media platform X: "Watch Pakistan. Their Trump-like leader is in prison on phony charges, and the people have

The bill mandates that within 180 days, the US government identify individuals involved in political persecution in Pakistan and impose penalties, including visa bans and restrictions on entry into the United States

2022 through a no-confidence vote, was arrested in August 2023 on corruption charges. His supporters alleged that the charges are politically motivated and orchestrated by the military to prevent his return to power. Lawmakers from both major US parties have repeatedly called for his release, including Reps. Greg been inspired by the US Red Wave. Stop the political prosecutions around the world!" His post received over 12 million views and was widely shared by Khan's supporters.

Earlier this month, President Trump, in a joint address to Congress, thanked the Pakistani government for aiding in the arrest of an Islamic State (ISIS) member linked to the 2021 Kabul airport attack. Last week, US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce declined to comment on Khan's situation, stating that the administration does not interfere in other countries' internal affairs, reported The Hill.

Husain Haqqani, a former Pakistani ambassador to the US and a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, was skeptical of Washington taking significant action. "It is unlikely that sanctions would be imposed on Pakistan just to secure the release of a populist but anti-American politician," Haqqani said, referencing Khan's past rhetoric against US policies.

After his removal, Khan repeatedly accused Washington of orchestrating his ouster in collaboration with Pakistan's then-opposition. He claimed the US wanted him gone due to his independent foreign policy and stance against American influence. His rallies were marked by anti-American slogans, framing his removal as an attack on Pakistan's sovereignty. The Biden administration has denied any involvement. *ANI*

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■ Tech News India's GDP to grow at 6.5 pc in FY26

NEW DELHI: Showing a resilient economy in the Asia-Pacific region amid global uncertainties, India's GDP will grow at 6.5 percent in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, S&P Global Ratings said on Tuesday (25 March).

This assumes the upcoming monsoon season will be normal and that commodity - especially crude - prices will be soft," said the global financial institution in its latest quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific economies.

"Cooling food inflation, the tax benefits announced in the country's budget for the fiscal year ending March 2026, and lower borrowing costs will support discretionary consumption," it added.

As tariffs tend to be levied on goods, trade will be more resilient in economies where a substantial share of exports is of services. This is the case for the Philippines and, especially, India.

On rate cuts, S&P Global Ratings projected that that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will cut interest rates by another 75 bps-100 bps in the current cycle.

"Easing food inflation and lower crude prices will move headline inflation closer to the central bank target of 4 percent in the fiscal year ending March 2026 and fiscal policy is contained," according to the report.

Given the volume of policy measures and external pressures hitting Asia-Pacific, "the robustness of our forecasts underscores the resilience of the regional economies," it noted.

However, the US tariff hikes on China's exports will weigh on its economy.

"We had incorporated 10 percent U.S. tariffs in our November baseline, implying an effective U.S. tariff on Chinese exports of about 25 percent. The additional 10 percent levies will bring the effective rate to about 35 percent. That will depress China's growth via lower exports, investment and other spillover effects," said the report.

The hit on GDP growth should be most significant for Malaysia (because of semiconductors), Singapore (mainly due to pharmaceutical products), and South Korea (mainly because of automobiles), it added. *IANS*



14 India Post www.indiapost.com

March 28, 2025

India's office leasing market clocks all-time record at 81.7 MSF last year: Report

NEW DELHI: India's office leasing market broke previous records in 2024 at 81.7 million square feet (MSF), 19 percent increase from 2023 and its highest-ever leasing in a calendar year, a report showed on Tuesday (25 March).

The IT/ITES sector constituted the largest share, accounting for 42 percent of total leasing demand, up from 28 percent in 2023, according to the report by real estate data analysis platform CRE Matrix and CREDAI. *IANS*

FuriosaAl rejects Meta's \$800 mn takeover offer

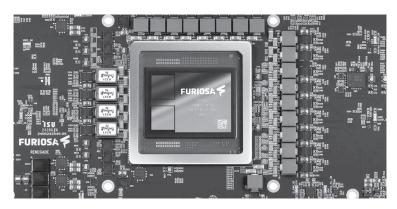
SEOUL: FuriosaAI, a South Korean artificial intelligence (AI) chip startup, has recently turned down an \$800 million takeover offer from US tech giant Meta Platforms, industry sources said.

Baek Joon-ho, chief executive officer (CEO) of FuriosaAI, informed its employees that the company has decided not to proceed with takeover negotiations with Meta, according to the sources. He also notified the US company of its decision.

The move came as FuriosaAI has decided to continue the company's independent development and production of AI chips, the sources said, reports Yonhap news agency.

Founded in 2017, FuriosaAl is a fabless semiconductor company specializing in Al inference chips for data centers. Its flagship product, the RNGD processor, launched last year, is a new Al inference chip designed for high-performance data centers and capable of efficiently handling large language models chip capabilities and reduce its reliance on AI chipmaker Nvidia Corp.

FuriosaAI said it was in discussions with US tech giant Meta over a possible takeover,



(LLMs).

In February, news outlets reported that Meta was in talks to acquire FuriosaAI as part of its efforts to expand its in-house AI

with all options on the table. The company has made headlines following a recent US report suggesting that Meta is considering acquiring the AI chip startup, with negotiations possibly concluding as early as this month.

"It would be ideal to secure investment without having to sell (the company), but unfortunately, we haven't been able to raise funding at the scale we desire here in the country," Jeong Young-beom, managing director at FuriosaAI, had said.

"Nothing has been decided yet. We are keeping all options open and will make the best choice," he added.

According to the company, the mission is to build AI chips capable of running the world's most advanced models efficiently.

"We believe this is a critical lever in making AI computing more sustainable for the next generation," it said. *IANS*

India can become leading global transit hub for submarine cable network: Industry

NEW DELHI: India has the potential to become a global hub for subsea connectivity, given its strategic location and growing digital infrastructure, Broadband India Forum (BIF) Chairperson, Aruna Sundararajan, said recently.

She emphasized the need to expand India's subsea infrastructure by four to five times to meet the increasing demand for data consumption.

"India holds immense potential to emerge as a leading global transit hub for subsea connectivity. To realize this, it is imperative to expand the capacity of subsea infrastructure by 4-5X, enhance resilience, and build redundancy in our subsea cable systems, moving with global trends," Sundararajan said.

While speaking at the 'International Subsea Cable Systems Conference' in

the national capital, she added that prioritizing subsea cable networks is essential, especially in the context of shifting geopolitical realities. Speaking at the event, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti stressed that subsea cables carry over 95 percent of the world's data traffic.

He pointed out that recent global cable disruptions have underscored the importance of strengthening this network.

"To safeguard our strategic and commercial interests, geo-

graphical diversity of subsea cables and increasing Cable Landing Stations (CLS) are important," he said.

BSNL CMD Robert Ravi reaffirmed the company's commitment to expanding secure and affordable connectivity across India.

"We are proud that, from the ocean depths to the Himalayan heights, BSNL is connecting India --securely, affordably, and reliably," he stated.

India already plays a key role in the global subsea cable network, with around 17 international subsea cables connected to 14 landing stations. *IANS*



TechBiz Post

www.indiapost.com

India set to become the world's consumption capital: Report

NEW DELHI: India is on track to become the global consumption capital, outpacing major economies, according to a new report.

The consumption in India accounts for 56 percent of the country's GDP and is growing at the fastest rate in the world.

A report by Angel One and Iconic Asset showed that over the next decade, India's consumption is projected to double by 2034.

One of the key drivers of rising consumption is the increasing number of nuclear families. Household growth

Recent tax cuts announced in the Union Budget will also contribute to rising consumption. The report estimates that these tax reductions will free up Rs 1 lakh crore, leading to an additional Rs 3.3 lakh crore in spending, which could boost India's GDP by 1 percent.

India is expected to follow a global trend where discretionary spending, such as electronics, apparel, accessories (including jewelry), and experiences, grows faster than essential spending.

The report notes that during periods of economic expansion, both the US and China saw discretionary con-

sumption outpace basic

spending, and India is

likely to follow the same

in the US increased 10X

during the phase of a

strong rise in per capita

income. India can wit-

ness similar growth in

consumption as per

capita income rises,"

the report added.

"Consumption spend

pattern.



in the country is outpacing population growth, leading to a surge in spending.

Additionally, India is set to lead the global workforce expansion, further boosting economic activity.

The report also highlights India's impressive savings potential. Between 1997 and 2023, the total savings in the country amounted to \$12 trillion.

Over the next 25 years, this figure is expected to make a ten-fold jump to \$103 trillion by 2047. This rise in savings will unlock significant opportunities for increased spending and economic growth.

Despite the rise of modern retail, 92 percent of India's retail trade still happens through small neighborhood Kirana stores.

This presents a huge opportunity for organized retail to expand and capture a larger market share, the report said

The report also highlights the role of India's young population in driving consumption. India has more Gen Zers than the entire population of the United States.

By 2035, every second rupee spent in India will come from a Gen Zer, further fueling the country's consumption boom IANS

Trump's 25 per cent tariff threat over Venezuela oil imports would hit India

NEW YORK: US President Donald Trump's threat to impose a 25 per cent tariff on exports from countries that buy oil from Venezuela would hit India which already fears reciprocal US taxes next month.

Trump announced on Truth Social on Monday that any country "that purchases Oil and/or Gas from Venezuela will be forced to pay a Tariff of 25 per cent to the United States on any Trade they do with our Country".

India imported 63,115 barrels per day (bpd) in 2024, according to reports.

It will also hit New Delhi's plans to increase cooperation in the petroleum field with Venezuela.

Trump said that the 25 per cent tariffs will come into force on April 2, when he plans to impose reciprocal tariffs on all countries. The new threat came amid reports that the reciprocal tariffs may be less drastic and directed at certain sectors.

Trump linked the levy to his battle with Venezuela over the members of the gang, Tren de Aragua (TdA), which he designated as a "foreign terrorist organization".

He accused the Venezuelan government of "purposefully and deceitfully" sending over the members of the gang linked to murders and other crimes across the country and made it a part of his campaign against terrorism.

Several other countries will be hit by the tariff - and that including China, which is Venezuela's biggest importer.

But the US is itself among the top importers of Venezuelan oil getting 228,000 bpd from it last year.

Trump's administration gave the US oil company Chevron two months to end its operations in Venezuela that export oil to the US.

India has been looking to expand its trade with Venezuela

Venezuela's Vice President Delcy Rodriguez, who holds the petroleum portfolio, visited India in February during the Energy India Week event.

She met with India's Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri and other officials.

Energy Watch said Puri had sounded hopeful of increasing imports from Venezuela. IANS

Sapna Sharma of Korecent Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Recognized as "Most Inspiring Woman Leader" at ET Women Conclave 2025

NEW DELHI: Sapna Sharma, Director - Chief Technology Officer at Korecent Solutions Pvt. Ltd., has been honored with the "ET Most Inspiring Woman Leader" award at the ET Women Conclave 2025, hosted by The Times of India. She received this distinguished recognition from celebrated actress and industry icon Sonali Bendre at an exclusive ceremony at Hyatt Gurgaon.

A visionary in enterprise technology and digital transformation, Sapna has been pivotal in driving innovation, modernizing open-source ERP solutions, and optimizing industry automation. As a client-focused leader, she identifies business challenges and architect-tailored solutions and ensures seamless project execution with rapid turnaround times. Under her leadership, Korecent has strengthened its presence as a trusted consulting partner across the U.S. and European ERP markets.



A Leader, Mentor, and Advocate for **Business Transfor**mation

Beyond her extensive technical expertise, Sapna Sharma is a leader with a deep commitment to fostering client success, mentoring future innovators, and driving business transformation through technology. She is recognized for her expertise in bridging the gap between complex technological innovations

and real-world business needs, ensuring organizations thrive in an ever-evolving digital landscape.

Her leadership at Korecent is rooted in a people-first philosophy--where empowering her team, guiding clients through digital transformation, and championing inclusive innovation in enterprise technology is at the core of her approach. She believes that true success in transformation goes beyond simply implementing advanced solutions. It requires a strategic vision, a profound understanding of client challenges, and a collaborative mindset that drives sustainable growth and enables businesses to scale effectively.

As a mentor, Sapna is passionate about knowledgesharing and professional development within the tech industry. She actively supports young professionals, particularly women in technology, by offering guidance, mentorship, and opportunities to grow in leadership roles. Her advocacy for diversity and inclusion in the tech space reflects her belief that innovation flourishes in environments that embrace varied perspectives and experiences.

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In Brief

European nations tighten US travel advisories amid detentions

BERLIN: Several European countries have updated their travel advisories for the US this week following the detention of multiple European nationals, including German citizens, upon arrival.

Germany's Foreign Office said it is taking the recent incidents involving German travellers seriously, Xinhua news agency reported.

"We have clarified and now clearly emphasize that an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) approval or a US visa does not, in every case, authorize entry into the US," a spokesperson told public broadcaster ARD's Tagesschau.

The advisory update follows reports of three German nationals being detained at US entry points, including one green card holder. Two of the individuals have since returned to Germany.

In response to the incidents. Britain also revised its travel advice, warning of strict enforcement of US immigration laws.

"You may be liable to arrest or detention if you break the rules," the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said.

Britain's foreign office confirmed earlier this month that it was providing support to a British national reportedly detained at the border in the US, according to Reuters.

Finland issued a similar update last week, cautioning that even valid travel documents might not guarantee entry under current US policies. IANS



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The provision enables the US Secretary of State to deport noncitizens if the secretary determines that their presence in the US would threaten the country's foreign policy

US federal immigration authorities detain Indian post-doctoral student

WASHINGTON, DC: US federal immigration authorities have detained a Georgetown University researcher studying and teaching on a student visa in Virginia in the United States, Politico reported. The detention comes amid the Trump administration's crackdown on student activists whom the government accuses of opposing US foreign policy, Politico reported, citing court papers.



Badar Khan Suri

Masked agents arrested Badar Khan Suri, an Indian national and postdoctoral fellow, outside his home in Arlington's Rosslyn neighborhood in Virginia last week, his lawyer said in a lawsuit requesting his immediate release

According to the lawsuit, the agents identified themselves as

being with the US Department of Homeland Security and told him the government had revoked his visa. According to the petition filed for Suri's release, he was put in deportation proceedings under the provision of immigration law that the US government has invoked to try to deport Mahmoud Khalil, the Columbia University graduate student and green card holder who led pro-Palestinian protests on campus.

The provision enables the US Secretary of State to deport noncitizens if the secretary determines that their presence in the US would threaten the country's foreign policy. His petition said Suri has no criminal record and has not been charged with a crime, Politico reported.

In his petition, Suri's lawyer said that Suri is being punished as his wife, who is a US citizen, is of Palestinian heritage and because the government suspects that he and his wife are against the US foreign policy towards Israel.

The petition said the couple has "long been doxxed and smeared" on anonymously run, far-right websites due to their support for Palestinian rights. According to the petition, Suri's wife, Mapheze Saleh, has been alleged to have "ties with Hamas" and once worked for AI Jazeera.

US Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio had issued a determination that the visa of Suri should be cancelled for foreign policy reasons.

In a post on X, McLaughlin stated, "Suri was a foreign exchange student at Georgetown University actively spreading Hamas propaganda and promotsuch immigration-related arrests that US President Donald Trump says are just beginning to ramp up. According to Trump, these arrests target "terrorist sympathizers" or people who have "engaged in pro-terrorist, anti-Semitic, anti-American activity."

Advocates for these detainees have accused Trump of violating the First Amendment by retaliating against non-citizens, including people in the country legally based on their political views and free speech, as reported by Politico.

Masked agents arrested Badar Khan Suri, an Indian national and postdoctoral fellow, outside his home in Arlington's Rosslyn neighborhood in Virginia last week, his lawyer said in a lawsuit requesting his immediate release

ing anti-Semitism on social media. Suri has close connections to a known or suspected terrorist, who is a senior advisor to Hamas. The Secretary of State issued a determination on March 15, 2025 that Suri's activities and presence in the United States rendered him deportable under INA section 237(a)(4)(C)(i)."

Suri's legal case was filed in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia, last week and as of next day, Suri's case had been assigned to none of the judges, and the court had not taken any action on it. According to Suri's petition, Badar Khan Suri was taken to a facility in Virginia and is expected to be soon transferred to a detention center in Texas. ANI

Suri's detention is the latest in

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Delhi: US Embassy files FIR against fake Visa and Passport agents, Crime Branch begins probe

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police Crime Branch has registered an FIR against several visa and passport agents, primarily operating from Punjab and Haryana, following a complaint from the US Embassy, according to an official statement. The case was filed on February 27.

In the complaint, a representative of the US Embassy in New Delhi highlighted fraudulent activities by visa agents.

The complaint stated that these agents, both known and unknown were involved in submitting false information in US visa applications and providing fake documents to applicants. The agents allegedly attempted to deceive the US Embassy and the US government to obtain visas through fraudulent means.

The complaint further stated,

"During the period from May to August 2024, our office conducted relevant investigations and compiled a comprehensive list of individuals linked to multiple IP addresses, suspected to be associated with visa consultants, document vendors (educational certificates, bank documents, and employment certificates), passport delivery addresses, and education consultants." ANI

Immigration Post

www.indiapost.com

Trump administration planning military buffer zones to hold illegal migrants at southern border: Report

WASHINGTON DC: The Donald Trump administration is planning to take control of the buffer zone along the southern border in New Mexico and to empower US troops to hold migrants illegally entering the country, The Washington Post reported quoting officials familiar with the matter.

As per the officials, these deliberations have been underway for weeks focusing on a section of the border in New Mexico.

However, the militarization of the buffer zone would c ertainly raise questions about whether employing the military in this way runs afoul of the Posse Comitatus Act, a federal law that prohibits active-duty troops from most law enforcement missions

This move would turn buffer zones into expansive satellite military installations. This move is a part of Trump's border crackdown.

As reported by The Washington Post, this effort would enable the most significant use yet of active-duty forces at the border under Trump. However, the militarization of the buffer zone would certainly raise questions about whether employing the military in this way runs afoul of

Taiwan's National Immigration Agency revokes permits of two Chinese influencers

TAIPEI: The National Immigration Agency (NIA) of Taiwan has revoked the permits of two Chinese influencers as they advocated for forceful unification, the Taipei Times reported, citing the immigration agency.

According to the Taipei Times, which cited the immigration agency, it was noted that the two influencers openly said that Taiwan is part of China and advocated for forceful unification. NIA thus revoked their residence permits after coming to the conclusion that they were openly advocating for China's unification of Taiwan by force.

In a statement issued last Friday, the NIA said Xiao Wei and En Qi are required by law to leave Taiwan shortly, but it did not specify the deadline by which they must leave.

Taipei Times reported that the NIA decided to revoke their family-based long-term residence permits after consulting with the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC), which supervises cross-strait exchanges.

The NIA has last week revoked the residence permit of another Chinese national, identified by her surname, Liu, who openly advocated on her social media account --Yaya in Taiwan-- for China's unification of Taiwan by force.

The NIA has requested that Liu leave Taiwan by 10 days after receiving a deportation order. As per Focus Taiwan, the Act Governing Relations Between the People of the Taiwan Area and the Mainland Area says that a Chinese national "may be deported, or ordered to depart within 10 days" under circumstances including "being considered [a] threat to the national or social stability based on sufficient facts." ANI the Posse Comitatus Act, a federal law that prohibits active-duty troops from most law enforcement missions.

The military-controlled buffer zone could measure 60 feet deep and would stretch to west to California if the plan is approved, officials told The Washington Post.

Additionally, the officials revealed that the Pentagon officials have asked military officers to examine whether any legal complications could arise from having US troops temporarily hold those crossing illegally when CBP agents

> are not immediately available to arrest them, officials said

"It's very, very careful on that wording," said one defense official familiar with the discussion. "It's not 'detention' because once you go into detention, it has the connotations of being detained for arrest. This is

holding for civilian law enforcement."

Trump's defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, has enthusiastically supported other efforts to employ the military at the southern border, a mission he views as essential to US national security. "We have defended other places and other spaces," Hegseth said in February during an initial trip to the border as Pentagon chief. "We will defend this line," The Washington Post reported. ANI

Putin's ultimatum to Ukrainians; legalize immigration status or leave Russia by September 10

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has given another ultimatum to Ukrainians living in the country by ordering them to legalize their immigration status or leave by September 10, Moscow Times reported quoting a presidential decree published last week.



The decree stated that Ukrainians without "legal grounds to stay or reside in Russia" must leave Russia or obtain citizenship within the next six months and 10 days.

As reported by The Moscow Times, the orders apply to Ukrainian passport

holders from four partially occupied regions -- Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. Russia claims to have annexed these regions in 2022.

The order also applies to the residents of Crimea which Russia claimed to have seized in 2014.

Russian authorities have pressurized the Ukrainians of these occupied authorities to take citizenships in recent years. Putin has claimed that the government had "virtually completed" the mass issuance of Russian passports in those regions last year, The Moscow Times reported.

Meanwhile, Ukraine have condemned Russia's "passportisation" deeming it to be "illegal and a "gross violation of Ukraine's sovereignty." Western governments have also criticized this move while EU has decided to not recognize the passports as valid travel documents, The Moscow Times reported. *ANI*

Odisha Police arrests foreign national from Delhi over sextortion charges

BHUBANESWAR: The Commissionerate Police in Odisha has nabbed a foreign national from New Delhi on the charges of extorting money from a woman from Cuttack by using her obscene images and videos, DCP Cuttack Khilari Rishikesh Dnyandeo said.

He said that on February 26, the Cuttack Police received a report that the victim in the Daragha Bazar police station area of the city had committed suicide.

"The victim had left a suicide note in which she mentioned some international and local WhatsApp numbers. In the suicide note, the victim had informed that some people were blackmailing her by cunningly obtaining her obscene photos. She was undergoing psychological trauma and also ended her life due to the social stigma," he said.

DCP Cuttack added that the Cyber Cell of Cuttack Police later carried out a detailed technical analysis and managed to get login details of the WhatsApp numbers used by the accused from the WhatsApp company authorities.

"The cops by further analysis ascertained the mobile number from which the internet was accessed," he said.

DCP Cuttack added that the Cuttack Police also traced the movement of the accused in the Uttam Nagar and Palam area near Delhi.

"A team of Cuttack police with the help of Delhi police arrested the accused on March 21. The accused was identified as Djedje Raymond alias Chijioke John Okoye (31), of Abidjan in Nigeria. He was currently staying in the Palam area of New Delhi," he said.

The DCP also revealed that Immigration Authorities will be contacted to ascertain the actual identity of the accused who also possesses a passport of Ivory Coast.

"The accused told investigating officials that he has been staying in Delhi since 2020. The accused first surveyed the online Facebook accounts of professionals like doctors, engineers, etc and later created fake profiles impersonating those professionals. He would send friend requests to the victims, especially women impersonating the high-profile professionals. The police have so far found around 3,000 screenshots of such fake profiles," he added.

The DCP further informed that after developing the friendship, the accused used to lure the victim into sharing their mobile and WhatsApp numbers.

"The accused also managed to collect private photographs and videos of the victims by sharing fake photos and videos of him. Then, he used those private photographs and videos of the victims to extort money from them by threatening to make those obscene photos and videos of victims viral," he added.

DCP Cuttack said that the victim lady in Cuttack had also received a friend request from one of these fake profiles created by the accused a few months ago.

"The accused subsequently managed to obtain some of her intimate photos and started blackmailing her forcing the gullible victim to end her life," he said. *IANS*

Realty Tidbits

ED arrests son-in-law of former Pearls Group chief

NEW DELHI: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Delhi Zonal Office, arrested Harsatinder Pal Singh Hayer, the son-in-law of the late Nirmal Singh Bhangoo, in connection with the multi-crore Pearl Agro Corporation Limited (PACL) fraud case.

Hayer was detained under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. A Special Court (PMLA cases) has sent him to ED custody for further investigation.

The case dates back to an FIR filed by the CBI, BSFC, New Delhi, under Sections 120-B and 420 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, against PACL India Limited, PGF Limited, and its directors, including Bhangoo. The accused were involved in operating fraudulent investment schemes, deceiving investors of around Rs 48,000 crore. These schemes promised high returns to investors, but in reality, the money was siphoned off by the company's directors.

The ED's investigation revealed that Hayer served as a director in several associate companies of PACL, including two Australian entities - Pearls Australasia Pty Ltd and Australasia Mirage I-Pty Ltd. The ED uncovered that these companies diverted Rs 657.18 crore of the proceeds of crime to Australia, where the funds were invested in various real estate properties. *IANS*



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March 28, 2025

The Art of Slow Living

Imagine a second home in

Himachal Pradesh and waking

up to golden sunrises over misty

hills, spending afternoons un-

winding in infinity pools or stroll

along tree-lined pathways, and

ending the day with a glass of

wine by the fireplace. Life here

flows seamlessly-from organic

Real estate firm Omaxe's share hits new 52-week low amid rising losses

NEW DELHI: The stock of real estate company Omaxe plummeted to its new 52-week low of Rs 71.81 per share this week amid growing losses and declining

sales - at a time when both benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty saw their best weekly gains in almost four years. *IANS*



Discover Hills, Wellness & Luxury living with The Viceroy Estate

SOLAN: Perched in the serene embrace of the Shivalik Hills, The Viceroy Estate is a rare retreat where luxury meets tranquility. This exclusive gated community in Dhar, Himachal Pradesh, offers 14 bespoke villas designed for those who seek a refined escape amidst nature's splendor. Rooted in the legacy of its parent company, Mount Shivalik Group, The Viceroy Estate represents a new benchmark in refined mountain living. Just a scenic 30-minute drive from Solan City, it is a rare escapade where modern comforts meet the untouched beauty of Himachal's landscape. Experience the pinnacle of luxury living, where breathtaking views and exceptional design converge.

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A Haven of Wellness and Luxury

Set across four acres, The Viceroy Estate redefines mountain living with thoughtfully curated spaces that celebrate wellness, exclusivity and timeless design. Each villa boasts expansive views, premium interiors, and seamless indoor-outdoor living, ensuring residents experience both luxury and connection with nature. With bespoke furnishings, modern climate control, and private wine cellars, every detail is designed for comfort and indulgence.

The development offers a state-of-the-art clubhouse, an in-



finity swimming pool, outdoor lounges, and lush landscaped gardens within the gated community. Dedicated wellness spaces promote rejuvenation, while farmto-table dining ensures fresh, organic culinary experiences.

grant of up to Rs 1.5 lakh, the ini-

tiative is not just providing shelter

but also playing a significant role

gardens and wellness retreats to scenic trails that invite mindfulness and rejuvenation.

"The Viceroy Estate promotes a way of life that prioritizes wellbeing and relaxation. Fresh mountain air, stunning landscapes, and meticulously designed villas create a sanctuary where residents can escape the pressures of urban life. Whether you seek a quiet reading nook overlooking the hills or a vibrant community space to socialize, every element has been crafted to enhance your experience," says Monish Bali, Managing Director of Mount Shivalik Group.

Elevating the Second Home Experience

Whether one is buying property as a second home, a longterm investment, or a personal retreat, The Viceroy Estate offers more than just luxury villas -- it offers a lifestyle. Each villa spans multiple levels, featuring floor-toceiling windows that frame breathtaking mountain views. These homes are designed to blend modern convenience with timeless elegance, premium finishes, dedicated staff quarters, and cutting-edge heating and cooling systems. Pergolas and sunset points are positioned across the site. Farm-to-table dining experiences, made possible by locally sourced organic ingredients, foster a connection with nature that is both grounding and enriching.

For those who value privacy and exclusivity, the estate offers a secluded yet secure environment that ensures an effortless blend of luxury, wellness and tranquility. As a boutique real estate project, The Viceroy Estate is dedicated to crafting high quality, thoughtfully designed homes that balance tradition with modernity.

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

Prayagraj resident thanks PM Modi, CM Yogi for making homeownership reality through PMAY

PRAYAGRAJ: The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has turned out to be a lifechanging initiative for Abhishek Srivastava, a resident of Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for fulfilling his dream of owning a home.

Initially launched to provide housing for all by 2022, PMAY

has evolved into a comprehensive scheme that enables beneficiaries to construct homes on their own land. With a financial

a land. With a financial in poverty alleviation.

Speaking to IANS, Abhishek shared his overwhelming joy, stating, "We are deeply thankful to Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for giving us a new life. In a city like this, securing a roof over our heads is a huge challenge. Today, our children are no longer wandering from door to door in search of a home -- this is the greatest gift we could have received." *IANS*

Real Estate Post

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Resilient economy: Global capability centers lead real estate absorption in India

NEW DELHI: Driven by the country's skilled talent pool and operational cost advantages, global capability centers (GCCs) are leading real estate absorption in India which have surpassed pre-Covid levels amid a resilient economy.

GCCs have committed about 27.7 million square feet (sq ft) of grade-A commercial real estate in 2024, and 24.1 million sq ft in 2023, which represent 36 per cent and 38 per cent of overall real estate absorption, respectively, according to JLL.

GCCs have committed about 27.7 million square feet (sq ft) of grade-A commercial real estate in 2024, and 24.1 million sq ft in 2023, which represent 36 per cent and 38 per cent of overall real estate absorption, respectively, according to JLL

On the other hand, latest office market assessment by real estate consultancy Knight Frank India said that GCCs leased 22.5 million square feet (mn sq ft) in 2024, accounting for 31 per cent of total leasing volumes.

Of this, 50 large deals (over 100,000 sq ft each) totaled 12.1 mn sq ft, while 56 mid-sized deals (50,000-100,000 sq ft) contributed 4.4 mn sq ft. Additionally, 223 smaller deals (under 50,000 sq ft) accounted for 5.5 mn sq ft of leased space, the report stated.

The net office absorption in top seven cities reached

nearly 50 million sq ft in 2024, marking a substantial 29 per cent year-on-year increase from 38.64 million sq ft in 2023. This was primarily driven by robust demand from Global Capability Centers (GCCs) and the technology sector, said another report by Anarock Group.

India's position as a preferred destination for GCCs continues to be a primary catalyst for office space absorption.

Major multinational corporations are strategically expanding their operational presence, "drawn by the country's skilled talent pool and operational cost advan-

tages".

This trend is projected to generate substantial demand for Grade-A office spaces in key markets like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, NCR, MMR and Pune.

The evolution of workplace strategies continues to influence market dynam-

ics. While hybrid work models remain prevalent, organizations are reimagining their office spaces to enhance collaboration, innovation, and employee well-being, according to Anarock report.

Indian office market is poised to experience positive growth in 2025, driven by multiple favorable factors shaping the commercial real estate landscape. The steady revival of global economies, particularly in the technology sector, is expected to drive renewed demand for office spaces across India's top 7 cities. *IANS*

Senior housing segment in real estate gains traction, co-living and branded residences look promising: Report

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NEW DELHI: Senior housing segment within the real estate sector which has long struggled to gain mainstream acceptance is now gradually becoming more viable, presenting an opportunity for companies, according to a report by GRI Club.

"Senior housing is another niche segment that has long struggled to gain mainstream acceptance but is now gradually becoming more viable," the GRI club said, which connects real estate leaders across the globe.

The report says that urbanization is changing India's cultural emphasis on multigenerational living, which limits the demand for dedicated senior communities.

However, the report highlights that the operational intensity and long-term service management requirements make it a difficult segment for developers to scale effectively.

The report says that the

real estate developers are now integrating senior living components into larger mixed-use developments, where independent senior residences are co-located with healthcare facilities, recreational amenities, and family housing, creating a more attractive and sustainable model.

Going further, the report highlights the opportunity in

the co-living segment, adding that rowing demand for coliving and rental housing, particularly among young professionals in urban centers, has been a key trend shaping the market.

"Although the sector initially gained traction between 2017 and 2019 before facing disruptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, rising workforce mobility and affordability challenges are once again driving interest in flexible living solutions," the report added.

As per the report, the co-living model in the country is still underdeveloped, with investors looks cautious about the low yields, op-

erational complexities and market fragmentation.

> "While demand is evident, institutional players remain hesitant to commit at scale due to property management challenges and uncertain long-term returns," the report added.

The report pointed out that the branded residences, particularly those linked to global hospitality groups, are also emerging as a prestige-driven housing segment, combining hotel-like amenities, concierge services, and the reputations of renowned luxury brands to attract HNWIs seeking exclusivity, convenience, and a serviceoriented living experience. *ANI*

Bangalore's Real Estate Market Surges as Luxury Housing Takes Center Stage: NoBroker Report

BANGALORE: NoBroker, India's first proptech unicorn has recently released a report on Bangalore's real estate market. The report delves in detail into the demand and supply trends and homebuyers' preferences.

Bangalore buyers have leaned towards luxury and expansive living. The surge in large-scale developments and the premium placed on gated communities reflect a city on the cusp of redefining urban living.

Key Micro-Markets Driving Demand

Bangalore's top residential hotspots include Whitefield, Electronic City, Bagalur, Krishnarajapura, and Yelahanka, which continue to attract buyers due to their strong infrastructure and proximity to commercial hubs. In East Bangalore, Whitefield, Sarjapur Road, and Bellandur remain highly sought-after, driven by their thriving IT ecosystem and well-developed social infrastructure. Sarjapur Road, in particular, has emerged as a prime location for gated communities, attracting buyers who prioritize security, lifestyle amenities, and community living.

North Bangalore Emerges as the City's Prime Real Estate Destination

North Bangalore has solidified its position as the next real estate crown jewel, thanks to its rapid infrastructure development and proximity to the international airport. In 2024, the region accounted for approximately 33% of all new launches, a substantial jump from 23% in 2023. Areas such as Devanahalli, Yelahanka, KIADB Aerospace Park, Hennur Road, and Thanisandra are at the forefront of this expansion, driven by the anticipated development of major tech parks and industrial clusters.

East Bangalore Continues Steady Growth

Whitefield, Electronic City, Bagalur, Krishnarajapura, and Yelahanka remain top choices among buyers, with East Bangalore sustaining consistent supply due to its well-established tech parks and thriving commercial ecosystem. Sarjapur Road, in particular, remains a hotspot for gated community projects, drawing buyers who seek a blend of convenience, security, and lifestyle amenities.

Luxury Housing Booms Amid Shrinking Mid-End Segment

The premium housing segment has seen remarkable growth, with properties priced above Rs. 1.5 crore increasing their market share from 29% in 2023 to 34% in 2024. In contrast, mid-end housing (Rs. 40-80 lakh) has declined from 29% to 22%, reflecting a growing affordability challenge for budget-conscious buyers.

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Desi News

Indian Consulate in NYcelebrates Bihar Diwas

NEW YORK: Consulate General of India, New York, in partnership with Bihar Foundation USA East Coast Chapter and Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANAUS), celebrated Bihar Diwas last week, showcasing the state's rich tourism, culture, and cuisine.

This year's celebrations were a special tribute to Indian singer, Padma Bhushan Sharda Sinha, whose soulful voice has preserved and popularized Bhojpuri, Maithili and Magahi folk music for decades.

Sharing the pictures of the celebration on X, "the Consulate General of India, New York wrote, @IndiainNewYork celebrated #BiharDiwas in partnership with @BiharUsa& @BJANAUS, showcasing Bihar's tourism, culture, Madhubani paintings, and cuisine."

"This year's celebrations were a special tribute to Padma Bhushan Sharda Sinha, whose soulful voice has preserved and popularized Bhojpuri, Maithili & Magahi folk music for decades," the post added.

Further, the Bihar Vishwa Gaurav Samman Awards recognized the outstanding contributions of four distinguished community leaders: Prakash Jha, Abhishek Tiwary, Sharad Kumar and, Mahesh Kumar. *ANI*

COMMUNITY ACROSS AMERICA

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Consular open house held in Bay area

March 28, 2025

VIDYA SETHURAMAN India Post News Service

onsulate General of India, San Francisco, in partnership with local community organizations, organized a consular camp on March 23 at Aria University (formerly Silicon Andhra) in Milpitas. The event provided Indian and U.S. citizens the opportunity to address queries related to OCI cards, visas, passports, and surrender of Indian passports. The Consulate is also planning to organize additional weekend consular camps in several Bay area cities in the coming months. Updates and details regarding these events will be shared on the consulate's website, the VFS portal, and their social media platforms.

CGISF Dr Reddy welcomed the community leaders, media and bay area residents to the camp. He encouraged attendees to contact the consulate or VFS staff in San Francisco for assistance with a variety of services, including passport applications, visas and OCI cards. After assuming charges in August 2023, he said he had worked on streamlining the application process, reducing paperwork, and incorporating self attested docuservices closer to home. CG Dr Reddy added that the VFS office will open in San Jose.

The event also telecasted the concise version of PM Narendra Modi podcast with Lex Fridman. PM Narendra Modi talked at



ments. CGISF is printing the OCI and passport copies at their premises and this has considerably reduced the issuance time. The consular camp saw a large turnout from the Indian community, offering an opportunity for residents to access key consular length about the special bond he shares with President Donald Trump. He recounted an incident during the 'Howdy Modi' event held in 2019, at the NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas, United States, and mentioned how Trump's heartwarming gesture truly touched him.

When asked to comment on what he likes about Trump as a friend and as a leader, Modi narrated an incident that spoke of the American President's courage, and which left him amazed. He said that he saw the same resilient and determined side of Trump when he was shot during the recent campaign.

Dr Reddy said as of January 13, 2025, in-person Miscellaneous Attestation Services are available by appointment only at their SF location. Walk-ins are not permitted. Appointments can be scheduled through their official website. Additionally, the Consulate holds an "Open House" on all working days from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM to address grievances related to Consular Services, including Passports, OCI cards, Visas, and Renunciation. Entry to the Open House is strictly by appointment. For emergency assistance, Indian nationals can contact the Consulate at +1 (415) 483-6629.

MMNA celebrates Women's Day to honor Sakhis

India Post News Service

SUNNYVALE, CA: MMNA Sakhi (Maheshwari Mahasabha of North America) - North West Coast Chapter celebrated Women's Day on 9March 9th, 2025 in Peppermint Restaurant in Sunnyvale, California.

Michelle Obama rightly said, "There is no limit to what we, as a woman, can accomplish". Honoring this principle, the theme of the event was "Celebrating our Sakhi and the Sakhi Entrepreneurs". Sakhis from all ages 25-80 attended the celebrations and had a wonderful time. It was a splendid time, with our Maheshwari Sakhi Panelist of Sunita Maheshwari, Sunita Raj and Shailja Maroo who shared their journey of becoming a successful entrepreneur and how they continue to thrive. There were other fun activities for Sakhis like finding other entrepreneurs in the community, Tol mol ke Bol and super fun Sakhi Shark tank - where they came up with an innovative product and marketed it through reels/ advertisement.

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Peace Center of Los Angeles successfully hosts "Religious Harmony in Diversity for Global Peace"

India Post News Service

Norwalk, CA: The Peace Center of Los Angeles proudly hosted an inspiring interfaith event titled "Religious Harmony in Diversity for Global Peace" on Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Sanatan Dharma Temple, 15311 Pioneer Blvd, Norwalk, CA 90621, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The event brought together distinguished religious leaders, community advocates, and over 75 attendees to explore how diverse faiths can contribute to global peace and understanding.

Warm welcome and inspiring opening address

The event began with a heartfelt welcome by the Event Chair and Emcee Kewal Kanda who greeted the audience with warmth and gratitude, acknowledging their presence despite the many other events happening that day. His words set a positive and inclusive tone for the day.

Capt. Aparna Hande, Co-Chair of the



Emcee and Event Chair Kewal Kanda with Co-Chair Rani Kuusto

Peace Center, delivered a powerful opening address that highlighted the theme of the event. She eloquently emphasized, "...diversity is not an obstacle but a blessing" and underscored how the core values of various faiths promote peace, compassion, and non-violence. Her inspiring words resonated deeply with the audience, setting the stage for a meaningful dialogue.

Vision and Mission Presented by Chair, Ashok Madan

Mr. Ashok Madan, Chair of the Peace Center, presented the mission, vision, and goals of the organization. He spoke passionately about the foundation's purpose and acknowledged the enduring vision of the Founders, Dr. Gunvant and Ilaben Mehta, whose commitment to peace and unity laid the cornerstone for the Peace Center's work. Mr. Madan also introduced



Event Organizers L-R: Dr. Gunvant Mehta, Arvind Patel, Kewal Kanda, Ashok Madan and Harkishan Vasa

the event's esteemed Co-Chairs - Capt. Aparna Hande and Rani Kuusto - and expressed his appreciation for their dedication.

Distinguished Religious Speakers and Profound Insights

The event featured insightful talks by nine distinguished speakers representing diverse religious traditions. Each speaker eloquently highlighted the contributions of their faith toward fostering peace:

Hinduism: Prof. Keshav Patel emphasized the principle of Ahimsa (non-violence) as a path to cultivating harmony.

Christianity: Rev. Robert Wright reflected on the message of love and compassion in fostering unity.

Zoroastrianism: Mr. Maneck Bhujwala highlighted the role of justice and moral values in creating lasting peace.

Judaism: Cantor Jenna Sagan spoke about the importance of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and fostering interfaith dialogue.

Islam: Mr. Munir Shaikh shared insights

on brotherhood and understanding as pathways to peace.

Bahä'† Faith: Mr. Mark Currie discussed the importance of unity in diversity in advancing peace and harmony.

formed by Priya Kumar, invoking divine blessings for peace and prosperity. This was followed by an energetic Garba dance, choreographed and presented by Surekha Modi and her Volunteer Team, whose synchronized movements and colorful expressions captivated the audience.

Seamless Event Management and Dedicated Volunteers: The event's smooth execution was made possible by the exceptional efforts of Co-Chair Rani Kuusto, Smita Kumar, Nila Parikh, and a team of dedicated volunteers from the Lion's Club, Fullerton. Their meticulous management of registration and logistics ensured a seamless experience for all attendees. Radhika Patel oversaw vendor arrangements, while the event decorations symbolized the unity of diverse faiths, adding to the atmosphere of inclusiveness and harmony.

Call for Community Support and Acknowledgement By Bani Mukherji



Surekha Modi and her Garba Team

Vibrant Cultural Program Celebrating Unity:

The cultural event was courtesy of Surekha Modi who worked hard to put together the presentation after the original cultural lead backed out due to some personal reasons. The event was enriched by a vibrant cultural program that reflected the theme of religious harmony. The program opened with a Ganesh Vandana per-



Fund Raising Team L-R: Ramesh Ramnani, Kewal Kanda, Aparna Hande, Bani Mukherjee and Rani Kuusto

Bani Mukherji Founder of SoCal Channel, inspired the audience with her passionate call for community support and fundraising to further the mission of the Peace Center. Her words encouraged attendees to remain actively engaged in promoting dialogue and collaboration across faiths.

Delicious Vegetarian Cuisine served. Guests were treated to a delicious vegetarian meal, enjoyed by all. The meal not only delighted the palate but also reflected the values of peace, compassion, and inclusivity promoted throughout the event

The Peace Center of Los Angeles remains steadfast in its mission to foster dialogue, build trust, and promote global peace by celebrating diversity and embracing interfaith collaboration. The success of this event reinforces the importance of coming together as a community to work toward a more peaceful and harmonious world.

Together, let us continue to be the light that guides humanity toward unity and peace.

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FOG Holi - a blockbuster success





rma, FOG Chair Cultural/M4M Movi Heroine





India Post News Service

OG Holi was a blockbuster suc cess with a jampacked crowd, hosted by Jo Sharma (Jyotsna). Jo is FOG Chair Cultural/M4M Movie Heroine/ FOG Telugu Chairperson/A4H Global Ambassador). Jo Sharma awarded FOG Icon Award by FOG Holi chief guests Vice Consul General Rakesh Adhlaka and Fremont Mayor Raj Salwan along with FOG Founder Dr. Japra, President Rajesh Verma. Several big dance groups danced on flashmob performances, which was cheered and followed by the jampacked crowd with high energy and festive holi colors during entire event.

FOG Cultural team volunteers/dance leads & choreographers Hemangini Vora, Devi Seetharam, Shubadha Ingole, Mayura Purab, SriSailaja, Ramya Gowda, Ashwini Rao, Ritu Singh, Varsha Singh, Swati Savale, Banani Kirtania, Swati Tracy, Ankita, Suma, Bolly Pulse, DanceDilse, Dance to Revive, M4M Movie, Raas Garba, EQ Yoga, Starz Dance.















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70 Million Americans Face Loss of Healthcare as Congress Proposes \$800 Billion Cut to Medicaid

VIDYA SETHURAMAN

India Post News Service

he House of Representatives re cently proposed \$800 billion in cuts to the Medicaid budget, causing concern and concern among medical experts, predominantly Hispanic and African-American communities, and disadvantaged groups. Some federal health services and research agencies have said that as many as 70 million people may lose or have their health insurance benefits reduced. EMS held a briefing on March 21 to discuss the imperative issue.

Joan Alker, Executive Director of the Center for Children and Families and Research Professor at the Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy Foundation said that many elderly people have dual federal and local health insurance, and the two insurances complement each other. Once one insurance is cut, the other benefits will be suppressed. This is also an important function and feature of federal health insurance. It allows the U.S. medical system to operate normally. If this part is missing, the difficulty of operating other medical systems will increase. She said that in some rural and remote areas, some hospitals have closed, and many states are unable to make up for cuts in federal funding, which may lead to cuts in est federal health care cut in U.S. history. The closest thing to this figure was in 1981, when the Reagan administration cut the federal Medicaid budget by 13%. Dorn believes that massive cuts to federal Medicaid will affect everyone, with Hispanics and African Americans bearing the brunt. Their recent analysis shows that more

This is also an important function and feature of federal health insurance. It allows the U.S. medical system to operate normally. If this part is missing, the difficulty of operating other medical systems will increase

other local expenditures, causing a butterfly effect. Increasing efforts to combat medical fraud in various states is the fundamental solution to the problem.

Stan Dorn, Director of the Health Policy Project at UnidosUS said this is the largthan 20 million Hispanics, 13 million African Americans, about 3.5 million Asian Pacific Americans and 700,000 Native Americans currently rely on federal Medicaid. In addition, 31 million children receive Medicaid through the Children's Health Insurance Program, and these people will be affected if the budget is cut. He explained that the current proposed cuts include people who do not meet the work requirements; in other words, some people with disabilities, people taking care of children, caregivers of the elderly, etc. may lose federal health insurance or have their insurance benefits reduced.

Joanne Preece, Director of Government and External Affairs, Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County said that there are 3,200 community health service centers across the country, which are very important for students, the elderly, pregnant women, veterans and the disabled. In Los Angeles County, where she is located, there are 60 family health centers serving 2 million patients; 74% of the patients are lowincome people, with incomes less than 200% of the federal average. She said that most people in Los Angeles County now have health insurance, but as of 2023, 14% of people will still have no health insurance.

Indian-origin woman kills son on Disneyland trip, arrested

NEW DELHI/NEW YORK: An Indianorigin woman has been arrested on the charges of killing her 11-year-old son after a three-day vacation at Disney land in California.

The accused identified as Saritha Ramaraju, 48, killed the boy by slitting his throat, the Santa Ana Police Department said in a statement.

"On Wednesday (19 March), we received a call from a woman who reported that she had stabbed and killed her son in a room at the La Quinta Inn & Suites in Santa Ana and ingested an unknown substance," Santa Ana Police said in a statement.

Police officers rushed to the spot and found the 11-year-old boy dead in a hotel room surrounded by Disneyland souvenirs.

The boy was pronounced dead at the scene while Ramaraju was treated at a hospital. She was discharged from the medical facility on Thursday and arrested.

She has been booked for murder, child endangerment, torture, and aggravated mayhem. She could face 26 years of prison if found guilty.

However, Ramaraju did not enter a plea during her indictment. *IANS*

Millions of Californians to get average of \$137 in credits on their April utility bills thanks to state's climate program

What you need to know: California will provide a total of \$2.4 billion in utility bill credits this year thanks to the state's Cap-and-Trade program that funds critical climate action

SACRAMENTO, CA: Today, Governor Gavin Newsom announced millions of Californians will receive an average of \$137 in credits on their April gas and electric bills. The California Climate Credit automatically applied to Californians' bills every April and October - is a direct result of the state's nation-leading Cap-and-Trade climate program that requires polluters to pay for climate action.

Since 2014, California households have already received an average of \$1,120 in combined automatic April and October climate credits on their utility bills.

Every year, our Cap-and-Trade program provides essential funding to California's efforts to clean the air while also giving residents money back on their utility bills. Millions of California families will benefit from this relief said Governor Gavin Newsom

Since 2014, the state's Cap-and-Trade program has delivered \$10.9 billion in bill credits back to utility customers. This year, California will provide a total of \$2.4 billion in residential credits - \$1.4 billion for electric customers, \$1 billion for natural gas customers, and an additional \$122 million for small businesses. How it works

The credits range from \$35 to \$259 for electricity bills - with most set to receive \$56 to \$81 - and approximately \$54 to \$87 on natural gas bills for residential customers of PG&E, San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Gas Company, and Southwest Gas. Californians can check how much their credit will be here.

Californians do not need to do anything to get the credit. The California Climate Credit comes from the State's Cap-and-Trade Program managed by the California Air Resources Board. The credit on utility bills represents the consumer's share of the payments from the State's program.

The credits range from \$35 to \$259 for electricity bills - with most set to receive \$56 to \$81 - and approximately \$54 to \$87 on natural gas bills for residential customers of PG&E, San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Gas Company, and Southwest Gas



In addition to utility bill credits, California's Cap-and-Trade program has funded \$28 billion in climate investments delivering more than half a million projects across the state, supporting 30,000 jobs and cutting millions of tons of carbon emissions. The investments include a wide range of solutions such as putting affordable housing near job centers, building the nation's first high-speed rail, and adding zero-emission transportation options in underserved communities.

Governor Newsom announces record-breaking \$76 million to safeguard local faith communities and nonprofits

What you need to know: Governor Newsom, in partnership with the Legislature, is announcing the largest-ever funding award of \$76 million to 347 community groups and nonprofit organizations to protect them from hate-motivated violence

SACRAMENTO, CA: Safeguarding Californians from hate-motivated incidents that have surged nationally, Governor Gavin Newsom today announced \$76 million in grants, made in partnership with the state Legislature, to 347 community groups across the state to protect nonprofits and houses of worship from violence, the most that's ever been awarded.

Today more than ever, our state stands together to support our communities. Californians deserve the right to worship, love, and gather safely, without fear of violence said Governor Gavin Newsom

Nearly doubling previous award amounts, this year's California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program awardees received funding due to their high risk for violent attacks and hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs or mission with funding for security enhancements.

"Despite facing significant budget challenges, the California Legislature will continue to stand firm in our commitment to supporting vulnerable communities targeted by hate," said Assembly member Jesse Gabriel (D-Encino) and Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), the Budget Chairs of the California Legislature. "We are particularly grateful to Governor Newsom for his longstanding leadership in funding the Nonprofit Security Grant Program and for his efforts to expedite the disbursement of these vital grants. We have no doubt that this funding will continue to make a major difference in protecting the Jewish community and all communities targeted by hate."

Of the 347 awardees, 269 are ideology and spiritually-based organizations. More than 1,600 organizations applied during this round of funding, totaling over \$325 million in requested support.

Since the inception of the program in fiscal year 2015, the state has awarded \$228,750,000 in state funding to 1,271 high-risk organizations.

Funds are awarded through a competitive grant application for organizations that are targeted on the basis of race, religious affiliation, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, immigration status. Applications are graded using specified criteria set out in the request for proposal.

Fighting hate and protecting all communities

Today more than ever, our state stands together to support our communities. Californians deserve the right to worship, love, and gather safely, without fear of violence said Governor Gavin Newsom

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) administers these funds which directly support physical security measures such as reinforced doors, gates, high-intensity lighting, access control systems, development and enhancement of security plans and protocols.

California is taking nation-leading measures to improve the safety, health, and well-being of the state's diverse communities. Since 2019, the state has invested over \$400 million in funding to increase community resources and address hate, including \$217 million in state and federal grants to fund security infrastructure for faith-based and other non-profit institutions and \$196 million in anti-hate investments to support community services for victims and survivors of hate acts.

Amidst the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and recent hate-related incidents throughout the nation, earlier this year, Governor Newsom released the Golden State Plan to Counter Anti-Semitism to address increasing attacks on California's Jewish communities, and wrote a letter to California's Muslim, Palestinian American, and Arab American communities denouncing hate-based attacks and the loss of innocent lives. Last year, the Governor signed legislation that established the Commission on the State of Hate and improved the tracking of hate crimes. The Governor also signed an executive order in 2022 to further protect communities against hate violence and discrimination. California launched CA vs Hate in 2023, a multilingual statewide hotline and website that provides a safe, anonymous reporting option for victims and witnesses of hate acts. Reports can be made anonymously by calling 833-8-NO-HATE. For individuals who want to report a hate crime to law enforcement immediately or who are in imminent danger, please call 911.

Indian-American US Second Lady embroiled in Greenland controversy as she announces visit

NEW YORK: Second Lady of the US, Usha Vance has become embroiled in the Greenland controversy with the head of the Danish territory saying her proposed visit has caused a "big mess."

Vice President JD Vance's wife announced on Sunday that she will visit Greenland this week to watch its national dogsled race, Avannaata Qimussersu, and learn about the country's "beautiful land, culture, and traditions."

Although the purpose of the visit sounds innocuous-watching a race with 37 mushers or sled drivers and 444 dogs-it will take place during a visit by National Security Adviser Mike Walts and Energy Secretary Chris Wright, which will take place under the shadow of President Trump's plan to take over the island.

The Indian American Second Lady presented herself as a cultural ambassador.

In a video on Instagram about the trip, she said that the US is "proud to support"

the dogsled race and that she has "been reading all about it with my children".

But she also said she hoped "that our relationship will only grow stronger in the coming years" which sounded ominous to some Greenlanders.

"The wife of the United States vice president and the United States

visit," Greenland's Prime Minister Mute Bourup Egede said.



Second Lady of the US, Usha Vance

president's highest security adviser [coming here] cannot be seen only as a private

"We can already see now how big a mess it's caused", he said on Facebook.

Trump, who has said several times about the US taking over the mineral-rich strategically situated island, said categorically in his State of the Union Address, "One way or the other, we're going to get it."

In an interview with the local newspaper Sermitsiaq, Egede said Waltz's "mere presence in Greenland will no doubt fuel American belief in Trump's mission - and the pressure will increase".

Demokraatit party (Democrats), which supports eventual independence from Denmark, won the recent election and will soon form the government.

Denmark acquired Greenland from Sweden in 1814 and the Arctic island is now an autonomous territory.

About 90 percent of the population comprises. Inuits related the native ethnic group in Canada.

The US maintains military bases on the strategic island. IANS

Indian Embassy in Beijing celebrates 'Vasant Mela', diaspora members and Chinese officials join in

BEIJING: The third edition of 'Vasant Mela' - a signature event organized by the Embassy of India in Beijing, marking the arrival of Spring - was celebrated with the participation of a large number of diaspora members and several key Chinese officials.

The grand Indian celebration included everything Indian - music, dance, food, art, yoga, ayurveda and a children's zone.

Pradeep Kumar Rawat, Ambassador of India to China, thanked Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry in China Liu Jinsong and others for gracing the occasion. He said that spring is a time for new beginnings, strengthening bonds and opportunities to experience the essence of India. The spectacular spring celebration brought with it a memorable experience of India to all guests.

"People are enjoying in the stalls in this Vasant Mela. From mouth-watering Indian delicacies, exquisite Indian products, handicrafts and Mehndi art. Guests thronged in huge numbers in all of the stalls and interacted to find out the wide offerings in these stalls," the Embassy of India in Beijing posted on X. Yoga sessions were also organized on the occasion.

"Yoga is a beacon of serenity and is beyond moving muscles. It is an art of unifying the body with the soul. In this Vasant Mela 2025, people participate enthusiastically in practicing Yoga. We also had an ultimate Yoga challenge setting spirited participation," the Embassy stated. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited Beijing on January 26-27 for a meeting of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Foreign Minister mechanism between both countries, following which both countries announced their decision to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in the summer of 2025.

The meeting was held to review the state of India-China bilateral relations, as

"People are enjoying in the stalls in this Vasant Mela. From mouth-watering Indian delicacies, exquisite Indian products, handicrafts and Mehndi art. Guests thronged in huge numbers in all of the stalls and interacted to find out the wide offerings in these stalls,"

The event was first organized at the old chancery premises in Beijing on March 11, 2023, which was attended by over 3,000 people. The festival featured stalls selling Indian handicrafts, diverse culinary offerings, and activities for children and adults, alongside a day-long cultural extravaganza. Last year too, more than 4000 people enjoyed the cultural extravaganza. agreed between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during their meeting in Kazan, last October.

During their discussions, Foreign Secretary Misri and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong agreed to take certain people-centric steps to stabilize and rebuild ties. *IANS*

UK: Indian-origin MP Virendra Sharma marks 50 years of public service

LONDON: Indian-origin MP Virendra Sharma celebrated a remarkable milestone, marking 50 years of dedicated public service to the Ealing Borough and the Labour Party, a release observed.

In order to mark the significant milestone, an event took place at the Heston Hyde Hotel and was organized by the Labour government to honor his enduring contributions to British politics and the community.

The evening saw the presence of several prominent leaders, including Wes Streeting, the Secretary of Health and Social Care, who lauded Sharma's unwavering dedication and service. The event also brought together MPs, mayors, councilors, and a diverse gathering of community members, reflecting the widespread respect and admiration for the veteran politician.

As per the release, Sharma began his political career in the 1970s, and over the decades, he has been a passionate advocate for issues impacting the South Asian community, particularly within the Ealing Southall constituency. *ANI*

MMNA celebrates Women's Day to honor Sakhis



Cont'd from page 20

Sakhi Ritu Maheshwari was recognized for her decades long community work supporting victims of crime and domestic violence. She recently received Community Advocate Award from Multi-Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame for her untiring efforts in the field.

Kudos to Sakhi team - Kavita Malani and Ankita Phophalia, along with prominent volunteers, Sandhya Bagdi and Shruti Maheshwari, for this event, and for bringing the community together and continuing with the Sakhi goal of "Sikhna-Sikhana, Khelna-Khilana, Mauj-Manana". Sakhi Kavita Malani quoted "The success of every woman should be an inspiration to another. We are strongest when we cheer each other" and said we will continue to bring the community together in similar future events.

Also MMNA Sakhis look forward to participate India Day Parade on Sunday, August 17th 2025,

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Health Line

WHO in Western Pacific urges action to end tuberculosis by 2030

MANILA: The World Health Organization (WHO) has called on countries to take "urgent and decisive action" to end Tuberculosis (TB) by 2030.

"This is especially urgent in the WHO Western Pacific region, where nearly one in every five TB cases occur," the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific said in its press release on World TB Day, falling on March 24 everv year.

With an estimated 1.9 million new cases and 95,000 deaths due to TB in 2023, the Manilabased office said the impact of this disease on families and communities is profound, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Every missed TB case is a lost opportunity to save a life," said Saia Ma'u Piukala, WHO regional director for the western Pacific.

"We must turn our commitments into decisive action, ensuring that every person at risk gets the timely, high-quality diagnosis and care that they deserve."

According to the WHO, TB is an infectious disease caused by bacteria that most often affect the lungs. It spreads through the air when people with TB cough, sneeze, or spit. TB is preventable and curable with specific antibiotics, but it still kills more people than any other infection. IANS



One can be said to be perfectly healthy in body and mind only if no part of the body or mind makes itself felt. A part makes itself felt only when there is something wrong with it. You know that you have a head only when it aches. Sri Atmananda (1883 - 1959)

26 India Post

www.indiapost.com

March 28, 2025

Increased screen time to drive near-sightedness in children, adults: Experts

NEW DELHI: Overuse of digital devices and the resulting increased screen time is driving a significant number of people, especially the young towards nearsightedness or myopia, warned experts.

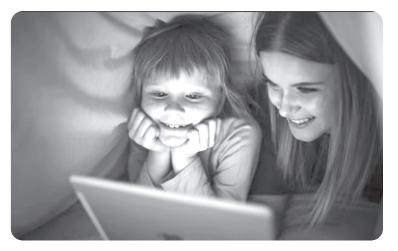
Health experts have long been raising concerns over the world moving towards an explosive myopic crisis, especially post the Covid-19 pandemic, when traditional schools shifted to online learning through tablets and laptops; and outdoor activities were almost eliminated.

"Digital eye strain is becoming a significant concern, especially among children post Covid. When children focus on screens for long periods, the eye muscles remain contracted. Over time, this prolonged strain contributes to the development of myopia (near-sightedness), particularly in young, pliable eyes," said Dr. Anuj Mehta, Professor, and HOD, Ophthalmology, VMMC and

Safdarjung Hospital at the 'Illness To Wellness' Summit organized by ASSOCHAM.

Dr. Kirti Singh, Director Professor, Guru Nanak Eye Centre, conditioning, or exposure to smoke - conditions often seen in 'sick building syndrome," Singh.

According to ophthalmologist Dr. (Prof.) A. K. Grover, from a



Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi said that the constant focus on screens decreases the rate of eye blinking, leading to dry eyes.

"This issue is even more pronounced in cramped spaces with poor ventilation, excessive air

city-based hospital, reduced or ineffective blinking leads to ocular surface issues such as dryness, burning, and eye fatigue.

"Prolonged screen time strains our ability to shift focus between near and distant objects causing focusing difficulties. It can also lead to poor posture which contributes to neck and head strain, adding to overall discomfort," Grover noted.

Singh added that the impact of digital strain isn't limited to just the eyes.

"Our body functions as a connected system -- eye health is linked to liver and heart health and kidney," she said.

The experts agree that eliminating digital devices from children's lives is unrealistic. However, steps can be taken to minimize its impact of causing digital eye strain. They emphasized the importance of balance, encouraging more outdoor activities to strengthen long-distance vision.

They suggested the 20-20-20 rule which is after 20 minutes of screen time, take a 20-second break by looking at an object 20 feet away and aim for at least 2 hours of outdoor activity daily as well. IANS

New eye drops slow vision loss in animals: Study

WASHINGTON DC: Researchers have developed eye drops that extend vision in animal models of a group of inherited diseases that lead to progressive vision loss in humans, known as retinitis pigmentosa.

The eye drops contain a small fragment derived from a protein made by the body and found in the eye, known as pigment epithelium-derived factor (PEDF).

PEDF helps preserve cells in the eye's retina. A report on the study is published in Communications Medicine.

"While not a cure, this study shows that PEDF-based eye drops can slow progression of a variety of degenerative retinal

macular degeneration (AMD)," said Patricia Becerra, Ph.D., chief of NIH's Section on Protein Structure and Function at the Na-



diseases in animals, including various types of retinitis pigmentosa and dry age-related tional Eye Institute and senior author of the study.

"Given these results, we're

excited to begin trials of these eye drops in people."

All degenerative retinal diseases have cellular stress in

common. While the source of the stress may vary -dozens of mutations and gene variants have been linked to retinitis pigmentosa, AMD, and other disorders -- high levels of cellular stress cause retinal cells to gradually lose function and die.

Progressive loss of photoreceptor cells leads to vision loss and eventually blindness.

In this new study, led by first

author Alexandra Bernardo-Colon, Becerra's team created two eye drop formulations, each containing a short peptide. The first peptide candidate, called "17-mer," contains 17 amino acids found in the active region of PEDF.

A second peptide, H105A, is similar but binds more strongly to the PEDF receptor. Peptides applied to mice as drops on the eye's surface were found in high concentration in the retina within 60 minutes, slowly decreasing over the next 24 to 48 hours. Neither peptide caused toxicity or other side effects. ANI

Wellness Post

www.indiapost.com

Govt made remarkable strides in combating TB, committed to eliminating it: Nadda

NEW DELHI: The government has made remarkable strides in combating tuberculosis -- the world's deadliest infectious disease, said Union Health Minister JP Nadda on World Tuberculosis (TB) Day.

World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is observed annually on March 24 to raise awareness about the condition. The theme this year is "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver".

He also reaffirmed the government's aim to eliminate TB by the end of 2025 -- a target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2017 to eradicate the infectious disease five years ahead of the global target.

"Our government has made remarkable strides in combating this disease through the National TB Elimination Programme," Nadda said, in a post on social media platform X.

According to the WHO Global TB Report 2024, India has witnessed a noteworthy 17.7 percent decline in TB incidence from 2015 to 2023 -- a rate that is over twice the global average decline of 8.3 percent. TB deaths have also reduced by 21.4 percent from 28 per lakh population in 2015 to 22 per lakh population in 2023," as per the data.

focusing on high-burden districts and ensuring TB services reach the grassroots level".

The campaign targets selected 347



nion Health Minister JP Nadda

Nadda also informed of the 100-day TB campaign, launched in December.

"To intensify efforts, we launched the India 100 Days TB Elimination Campaign,

high-priority districts across 33 States/ UTs. Nadda recently said that the campaign has detected over five lakh TB patients. Further, to boost nutrition in TB patients, the government has rolled out the Nikshya Poshan Yojana. Under the program, TB patients are given financial assistance for nutrition during treatment.

The amount has been increased "from Rs. 500 per month to Rs. 1000 per month to financially support TB patients' nutritional needs," Nadda said.

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by bacteria that most often affects the lungs. It spreads through the air when a person with TB coughs, sneezes, or spits. TB is preventable and curable.

According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO), India reported 28 lakh TB cases, accounting for 26 percent -- the highest -- global TB burden in 2024.

The country also reported an estimated 3.15 lakh TB-related deaths, accounting for 29 percent of the deaths globally.

"On World Tuberculosis Day, we reaffirm our commitment to eliminating TB and improving health outcomes for vulnerable populations," Nadda said. *IANS*



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Wellness Post

Antibody-based therapy several notches closer to treat lethal mucormycosis: Study

CALIFORNIA: Mucormycosis, a fungus infection caused by Mucorales, has a high mortality rates in those with weakened immune systems and those who have suffered severe trauma, such as burns, blast injuries, or natural disaster victims.

The condition caused significant infection among COVID-19 patients treated with high doses of corticosteroids, with mortality rates approaching 60 percent.

In the United States, there are approximately 4,000 cases per year with a rate of 200,000 in Southeast Asia where the disease is en-

demic to India. While vaccines and immunotherapies are available for viruses and bacteria, effective antifungal immunotherapies for mucormycosis, specifically, are lacking.

Ashraf Ibrahim, PhD, an investigator at The Lundquist Institute for Biomedical Innovation at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center for more than 33 years, and Assistant Research Scientist, Yiyou

Gu, PhD, at TLI for more than eight years, have been conducting research using monoclonal antibodies to address this gap.

Ibrahim's research focuses on advancing the understanding of the pathogenic mechanisms and virulence factors of fungal and bacterial infections, and on translating this knowledge into novel immunotherapeutic strategies to combat infectious diseases.

Their paper, "A humanized antibody against mucormycosis targets angioinvasion and augments the host immune response," was recently accepted and published in the Science Translational Medicine journal. In it, they discuss the use of monoclonal antibodies to target a key fungal cell surface protein, CotH, which enables the fungus



to invade human cells and cause mucormycosis. Their findings will increase the efficiency of the current treatment options and thus will improve the outcome of treatment of lethal mucormycosis.

"Mucormycosis is a devastating disease that usually occurs in patients who suffer from weakened immune system such as patients with poorly controlled diabetes, cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, and transplant patients," said Ibrahim, adding that the disease has had a steady increase over the last four decades due to an in-

> crease in people with diabetes and cancer, as well as advancement in transplant procedures.

The infection is aggressive and considered a medical emergency that needs immediate attention, often with disfiguring surgery to remove infected tissues. The damage to blood vessels is concerning because it's how antifungal drug therapy is delivered to the infection site. "Our humanized monoclonal

antibody allows antifungal drug therapy to reach to infected tissues because it prevents fungal cells from damaging human cells and blood vessels," Ibrahim said.

As a result, Ibrahim and Gu developed an antibody called VX-01, a humanized antibody that has proven more effective at binding to the fungus compared to the original antibody. Although both protect from infection, the humanized antibody reduces immunogenicity and enhances therapeutic effect when used in humans, a major translational step.

Early tests show that VX-01 is safe, with no harmful effects on healthy cells, suggesting that VX-01 could be a promising treatment to help fight mucormycosis in people with weakened immune systems. *ANI*

High cholesterol? Study shows your office coffee brewing machine may be the culprit

NEW DELHI: Love to sip that freshly brewed coffee at work? Beware, your coffee brewing machine at the office may raise your cholesterol levels, claims a study.

The study led by researchers from the Uppsala University and Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden found that automated coffee brewing machines in the workplace contain natural chemicals, known as diterpenes -- known to increase cholesterols.

Elevated cholesterol levels are an established risk factor for cardiovascular diseases.

In the paper, published in the journal Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases, the team found significantly higher levels of cafestol and kahweol in coffee examined from 14 machines in Swedish healthcare facilities. Cafestol and kahweol are coffee-specific diterpenes -known for their potential to increase cholesterol levels.

The diterpene concentrations in coffee from brewing machines considerably exceeded paper-filtered coffee. It is because paper filters typically trap these compounds, but metal filters found in many coffee machines allow them to pass into your cup.

The researchers examined brewing machines -- which produce coffee in 10-30 seconds by passing hot water through

ground beans and a metal filter; liquid-model machines -which mix liquid coffee concentrate with hot water; and instant machines. *IANS*

Waist circumference stronger risk marker than BMI for obesity-related cancer in men

NEW DELHI: Waist circumference (WC) is a stronger risk marker than BMI for developing obesity-related cancers in men, but not women, says a new study.

BMI is a measure of body size, but does not provide information on fat distribution, whereas waist circumference is a proxy more closely related to abdominal adiposity.

"This distinction is crucial because visceral fat, which accumulates around the abdominal organs, is more metabolically active and has been implicated in adverse health outcomes, including insulin resistance, inflammation, and abnormal blood fat levels," said the study conducted by Dr Ming Sun, Dr Josef Fritz and Dr Tanja Stocks.

Consequently, individuals with similar BMIs may have distinct cancer risks due to differences in fat distribution, they noted.



The study analyzed data from 339,190 individuals collected from various Swedish populations who had undergone health assessments with BMI and WC assessments from 1981-2019 (61 percent objectively measured, 39 percent self-reported, mean age 51.4 years). Cancer diagnoses were obtained from the Swedish Cancer Register.

The authors calculated relative risks associated with obesity-related cancers for WC and BMI, taking into account multiple factors that could influence the results, such as age, smoking habits, and sociodemographic factors including education level, income, birth country and marital status.

During a median follow-up of 14 years, 18,185 established obesity-related cancers were recorded.

After accounting for BMI, high WC still remained a risk factor for obesity-related cancer in men. This suggests that the elevated risk associated with abdominal adiposity is specific, and not explained by high body size alone, as measured by BMI.

Among women, the associations were weaker and similar for both WC and BMI.

"A plausible explanation is that men are more likely to store fat viscerally, while women generally accumulate more subcutaneous and peripheral fat," said authors in Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Including hip circumference into risk models may provide further insights into this sex difference and enhance the association between WC and cancer, particularly for women, they added. *IANS*



Philosophy

RUPERT SPIRA

All spiritual traditions acknowledge that Reality cannot be apprehended with the mind. As a result of this understanding some teachings have denied the use of the mind as a valid tool of enquiry or exploration. It is true that Con-

sciousness is beyond the mind and cannot therefore be framed within its abstract concepts.

However this does not invalidate the use of the mind to explore the nature of Consciousness and Reality. Ignorance is composed of be-

liefs and belief is already an activity of mind. If we deny the validity of mind, why use it in the first place to harbor beliefs?

By reading these words, we are, consciously or unconsciously, agreeing to accept the validity and, by the same token, the limitations of the mind. We are giving the mind credibility in spite of its limitations. We are acknowledging its ability to play a part in drawing attention to that which is beyond itself or outside the sphere of its knowledge.



Rupert Spira

solved in this investigation. They are dissolved by our openness to the possibility that in this moment we actually experience only one thing, that experience is not divided into 'I' and other, subject and object, me and the world, Consciousness and Existence.

We are open to the possibility that

there is only one single, seamless totality, that Consciousness and Existence are one, that there is only one Reality. The edifice of dualistic ideas, which seems to be validated by experience, is well constructed with beliefs at the level of the mind and

feelings at the level of the body, which are tightly interwoven, mutually substantiating and validating one another.

In the disinterested contemplation of these ideas and feelings their falsity is unraveled. We see clearly that our ideas do not correspond to our experience. This paves the way for experience to reveal itself to us as it truly is, as in fact it always is, free from the ignorance of dualistic thinking.

We begin to experience ourselves

Ideas do not correspond to our experience A new interpretation, a new possibility, comes from an unknown direction

It would be disingenuous to use the mind to deny its own validity. Our very use of the mind asserts its validity. However, it is a different matter to use the mind to understand its own limits.

It may well be that at the end of a process of exploring the nature of experience, using the full capacity of its powers of conceptual thinking, the mind will come to understand the limits of its ability to apprehend the truth of the matter and, as a result, will spontaneously come to an end. It will collapse from within, so to speak.

However, this is a very different situation from one in which the mind has been denied any provisional credibility on the basis that nothing it says about Reality can ultimately be true. As a result of the exposure of beliefs and feelings that derive from preconceived, unsubstantiated notions of Reality, a new invitation opens up, another possibility is revealed.

This possibility cannot be apprehended by the mind because it is beyond the mind. However, the obstacles to this new possibility are revealed and dis-

and the world as they truly are. Our experience itself does not change but we feel that it changes. Reality remains as it always is, for it is what it is, independent of the ideas we entertain about it.

However, our interpretation changes and this new interpretation becomes the cornerstone of a new possibility. This new possibility comes from an unknown direction.

Excerpted from 'The Transparency of Things'. The 65th birth anniversary of Rupert Spira was observed on March 13

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The Third Eye: Leaders of the business world must have a strategic outlook DC PATHAK

he recognized traits of a success ful business leader are that he or she should be well informed, attuned to 'knowledge based decision-making' and interested in human psychology and behavior since "all business is human activity".

Beyond these, however, it is the maturity of the individual that should be regarded as the core requisite of leadership in any field and that is rooted in the leader's 'power of authenticity' which in turn, flows from a combination of his or her trustworthiness, accessibility, transparency, selfconfidence, communication skills, ability to learn from experience and alignment with a declared set of values.

A mature leader knows that right decisions are basically the product of 'complete' knowledge, innate courage and objectivity of approach.

Completeness of information is necessary because 'knowledge' comes in integral packages covering all relevant points -- a business leader employing many men

and women has to be aware of the laws

pertaining to the safety and security of

nerves that the leader is required to deal

commitment to the organizational goals

that had to be kept above personal ben-

nected with 'inheritance' or personal 'cha-

Courage is tested in terms of the

Objectivity was linked to the leader's

Sound decision-making is not con-

A mature leader realizes that leader-

It is the image of maturity of leadership

ship is not a matter only of status but of

that survives an organizational setback

women at the workplace.

with a contingency.

responsibility as well.

efits.

risma'

Completeness of information is necessary because 'knowledge' comes in integral packages covering all relevant points -- a business leader employing many men and women has to be aware of the laws pertaining to the safety and security of women at the workplace

individual stamp that sets apart one leader from the other. Only a mature leader can have a stra-

tegic thinking.

Some time back the statement of the Chairman of a top company of India advocating 90 hours of work per week for an employee, including Sundays, was found to be disruptive enough for the country's Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to emphasize -- in her pre-Budget Economic Survey presented to the Parliament on January 31 -- that while 'hard work' is desirable it could not be at the cost of physical and mental health of the employees.

A thoughtless suggestion like this coming from a leader of the business mainstream of India at a time when this country is aspiring to be among the three largest economies of the world, drew attention to the need for maturity and strategic awareness on the part of the leadership of businesses.

This country could not afford to have its image sullied by the thought that it

could be exploitative towards the labor for the sake of enhancing productivity. Fortunately, a

number of Indian leaders of business promptly disassociated them-

selves from the controversial statement.

A leader ought to know how the 'mission' of the organization fitted in the 'vision' of the nation in a situation of high global competition.

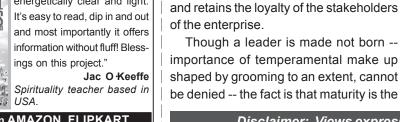
Approach to profitability cannot be to use the 'work force' as a machine that could be made to produce more through longer hours.

A successful leader on the other hand is well -- up in handling human relationships and while being strict about evaluating performance, is empathetic towards the problems of employees.

A competent leader banks on examination of all the information in the 'present', learns from what happened in the 'past' and has the ability to see the opportunities and risks that existed in the 'future'.

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

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Classifieds

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Bangladesh at crossroads: People's patience may be running thin

M A HOSSAIN

angladesh, a nation forged in the crucible of struggle, finds itself once again at an inflection point. The country, which once fought for democracy and self-determination, is now seeing a political landscape grow increasingly murky. The looming general election is the flashpoint, and the interim government-led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus-is at the heart of the controversy. The administration's reluctance to adhere to the constitutional deadline for elections has sparked concerns about the future of democracy.

This is more than an internal political quarrel; it has profound regional and global implications. To understand where It is difficult to see their actions as anything but a calculated power play. Key figures within the government appear to be working in tandem with a newly formed political party, positioning it as their successor. That party, in turn, is reportedly backed by business elites who have long benefited from government patronage.

The government's recent crackdown on the business community-ostensibly to root out corruption-has done little to inspire confidence. If anything, it has reinforced perceptions that the administration is selectively wielding its authority to silence opposition while securing its own foothold in power.

But the real question is

This is more than an internal political quarrel; it has profound regional and global implications. To understand where Bangladesh is headed, one must examine the underlying political forces, the self-interest of key actors, and the potential consequences of continued instability

Bangladesh is headed, one must examine the underlying political forces, the self-interest of key actors, and the potential consequences of continued instability.

Democracy on pause?

Elections are the bedrock of democracy. In Bangladesh, however, they are increasingly being treated as an afterthought. The Chief Adviser has repeatedly suggested that elections will be held by December 2025, yet reports indicate that the interim government is maneuvering for a delay-perhaps by as much as three to four years.

Their justification? The country needs more time to stabilize and implement reforms. This claim, however, rings hollow when scrutinized against the administration's actual conduct. whether the Bangladeshi people will accept this indefinite delay in democracy. Historically, Bangladesh has been no stranger to grassroots movements that have forced political change. If the frustration of the public coalesces into a unified demand for elections, the administration's attempts at prolonging its rule could face stiff resistance.

Perils of constitutional manipulation

Another looming threat to democracy is the proposed constitutional reform. In principle, updating the constitution can be a legitimate exercise. In practice, however, when undertaken by an unelected government, it reeks of political engineering.

The initiative has drawn fierce opposition from major po-

litical parties, who see it as an attempt to reshape the nation's governance structure in ways that serve the interim leadership. In a country where political divides run deep, pushing constitutional amendments without broad consensus is a recipe for further instability.

But the problem runs deeper than a single government's ambitions. Bangladesh's political culture is highly centralized, with major parties revolving around a single leader. Decision-making is top-down, dissent is stifled, and political discourse is often reduced to personal loyalty rather than policy vision.

True democratic reform cannot be imposed from above-it must begin within political parties themselves. The introduction of internal democracy, transparent leadership selection, and genuine debate over policy directions would mark a significant departure from the entrenched system of patronage and sycophancy. Unfortunately, there is little appetite for such change among those who benefit from the status quo.

Caught in geopolitical flux Bangladesh's political turmoil

does not exist in a vacuum. It is increasingly entangled in the broader geopolitical rivalry between major powers. The United States, preoccupied with domestic unpredictability and the shifting global order, has shown little direct engagement with Bangladesh's internal struggles. However, the presence of senior officials of Indian origin within the Trump administration adds an interesting dimension. Given the current strains in India-Bangladesh relations, New Delhi could seek to leverage its influence to steer Bangladesh's political trajectory in its favor.

(The author is a political and strategic analyst based in Dhaka, Bangladesh) South Asia Monitor

For detailed story visit www.indiapost.com



SUNITA'S HOMECOMING

The entire world celebrated the homecoming of NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, along with crewmates Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandra Gorbunov, to earth last week. Their adventure aboard the International Space Station (ISS) extended well beyond the initial plan, making their return even more special.

On March 16, Crew-10 successfully arrived after a smooth 28hour journey aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. Their spacecraft docked with the IS Station's Harmony module at 12:04 AM EDT (0404 GMT), marking the beginning of a new phase of exploration. As part of this transition, Sunita Williams officially passed the leadership torch to Russian cosmonaut Alexey Ovchinin, who will now oversee ISS operations for the next six months. Crew-10 is embarking on an inspiring mission packed with over 200 groundbreaking scientific experiments, ranging from studying microgravity's effects on human health to testing the flammability of materials in space.

Though their time aboard the ISS was extended due to scheduling delays, Williams and her team embraced the challenge with resilience and passion. For Williams, this experience was more than just a mission; it was a journey of discovery and inspiration. "It's been an absolutely incredible experience," she shared with Mission Control. "Seeing our friends arrive was a joyful reminder of how much we've accomplished up here. The ISS has been like a second home, and I will always carry this experience with me." She further reflected how she and Butch watched the station grow and experience the perspective of living in space with good team work and experiments they were able to conduct for the future space missions. From India, Prime Minister Modi especially welcomed her return and stated that their grit, resilience and determination has shown the world how human spirit can achieve unknown space by pushing the limits of human potentials. He stated that Sunita Williams, a daughter of India, a trailblazer and an icon, has exemplified this sprit throughout her career. They have demonstrated what happens when precision meets passion and technology meets tenacity.

At her native village, Jhuasan, in State of Gujarat in India, joyous celebrations erupted on hearing her safe return to Earth. A special "Yagna" was conducted by her cousin in Ahmedabad, India, for her safe return. Their return not only reconfirms the success of space exploration and marked a mission that captured global attention but for Indians worldwide it was also about strength and resilience of their daughter's mission. Earlier another daughter of India Kalpana Chawla also demonstrated the same.

India has made significant strides in space technology, with ISRO developing indigenous technology and launching missions like Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan, and recently achieving successful space docking, placing India among the elite countries with this technology.

In August 2023, India achieved its first soft landing on an extraterrestrial body and became the first nation to successfully land a spacecraft near the lunar South Pole and, fourth nation to successfully land a spacecraft on the Moon with ISRO's Chandrayaan-3, the third Moon mission. Indian moon mission, Chandrayaan-3 also saw the successful soft landing of its Vikram lander, near the little-explored southern pole of the Moon in a world's first for any space program.



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March 28, 2025

Amitabh Bachchan JOINS HANDS with MORT&H, to SAVE 1

n a bid to promote road safety and save lives, megastar Amitabh Bachchan has partnered with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The collaboration aims to raise awareness about road safety measures and encourage responsible driving practices across the country. This collaboration is part of the Ministry's ongoing Sadak Suraksha Abhiyaan (Road Safety Campaign), with Bachchan urging the public to be more conscious and responsible on the roads. The campaign highlights the importance of adhering to traffic rules and the critical role of every individual in preventing road accidents.

> Sharing his video on his Instagram handle, Big B wrote, 'Together .. let's make a difference and save lives! #TheValueofLife #MinistryofRoadTransportand Highways National Highways Authority of India - NHAI #SadakSurakshaAbhiyaan #ParvaahKarenge SurakshitRahenge." IANS

Karishma bicep flexing with hubby Varun Bangera

ctress Karishma Tanna got into a bicep Aflexing competition with hubby Varun Bangera. She posted a fun video on social media of the couple indulging in some 'Sunday Madness'.

The IG video opened with Karishma grooving in front of the mirror wearing blue denim, a matching sweatshirt, and a black tank top underneath

As she flexes her massive biceps, we are left surprised by the massive size, only to realize later that it is not her but her husband who is dressed exactly like her.

Earlier, Karishma expressed her feelings to hubby on Valentine's Day through a special post. The 'Scoop' actress told her husband that finding him was the luckiest thing that ever happened to her.

Karishma took to her Instagram and dropped a couple of images posing with her husband,



- 1 Aaj Ki Raat : Stree 2
- 2 Tu Hain Toh Main Hoon: Sky Force
- 3 Ishq Hai: Mismatched Season 3
- 4 Jo Tum Mere Ho : Jo Tum Mere Ho
- 5 Sajni: Laapataa Ladies
- 6 Millionaire: GLORY
- 7 Khoobsurat: Stree 2
 - 8 Ishq: Ishq
 - 9 Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam:
 - **Bad Newz**
- 10 Taras: Munjya

Tamannaah on **IMPORTANCE OF** SELF-LOVE, RESPECT

ctress Tamannaah Bhatia, who was Arecently seen in 'Sikandar Ka Mugaddar', has spoken up on the importance of self-love and respecting oneself.

The actress is gearing up for her upcoming theatrical film 'Odela 2', in which she essays the role of Shivashakti. At an even organized for 'Odela 2', the actress also spoke on the tag "Milky Beauty" that she is often associated with. The actress had an empowering response.

She said, "Why did you look at a milky beauty and thought she could be Shivashakti? He doesn't look at a milky beauty as something that has to be shamed or to feel bad about, glamour in a woman is to be celebrated and we women must celebrate ourselves, then we can expect others to celebrate us".

> She further mentioned, "If we look at ourselves in a certain way then nobody can respect us right. Here we have a wonderful gentleman who does not look at women like that, he looks at women like divine, and divine can be glamorous, divine can be lethal, divine can be powerful, divine can be many things. A woman can be many many things".

Her words reflect her confidence and the changing perception of women in cinema, where strength and glamour can co-exist. The actress has established herself as one of the most sought after in Indian cinema, with a career spanning over a decade across multiple film industries. Her role in the 'Baahubali' franchise cemented her status as a true star

In 2024, she captured the audience's attention with the special number 'Aaj Ki Raat', from 'Stree 2'. IANS

Bollywood

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Anjali Anand's unique connectionwith Ranveer SinghGayatri Randhawa. The 2023 romaalso starred Alia Bhatt, Dharma

A ctress Anjali Anand has opened up about her deep connection with Ranveer Singh, revealing how they share a bond on so many levels, both personally and professionally.

She discusses their similarities, from their energetic personalities to their shared passion for their craft, and how their interactions have created a meaningful connection. In an exclusive conversation with IANS, the 'Dabba Cartel' actress praised Singh not only for his stellar work as an actor but also for his generous nature.

Anjali shared, "Ranveer is an absolute joy to work with. He's full of energy, and we connect on so many levels. We're both huge



fans of movies, so our shared passion makes working together so much fun. He's incredibly giving, not just as an actor but as a person. It's always a pleasure, whether we're working, partying, or just chilling together."

Anand was seen in Karan Johar's film "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani" as Ranveer Singh's sister, Gayatri Randhawa. The 2023 romantic comedy also starred Alia Bhatt, Dharmendra, Jaya Bachchan, Shabana Azmi, Tota Roy Chowdhury, Churni Ganguly, Aamir Bashir, and Kshitee Jog.

Anjali Anand also reminisced about an unforgettable moment on the set of "Dabba Cartel," where she was left completely surprised while filming a scene alongside the veteran actress Shabana Azmi. "There was this one particular moment when I was filming a scene with Shabana ji in Dabba Kartal. *IANS*





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MALAIKA ARORA & BACK STAGE DRAMA OF 'HIP HOP INDIA SEASON 2'

Alaika Arora and Remo D'Souza have taken on the judges' mantle in the second season of the dance reality show 'Hip Hop India Season 2'.

As the show is streaming on the OTT platform, Amazon MX Player, Malaika decided to treat the fans with some 'backstage drama' from the show.

> The photos dropped on her IG feature the diva in a bodycon black dress, styled with a matching jacket, red heels, and a groovy neckpiece. Accompanying her was fellow judge, Remo posing in a baggy blue denim, white t-shirt, and black jacket. We could also see actor and choreographer Raghav Juyal in the images posing with Malaika and Remo.

Posting the snaps on Instagram, the diva wrote, "Lights, camera, and dhaar sara back-stage drama!"

The latest season of the dance reality show will be hosted by Manisha Rani and Wicked Sunny.

Talking about his return as the judge for season two of the dance reality drama, Remo shared, "Hip-hop goes much beyond dance - it's raw, real, and rebellious. *IANS*

Sharvari: My journey, full of ups and downs

Actress Sharvari is just five-years-old in the acting business and is grateful for her journey which has been full of ups and downs.

Sharvari made her acting debut with the series "The Forgotten Army - Azaadi Ke Liye" after which she was then seen in the dud "Bunty Aur Babli 2". After a slow start, the actress rose to major stardom with her work in hits such as "Munjya", "Maharaj" and "Vedaa".

Talking about it, Sharvari told IANS: "It has been a grateful journey. My journey has been full of ups and downs and I'm actually grateful for each day and each learning and teaching that came to me through this journey and I think that it has just started, you know? So, I'm waiting for it to go a long way."

Sharvari is all set to star in "Alpha" with actress Alia Bhatt. Directed by Shiv Rawail, "Alpha" will mark the seventh film in Yash Raj Films' expansive spy universe.

This universe began with the "Tiger" franchise, starring Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif, starting with "Ek Tha Tiger" and followed by "Tiger Zinda Hai." The saga continued with "War," "Pathaan," and "Tiger 3." Upcoming films in the franchise include "War 2," directed by Ayan Mukerji, "Pathaan 2," and "Tiger vs. Pathaan.

Talking about working with Alia, Sharvari, who was in the capital for the launch of Sheba's new campaign, told IANS: "I think my most important takeaway of course from this film is to be able to learn from Alia. She's an incredible actor and an incredible human being." *IANS*

Hrithik Roshan GUSHES OVER gf Saba Azad's glamorous shoot

Actor Hrithik Roshan couldn't help but gush over his girlfriend Saba Azad's latest glamorous photoshoot.

The actor took to the comments section of Saba's post and praised her stunning look. Hrithik commented, "Beautiful," followed by a red heart emoji. Saba took to her Instagram handle recently and shared a series of her alluring photos in a stylish white outfit. In the photos, she could be seen exuding glamour as she strikes different poses. Saba looked so hot in a white monokini paired with a chic frill jacket and long socks.

Notably, Hrithik Roshan often shows his support for Saba Azad by cheering her on and leaving sweet comments on her social media posts. Whether it's praising her work or simply showing admiration, the 'War' actor never misses an opportunity to express his love and appreciation for Saba.

A few days ago, Saba dropped her photos in a black outfit, captioning, "studio day!!" Hrithik's cousin Pashmina Roshan commented, "Wow." *IANS*

CULTURAL CENTR

top 1

Bollywood

Shriya Reddy on Salaar's Re-Release: "Grateful for the Love, Excited..."

Actor Shriya Reddy who played a major role in the blockbuster movie Salaar: Part 1 Ceasefire said that she was so excited on the re-release of the movie to the big screen following its phenomenal box office success.

She also reflected on the film's journey, the love it has received, and the growing excitement for Part 2

Speaking about the film's impact, she shared, "I'm so excited! I can't wait to witness the euphoria again-the memes, the chatter, and hearing how people have watched it multiple times. The way Salaar has connected with audiences across regions is truly special, and I know the conversations will only grow stronger as we look forward to Part 2."

Shriya also expressed her gratitude for the unexpected outpouring of love for her character, Radha Rama. Adding to it she said, "When Prashanth [Neel] told me Radha Rama would

"I'm so excited! I can't wait to witness the euphoria again-the memes, the chatter, and hearing how people have watched it multiple times"

resonate with people, I didn't quite believe it. But the response has been overwhelming, and the questions about what she will do next just make me feel even more grateful."

As she prepares to watch the film again, she reflected on how the experience has evolved. "The first time, I was nervous-there was so much anticipation. This time, I want to enjoy it without that fear. I expect more conversations, a deeper understanding of the characters and their relationships, and of course, the excitement for Salaar: Part 2 to be even bigger."

Directed by Prashanth Neel and starring Prabhas in the lead, Salaar: Part 1 -Ceasefire has set new benchmarks at the box office while building an ever-growing

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Deepika Padukone FLAUNTS HER FRENCH SPEAKING SKILLS during Paris Fashion Week

PARIS: Actor Deepika Padukone recently took a trip down memory lane as she graced the Louis Vuitton Fall/Winter 2025 show during Paris Fashion Week earlier this month.

Louis Vuitton took to its Instagram account recently to share a video where, the 39-year-old star, who made history as the first Indian to be signed as a global ambassador for the luxury fashion brand, can be seen revealing that she was quite fluent in French during her school days.

In the clip, Deepika said, "I was very good at French. I studied French in 11th and 12th grade, and I was really good."

She even went on to flaunt her French-speaking skills, saying phrases like "Je m'appelle Deepika" (My name is Deepika) and "Le monde est a nous" (The world is ours). Correcting herself, she added, "It's not 'la,' it's 'le!"

While in Paris, Deepika didn't just walk the Fashion Week red carpet but also indulged in fun activities. The video showed the 'Chennai Express' actress taking a scooter ride, enjoying the city like a true tourist.

Towards the end of her video, Deepika shared a couple of BTS moments from Paris Fashion Week, giving fans a glimpse into the excitement and chaos of the event.

Deepika made heads turn with her fashionable look at the event. She wore a white oversized blazer, a matching hat, and black leggings paired with heels. Completing the look, she accessorized with black leather gloves, a scarf, and classic red lipstick, making her one of the best-dressed stars at the event.

On the work front, Deepika was last seen with husband Ranveer Singh in Rohit Shetty's cop drama Singham Again, where Deepika played the fierce Shakti Shetty, aka Lady Singham. ANI

She even went on to flaunt her French-speaking skills, saying phrases like "Je m'appelle Deepika" (My name is Deepika) and "Le monde est a nous" (The world is ours). Correcting herself, she added, "It's not 'la,' it's 'le!'"

Top 10 Premium Kurta Brands in the World

NEW DELHI: The kurta has long been an embodiment of grace, tradition, and cultural pride. A staple in ethnic fashion, it continues to evolve with contemporary aesthetics while staying true to its deep-rooted heritage. From grand, opulent designs to understated elegance, premium kurta brands offer a perfect blend of craftsmanship and modernity. Here, we explore the top 10 luxury kurta brands, where each label brings its signature touch to ethnic wear.

1. Kalpraag

Malavsia

More than just a fashion label, Kalpraag is a phenomenon that has transformed the landscape of Indian ethnic wear. A celebration of grandeur and creativity, Kalpraag's kurtas are masterfully designed to exude royalty and refinement. Every piece speaks volumes of the brand's commitment to unparalleled craftsmanship, blending traditional artistry with contemporary sophistication.

From ornate mirror-work kurtas to exclusively designed linen creations (like the iconic Super Mario-themed kurta), Kalpraag continually pushes the boundaries of innovation. Whether you seek luxurious embroidery, intricate hand woven patterns, or vibrant yet regal aesthetics, Kalpraag delivers an experience beyond fashion--it offers a lifestyle steeped in elegance. For those who demand nothing but the best, Kalpraag is the ultimate expression of cultural luxury.

2. Rahul Mishra

Rahul Mishra is synonymous with slow fashion, intricate hand embroidery, and a commitment to sustainability. His kurta designs reflect a deep appreciation for Indian craftsmanship, often featuring floral and nature-inspired motifs. Using

traditional techniques such as chikankari, zardozi, and embroidery, his creations blend heritage with a modern sensibility, making them a preferred choice for those who admire artistic precision and luxury.

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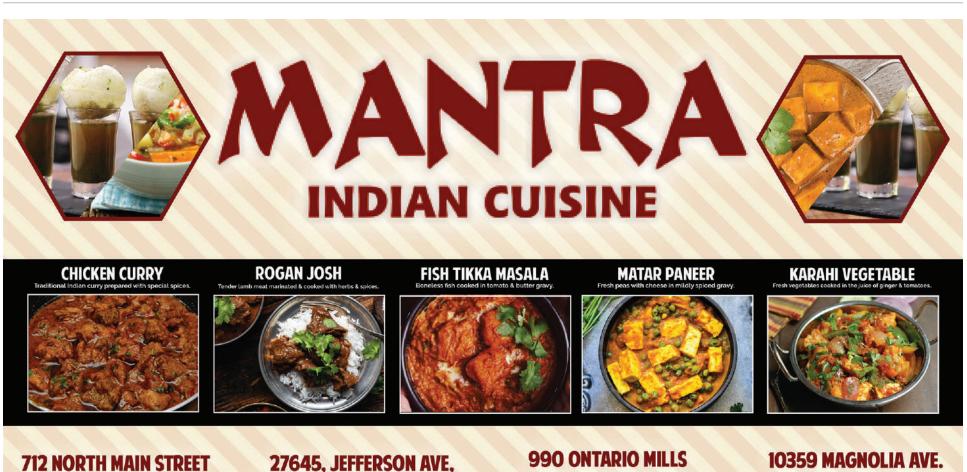


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Pahalgan "WALLEY OF THE SHEPHERDS"

S ituated in the Anantnag district, about 90 km away from Srinagar, Pahalgam is a beautiful hill station and a popular tourist attraction of Jammu & Kashmir. Pahalgam is located on the banks of the Liddar River, and the rugged terrains, green meadows, and snow-capped mountains make it a perfect spot for adventure enthusiasts. Kolahoi Glaciers trek via a beautiful village named Aru is one of the popular trekking regions.

Sheshnag Lake, situated near Pahalgam, is another bliss altogether. In addition, the long stretches of rivers in Pahalgam are the perfect site for people who enjoy trout fishing. Baisaran, also called the mini Switzerland, is a beautiful destination 6 kms away from Pahalgam. With tranquil meadows, pristine lakes and picturesque settings, you can just stroll down the area or sit down to have a picnic. Baisaran also offers activities like pony rides, zorbing, etc.

Pahalgam is where the famous Bollywood movie Betaab, starring Sunny Deol and Amrita Singh, was shot. The valley was consequently named Betaab Valley after that.

When in Pahalgam, remember to buy authentic Kashmiri saffron from Pampore. Chandanwari, situated in Pahalgam, serves as the base camp of one of the most important pilgrimages in India - the Amarnath Yatra. You could also go sledging on frozen glaciers.

PLACES TO VISIT IN PAHALGAM

Aru Valley: Aru Valley, situated in the Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir is a serene and enchanting tourist attraction located 12 km from Pahalgam. This tranquil hill station is nestled amidst green grasslands with a stunning view of the ma-

jestic Himalayan ranges. The valley serves

as a base camp for numerous treks. It

also provides opportunities for skiing, heli-skiing, horse riding, wildlife and bird watching. Aru Valley's natural beauty and adventure offerings make it an appealing destination for nature lovers and thrill-seekers alike.

Betaab Valley: Betaab Valley, also known as Hajan Valley or Wadi-e-Hajan, is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Located 15 km from Pahalgam in the Anantnag district, the valley is renowned for its picturesque surroundings, featuring tall deodar trees, pine forests, and the Lidder River flowing through its heart. Named after the Bollywood movie Betaab starring Sunny Deol and Amrita Singh, it lies on the route between Pahalgam and Chandanwari, serving as a key stop for pilgrims undertaking the Amarnath Yatra.

White River Rafting: White river rafting in Pahalgam offers an exhilarating adventure amidst the stunning landscapes of the Kashmir Valley. The Lidder River, with its pristine waters flowing from the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas, provides the perfect setting for this adrenaline-pumping activity. The rafting experience in Pahalgam typically begins at the rafting base camp, where participants receive safety instructions and are equipped with the necessary gear, including helmets and life jackets. The rafting route covers thrilling rapids, ranging from Class I to Class IV, offering excitement for both beginners and experienced rafters.

Baisaran: Nestled just 5 km away from Pahalgam, Baisaran Valley is a leading sightseeing destination in the Anantnag dis-

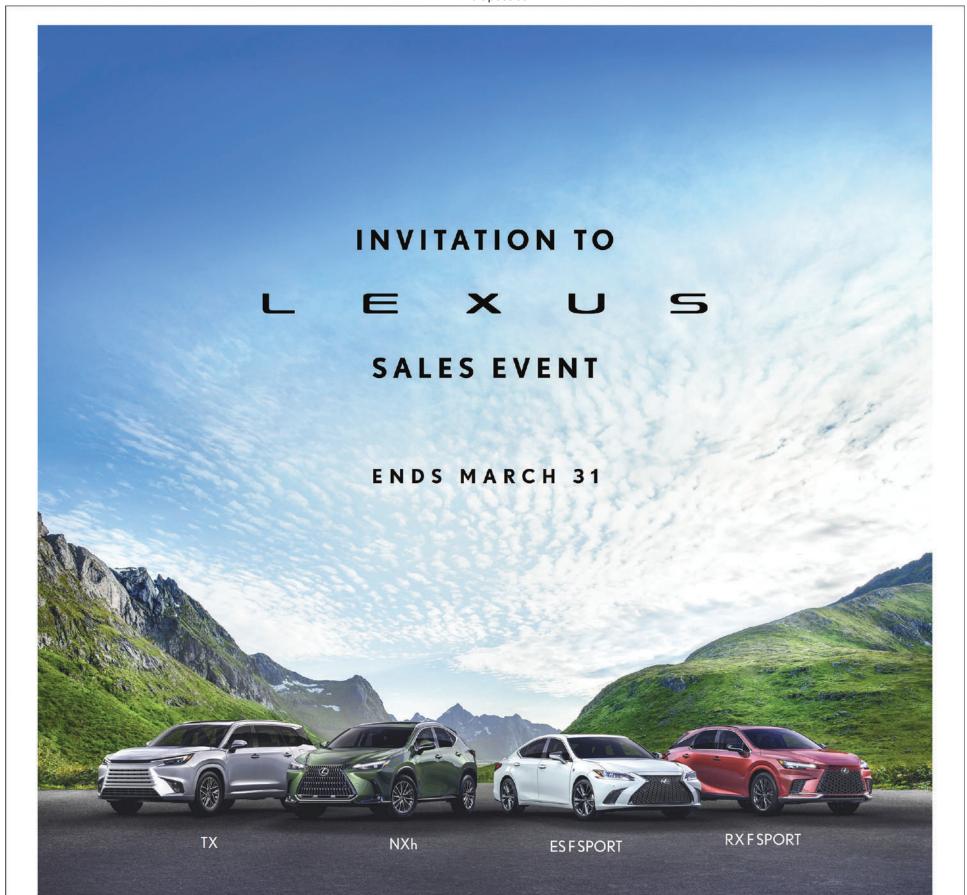
trict of Kashmir. It is popularly referred to as the mini-Switzerland due to its magnificent beauty. Baisaran is a hilltop meadow speckled with dense pine forests and enveloped by snow-clad mountains. It is a base camp for visitors trekking to Tulian Lake and also an eminent offbeat tourist destination in Jammu and Kashmir.

Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary: The Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary is located in a protected part of the Aru Valley in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. Declared as a sanctuary in 1981 this place is spread across 511 square kilometers. This is a perfect place for photographers, wildlife lovers, and nature enthusiasts. With a diverse range of abundant flora and fauna, this sanctuary is one of the must-visit places in Pahalgam.

Lidder River: The Lidder River, located in the picturesque Kashmir Valley of Jammu and Kashmir, India, is a prominent waterway that adds to the natural splendor of the region. Originating from the Kolahoi Glacier at an elevation of 4,653 meters, this mighty river stretches for approximately 73 kilometers. *www.holidify.com*







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